

FUTURE

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origin of the organization and the importance of landowners working together with each other to ensure their property rights are respected. He said the group does not oppose industry or development but wants to ensure that landowners (and the land itself) are treated

with dignity and are respected throughout the process.

A later panel, moderated by longtime Vision West member and former Dunn County Commissioner Daryl Dukart and including McKenzie County landowner Gene Veeder and Dunn County landowner Gene Harris, discussed the opportunities

and the challenges of having multiple industries and pipelines looking at access through their farming or ranching properties.

Veeder and Harris emphasized the importance of landowners understanding how right-of-way works and having a plan in advance for what they will and will not

allow on their properties. Their discussion included working through attorneys to make sure all the details in an agreement are actually beneficial, keeping pipelines and other industrial easements near roads or in particular areas that leave significant portions of property undisturbed and working directly with companies to

address any concerns with workers or contractors to protect their own safety.

Other presenters at the conference included Jim Bougalis, founder and CEO of North American Iron; Chris Ryan, President and COO of Gevo; Dave Riplinger with NDSU Extension on carbon sequestration as it relates to agriculture; and regulatory authority explanations from Dave Glatt with the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality and Randy Christmann with the North Dakota Public Service Commission.

“We want the same things,” Laumb said at the end of the workshop. “We want things to get done effectively. We have to work together and use our resources in a sustainable way.”

In addition to the meeting in Beulah last week, Vision West ND is planning a consortium meeting in Hazen on Thursday, Nov. 20.



Over 50 people (industry members, county commissioners, legislators, business owners and landowners) filled the Beulah Civic Center at a Vision West meeting last week Wednesday focused on energy and natural resources. They heard from several different presenters, including Chris Ryan, President and COO of Gevo, discussing the use of non-food grade corn feedstock to produce renewable jet fuel (pictured here at the podium). (Photos credit of Daniel Arens)

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