



# REDC Spring Newsletter

## Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project updates

April 2018



Photo courtesy of Ninth Circuit



Monday, March 5th, the attorneys representing the Army Corps of Engineers and the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project presented their case to the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in Portland.

The attorneys proclaimed that the three-member panel of federal judges should dissolve a temporary injunction ordered by the U.S. District Court that stopped the construction of a fish bypass channel at the Intake diversion dam.

That injunction was requested by the Defenders of Wildlife in July 2017, who indicated that the federal agencies' analysis may not be adequate, and granted by U.S. District Judge Brian Morris; who wrote that the recovery of the sturgeon, (by pass channel) may not be sufficient according to the Endangered Species Act.

The ruling from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals came on April 4th, 2018. The Court overturned the Injunction against LYIP! All three judges voted unanimously that the endangered species laws were inappropriately applied in this case.

Meanwhile, back at home in Montana, Judge Brian Morris has set the Summary Judgement Hearing for LYIP on Thursday, April 19, at 1:30 PM, at Great Falls.

Each time the case has been heard, the courtroom has been filled with concerned business owners and farmers alike. However; the stakes have never been higher.

It is absolutely imperative, even during the busiest spring planting, to attend this hearing. We have shown that our area is deeply concerned by the outcome of this case, and we must do so again.

REDC has reserved two school buses to transport interested participants to and from Great Falls to listen to the proceedings. It is our hope that we are forced to contract even more! To reserve your seat on the bus, and show the Court that this issue is the highest priority to our area, call Richland Economic Development Corp at 406-482-4679.

### Inside this issue:

<i>Collaboration</i>	2
<i>Senator Tester's Visits</i>	2
<i>Board Directors</i>	3
<i>New Board Member</i>	3
<i>Lessons in Leadership</i>	4
<i>Leadership Montana</i>	5
<i>Sidney Young Professionals</i>	6
<i>Sidney Young Professionals</i>	7

## Collaborations



On March 12, the Executive Boards of the Sidney Chamber of Commerce and Richland Economic Development Corp met to discuss collaboration.

Each board member related how and why they are invested in the organizations.

The Executive Directors, Susan Joy and Leslie Messer, described what current projects each group was working on. The ladies then listed the many activities that they had worked collaboratively on for our area.

The objective of this initial meeting was to introduce all board directors, and to set the stage for continuing to work together in the future.

There will be another meeting in the next quarter, so we may keep up the momentum.

## Senator Tester visits Sidney

On January 13, 2018, the Sidney Kiwanis and the Sidney Young Professionals co-sponsored a round table discussion with Senator Jon Tester.

There were approximately 40 people in attendance at the meet and greet. They asked questions regarding the Affordable Care Act, the Farm Bill, and Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project (LYIP).

Later on in the day, the Senator met with the Board of Control at LYIP, and was fully educated on the importance of the project not only to the growers, but also to the state, the nation, and internationally as well.



## 2018 REDC Officers



Randy Olson, President, Cami Skinner, Vice Pres, Pam Burman, Secretary, and Jackie Washechek, Treasurer

The REDC Board of Directors elected their officers for 2018. Randy Olson will serve as the President, Cami Skinner will serve as the Vice President, Pam Burman will serve as the Secretary, and Jackie Washechek will serve as the Treasurer. We deeply appreciate these folks for volunteering their time to our organization.

## Welcome New Director!



Heather VanGelder, Community Relations Coordinator, OneOK

Heather VanGelder grew up in a small town called Greybull, WY where she lived with her parents and younger brother. After graduating from high school, she attended college in Missoula, at the University of Montana. She graduated with a degree in Elementary Education and Fine Arts. After college, she moved back home and became a teacher/supervisor for the local Head Start program for a few years. In 2012, she met her current boyfriend Chadd, which eventually led to a move to South Dakota, where she taught fourth grade for a year. In 2014 they relocated to Sidney to be closer to his family's ranching and farming operation. That same year, she started with ONEOK as an operations specialist and in 2016, she was promoted to her current position as Community Relations Coordinator.. Heather is passionate

about community involvement because there are many organizations which really are the pulse of the communities we live in. She believes these organizations are critical to the success of our small towns and is happy to do what she can to help them out. She is currently the Secretary/Treasurer for the Boys & Girls Club, a member of the Job Service for Employers Committee (JSEC), the committee chair for the North Dakota Petroleum Council's Community Outreach Committee, a member of the Chamber's Sports and Rec Committee, and a member of the Sidney Young Professionals.

She is excited to be a new board member for REDC and is looking forward to working with the rest of the board! When she is not at work, she is usually traveling back to her boyfriend's family's ranch to help with calving, fixing fence, or branding. She also loves spending time with her family and friends, working in her yard, reading, and camping. Welcome aboard Heather!

## Lessons In Leadership:



Tuff Harris



One Heart Warriors

Leadership Montana (LMT) is the flagship of distinguished training for emerging leaders in our state. One amazing program that LMT offers is the Lessons In Leadership events. On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, in Billings, Leadership Montana featured Tuff Harris as the keynote. Tuff is a former NFL star. He is a Montanan. He founded an amazing Non-profit program, “One Heart Warriors”.

Tuff relayed his inspiring story and how he is giving back to his community through a leadership development program for Native Americans.

About 100 people attended the event at the Babcock, and Leslie, as a serving board director of Leadership MT, was thrilled to listen to Tuff’s message.



# Leadership Montana Conference:

On March 14, 15, and 16, fifty up and coming leaders and their instructors visited Sidney to learn about our area. The 2018 class graduates will be among the 600 alumni of the LMT program.

While the class was in Richland County, they were educated and informed on how incredible our community is.

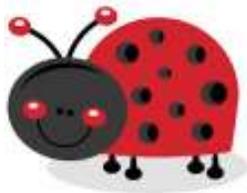
The class heard an overview of how our government officials handled the busyness of the oil and gas development, and how they are handling the downturn as well.

The class was educated on the process of oil leasing, toured the OneOK and the Sidney Sugars facilities, and were also updated on LYIP.

Several business panelists offered a glimpse of downtown business successes and challenges.

In addition, the class was treated to a delicious banquet and a take home goodies bag filled with items produced, grown and found locally.

Many thanks to: Kelly Riesig, Paula Eberling, Cami Skinner, and Katie Dasinger for all their help hosting this crowd.



# Sidney Young Professionals

SYP has been hosting multiple events all winter long– Here are the highlights:

**January:** In January, SYP partnered with the MonDak Heritage Center to host a “Night at the Museum”. During the event, SYP members were able to take in an art class as well as participate in a museum scavenger hunt.

**January 2.0-** Late in the month, SYP and Sidney Kiwanis were lucky enough to co-host a “Town Hall” with Senator John Tester.

**February:** In February, Sidney Health Center hosted SYP for an after hours behind the scenes tour. The hospital administration took SYP members to all different areas of the hospital to highlight all the amazing services available to the area. Members even got a sneak peak at the new remodel!

**February 2.0-** On a chilly February morning, SYP hosted a “Coffee and Conversations” with Senate hopefuls Matt Rosendale and Troy Downing.

**March:** March brought back an SYP favorite— The Non-Profit Fair.! This year’s fair saw 25 non-profits all join together for a night of community involvement. The idea is to bring the non-profits to the forefront of the minds of young professionals in Richland County as they look for places to volunteer their time and money.

**March 2.0-** SYP hosted a “Meet and Greet” with Senate hopeful Dr. Al Olszewski.



## Sidney Young Professionals Upcoming Events

**April:** SYP will be hosting “Empowered Professionals” on Thursday April 12th. The event, which will take place from 6-8 at the USDA building, will have a panel of professionals that will discuss the best practices for workplace interpersonal communication. The panelists will cover everything from resume enhancement to how to deal with co-work conflicts and much more! Hope to see you all there!

**May:** Just in time to celebrate the arrival of summer (hopefully!!!) SYP will be hosting a family friendly picnic. The event which will take place on **SATURDAY MAY 12** from 4-6 at Veteran's Park. This will be a way for SYP members and their families to get ready for summer together!

**May 2.0–** On **MONDAY MAY 14,** SYP will be hosting a “candidate Round Table”. The event will have the candidates for HD 35, Commissioner Duane Mitchell, candidates for Justice of the Peace, County Clerk and Recorder and County Attorney. The event is open to the public, however space will be limited. There will be multiple small tables that each candidate will visit for 10 minute, small group discussions of their platforms and goals for the coming terms. The event will be from **6-8 pm at the MSU Extension Office.**



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