

Review of the 2019 Williston Basin Core Workshop: Grand Forks, North Dakota

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Last fall, in response to interest from the oil and gas industry, the Geological Survey sponsored a core workshop. Initially, we had planned for 40 participants, but that number swelled to nearly 100 geologists and engineers by the time the workshop convened for two, two-day sessions from October 7-10.

Core workshop presenters consisted of nine geologists from six different organizations, including: Dr. Antun Husinec (St. Lawrence University), Dr. Sven Egenhoff (Colorado State University), Dr. George Grader (Prisem Geoconsulting), John Lake (Lake Consulting), Dr. Stephan Nordeng and Francis Nwachukwu (University of North Dakota), Jeff Bader, Travis Stollendorf, and Timothy Nesheim (NDGS).

Twenty PowerPoint presentations were given and nearly 5,000 feet of core were reviewed during each of the two-day sessions which covered 16 formations from the Williston Basin of North Dakota. The primary units covered included the upper Ordovician section (Red River, Stony Mtn., and Stonewall Formations) and the Bakken-Three Forks Formations. Additional section included: Interlake, Winnipegosis, Dawson Bay, Birdbear, Duperow, Tyler, Spearfish, and Inyan Kara Formations, as well as the Winnipeg and Madison Groups.

Based upon conversations with attendees during the workshop and a post-workshop survey, the NDGS is planning on running a similar core workshop every 1-2 years. A core workshop with a focus on the Madison section is tentatively planned for early August 2020.

