



# ANNUAL REPORT 2016

**Building Businesses**  
**Transforming Communities**  
**Creating a Better Future**

[www.redriverrc.com](http://www.redriverrc.com)

The Red River Regional Council (RRRC) is one of eight regional planning councils in North Dakota established in 1973 to enhance the ability of local governments to jointly plan, address issues, and seize opportunities that transcend individual boundaries.

# 2016 in Pictures



*Clockwise from top left:  
Riparian planting west of Edinburg; kayaking the Pembina River; new horseshoe bar at Wagon Wheel Bar and Grill in Michigan; Marketplace for Kids engineering class; supporting the roof of the Gardar Township Hall prior to its move; Mayor's Caucus 2016 (caucus photo courtesy of Walsh County Record).*

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The Red River Regional Council (RRRC) works to help communities solve problems, create holistic solutions and make dreams come true for individuals, businesses and communities throughout the region.

This annual report will guide the reader through the projects, people, funding and leadership efforts that have impacted the region in 2016.

*cover photo by Rebecca Raber, Pisek, ND native*

“Outstanding communities don’t just appear, they are built by the people that live there.”

- Dawn Keeley, Executive Director



## PRESIDENT’S STATEMENT

As president for the past several years, I’ve watched Red River Regional Council (RRRC) go through many changes both in staff and members. We’ve gone from Julius and his staff to Dawn and her staff. Although different in many ways, they are also similar in many ways.

Probably the most important change is the way we’ve decided to use social media as an

outlet for our programs. Today, if you want to communicate your mission statement, social media is the best way to do it.

I’ve been very proud of the staff and board members I’ve worked with over the years, each of you has been very important to the existence of RRRC. Our economic development committee has helped many businesses get started and



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S STATEMENT

Nearly four years ago, I embraced the challenge of leading the Red River Regional Council into a new era. The time has passed quickly and with each annual report, I smile with the accomplishments we’ve been able to support throughout the region, the initiatives we’ve started, and amazement at our team and leadership. Four years ago, I was given the directive to move forward – to which I responded, “Buckle your seat belts – we’ve got lots to do!”

**Gratitude.** The work we accomplish is done with a high level of passion and excellence by our staff and our Board of Directors. Each day, I come into the office with an awe of the talent and dedication of our tireless staff. With our diverse set of professional skills and perspectives, we challenge each other and we continue to find ways to improve together and strive to get to “yes!” We constantly have professional growth. The Board of Directors steers the major decisions of our organization. We have an outstanding group of regional leaders leading our organization with dedication, vision and the charity of their time. Our nonprofit consultancy business model inspires our entrepreneurial spirit. This team is a dream come true and for each of them, I am extraordinarily grateful.

**Achievement.** We aim to achieve. To help bring ideas to life and seek to inspire through sharing achievements. We like the challenge – large and small – to help move communities forward. All aspects of the community. In 2016, these aspects included: rehabbing homes, reopening closed businesses, replacing 70-year old fire hydrants, boosting child care centers, rebuilding parks, replacing street lights, buying kayaks, restoring a township hall, creating a new foundation to buy a 40-year-old business, and more. When faced with new ideas in uncharted territory, we explore and learn together. Our rural areas, with a limited clientele and most of the time with limited resources, require a high level of ingenuity and leverage of both talent and resources from many sources to get over the finish line in a judicious way.

helped them develop into thriving companies. We've saved many old buildings with our historic preservation commissions. We've restored many miles of river banks and wetlands with our riparian committee. We've saved many homes that needed to be repaired and we've written hundreds of grants.

I could go on and on, but if you live in our four county region, Grand Forks, Pembina, Nelson or Walsh, we are here to help you. If you have a problem, please do not hesitate to give us a call. I would like to personally thank everyone that I've had the privilege

**Forward-Thinking.** Through our work with so many folks throughout the region, we keep a keen eye for new opportunities or ways to address issues that resonate on multiple fronts. How can we make a regional impact on creating a better future?

Alongside our project work, we have created several initiatives the past four years to engage people and elevate opportunities of a larger scale. With this, we work to create a sense that the region is ours – the collective ours. The folks that care most about this region are those people living here.

Outstanding communities don't just appear, they are built by the people that live there whom generously invest their vision, time and engage others. It takes a community to build a community and the regional council is a partner in getting the job done. In 2016, we engaged more than 1,400 people through an assortment of initiatives and events including the Regional Mayors Caucus, Marketplace for Kids, MFG Day, NE Manufacturing Group, Ideas to Actions Summit, and reinvigorating the Rendezvous Region Tourism Council.

to work with over the years.

I don't believe in micro-managing, so the success of the RRRC lies solely with the director and staff.

Dan Stenvold  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Stenvold". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "S".

We look forward to continuing progress in 2017 - hand in hand with the people of the region. There is an endless stream of projects to be completed as well as potential to be developed for our corner of the state. We are excited to work with Governor Burgum and his team to execute the Main Street Initiative by continuing to help build vibrant communities in our corner of the state.

Dawn Keeley  
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn Keeley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" and "K".

# REGIONAL IMPACT

The Regional Council brings talent to the table, access to funding, solves problems, convenes important discussions, builds businesses and communities and plans for the future. Our team of dedicated, passionate professionals are development partners in the region. We consistently answer the “Can you help us?” call with a resounding “yes!”.

As most projects need investments to be implemented, we focus much of our talent in identifying and securing funding. The projects that need our assistance would not proceed without leveraging funds. For each dollar invested in the RRRC by the four counties in our region, we assisted in securing \$47.49 – a 4,779% return on investment. We prepared and submitted 112 funding requests and achieved a 95% success rate. We assisted 47 projects leading to a total investment of \$8 million.

Challenged by increased poverty rates, particularly in Walsh County, as well as a persistent 70-year trend of population decline, we continue to have our work cut out for us. We’ve forged relationships with area school districts as we strive to engage our kids in building the future in our region. We want them to have a valued upbringing that encourages a keen eye for the area in their future. We’ve also brought together more than 40 manufacturing firms to learn more about one of our top industries and understand how we can be stronger together.

There is something bigger – something extremely beneficial – that happens through partnerships and by viewing our many small communities as part of a larger, regional community. From our families to our businesses, from our towns and main streets to our counties, from our partnerships with larger cities and state and federal agencies – we are stronger, together, as one regional community – creating the thriving rural region we want to see in the future.

Our challenge is more than keeping people from moving out. Our challenge – and our opportunity – ahead lies in creating the foundations of a regional economy that is going to grow and become home to new people and welcome a nation of visitors. In moving our many ideas into action, we can design – and build – the community we want to live in. Together. Our relationships – connections – make us stronger.

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful  
committed citizens can change the world;  
indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”*

**-Margaret Mead**

## WHAT WE DO TO *HELP*

- √ Develop Projects
- √ Construct Funding Packages
- √ Write Grants
- √ Provide Grants
- √ Administer Grants
- √ Lend Money
- √ Manage Projects/Programs
- √ Provide Mentorships
- √ Convene People
- √ Create Programs
- √ Foster Regional Collaborations
- √ Inspire Bold Thinking
- √ Build and Extend Relationships
- √ Conduct Research
- √ Track Trends

***Ideas to Actions to Results!***

**21**  
Community  
Builders Recognized



**9**  
Miles of the  
Park River  
Cleaned  
- more to go



**47**  
Projects Assisted  
\$8 Million Total  
Investment



**2016**  
**Results**  
By The  
**Numbers**

**70**  
Grants Written  
**63** Awarded



**95%**  
Success Rate  
106 of 112  
Funding Requests  
Approved

**4,779%**  
ROI - For every \$1 in dues,  
the RRRC secured \$47.79  
in grants/loans



**6**  
Major Events  
Hosted Engaging  
**1,455** People



**5**  
CDBG Projects  
Reviewed and in  
Full Compliance

# BUILDING TOURISM

## TOURISM INDUSTRY DRIVEN BY DEMAND FOR EDUCATIONAL AND PARTICIPATORY TRAVEL EXPERIENCES

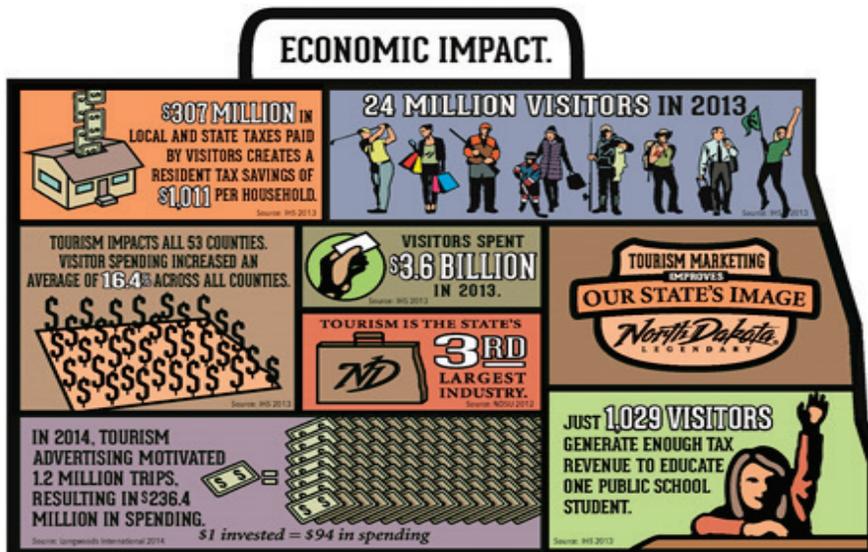
Living in the vastness of the Red River Valley and rolling hills of the Lake Agassiz plateau can insulate us from appreciating the beauty and richness of our landscapes. Our valuable natural resources and the attention we have paid to our historic and cultural heritage make our region an appealing place to visit. Northeastern North Dakota residents have much to celebrate in our natural and cultural assets and the potential to attract visitors.

North Dakota's economy has historically been driven by activity in the energy and agriculture sectors – both of which are susceptible to forces beyond the control of our best local and regional economic development efforts. Tourism is the third leg of our economic stool and is largely an untapped opportunity.

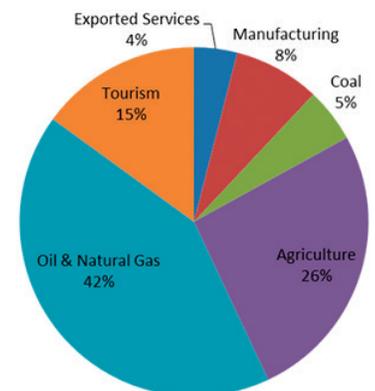
North Dakota's tourism industry ranks as the 3rd largest sector in terms of economic impact. Prior to the oil boom, it ranked second only to agriculture. Tourism in North Dakota has evolved as a major economic development priority for many communities. Increasing consumer demand for educational and participatory travel experiences has resulted in a variety of specialty niche markets such as nature-based tourism, cultural-heritage tourism, and agritourism.

Tourism not only creates jobs in the tertiary sectors of retail and service. It also encourages growth in the primary and secondary sectors of industry. This is known as the multiplier effect which, in its simplest form, is how many times money spent by a tourist circulates through the economy. Tourist spending is also "new money" brought into the local economy – money earned elsewhere and spent by visitors from outside of the region, as opposed to dollars earned and recycled locally.

## WHAT DOES EVERY VISITOR TO NORTH DAKOTA PACK?



ND Industry Sectors - 2015



Source: ND Department of Commerce, Tourism Division



## PARTNERS ARE THE KEY TO SUCCESS

Bank of North Dakota  
Cavalier County  
Cavalier County JDA  
Choice Financial Group  
Community Foundation  
Grand Forks, East Grand Forks and Region  
Governor's Office  
Grand Forks Growth Fund  
North Central Planning Council  
ND Department of Commerce  
ND Parks and Recreation Department  
Pembina County JDA  
Pembina Gorge Foundation  
Red River Regional Council  
USDA Rural Development  
Walsh County JDA  
Private donors

*Collaborating partners and funders of project and professional development staff*



# ENHANCING THE PEMBINA GORGE

## PRIVATE/PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP KEY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE PEMBINA GORGE STATE RECREATION AREA

The Pembina Gorge represents the most appealing, year-round tourism amenity within this region. Its proximity to a potential market of 1.2 million people within a two-hour radius makes it an exciting and mostly untapped tourism resource – one that could rival Theodore Roosevelt National Park for numbers of out-of-state visitors per year.

With investment in upgrades to existing amenities, the addition of a diverse array of recreation opportunities, increased service and retail amenities near the area and in the surrounding communities, and an increased emphasis on marketing, the Pembina Gorge is poised to become one of North Dakota's premiere tourist attractions, bringing with it economic opportunities that can benefit all communities within the region.

In January of 2017, the Pembina Gorge Foundation, a North Dakota nonprofit corporation, was established. The mission of the Foundation is to support the development of historical, cultural, educational, natural and recreational opportunities and other tourism assets and services within the Pembina Gorge. The first objective is to purchase and continue the operations of the Frost Fire Ski and Snowboard Area / Summer Amphitheatre which has more than 20,000 customers per year.

The Pembina Gorge State Recreation Area Campaign goal is to raise \$3.1 million for the purchase of the Frost Fire property and Johnson home which is located within the resort. The private/public partnership that has formed between the Foundation and the ND Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) is an essential key to continued development. The Frost Fire acquisition will leverage a \$500,000 investment by NDPRD in a mountain bike terrain park and a connector trail between the trailhead and the Frost Fire hospitality center.

The Frost Fire Ski and Snowboard Area was established by Richard and Judith Johnson, opening day on Christmas Day 1976. Over a period of more than four decades, the Johnsons invested much of their profits into building this property located in rural Cavalier County. Today, the property encompasses 172.75 acres and provides a variety of winter and summer activities including downhill and cross country skiing, snowboarding, tubing, hiking, equipment rentals, concessions, and summer theatre.

# 2016 IDEAS TO ACTIONS SUMMIT



## GRAFTON PARKS AND RECREATION CAMPGROUND EXPANSION PROJECT

### North Star Award Winner

After steady growth including two summers at full capacity, the staff of Grafton Parks and Recreation decided to embark on a project that would help retain and attract new campers in the city's campground. A \$45,000 grant from the ND Tourism Division and other financial commitments made it possible to add 15 camper sites, five cabins, a second bathhouse, and a visitors station. Returning customers to the seasonal campground comment that they return to Grafton's campground because they love having the camping experience along with the benefits of being in a community that offers a wide array of services and products.

## DAVE MOE GRAFTON ELDERLY RELIEF FUND

### Catalyst Award Winner

As the owner of the Country Smokehouse butcher shop and grocery store, Dave Moe sees first hand the struggles many elderly residents of Walsh County face on a daily basis. He started the Elderly Relief Fund to recruit donations that could end up in the hands of the most needy. Moe recruited board members from Grafton banks, who then reached out to their contacts to seek donations and to find those in need. The funds raised are used to assist with utility bills, medical and prescription drug costs, rent, groceries, and with small home fixes. Nearly \$10,000 has been disbursed from this fund since its inception.

### Awards program focuses attention on community builders

Successful economic and community development depends on people working together, investing time, knowledge and personal equity to make great things happen in our communities. In order to recognize and celebrate community builders, the RRRCC established an awards program. The North Star, Catalyst, and Determination Awards are to be presented at the Ideas to Actions Summit held annually. When one award nominee exceeds all award criteria, the Intrepid Award is also presented.

### Tourism theme of 2016 summit

Tourism is the third largest industry in North Dakota, following agriculture and energy. The Red River region is home to many excellent assets utilized by residents and visitors alike. From Stump Lake, to Turtle River and Icelandic State Parks, Walsh County's Homme Dam, and Pembina County's cultural center and the beautiful Pembina Gorge, this industry is poised for tremendous growth in the near future.

**“CREATE THE COMMUNITY YOU WANT TO LIVE IN”**

**- GREG TEHVEN, EMERGING PRAIRIE**



## **ADAMS RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**FIRE HALL PROJECT**

### **Determination Award Winner**

Small rural fire departments are dealing with limited resources and outdated buildings to store today’s equipment. The Adams fire district is the last remaining district located in northwest Walsh County and it was imperative that they remain viable for all the residents and communities located in the area. Department volunteers decided to act and began with a petition to raise the mill levy to support construction of a new fire hall. The mill levy was overwhelmingly approved and after community fundraising efforts were begun, construction of a \$300,000 building commenced. The final project included an add-on of additional water storage, enough to hold 25,000 gallons of water.

## **NORTH VALLEY CAREER & TECHNOLOGY CENTER, GRAFTON**

**YOUTH INITIATIVES**

### **Intrepid Award Winner**

Expanding educational opportunities, demonstrated leadership in out-of-school time programming, and a high level of responsiveness to the training needs of regional employers are a few of the reasons North Valley Career and Technology Center was nominated for the North Star Award. However, the impact of the Center’s innovative and entrepreneurial programming over the broad reach to seven regional school districts made this nomination a model for all award categories. The Center’s attention to emerging technology, creativity and leadership in pre-K through adult education have made it a model for career and technical education.

### **Pre-workshop and summit speakers offer specifics for building tourism in our region**

Statewide expertise, regional success, and local tourism related projects were the focus of the summit’s speakers. Sara Otte Coleman of the ND Tourism Division, Bobby Koeplin, founding board member of the National Scenic Byway Foundation and chairperson of the Sheyenne River Scenic Byway, and Justin Robinson, Park Manager at Icelandic State Park and member of the Pembina County Historic Preservation Commission, provided insights into how to be successful when implementing local tourism initiatives.

### **Keynote speaker outlines principles of an entrepreneurial community**

Greg Tehven of Fargo’s Emerging Prairie spoke to the summit audience about building an entrepreneurial ecosystem in our communities. He outlined several principles for creating a community that you want to live in: exceed low expectations, educate your city, infuse the arts, build on your bright spots, be inclusive, and be a good community member by showing up, trusting in others, be a great customer, and, again, by showing up! Emerging Prairie works to connect and celebrate the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Fargo-Moorhead.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Red River Regional Council's business model is a nonprofit consultancy which generates revenue through grant, project and program management, providing development services, loan program income, and county contributions. In 2016, the Regional Council had nearly 50 different sources of revenue. This model drives strong relationships, innovation and performance. The primary budget expense (73%) is talent - the people that use their skills to develop businesses and communities and improve water quality.

## Expense

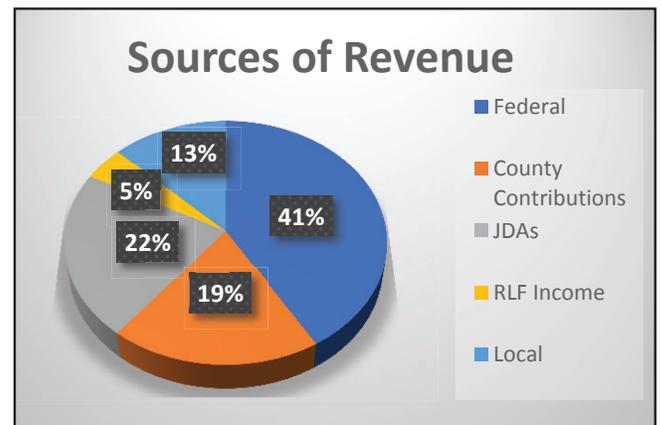
Personnel	\$416,590
Travel	\$25,000
Dues/training/seminars	\$10,100
Supplies/EQ	\$25,000
Indirect (excluding personnel)	\$97,902
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$574,592</b>

## Revenue

Grant Management	\$100,000
Program Management	\$115,772
Development Services	\$247,500
County Contributions	\$118,000
Loan Program Income	\$27,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$608,272</b>

## Sources

Federal	\$251,522
County Contributions	\$118,000
JDAs	\$134,500
RLF Income	\$27,000
Local	\$77,250
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$608,272</b>



## RIPARIAN PROGRAM

Danielle Gorder joined the Red River Regional Council's team in June of 2016, serving as the Environmental Program Manager. The Red River Riparian Program (RRRP) operates with funding from the North Dakota Department of Health Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program and the North Dakota Outdoor Heritage Fund. Goals of the riparian program include assisting landowners and local entities with restoration, protection, and effective management of riparian areas in order to achieve long-term improvements in water quality and riparian health.

The RRRP is nearing the end of its 5th phase and preparing to move forward with phase 6. Notable achievements of phase 5 include:

- Phase II of the Park River Snagging and Clearing project, carried out in conjunction with the Walsh County Water Resource District (WCWRD), was concluded, which successfully cleared 15.2 miles



of unfavorable debris on the Park River. This project achieved goals to minimize in-stream erosion, improve riverbank stability, and maintain unrestricted and efficient flow, thus improving riparian function and water quality.

- Phase I and III of the Park River Snagging and

Clearing Project, carried out in conjunction with the City of Grafton and WCWRD respectively, are expected to conclude by spring 2018, resulting in improved riparian function on a total of 32 miles of the Park River.

- Four livestock management plans were developed and implemented, resulting in mitigation of nonpoint source pollution in the Sheyenne River Watershed and Forest River Watershed. Livestock management projects included prescribed grazing plans, manure management plans, and off-channel watering.



An upcoming RRRP project, currently in development stages, has the potential to bring conservation practices to the next level in North Dakota. Together, the RRRP and WCWRD along with support from the Enbridge Ecofootprint Grant Program, plan to employ an improved drainage system in fall 2017. Utilizing a two-stage channel design and the establishment of native prairie, the drainage system will reduce bank erosion and need for maintenance, increase drainage capacity and reduce frequency of flooding onto adjacent land, enhance ecological function within the channel, and minimize nutrient and sediment pollution, thus improving water quality and promoting self-sustainability.

(photo above taken by a drone of a section of the Park River snagging and clearing project, with Google Earth reference in top left corner)

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The success of the Pembina Walsh Historic Trail of geocaches has generated interest from other historic preservation groups and tourism advocates within state and region. With continued support from the North Dakota Historic Preservation Office, funded by monies awarded by the U.S. National Park Service and reallocated by the ND State Historical Society, the Pembina and Walsh commissions have continued to work with an expert cache builder, Chad Thorvilson (otherwise known as Trycaches in the geocaching world) to add sites and to provide challenging caches. A public geocaching education event is held in each county during the summer months.

Historic Preservation projects funded in 2016:

- Brochure redesign and reprint
- Brochure distribution to ND Department of Transportation Rest Areas through the Rack Program
- An educational event for the community and public school students
- Nomination of the Dease/Martineau House in LeRoy to the National Register of Historic Places
- Membership in the National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Website development in cooperation with the Walsh County Historical Society

# LIFE SKILLS & TRANSITION CENTER

Praxis Strategy Group (Praxis) and the Red River Regional Council (RRRC) were enlisted to assist the City of Grafton and the Walsh County Job Development Authority (WCJDA) in their proactive efforts to utilize available space at the Life Skills and Transition Center (LSTC), located in Grafton. They also advocated for the retention of the community-based training and residential programs currently provided at the center.

stakeholders to gain public input and to advocate for the future of the LSTC as a community-based facility for North Dakotans with developmental disabilities and to identify and pursue funding resources for redevelopment initiatives. RRRRC staff assisted Praxis in strategy development and prepared materials to be used to market a structure that is currently vacant and most readily available for alternative uses, as well as prepare for the 2017 Legislative session.

The RRRRC's role was to work with both private and public leaders and

# YOUTH INITIATIVES

Marketplace for Kids 2016 was held April 22 in Grafton, hosted by Grafton Public Schools and North Valley Career and Technology Center (NVCTC). More than 900 students, teachers and chaperones from 11 area schools attended.

The Pembina County Job Development Authority (PCJDA) and Walsh County Job Development Authority (WCJDA) sponsored the event. Each student attended five, 25-minute classes including careers on wheels, owning a restaurant, bridge building 101, becoming a teacher and inventing medical devices. The Grafton sixth grade students presented entrepreneurial projects during the lunch break. This annual event rotates between Grafton and Cavalier.

The first Youth Manufacturing Day (MFG DAY) event was held October 5. The PCJDA, WCJDA and NVCTC joined forces to plan the full-day event. Seven manufacturing businesses from Walsh and Pembina counties participated, including American Crystal Sugar (Drayton), Bordertown Retail Systems (Neche), Food First (Walhalla), Marvin Windows and Doors (Grafton), Morgan Printing (Grafton), Motor Coach Industries (Pembina), and Rimco, Inc. (Neche).

More than 200 seventh grade students from 10 schools in Walsh, Pembina and northern Grand Forks counties visited three different manufacturing businesses. The students heard personal stories from young ambassadors who shared their modern perspectives on the industry and how they have found great careers in manufacturing. Tours of the manufacturing facilities were also given.

MFG DAY is a national celebration of modern manufacturing meant to change the perception of the manufacturing industry and inspire next-generation workers to pursue a career in modern manufacturing.

Manufacturing is one of the leading employers in both counties, with more than 40 companies employing 1,200 people.



*Vernon Symington at Bordertown Retail Systems, Neche, tells students about the process of coating their metal retail displays.*

Pembina County celebrated the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Pembina County Job Development Authority (PCJDA) in 2016. Including the celebration, 22 projects were completed in the year in the communities of Bathgate, Neche, Cavalier, Crystal, Drayton, Gardar, St. Thomas and Pembina. Business financing throughout the county and tourism development in the Pembina Gorge were also a focus of the PCJDA this year.

Highlights of the year include:

### Pembina Gorge Foundation and Frost Fire

Following the passing of Frost Fire patriarch and co-owner Richard Johnson, the future of Frost Fire became an urgent matter. After many months of negotiation and advocacy involving state, regional and private parties, the property was secured for continued use by ND Parks and Recreation Department and the Pembina Gorge Foundation was formed to raise funds for the property purchase and operating costs. A grant from the ND Department of Commerce, Tourism Division was secured to purchase 26 kayaks, eight paddleboards, 40 life jackets, and three trailers to support water activities on the Pembina River.

### Manufacturing Day and the NE Manufacturing Group

Both the Pembina and Walsh County JDAs collaborated with North Valley Career and Technology Center (NVCTC) to sponsor the first ever Youth Manufacturing Day (MFG DAY). Ten schools and more than 200 seventh graders from Walsh, Pembina, and northern Grand Forks counties visited at least

## Projects

Agassiz Excavating, Inc.	Main Street Floral and More
Bathgate Recreation Re-Creation	Marketplace for Kids
Bordertown Retail Systems	MFG DAY
Business Retention & Expansion: Phase IV	PCJDA Annual Mtg. & 25th Anniversary Celebration
Cavalier Housing Rehabilitation Project	Pembina County Historic Preservation Commission
Crystal Citywide Street Paving	Pembina County Memorial Hospital
Drayton Back-up Generator	Pembina Daycare
Frost Fire Feasibility Study	Pembina-Walsh Livestock Processing Plant, LLC
Gardar Township Hall	Tourism Council- Rendezvous Region
Ideas to Actions Summit	Train ND
Kayaking the Pembina River	Valley Building & Home Design Center, Inc.

## Loan Portfolio Summary

Total Active Loans	Total New Loans	Loan Commitments	Leveraged Funds
22	6	\$105,065	\$2,576,126

**27 grant awards    173 jobs created or maintained**

three manufacturers where they learned about the jobs available and how to prepare to be hired into a manufacturing position.

### Rendezvous Region Tourism Council

With a Community Innovation Grant from the Bush Foundation, the Red River Regional Council and the PCJDA initiated a tourism assessment that includes forming a committee, assessing tourism potential, and evaluation. The group continues to meet and plan future tourism efforts.

### Cavalier Housing Rehab

Six grant awards totaling \$469,682 were secured to complete this project, which resulted in the rehabilitation of 16 owner-occupied homes in Cavalier.

### Looking Forward

The PCJDA is working on: 1) supporting the Northern Red River Valley Youth Entrepreneurship Initiative in partnership with NVCTC and the Walsh County JDA; 2) planning for the Frost Fire Summer Theatre; working with ND Parks and Recreation Department during construction of the Mountain Bike Terrain Park at Frost Fire and the addition of a connector trail from Frost Fire to the existing state trail system; 3) ongoing tourism council progress; and 4) the ongoing collaboration of the NE Manufacturing Group.

*Note: The RRRRC has been contracted for management and professional development services since the PCJDA's inception.*



The NE Manufacturing Group participated in the first MFG Day in the region for students in grade 7 in 2016.

*"MFG DAY provided a great opportunity to explain that manufacturing is more than 'weld this' and 'assemble that.' It allowed these young, enthusiastic individuals to understand and see that every product starts with an idea and that 'idea' becomes reality with teamwork."*

- Jon Doll, Plant Manager, Bordertown Retail Systems



# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

## Projects

The small hamlet of Pekin, one of Nelson County's smallest communities, was home to one of the projects supported by the Nelson County Job Development Authority (NCJDA) in 2016. In all, six communities in Nelson County received grants or loans from the NCJDA in support of a variety of community and business projects.

### Pekin Lodge

Chris and Anne Ahl took over as the new owners/operators of Pekin Lodge. Since 2003, the lodge has operated as a motel style lodge, serving families, construction workers, and sportsmen. The lodge currently draws hunters from several states including: Ohio, North Carolina, Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. The plan is to expand their marketing to fishing and lake tourists, update the rooms, add a fish cleaning station, and remodel the lobby.

### Nelson County Housing Authority

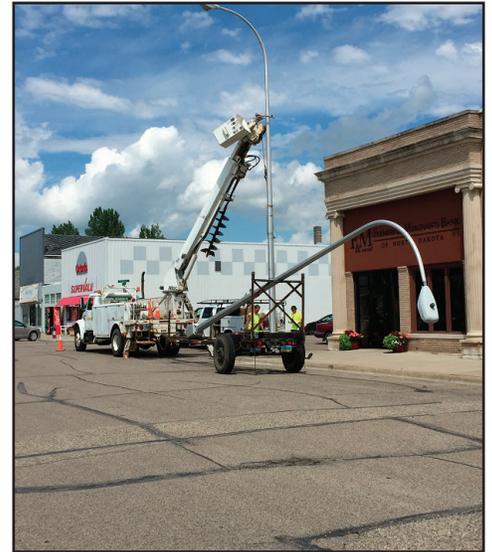
Several public housing units within the county are due to be rehabilitated, thanks to the NCJDA's successful application for emergency capital funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. One of the largest grants ever received by the NCJDA, totaling \$922,100, was granted to the county to proceed with remediation of a black mold problem found in housing units throughout the county.

### Wagon Wheel Bar and Grill

A loan and grant package was approved to reestablish a popular full service café which had operated in conjunction with a lounge in Michigan. The Wagon Wheel Bar and Grill was redesigned and remodeled for greater efficiencies and a new private operator, Nolan Olmstead, was enlisted to lease the property.

### McVille Street Lights

Safety and security was improved in McVille due to a grant from the Community Development Block Grant program. Outdated street light fixtures were not working properly and public safety in areas of high public traffic was being impacted. The project provided funding for updates to nine critical fixtures.



Other projects completed in 2016 include roof repairs to the Tolna Business and Events Center, housed in the former school building; the purchase and installation of a new vent hood in the Petersburg Café; and financing packages for the Lakota Grocery and Consolidated Newspapers of Lakota.

*Note: The RRRC contracts with the NCJDA for management and professional development services.*

## 2016 By the Numbers

- 15 total projects/events impacting Nelson County
- 23 different sources of public funds secured totaling \$1.7 million
- Secured a \$922,100 HUD award for Housing Authority
- More than \$700,000 in private funds
- Almost \$2.5 million dollars invested into Nelson County projects



## Loan Portfolio Summary

Total Active Loans	Total New Loans	Loan Commitments	Leveraged Funds
8	2	\$85,937	\$670,040

15 grant awards

41 jobs created or maintained

Private/Public Partnerships and focusing on the assets you already have are priorities of the

21st Century Model of Economic Development

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## STAY IN TOUCH

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