The Personal Leadership Development seminar started with Kathy Tweeten, consultant, introducing Class VIII participants to emotional intelligence (EQ). Each class member completed a survey before the seminar and Kathy went over the individual reports and shared research about the components of EQ.

The RLND Leadership Dinner was held at Dakota College at Bottineau. The evening speaker was Dr. Jerry Migler, Dean and CEO of Dakota College of Bottineau. Dr. Migler talked about the challenges of running a successful college in a state where so many have experienced budget cuts and how they are strategically planning.

The next morning RLND Class VIII participants shared in a discussion on managing conflict. Conflict is a normal part of our lives and the important aspect is how we manage the conflict.

Mid-morning Class VIII participants boarded a bus for a day of learning in and around the Bottineau community. The first stop was Lake Metigoshe State Park. Amy Schimetz, Interpreter/LMOLC Coordinator, gave a presentation on the history of the Park. Lake Metigoshe State Park was constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930s. Amy also shared information about Geo-caching at the park.

The next visit was Annie’s House at Bottineau Winter Park. Brad Knutson, Bottineau Winter Park CEO, and Rachael Buss, Annie’s House Adaptive Program Director, spoke to us about the history of the Bottineau Winter Park whose legacy and existence are due to community participation, partnership and the wonderful adaptive programs Annie’s House offers. Annie’s House was built in memory of Ann Nicole Nelson. Ann died as the result of the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center where she worked on the 104th floor as a bond broker for Cantor Fitzgerald.

From Annie’s House, Class VIII participants transferred to the International Peace Garden (IPG). At the Garden, we took in a walking tour of the formal garden area and spent time visiting with the Johannes Olwage, Conservatory Horticulturist at IPG.

Class VIII participants returned to Bottineau and made a stop at Pride Dairy for specialty ice cream and coffee drinks. Trudy Marum, Chamber Director, stopped in at Pride Dairy to host an open forum on re-invigorating a small rural community that has been stagnant in recent years. Items covered were the partnership and shared vision between the Chamber and EDC, new marketing and branding plan for the area, earning the communities trust, etc.

The evening ended with a Prime Rib dinner at the Cork N Bottle in Kramer. Before dinner, the group toured the former Kramer City Hall to view the updates and changes made to the building.

On the final day participants were introduced to Geoff Simon, Executive Director of Western Dakota Energy Association. Geoff shared the vision of Western Dakota Energy Association and how they partner with communities and the government to move forward on issues affecting an area.

As the seminar concluded, participants reviewed the first two practices of the Leadership Challenge book and shared thoughts of what they experienced and learned over the past three days.