



RICHLAND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.

Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project (LYIP) Environmental Impact Study (EIS) released:

As of the afternoon of May 26, the Lower Yellowstone Intake Diversion Fish Passage Project Draft EIS was made available to the public through Reclamation's Lower Yellowstone Project (LYIP) Website.

The public comment period began on June 3rd, 2016, when the Environmental Protection Agency published the Notice of Availability (NOA) in the Federal Register.

The public comment period will run for 45 days, closing on July 28th, 2016. The US Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps held three public meetings: Tuesday, June 28, at Sidney, Wednesday, June 29, at Glendive, and Thursday, June 30, at Billings.

The Draft EIS analyzes six alternatives: No Action, Rock Ramp, Bypass Channel, Modified Side Channel, Multiple Pump, and Multiple Pumps with Conservation Measures.

The Corps and Reclamation have identified the Bypass Channel Alternative as the Preferred Alternative.

All public comments will be reviewed by the Corps and Reclamation and will be included in the final EIS.

Our office was instrumental in facilitating an educational meeting in advance of the public hearings. We also organized buses to transport attendees to the Glendive and Billings meetings. We are pleased to have many, many sponsors to offset the costs of traveling to these hearings.

The Sidney hearing was the best attended with approximately 450 people in attendance. The Glendive hearing had about 250 attend. While the Billings hearing had about 350. At each, folks had the opportunity to go on record with their support or opposition of the EIS and the LYIP.

We also arranged for refreshments to be served on the buses as well as after the hearing at Billings. We are pleased to have assisted on this worthy project.

Public comments can be submitted until July 28 these three ways:

- 1.) ~~Public Meetings—Verbal or Handwritten~~
- 2.) Email: cenwo-planning@usace.army.mil.
- 3.) Mail:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District,
Attn: CENWO-PM-AA; 1616 Capitol Avenue
Omaha, Nebraska 68102



Linette Miller Retires

After 5 years of dedicated service, Linette Miller has retired from the REDC Board of Directors. We want to thank Linette for all the time she gave over the years, helping to make REDC great. Linette was always willing to lend a hand, whether it be aiding in catering needs or sitting out at the fair booth. We want to wish her well on her new adventures. Thank you Linette!



REDC Takes On Social Media with Instagram

Late this past spring, REDC, in conjunction with the Sidney Chamber Leadership Class, launched an Instagram account. As the internet and social media sites have taken off, having a web presence, and controlling the conversation is more important than ever. REDC seized the opportunity and created their own Instagram account, REDCMT87, and has been highlighting events and local activities that they have been a part of. Some of the events that REDC has Instagrammed are the Williston Basin Petroleum Conference, Infrastructure meeting, Billings Energy Expo, LYIP meetings and the opening of Senator Steve Daines' satellite office here in Sidney. REDC also always uses the two hashtags created by the leadership class, #richesofrichland and #spiritedsidney to help highlight all of the wonderful things our area has going on on a day to day basis! Hope to follow you all soon!!



Instagram

Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Leadership Class Wrap-Up

As July begins, Katie has finished her first year of requirements for the Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Leadership Class. The class began back in September 2015 and included 8 full days of learning, 3 half days of skills training, as well as multiple hours of work on 3 separate class projects. The class took in information ranging from running feed lots, to school budgeting, and everything in between. The 3 class projects are in completion/ maintenance phases. The round-about designs are submitted to MDT, the new area at Gartside is finished and the #richesofrichland/#spiritedsidney Instagrams are up and running. For 2016-2017, the class is responsible for planning the 8 issue days. Katie will be heading up the issue day for Small Business with Shelly Steel and she will be aiding Jessica Redfield in planning the Government day. Katie was also voted by her class to sit on the Chamber Task Force board for the next year. It has been a wonderful opportunity and is a great asset to our community. Thank you for the opportunity to participate!



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7 likes
 she@ymstole 24h #montanawooverysine #feedit #richesofrichland



Williston Basin Petroleum Conference

At the end of May, Leslie and Katie were lucky enough to travel to Bismarck for the Williston Basin Petroleum Conference (WBPC). XTO generously donated booth space to REDC.

The duo spent time listening to different speakers from the oil industry. The CEO of Whiting Petroleum talked about the future of oil development for their company. He was very optimistic about the turn-around in oil pricing and longevity of the Bakken Play. He also praised North Dakota for being a state where the oil companies, the regulatory services and the government work in partnership to continue growth in a safe way. S/M Energy also did a presentation. REDC is excited about their new project! S/M believes that “petroleum products are so ingrained into society that they have become nearly invisible”- what this means, is that it is easy to attack oil development because we are unaware of how much much petroleum is a part of our lives- aside from gas for our cars. S/M is kicking off a website that they want to call a “resource center” where they can highlight “moments made better by petroleum”. It will be free and they hope to launch it prior to the 2016 Presidential Election. Another speaker was the VP of Bakken Development for Hess Corp. The best thing that he said is that the Bakken will only get bigger and better as new technology is discovered. The final oil specific speaker of the conference was the CEO/President of WPX. The most interesting thing that he spoke about was some of the history of developing the Bakken. He was actually part of the first horizontal well drilled in the Bakken formation with Meridian Oil in 1987. As we all know, this didn’t exactly amount to too much, BUT cool none the less. He also said that 1/3 of all American’s oil comes from either the Bakken or the Permian Basin as no other formations come even close. The final oil speaker of the conference was the CEO of KLJ. He discussed a lot of the financial impacts of the Bakken and the current price of oil. He too was very optimistic overall about the direction and future. He estimated that by 2030 the world will be consuming between 115-130 million barrels of oil a day which is well below current production, so therefor solidifying the claim that it is a question of **WHEN** not **IF** oil prices rise again.

The FINAL speaker of the WBPC was one Mr. Lou Holtz. And WOW!! JUST WOW!! Leslie and Katie were excited for his message from the start, being major college football fans, however, they were a little unclear as to how he would tailor his life experiences to the oil and gas field. However, he did it seamlessly... He said that in his field you had two objectives: to graduate and to win. He also said in our field (the “our” being oil and gas) there are two objectives: make money and keep the customer happy. He then talked for a solid hour about his rules and beliefs that allowed those two things to happen in coaching. He had 6 simple questions followed by 3 simple rules. He felt if every action’s reaction fit in these perimeters you would be successful. His 6 questions are:

- 1) What financial sacrifices are you willing to make?
- 2) What sacrifices are you and your family willing to make?
- 3) What skills or talents do you need to learn to get it done?
- 4) Who do you have to work with to get it done?
- 5) What problems/difficulties must you overcome to get it done?
- 6) What is your plan to get it done?

His 3 simple rules are:

*Do Right; Don't be bitter

*Do everything to the best of your ability in the time allowed

*Show People you care

And the final grain of thought that Leslie and Katie absolutely loved was the idea that we as humans can sometimes feel insecure. When we feel insecure we lower our standards which helps absolutely no one. So the follow up questions one should ask are: A) Can I trust you? B) Are you committed to excellence? C) Do you care about me?

We left that room super excited to continue to apply these principals to the every day operations of REDC.

The grand finale of our trip was hearing Presidential Candidate, Donald Trump speak. The event was very crowded and people were excited. Earlier on Thursday, the delegates from North Dakota officially voted for Trump, and he became the GOP candidate for President in the 2016 Election. Mr. Trump spoke for nearly an hour highlighting his desires to return jobs and money back to America. He spent a large amount of time discussing the opportunities that oil and gas development holds. He wants to lower regulation, open federal land, build the Keystone Pipeline AND redevelop off-shore drilling. This, he states would bring jobs back to America and trillions of dollars back to our economy. Another very interesting idea he brought forth was to upgrade America's entire failing infrastructure by hiring unemployed or underemployed Americans. This is not a new idea; in fact FDR used this exact plan to pull America out of the Great Depression..... So maybe sometimes knowing successful history and repeating it is a great thing.

We would like to once again thank XTO for their generous donation!



Pres. Candidate Donald Trump,
ND Rep., Kevin Cramer,
Continental CEO, Harold Hamm



Town Hall Meetings

In lieu of the community wide conference this year, the county commissioners decided to hire a consultant to come into various communities and go directly to the people.

To update the growth policy, MSU extension, Tara Mathern, was contracted to conduct town hall meetings throughout Richland County. The objective was to have area residents identify their community's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats.

Meetings were held in the month of April in Sidney, Elmdale, Lambert, Fairview, and Savage. Leslie attended the meetings in Lambert and Savage.

Some of the issues identified were: continued transportation on the Richland Transportation bus, community clean ups, infrastructure, taxes, and communication across the board.

We were pleased to assist and participate in these meetings.



Sidney Water Users

Over the past 10 years, REDC has been actively working with the Sidney Water Users. They have applied for various grants to accomplish their mission: to improve the efficiency of the water delivery system by replacing open canal and supply ditches with buried PVC pipes.

Our office has written and submitted several letters of support to the various funding sources over the past 10 years.

As a thank you, our office was invited to participate in an appreciation barbecue to celebrate the completion of this project. We are pleased to assist the Sidney Water Users in this manner.

Montana Economic Developers Association (MEDA) Spring Conference:

Leslie participated in the MEDA spring conference in Butte. This was a well-attended meeting with over 125 participants. The topics discussed were fostering a talented work force, how to handle the press, an update on the National SBA, creative project examples, and building capacity where it matters. We also heard the latest on the Montana Infrastructure Coalition and the newly elected board: Serving as president is Webb Brown, MT Chamber, VP's are Jason Rittal, Dawson Co, and Tim Burton, League of Cities, Secretary Jon Metropoulos, MT Assn. Oil & Gas Co, and ad hoc members: Carey Hegreberg, MT Contractors Assn, Jay Skoog, American Council of Engineers of MT, and Chris Cavazos, MT AFL-CIO.

MEDA also bid farewell to Herb Kulow, outgoing executive director to the Montana Board of Investments. We were introduced to his replacement, none other than our own Doug Hill. It was wonderful to introduce Doug to my statewide colleagues. We wish Doug best of luck in his new role!



MEDA board dinner



LEADERSHIP MONTANA
LISTEN • LEARN • LEAD

Leadership MT Class of 2017:

Leslie volunteered to serve as the chair of this years' selection committee. Others that served in this worthy process were: Amy Kellogg, John Carmony, Deb Singer, Shauna Albrecht, Victor Robbins, Rob Ball, Craig Woolard, Chris Bryant, Cami Skinner, and Chantel Schieffer.

There were over 100 applications received for this years' class. Each committee member reviewed 20-25 applications and scored them based on criteria and then submitted their scores into a new software system. Two conference calls were held to discuss the final tallies and the final 44 were chosen. We are pleased to announce that Kelly Reisig and Paula Eberling have both been accepted into this years' class. Congratulations!

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**Check us out on Facebook
and now Instagram!!**

Richland County Fair and Rodeo is back for the 96th year!!

Please join REDC out at the Richland County Fair Grounds from August 3-6, 2016.



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