



Idaho Organization of Resource Councils

December 2014

Protecting Idaho's Unique way of Life

Upcoming Events and Dates:

- January 21, PRC Membership Meeting, SICOG Conference Room
- January 24, IORC Board Meeting, IORC office in Boise
- January 26, WRRC Membership Meeting, Train Depot, Weiser Idaho
- January 28, Pocatello Planning and Zoning Hearing on Comprehensive Plan
- February 3, Citizen's lobby day at the Capitol

Inside this issue:

Cottage Foods Update	1
Board Chair's Update	2
Portneuf Resource Council	2
Weiser River Resource Council	3

What's Cooking for the 2015 Legislature? By Janie Burns

IORC is taking its first step into statewide policy work in the upcoming legislative session. Idaho law currently requires foods to be prepared in a commercial kitchen to be legally sold to consumers. For many smaller scale producers, the regulation is expensive and inconvenient because it requires them to rent space, travel long distances, and work odd hours to use space in busy commercial kitchens. The IORC Cottage Food bill will offer small scale food artisans a means of making and selling approved foods made in their home.

The Cottage Food bill is an exciting prospect for small scale growers and producers in Idaho. Under the proposed law, individuals will be able to start a business from their own homes which will reduce the high overhead and startup costs required under the current system. Growers will be able to reduce waste, increase efficiency, and profit by using products which would otherwise spoil.

The proposed list of foods includes breads, candy, condi-



“Currently, selling almost any prepared foods requires a commercial kitchen.”

ments, dry goods, and snacks and is currently under review by the Food Protection office of the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. The Food Protection office is working with the seven Idaho health districts to collect feedback on how best to ensure cottage foods are held to the highest food safety standards. Producers will be required to meet health and safety requirements set out by the state and possess food handling licenses.

A Cottage Food Law in Idaho promotes homegrown prosperity by eliminating barriers to small business development, creating

jobs, and an economic base of neighbors and community members as active participants in a local food system. Visit our cottage foods page at www.IORCinfo.org to find out more, sign our petition, and learn how you can get involved.



Julia Page, Chair, IORC Board of Directors

Campaigns We Are Working On:

- Building Homegrown Prosperity
- Local Foods/ Urban Agriculture
- Preserving Family Farms
- Supporting Small Businesses
- Promoting Responsible Oil and Gas Development
- Protecting Idaho's Natural Resources

Chair's Update: The First of Many By Julia Page

We are closing this year of firsts with many solid accomplishments and a full slate of exciting issues to pursue next year. This November, our first annual meeting brought members together from both of our two chapters and at-large members from the Boise area. Members elected officers for our first official Board of Directors. The evening was highlighted by a meal prepared from simple and delicious local ingredients, and featured local beer and wine. Katie Painter, Program Coordinator for Global Gardens, gave an interesting talk on the passage of Boise's Urban Agriculture Ordinance and the challenges facing community gardening in Boise.

Several board members and staff have just returned from the December board meeting of the Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC) based in Billings, Montana. WORC is a regional network of eight statewide organizations from the Great Plains and Intermountain Northwest. It sponsored and guided our development over the last three years and has now formally accepted IORC as a member of the Western Organization of Resource Councils. This is an important step toward creating a strong grassroots community network in the state of Idaho. A huge thank you goes out to those who sat on the steering committee and to the members who made this possible.

I was excited to listen to board member Theodora Bird Bear, from North Dakota, speak about the efforts of the Dakota Resource Council to rein in flaring and other harmful practices in the Bakken oil field where she lives. We also heard about other groups' campaigns on clean and renewable energy, local food systems, and cottage foods.

We shared our campaign to pass a cottage foods bill this year in Idaho. This is our first statewide effort. Several WORC groups have successfully passed cottage foods legislation in their states. We listened carefully to their accounts to take advantage of their experience in our own campaign. Unchain the Cupcakes!

As the new IORC board chair I am excited to be working on these important issues which have real consequences for our members and their communities. IORC is off to a solid start but there is a great deal to be done. I look forward to meeting and working with you all in the coming year.

Portneuf Resource Council By Muriel Roberts

The Portneuf Resource Council (PRC) began its work with a kick-off celebration on October 16. Since then, the organization has been actively working on water quality, urban agriculture and cottage food campaigns. Members commented on BLM plans in the watershed, requesting that cattle be restricted from the streams that replenish the aquifer.

PRC has been actively meeting with staff at the Pocatello Planning and Development Department regarding the ongoing update of the city's Comprehensive Plan. PRC has been invited to propose a new section of the plan that would encourage urban agriculture in the city. A draft urban agriculture section has been submitted and is being reviewed by staff.

Members will attend Planning and Zoning and City Council meetings to follow the progress of the issue. As evidence that the Department is now taking this fledgling organization seriously, the Director has asked PRC to suggest organic farmers in the valley who might want to work part time with a local company on growing certain plants.

Weiser River Resource Council By Chad Brock

Recycling Center: In August WRRC assumed management of the Weiser's Voluntary Recycling Center after the local Kiwanis Club could no longer manage it. After working out some early glitches and making some minor improvements the center is operating smoothly with volunteer help scheduled through April, 2015. Because Idaho has no state recycling requirements these projects are sustained by volunteer help. Individuals or organizations volunteer at the site on a monthly basis and in return receive the bulk of the revenue paid out for the products recycled through the center and the satisfaction of knowing they have contributed a vital service to their community.

Healthy Rivers: The goal of this campaign is to draw attention to the condition of the Weiser River and how the lack of erosion control is affecting water quality, wildlife habitat, recreation, and property values. In April of 2015, WRRC will host a public awareness event where people are invited to float the Weiser River or hike/bike the Weiser River Trail and see for themselves the condition of the Weiser River. The event will also raise awareness about the Galloway Dam. The proposed location of this dam is less than 20 miles upstream of the City of Weiser and, if built, would cover hundreds of acres of ranch and farm land. It is the goal of WRRC to inform the public of the pros and cons of this project and encourage the state to look for alternative sites that *would* fulfill Idaho's needs.

Farmers Market/Food and Agriculture: WRRC's Farmers Market runs from June through September and is open every Saturday. September of 2014 closed out the 2nd year and the Farmers Market committee will look ahead to 2015 and the challenges facing a small town market and how to attract more vendors, artists and consumers to the Market. This year we will also be supporting a Cottage Food Bill that IORC plans to introduce during the 2015 Idaho legislative session.

Oil & Gas: The arrival of the oil and gas industry to southwest Idaho in 2010 was a key factor in the establishment of WRRC in Weiser, Idaho. WRRC became a voice of reason for those advocating for local control of land use decisions, for environmental stewardship, for effective regulations to protect the health and welfare and property rights of *all* citizens. As the Oil & Gas industry moves into the production phase, 2015 will find us once again informing the public and encouraging them to participate in decisions, at the state and local level, which will affect their communities and their quality of life.

"2015 will find us once again informing the public and encouraging them to participate in decisions"

IORC Welcomes New Staff Member

This October, we welcomed Doug Paddock as the new field organizer for IORC. Doug is based in the Boise office, but will be traveling frequently to Washington and Payette County to organize members of the Weiser River Resource Council. His primary responsibilities include coordinating IORC's oil and gas work, its work in the 2015 legislature, and communications.

Doug is a graduate of Boise State University. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in Environmental and Natural Resources Policy and a B.A. in History.

He was raised in the Wood River Valley where he enjoyed skiing and mountain biking.

Welcome Doug!



Doug Paddock, IORC Field Organizer



910 W. Main Street
Suite 244
Boise, ID 83702
Phone: 208.991.4451
E-mail: admin@IORCinfo.org

Mission:

The Idaho Organization of Resource Councils (IORC) is a non-profit grassroots organization working to protect Idaho's unique way of life by empowering citizens to improve the economic well-being of their communities by preserving family farms and ranches; supporting local, sustainable agriculture; developing small businesses and clean energy; and being responsible stewards of Idaho's water, land, air, and natural resources.

Regional Network:

IORC is a state-wide organization which has two local chapters and is a member of the Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC). WORC is a regional network of grassroots community organizations, which includes 10,000 members, 39 local chapters in 7 Western states.

Your Donations Support Our Citizen's Lobby Day, Donate Online Today!

We have big plans for 2015, but we need your help. IORC relies on its donors and members for support. Our organization is built from the generous support from members and donors like you. Please consider giving a helpful gift this holiday season to support IORC's upcoming events.

We are planning a citizen's lobby day at the Capitol during this upcoming legislative session. We will be inviting members, family, and friends to the statehouse to educate state legislators and administrators on our issues. Your generous donation will bring citizens from across the state to pass

cottage food legislation, ensure responsible oil and gas development, and protect Idaho's waterways.

Please visit www.IORCinfo.org for details and to make a donation or mail a check to 910 W. Main St. #244, Boise, ID 83702.



Your generous donation will bring members to our first annual lobby day to protect Idaho's way of life