

DAKOTA COUNSEL

"Watchdogs of the Prairie"



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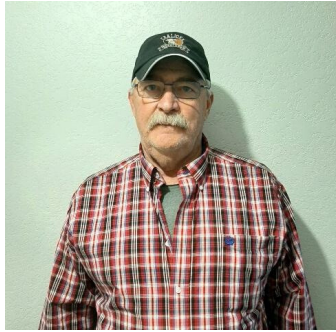
COOL MAKES A COMEBACK

Members Gather for DRC Annual Meeting

Dakota Resource Council (DRC) hosted its annual meeting on Oct. 26th in New Town, ND at the Civic Center. There was an excellent turnout with more than 40 people in attendance. The DRC Annual Meeting featured the film *My Country No More* and Kalie Rider, from the film, joined us at the meeting where she answered questions and played her original music. After the film, an exceptional group of panelists gave voice to refinery fights both past and present. DRC now has a full energetic staff ready to head into the next year. Both seasoned and new organizers discussed DRC's vast and important work around the state. Finally, awards were presented to just a few of our dedicated members.

The film *My Country No More* is an independent documentary following the timeline and fight against a refinery that was to be placed near Trenton, ND. The film followed farming and ranching families that have been in the area for generations and how the oil boom changed their community, lives, and culture. The story showed how the oil boom and refinery proposal widened the divide between oil industry supporters and opposers in the community of Trenton. The film followed the proposal of a refinery to its defeat. The film did an excellent job of showing all sides of the issue including input from oil field workers, families that would financially benefit from the industrial development, and those whose lives would be destroyed. Overall, the film is worth viewing and there is a rumor that it might be on one of your favorite streaming services soon!

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Letter from the Chair

For those members that I haven't had the opportunity to meet, my name is Curt Kralichek and I will be your chairman for the next year. Those of you who I haven't met I look forward to getting to know you and hearing your ideas in the near future.

My first contact with Dakota Resource Council (DRC) was when a special waste dump was scheduled to be placed 1/4 mile from our place. Special waste contains low-level radioactive material from oil extraction. DRC organizer Nicole Donaghy, through a neighboring DRC member, came to me and asked if DRC could help us organize and provide research to stop it. Originally, I said no thank you to Nicole, solely because of my perception of DRC as a bunch of "radical environmentalists" which couldn't have been more wrong. Long story short, with DRC's help our community kept the dump from coming in. During that work I became a DRC member and shortly after that I became involved with the board. I believe DRC is the only true grassroots organization in North Dakota and that our staff is deeply committed to the philosophies that founded DRC.

We now have a staff of energetic, ambitious, committed people. If you as a member have any questions or concerns or just want to get to know the organizers, by all means, call or text them to see what your membership dollars are working on.

Some of the issues that the staff is currently involved in include working to protect federal methane rules from being rolled back; holding companies responsible for proper planning, operation, testing, and thoughtful siting before they are allowed to build North Dakota's first high-level radioactive waste dump; working to protect Theodore Roosevelt National Park from having an oil refinery built on its doorstep; working in Coal Country to see if and how those community members can work towards economic development and diversification as coal activity declines; starting an Agriculture and Food committee to help develop campaigns again; including protecting communities from the dangers associated with largescale Confined Animal Feeding Operations, Country of Origin Labeling (COOL), trade wars; and rebuilding the Bismarck Mandan affiliate, Missouri Valley Resource Council.

Finally, if you are involved in agriculture, let's all hope 2020 brings us a more normal year concerning market factors and weather.

Executive Committee

Curt Kralichek, Chair
Curt Stofferahn, Vice Chair
April Fairfield, Past Chair
Lisa DeVille, Secretary
Davie Rydell, Treasurer

At-Large

Linda Weiss
Bernie Parkhurst

Affiliate Reps

Pat Ashley, BARC
Joletta Bird Bear, Ft. Berthold POWER
Donny Nelson, MCETA
Marie Hoff, MVRC

DRC Affiliates

Badlands Area Resource Council (BARC)
Pat Hedstrup, Chair

Fort Berthold Protectors of Water & Earth
Rights (POWER)
Lisa DeVille, Chair

McKenzie County Energies & Taxation
Association
Donny Nelson, Chair

Missouri Valley Resource Council (MVRC)
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Kalie Rider from Trenton, ND, and a key figure in the film, joined us at the annual meeting. Rider spoke on the panel about her experience in the refinery fight in Trenton. She played guitar and sang a few of her original songs that were written and inspired during the oil boom in North Dakota. Rider's story has similarities with many of our member's own fights with industry over the last several decades. It was the voices of families and community members that made a big difference to the decision-makers in the denial of the refinery. This documentary is an example of the pride of rural North Dakota and the love of our prairie.

It wouldn't be a true DRC meeting if we didn't take the opportunity to hear from some of our members. This year we heard from a few people who have worked against refineries being built in their communities, in both the past and present. This year we held a panel of three women who have or are actively involved in a variety of refinery campaigns. The three panelists were Theodora Bird Bear, Kalie Rider, and Linda Weiss. Theodora Bird Bear talked about the history of the successful Makoti Refinery fight. Kalie Rider voiced her perspective from her own experience with the proposed Trenton Refinery that was ultimately defeated. Finally, our ongoing Davis Refinery fight was discussed by Linda Weiss, who has been diligently working on this issue for the last four years. The key point of her fight: there is still no refinery.

DRC's staff highlighted all of the important work that is being done in the field around the state. Staff Organizers gave their organizing reports and assessments of regions such as eastern ND and coal country in ND. Organizers gave presentations on current and upcoming campaigns, and projects that focused around the continued Davis Refinery relocation, economic diversification, transition planning, confined animal feeding operations, current agriculture challenges, administrative rule roll-backs, and many others.

DRC adopted one resolution this year that read: to "promote and support the implementation of transition fund programs and legislation for coal-reliant communities at the local, state, and federal level." This resolution was in reference to the challenges facing coal communities around the country.



Organizer JP Holmes hugging DRC's newest mascot, Dexter the Prairie Dog

As always, the annual meeting was a time for our members to come together, meet some new folks, and talk about what matters to them. This year was no exception. Staff and members enjoyed spending time together and shared many laughs. DRC is nothing without our members and it is a pleasure to spend time with you. If you regularly attend our annual meeting, thank you for coming! If you haven't been to an annual meeting, or haven't been in years, we encourage you to come to the 2020 annual meeting.

DRC Awards



Curt Kralicek receiving the Art & Grace Link Award

Overall, there was a great amount of change at DRC over the last year and a lot of good work has been done since the last annual meeting. DRC gave out member awards at the annual meeting to just a few of our hard-working members this year. The award recipients were:

Curt Kralicek - The Art & Grace Link award

Russell Bird Bear - The Rising Star Award

Pat Ashley - The Rising Star Award

Linda Weiss - The Duct Tape, WD-40, and Baling Wire Award

DRC is a grassroots organization and our members are crucial to our future and success. So thank you for being a member of DRC. We need you, our members, as you are the foundation of our grassroots organization. Remember that.

Coal Country

The call for regional cooperation! Thoughts from a ND rural community discussion.

The Beulah public forum “Building Resilience in Coal Country”, hosted by Dakota Resource Council (DRC), was planned to discuss the future of the area that is currently reliant on the coal industry which is seeing hardships around the country. As we see bankruptcies, coal plant closures and mine shutdowns around the country, how can coal-reliant communities be supported going into the future? Coal has been the lifeblood to around 300 counties in the U.S. and the coal industry has supported our nations’ growth for the last several decades. Coal workers and communities deserve an equitable transition if that is what the future may hold. The forum hosted speakers, Jack Morgan and Kelli Roemer, who have experience with coal communities, economic diversification, and transition planning. People in Beulah, ND and surrounding areas who attended shared their thoughts during the community discussion. Two ideas that were thought could be of benefit to coal country in North Dakota were regionalism and cooperation and communication between institutions. So, what exactly does that even mean and how do we get there?



Jack Morgan from the National Association of Counties presenting to Beulah residents at the DRC Hosted Event, “Building Resilience in Coal Country”

If you grew up in North Dakota, then you likely will understand small-town rivalries. Whether it be at high school sports, enticing new businesses, or just trying to be the “better” community. My hometown in rural ND had a rivalry and maybe yours did too. Rural communities are facing more challenges than ever before to function in a rapidly urbanizing world. More and more small-town grocery stores can’t compete with the low prices of big box stores and online sales. Less and less rural areas have reasonable access to a clinic or hospital. This story is becoming a sad reality for many rural communities. Rural communities already face many challenges, so the impact of the loss of primary industry could be devastating.

Regionalism

This is where regionalism comes in. Regionalism is when communities within a region, usually with similar geography, industries, and challenges, work together to solve problems and pool resources. Counties, at one time, served this purpose. However, county lines are somewhat arbitrary in the 21st century and may not be the best way to group a region anymore. County lines were created when people were still using a horse and buggy and often dependent on being able to get to the county seat within a day’s travel, an excellent reason back then. Now counties, especially rural counties, do not always have the resources needed to survive as our ability to travel longer distances becomes easier and more people move to urban areas. Regionalism offers a way for communities to pool resources to achieve goals and solve problems they might not be able to do on their own. Regionalism is a way to promote sustainable economic development for the communities within a region.

There is not a current way for counties, or even towns, to work together in this manner or pool resources. One example could be that a large manufacturing plant, placed strategically, may benefit more than one county and two counties together could offer an incentive package great enough to draw a company that they might not have been able to alone. Other examples include multiple counties pooling for broadband internet infrastructure. It seems obvious that when we work together we are able to accomplish more.

The power of a collective group of people is one of our mottos here at DRC. We, as a state, need to figure out how to do this.

How can we work together to solve problems? What systems need to be created to do this?



Freedom Mine near Beulah, ND

Cooperation and Communication between Institutions

Another key point made during the community discussion was the call for cooperation and communication between institutions. Many of the forum attendees thought this would be beneficial to the area. This includes city government, county government, businesses, and industry. For example, currently a city government could be working on a project to address an issue, meanwhile, the county commission also wants to address the issue and is developing their own plans. Both groups could be moving in opposite directions and/or contradicting the other's plan. While if they were to communicate, they could discuss the issue together and come up with solutions that are unified. It may seem surprising, but there is currently not a mechanism for this communication to occur. It would greatly benefit rural communities to figure out how to communicate and work on issues together.

It is unfortunate that we live in times where polarity runs rampant and divisive statements are used in common conversations that pit neighbors against neighbors. Even in North Dakota, with our Midwestern "niceness" we can find ourselves standing behind a line, pointing and yelling at the "other side". There is no exception when it comes to conversations about energy and economic development. It doesn't have to be this way though. There are North Dakotans who do not want to continue in this way and would actually like to see more cooperation and compromise. DRC hopes that when moving forward into the future, to solve the complex challenges we face, we can find allies in unlikely places and find common ground where we have not before.

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DRC PODCAST

Catch the DRC weekly podcast every week! Dakota Resource Council podcast is a weekly update with organization news, events and member profiles. We also talk with experts that are involved with issues that effect our members. You can download our podcast on iTunes, visit drcpodcast.buzzsprout.com or watch for updates on our Facebook Page!

Oil & Gas

Just Say No to the New Keystone

Lisa Deville, who is a member of Fort Berthold POWER, Dakota Resource Council (DRC), and Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC), went to a hearing and rally in Billings, MT on October 21st, 2019. She attended with other allies to oppose the Trans Canada (TC) Keystone XL pipeline (KXL) final permits for a proposed route. If this KXL pipeline is approved, when it leaks it would affect the drinking water of thousands of people in and around the Fort Peck reservation in MT. Lisa stated in her Op-Ed to 'Indian Country Today', "The proposed TC Keystone XL pipeline would be placed just downstream of the Ft. Peck Dam, which occasionally releases torrents of water down the Missouri, and just upstream of the water intake for the Assiniboine & Sioux Rural Water Supply System, which serves more than 30,000 people in native and rural communities across Montana. What spills into the Missouri River upstream, flows down-stream, jeopardizing drinking water for all nations along the Missouri river. My ancestors lived on the Missouri for many years before we were put on reservations. Oil and gas industry can leave when they want. We will live with the aftermath." The argument that KXL and other pipeline companies use is that their pipelines are safe and rarely ever leak. Here is just one of many examples of why that argument is moot; days after the hearing, the Keystone pipeline in Northeast North Dakota leaked and spilled more than 383,000 gallons of tar sands oil into nearby wetlands.



Lisa DeVille speaking at a rally recently held in Billings, MT in opposition of a newly proposed Keystone Pipeline.

Humans are not the only ones that are affected by these leaks, there is the loss of aquatic life and the flora that grows around rivers, lakes and tributaries. Leaks can have a significant negative impact on the diverse fauna in wetlands such as amphibians, reptiles, voles, mice, deer and birds that lose a place to nest during the spring and to rest during migration. These species may get their habitat back in several years after clean up or they may never get it back.

Fort Berthold POWER is investing their time in this matter because pipeline leaks have affected the people on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in North Dakota. Fort Berthold residents understand the damage that spills and leaks have to humans, the land, water, plant life, and animals. Sharing and speaking out from their own personal experience displays support to others that are dealing with the same oil and gas issues as western North Dakota. It also gives an opportunity to show a strong opposing force to Trans Canada, Crestwood, Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) and all other companies that want to install pipelines near or under water ways that provide water to all living things. This business behavior will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Finally, WORC, DRC and Fort Berthold POWER believe that this shows a strong American grassroots resistance to our government agencies that are responsible for basically giving out the "right-of-way passage" to these pipeline companies.

DRC Members Testify to the EPA in Dallas

In August 2019 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed rollbacks to the 2012 and 2016 New Source Performance Standards (NSPS). This would eliminate the direct regulation of methane from the EPA's New Source Performance Standards.

This rollback would mean that there is going to (Continued on Page 7)



Walter & Lisa DeVille voicing their concerns at a "Cut Methane" press conference in Dallas, TX

be an increase of greenhouse gases, such as Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) and methane, released into the atmosphere which would worsen the impact on climate change. U.S. citizens depend on the, federal regulations of methane and other (VOC's) to keep the air they breathe clean. Comprehensive standards protect the people who live near or around oil and gas facilities from harmful pollution that worsens asthma, other ailments, and could possibly create other health issues.

In an OP-ED, submitted to the James Town Sun, Lisa DeVille stated, "Last month, I joined citizens from across the country in Dallas, Texas, to testify against Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler's proposal to eliminate direct regulation of methane from the EPA's New Source Performance Standards, a proposal which would remove pollution standards for the oil and gas industry and put communities like mine in danger. If the proposal is finalized, the production, transmission and storage of gas in North Dakota would have no methane emissions standards. As a proud member of the Mandan Hidatsa, Arikara, Nation, whose ancestors are buried in Mandaree and Fort Berthold, I feel a powerful connection to this land, and I am deeply disturbed by the EPA's efforts to undermine the pollution standards that keep my community safe.

The oil and gas industry emits more than 13 million metric tons of methane and associated gasses such as volatile organic compounds and hazardous air pollutants into the air each year, and long-term exposure to this pollution can lead to a number of serious health complications including respiratory damage, cancer, birth defects and nervous system damage. Those of us near oil and gas operations are more likely to suffer from an illness associated with breathing heavily polluted air. Unfortunately, this is something my family knows all too well.

I live less than a mile away from facilities which produce, store, and transport natural gas, and in August of 2017, my husband and I became ill with debilitating respiratory infections.

We went to the McKenzie County Clinic, where a physician told us that we had the same symptoms as oil field workers they had treated at the clinic, known as the "Bakken cough." I was prescribed more medication and my husband received a steroid injection, but it took another eight weeks for us to fully recover. We were miserable during those eight weeks, and we live in constant fear of the next devastating illness caused by exposure to heavily polluted air. Recently we learned of increased nosebleeds and illness at the Mandaree Public School where my children go to school. The EPA has a responsibility to defend the health and safety of American families like mine, and that means strengthening protections against methane pollution, not rolling them back.



Walter DeVille Testifying at the EPA hearing in Dallas, TX

Administrator Wheeler's proposed roll back of methane safeguards threatens the health and well-being of millions of people across this country, especially Native communities like Fort Berthold. We choose to live on our ancestral lands, but we cannot choose whether or not to breathe air polluted by oil and gas companies developing on our sacred land. While the Dallas hearing may be over, we can still make a difference." She also stated, "Every American is entitled to make their voices heard and the health of our families is on the line." Commenting for EPA Methane Rollbacks closed on November 25.



DRC busy with ND DEQ

In a unanimous vote, Williams County Commissioners deny TENORM permit and placed a 1-year moratorium for Secure Energy and other companies that would want to apply for a TENORM facility permit. In August, members of Fort Berthold POWER, Dakota Resource Council, and members of Williams County went to a public DEQ hearing in Williston, ND to give comments and testimony to the DEQ to oppose Secure Energy's TENORM permit request.

North Dakota Supreme Court dismissed Continentals lawsuit over air emissions. If Continental would have won the lawsuit DEQ would have had to change their air emissions rules and would have removed pollution standards for the oil and gas industry in North Dakota. In November, Dakota Resource Council commented at a DEQ public hearing in Bismarck, ND to oppose Continentals lawsuit. One of the arguments that DRC referenced, was that if North Dakota changed its air emissions standards now then if a new Presidential administration was voted in or EPA doesn't make the change to the rollback, North Dakota would then have to roll back to the original air emission standards.

High-Level TENORM Dump Permit Denied



In a unanimous vote, Williams County Commissioners denied a permit which would have allowed the first ever high level, up to 50 picocuries, TENORM (Technologically Enhanced Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material) facility to be permitted in North Dakota. The commission also placed a 1-year moratorium on Secure Energy and other companies that would want to apply for a TENORM facility permit in Williams County. In August, members of Dakota Resource Council including Fort Berthold POWER and residents of Williams County, went to a public hearing in Williston, ND to give comments to the DEQ opposing Secure Energy's TENORM permit request. This is a big win for North Dakota and Williams County residents.

ND Supreme Court Dismisses Continental Resources Challenge

North Dakota Supreme Court dismissed the Continental Resources' lawsuit challenging ND air emissions rules dealing with venting. If Continental had won the lawsuit the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) would have eliminated North Dakota's law banning venting of natural gas.

On a somewhat related matter, Dakota Resource Council staff and members also testified at a public hearing hosted by the NDDEQ to oppose weakening North Dakota air quality standards. The public hearing was prompted by rulemaking petition also submitted by Continental (surprise). Continental's rulemaking petition asked the NDDEQ to replace ND's existing laws regarding methane with weaker rules. DRC opposed the petition. In our comments we urged the NDDEQ to keep its existing rules in place and also adopt the federal methane standards. By doing this, the NDDEQ would ensure that North Dakota does not reach nonattainment for ozone.

North Dakota is dangerously close to reaching ozone nonattainment, especially if drilling continues to increase at the current rate. If you look at the chart below you will see the most recent data regarding ozone in North Dakota. To reach nonattainment North Dakota will have to remain under 70 pbb. We hope the NDDEQ follows our recommendation to protect North Dakota's air.

Data from the Williston monitor is transmitted to EPA and is available at EPA's Data Mart.⁵ According to information from the Data Mart, DRC calculates the fourth highest daily 8-hour ozone from the Williston monitoring station as follows:

Monitoring Year	Date of 4 th highest daily maximum 8 hour average for this year	Time	8 hour average ozone levels recorded (in parts per billion)
2018	May 30, 2018	20:00	61.000
2017	June 9, 2017	18:00	61.125
2016	June 21, 2016	18:00	53.125
2015	May 26, 2015	18:00	59.875
2014	April 20, 2014	19:00	56.375

Davis Refinery News



Badlands Area Resource Council (BARC) is still celebrating the fact that there is not a refinery being constructed three miles outside of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

There are some new problems for the Meridian Energy Group, Inc., the company trying to build the Davis Refinery. Significantly, a mechanics lien of more than 2 million dollars was filed by SEH Design/Build, Inc., an engineering and consulting firm that Meridian hired (with much fanfare) in 2018. The lien was filed due to non-payment for work dirt work sub-contracted to Martin Construction, a Belfield area company.

From the beginning of this project, it appears that Meridian Energy has seemed to changed its story about what and how they were going to build and operate the Refinery. Who would have thought that they would change their story from, yes we'll pay you for services rendered to oops we can't or won't pay you for said services?

The financial health of Meridian has long been questioned. It's been reported that they have less than 15% of the capital needed to build the refinery and they are still scrambling for investors. Now it seems that they have not paid for the small amount of work that has been done.

How will the company be able to move forward with these financial issues? How will they be able to construct a pipeline between the proposed Refinery and the Dickinson Water Treatment Plant trunk? A trunk that Dickinson needs to build. Perhaps that project doesn't seem so solid? It wasn't It Meridian's original design, so can they afford to build this "extra" pipeline?

Our case at the State Supreme Court will be decided after the first of the year. If we win that case, one of the things we will be able to do is search discovery which will afford us an opportunity to get legal information and known facts of the case. Including financial information. It seems that information would be valuable.

Fryburg Rail Facility

In April the Fryburg Rail Facility had a mercaptan spill. Mercaptan is an odorant that is added to natural gas that gives it what we know as "the smell of natural gas". This meant that even though it wasn't a gas leak or spill, it smelled like one. The people living nearby didn't know that it wasn't a gas spill and so were very concerned about the smell coming from the gas plant. Emergency services were called, and residents were told they weren't sure what exactly had happened. Not until 24 hrs. after the spill were residents officially notified as to what had and had not spilled. This is obviously much too long a period of time for information to be disseminated. Neighbors question what might have happened had the spill been natural gas or some other toxic substance. Not that mercaptan is harmless, far from it.



Location of the Fryburg Rail facility to Belfield, ND

Some months later, when the Rail Facility applied for an Air Permit to Construct (APC) so that it could expand, folks were questioning if that is a good idea.

Comments were sent into the ND Department of Environmental Quality (NDDEQ) asking about this mercaptan spill and the plans the company had to remedy their communication/notification processes in case of another accident. People who commented also requested a public hearing so they could hear more about the plans for the Rail Facility and also have the opportunity to tell the NDDEQ their thoughts.

So many people spoke about the spill and communication problems as a reason to deny the permit application that it got people's attention.

(Fryberg Rail Facility Continued)

Marathon, the company that operates the Rail Facility, decided to hold an informational meeting about the spill. Representatives from NDDEQ attended the meeting. DRC members that attended were glad it was held but left without all the answers they were looking for.

In addition to getting the meeting with the company, enough people asked for a public hearing that one was granted. The hearing will be held December 16, at Dickinson City Hall at 1pm.

Outreach and Education

Members from BARC went to North Dakota State University to speak to the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Club about what DRC and BARC do and stand for. The Club also invited other clubs, including Environmental Sciences that made for a good turnout. The students were engaged, asked great questions and learned quite a bit about DRC and specifically BARC's work to relocate the Refinery. It was great to learn what the students are excited about and it's hoped that DRC might be something they are willing to join to add their energy and ideas to now or in the future.

Agriculture & Food

Dakota Resource Council's (DRC) Agriculture and Food work has had a busy October and November. DRC is poised to take on both old and new challenges, working with old and new allies to strengthen our organization.

COOL Makes a Comeback

Senator John Tester from Montana has gotten congress talking about Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) by introducing a resolution for the Senate to support reinstating mandatory The same day Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds, from South Dakota, introduced the U.S. Beef Integrity Act which would change the USDA requirements on what can be labeled Product of the USA. As longtime supporters, DRC and Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC) applaud these actions and will be taking the opportunity to lobby and organize to build public support. North Dakota Senators Cramer and Hoeven's offices have been contacted and only Senator Hoeven has responded. Senator Hoeven's position is that he has supported bills similar to the U.S Beef Integrity Act and has reached out to Tester's office to inquire about the resolution but would not fully commit to endorsing either of them.



Polls show that American consumers have a high demand for American beef and this demand will raise prices for our ranchers.

DRC attends the Northern Hemp Summit

DRC attended the Northern Hemp Summit in Bismarck on November 19th and 20th to learn more about the crop that was legalized nationally in 2018 and supported by DRC since 2005. The summit was attended by farmers interested in becoming growers in ND, industry experts, researchers, insurance salesmen, bankers, and entrepreneurs all there to give their expertise in the growing field and to learn from others.. ND Ag Commissioner Doug Goehring was present to give his support He pledged to support hemp farmers by giving them fair regulations and being there to help them overcome challenges. WORC and DRC will also be talking to and recruiting members to see how we can help hemp farmers work for new regulations within our multistate network and DRC will also be working on forming a partnership with the North Dakota Hemp Growers Association to address the needs of hemp farmers in North Dakota.

CAFO Attempts to come back into Devils Lake

In Devils Lake, The Grand Prairie Farm attempted to petition the Pelican Township for a hog farm in a new site about 2 miles south of Penn, ND. With the help of the Lake Region Concerned Citizens the Pelican Township was convinced to deny the permit on November 29th. Sources are unsure about what the next step will be from Grand Prairie Farm but DRC will be ready to organize when needed. DRC has also been working on outreach in November to expand our numbers to deal with the threat of CAFOs in ND.



Ag Committee Forms and Trade Wars Campaign

The Ag Committee held its first meeting in November and discussed a wide variety of issues ranging from COOL, CAFOs, GMOs, and new and emerging fields of discussion. Among one of these new issues is going to be our spotlight on the Trade War in North Dakota. Over the next year DRC will be highlighting farmers stories from across the state talking about how the trade wars have affected them and their livelihoods. If you want to tell your story about the Trade War, Contact Sam Wagner at sam@drcinfo.com to send an email requesting an interview.

MVRC Hosts Kick-Off Dinner



MVRC had a great turn out for the kickoff dinner!

Bismarck-Mandan is a central location in North Dakota and Bismarck serves as the capital. Dakota Resource Council's (DRC) office resides in Bismarck and we have significant support here for our statewide work and members in other regions of ND. Missouri Valley Resource Council (MVRC) is the Bismarck-Mandan affiliate for DRC. MVRC worked to get curbside recycling in Bismarck and achieved the addition of mercury labeling laws for North Dakota fishing licenses. As most things wax and wane, MVRC took a much-needed rest following the incredible and hard-fought "win" of curbside recycling. Now MVRC is being revitalized and is ready to is.

begin working again. DRC & MVRC hosted the MVRC kick-off dinner and social on Nov. 16th, following a 5-month long "Hour to Empower" campaign to find out from members and non-members what their vision for Bismarck-Mandan

The dinner and social turned out 30 people to kick-off MVRC and just in case you missed it, you can still join the fun as the work is just getting started. MVRC plans to have its first official meeting sometime at the end of January, so stay tuned. As with H2E, our goal is to be kid-friendly so we provided childcare. It's good that we did because there were several kids at the event. It was great to see parents and families coming out to voice their vision. DRC planned a game for the event, "pin the idea on the prairie dog". This was a spin-off of the game "pin the tail on the donkey" and instead, people wrote their name on hearts and shared their idea with the group. They were then blindfolded, spun around, and tried to place the heart near the prairie dog heart. The winner, the person who placed their heart closest to the target, received a gift of DRC gear. The game allowed for attendees to share their vision and issues that they would like to work on in Bismarck-Mandan. Just a few of the great ideas and issues voiced were:

- *Recycling - education & expansion
- *Addressing light pollution
- *Community orchard/food forest/heritage park
- *Public transportation - expansion & "green" options
- *Bike lanes - expansion, education, & improvement
- *Rentable public scooters & bikes
- *Green building materials

DRC created the "Stronger Together Challenge" for the event that was an incentive to bring your family or friends to the meeting for a chance to win Patagonia gear. Our organization is grassroots and we need members like you to do the work that we do. It is critical that our members lead the direction and focus of our work. Tell your friends about DRC & MVRC today!

The DRC staff and current, dedicated MVRC members will go through a consensus-building and decision-making process to determine what issue we will work on as MVRC in the new year. This meeting will be a full-length meeting, rather than one of our Hour to Empower events. DRC hopes to use the “Hour to Empower” model for other campaigns around the state in the future. There are some big ideas and visions coming to the Bismarck-Mandan area soon. We hope you will join us!



The MVRC Kick-Off Dinner provided folks a chance to get to know each other and share ideas for positive changes for their community.

DRC in the News

Here's why I oppose the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Lisa DeVille strongly opposes the Keystone XL pipeline because she's personally seen what pipelines can do when they malfunction.

My name is Lisa DeVille. My Indigenous name in white mans' language is, “Accomplishes Everything.” I am an enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nations, living with my family in Mandaree on the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota. Every day, we witness the environmental, health, and social impacts of living on the front lines of oil and gas extraction. We are losing our way of life because we are allowing Mother Earth to be killed as pipelines are dug into the earth as if they are her blood veins. At least 18 pipelines cross under Lake Sakakawea. I strongly oppose Keystone XL pipeline because I have seen up close and personal what pipelines can do when they malfunction.

Late on the evening of October 29th, the Keystone 1 pipeline in northeast North Dakota began to spill more than 383,000 gallons of tar sands oil into nearby wetlands. The 1,500 foot long and 15 foot wide spill will

permanently damage wetlands — which act as kidneys of the Earth — that clean water and serve as critical habitat to migratory water birds such as Canada geese, Upland Sandpipers, and the American Bittern. This is the 42nd documented time we have seen the Keystone 1 pipeline leak in North America.

On that same cold October evening, at the US State Department's only hearing on the newest Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, I shared a dire message with the crowd at a sub-freezing rally: no oil and gas pipeline is safe. Mandaree, my community, was subjected to one of the biggest oil and gas saltwater spills in North Dakota history. Saltwater produced from oil and gas operations is typically 10-30 times saltier than the ocean and may contain petroleum and residue from hydraulic fracturing. In July of 2014, a pipeline operated by Crestwood Midstream Services Inc. broke and spilled one million gallons of produced water just uphill of Bear Den Bay and our drinking water intake. Not too long after, in August 2014, another Crestwood pipeline broke and spilled 250,000 gallons in the Independence area east of Mandaree near Lake Sakakawea. Crestwood was not held accountable, nor were they fined. Pipelines continue to spill in the Mandaree area, and the grasses, shrubs, and trees stand dead around those 2014 pipeline spills, as the salt contamination continues to spread.

The proposed Keystone XL pipeline would be placed just downstream of the Ft. Peck Dam, which occasionally releases torrents of water down the Missouri, and is just upstream of the water intake for the Assiniboine & Sioux Rural Water Supply System, which will soon serve more than 30,000 in native and rural communities across Montana. What spills into Missouri River upstream, flows down-stream, jeopardizing drinking water for all nations along the Missouri. My ancestors lived on the Missouri for many years before we were put on reservations. Oil and gas industry can leave when they want. We will live with the aftermath. After being shut down by the federal government for more than a week, TC Energy has resumed operation of their frequently leaking tar sands pipeline. We cannot afford another, larger, version of this flawed pipeline. We must honor

(Why I Oppose the Keystone Pipeline Continued)

our original instructions as Indigenous people of this land, to honor and protect all life within their so-called boundaries – say no to the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline Environmental Impact Statement by commenting before Monday, November 18th.



Lisa DeVille is an enrolled member of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation, also known as the Three Affiliated Tribes on the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota. She has lived her whole life in Mandaree, ND with her husband, five children, and five grandbabies. Lisa assisted in creating grassroots group Fort Berthold Protectors of Water and Earth Rights (POWER) and is a member of the Dakota Resource Council (DRC).



In Memoriam

Dakota Resource Council regrettably informs our members of the passing of longtime DRC member and former board member, Tom Abe on Wednesday, November 27th. Tom will be missed not only within DRC, but in the entire WORC network as well. DRC was honored to receive two beautiful blankets from the family in Tom's memory. One of those blankets will be on display in the DRC office very soon. If you would like to read Tom's obituary, you can visit www.langhansfuneralhome.com

Events and Meetings