



www.ccc-wis.com

[Take a look at the air quality monitoring going on at several sites in Chippewa Co! Leave a comment.](#)

The Frac Sand Times-February 21, 2012

The next meeting of the Concerned Chippewa Citizens/STHA will be Sunday, March 11, 2012 at Charlie's Place at 3:00 p.m. You are welcome to attend! Call for directions.

The frac sand industry is enlarging so quickly that it is difficult to keep up with all the written literature on the topic! There may be something in each reference that may help set standards in your city, town, county, or region. Frac Sand mining in Western Wisconsin continues to take over Wisconsin lands and hills, ridges, and bluffs. This newsletter is an amalgamation of information providing insight on a complex topic.

WATCH THE ASSAULT GOING ON IN NEW YORK. LOOK FAMILIAR? DON'T MISS THIS ONE!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D27XWhD7AsY>

Western Wisconsin Sand is moving in to take over 1346 acres of land in the Town of Auburn in Chippewa Co. according to recent releases. We have heard but not verified that borings are being taken in the Town of LaFayette, Chippewa Co. Wisconsin.

Have you checked out potential mine sites for the Karner Blue Butterfly and the Lupines it feeds on? Finally, an environmental issue addressed

http://m.host.madison.com/mobile/article_f85d7c7e-4c75-11e1-b8da-001871e3ce6c.html

An editorial: it is time for some intergovernmental cooperation and open meetings that allow for communication among many stakeholders affected by the silica mining industry and processing factories popping up in many areas of the state. One town is affecting the other; cities are impacting rural areas and cities downstream from them. Why does any one city, town or county or part of the state have the right to impact the other with heavy industrial products without making some accommodations, creating some limitations, and demanding that the mining companies follow through by tightening their own regulations? The citizenry deserve better. Are YOU going to call your local representatives or others to give ideas? HOPE lies in everyone responding and working together. Many great responses from groups and individuals from outside the Chippewa Co. area with actions they are taking are rolling in. Is Chippewa Co. going to be an "island" without careful consideration of its own residents as well as those outside of it? WE are already deeply involved into transporting our hills, ridges and bluffs to the national and international scene and while we are doing that we are allowing air pollution with heavy use of fuels, emissions, along with dangerous use of our drinking water supplies to wash sand. I can try to spread useful information but it is up to each of the readers of this message to undertake the responsibility to express your views. Call your town board representatives and your county board representatives.

Robbie Sage has been connected with the Town of Sioux Creek and the Town of Dovre in Barron Co. with Great Northern Sand Company.

Two pieces of Randal & Lynn Wendt property were recently sold to MEV Land Trust (Robbie Sage as contact). Address 2630 250th Avenue in New Auburn. One 40 for \$500,000 and another 40 for \$300,000

Olmsted County Discusses Frac Mining

It's a technique that's getting more popular, because it can extract natural gas that's trapped in hard to reach rock.

[Full Article](#)

Excellent video of the problem in NY. Vista - **Groundswell: Hydrofracking in NYS** is now available to view in its entirety on a website:

<http://www.wcny.org/television/vista/groundswell-hydrofracking-in-new-york-state>

We have also opened up a Facebook page for viewers and the community to continue the discussion on line: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Vista/283840418340154?sk=wall>

Please feel free to share these links with whom ever you feel would be interested.

Fracking Causing Death of Pets and Farm Animals

<http://www.businessinsider.com/study-fracking-chemicals-killing-neutering-farm-animals-pets-2012-2>

[After The Gold Rush: A Perspective on Future U.S. Natural Gas Supply and Price](#) (The Oil Drum)

"The advent of shale plays provided an important new source of gas. Yet this new supply is characterized by high decline rates which means that wells must be continuously drilled to maintain supply. In 2001, the U.S. natural gas decline rate was about 23% and the annual replacement requirement was 12 Bcf/d when total consumption was 54 Bcf/d. Today, the decline rate is estimated to be 32% and increased consumption of gas means that approximately 22 Bcf/d must be replaced each year (Exhibits 1 and 2)."

Fracking is on the ropes. It's obvious. So why the absolutely dishonest campaign to promote it? Fracking is not delivering what it promises. When all of this collapses it will brutalize an unsuspecting American public. – MCR

A TOOLKIT from Red Wing, Mn is available for the public from this link. Towns or counties looking for a template for a Moratorium can find one in this document. It contains a great deal of other information you might find of interest as you work with your town boards and/or county boards to develop ordinances, develop moratoriums and educate the public and the government officials about silica mining and processing.

<https://sites.google.com/a/everythingredwing.com/save-hay-creek/fracking-documents/townshiptoolkit.pdf?attredirects=0&d=1>

DONATIONS, LARGE AND SMALL, ARE NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN THE SAVE THE HILLS ALLIANCE, INC. WE NEED A STRONG COALITION MORE THAN EVER. PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECKS OF ANY SIZE TO The Save the Hills Alliance, Inc. Ken Lestrud, Treasurer, N 7225 690th, Menomonie, WI 54751 Donations are not deductible at this time. If you would rather give gifts "in-kind", we could use stamps, 8 1/2x11 copy paper and/or colored copy paper, and a supply of legal envelopes. Many thanks to those who have been making contributions!

Several people in Menomonie have observed Sand Trucks traveling through the downtown area without the required covering over the truck. They contacted the State Patrol regarding this issue. The State Patrol told them to try and get some identification from the truck (license plate, company name, etc.) and call them. They will give tickets to uncovered trucks carrying sand.

Municipalities, towns or counties when negotiating agreements, need to get strong agreement with the sand mining companies to arrange with railroad officials to fully use covered railroad cars! Towns will have the responsibility to enforce the agreement with the sand operation to assure public safety.

Ever heard of a guy named Brian Hunter? Apparently he was formerly a V.P. at Procore, a firm that pulled out of a proposed sand mine operation at or near the Town of Prairie Farm last November:

http://www.zwire.com/site/index.cfm?newsid=20468136&BRD=1132&PAG=461&dept_id=157660&rfi=8

His LinkedIn page says that since January of this year, Brian is president of SBK Energy Solutions, based in Calgary, Alberta:

<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/brian-hunter/15/a16/366>.

They are apparently trying to buy land next to a railroad line just outside of Sparta.

"It's not that the world is running out of water, says Peter Gleick, president of the Pacific Institute, an environmental research organization in [San Francisco](#). It's that there's not enough water where it's needed, and it can't be easily transported."

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-02-06/peak-water-the-rise-and-fall-of-cheap-clean-h2o.html>

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Subject: Frac train reply and then some. Comments by Nizzi.

There are no known mines planned in this Town or so the Town Board Chairman claims, but the other day a 109 car train full of frac sand went by, uncovered, out here along Hwy SS about 1/4 mile from me... right thru the Town.

Winds today are 10 mph with gusts as high as 23 mph. Another train went by about 2 pm today. I didn't count the cars but it was equally long.

Our plan commission didn't want to try to draft any language requiring those who transport through our Town to cover their loads. The sand in that train is being loaded from trucks to the rail cars (there is another dusty activity right there) in the Town to the north of us and coming from, I believe, 2 Townships to the west.

The Zoning Administrator for this County spoke to the Plan Commission last Tuesday night and clearly indicated that the County WAS NOT going to do any ordinances over and beyond what the SWCD (Soil and Water Conservation District) does per what NR 135 requires for reclamation.

It would be so easy for them to think a little and try to avoid any possible future problems or concerns by enacting rules / ordinances that are county-wide while still allowing **licensing** ordinances to be done by the individual Towns that might be more restrictive than the County rules that would look after the health and welfare of those who may not be in a Frac mine Township..

But no,no, no ! Foresight is not one of government's selling points. This is evident by OSHA who reacts after problems to write rules, the EPA which does the same thing.... and the DNR is not going to even try to do further regulation of silica dust. Will they wait until the problem is evident and then try to play catch-up? It took a Federal Law to get States (Yes even Wisconsin) to be proactive when it came to lead safe practices ... lead & children in building renovation and now the State DHS goes around with a map of WI of the many places where kids have been harmed in Wisconsin by Pb to try to drive home the need for lead (Pb) safe work practices..

What will it take to get those in government to act in a "let's do this just in case" manner rather than a "wait and see" or "don't worry about it" or "it's not my problem" manner?

Also, in our Town it was decided by the Plan Commission to not worry or try to oversee per the license any problems due to water quality, quantity, noise, blasting and the other possible concerns/problems that might arise in a neighboring Township because of a Non-Metallic mine right on the border of our Town..... in other words that's their problem... It would have taken all of one short paragraph to state that the bonding required for the "issues" in the Ordinance SHALL also apply to those in surrounding Towns should the Nonmetallic Mining Activities in the Town inadvertently affect neighboring municipalities. Ya know, kinda try to be a good neighbor! Well there you have itanother reason that the larger municipality (COUNTY) should enact rules / laws / procedures...

Hello, this is Wisconsin, United States of America and not the Independent Federation of the Sovereign Town of Gretchen's Gulchor whatever! We all live here!
Chuck Nizzi

PS This is what slays me. The Town Chairman's property borders mine and the railroad right of way. The train goes right by his house. Maybe he's so old that he figures it won't affect him..... if he wants to smoke, I won't stop him.... they print the warning right on the package...

And yes I know coal trains come from the west (Montana) and are uncovered and go all the way to Superior,WI to load on Great Lake vessels. But that is not powdered coal...

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January 27, 2011

Letter to the editor,

In a Barron News Shield article, published December 15, 2011, Rep. Roger Rivard's comments in regards to pending mining legislation were quoted as:

"I'd like to add that I would not be supporting this legislation if it stripped the DNR of the ability to maintain our environmental standards. Any company wishing to pursue a permit will have to provide an environmental impact study and prove a strong commitment to reclamation"

I contacted Mr. Rivard for clarification and asked the following:

1) Would it be fair to assume, based on your own statement, that you would support any future legislation requiring the completion of an EIS (environmental impact study) by any company in the frac sand mining industry?

2) In reference to reclamation, how exactly would you define "a strong commitment to reclamation?"

As often the case when I email questions, instead of a written (documented) reply, I received a phone call. I feel obligated to share components of the conversation.

Almost immediately, he referenced the hypocrisy of people who use cell phones and drive vehicles, but raise environmental concerns. I found it disturbing that the questions above provoked a seemingly defensive response. A simple yes, or no, would have sufficed.

As our conversation progressed, he assured me that the DNR will protect residents from the alleged concerns of silica sand mining. I asked him if it was true that the DNR was not able to issue a citation to Superior Silica after contaminating a trout creek, because they were not timely in responding. He had not heard of that incident.

At the Wisconsin Towns Association conference held in Eau Claire, Thomas Woletz, speaking on behalf of the DNR, made a point to acknowledge that the DNR is not currently equipped to handle the current boom in this industry. In our conversation, Rep. Rivard stated that if the DNR needs more staff, they will receive the funding for such.

Coincidentally, what will the cost be to taxpayers to adequately staff the DNR to allow them to properly do their job? Often we hear of the economic benefits the mining companies will provide. Are the expenses also considered in those economic models?

Rep. Rivard's response to whether he had any concerns about silicosis was that he lived on a gravel road. The road he lives on, I presume, was gravel when he bought his property; therefore he was allowed to make an informed decision. If he opposed living on a gravel road, he could have chosen to not purchase the property. These mining companies are purchasing/leasing land under the radar. The neighbors have no opportunity for input—they are considered "collateral damage."

Furthermore, I do not know of any gravel pits whose operations are comparable to the proposed silica sand mines, particularly the volume extracted/produced. In his defense, perhaps there is not any other way to substantiate his claim that it will be safe—there is apparently no established history of these types of operations to use as examples in defending his claim.

He did bring up the long history of mining in Wisconsin. I acknowledge that history. However, he has not yet provided me with a list of mining companies that have established a safe history of operating in a manner that is *comparable* to the mines being proposed in Barron County.

Additionally, MSHA's (Mining Safety & Health Association) guide on Silicosis states: "If it's Silica, It's not just Dust." Keep in mind, MSHA's obligations are directed towards the mining employees; they have no regulatory authority outside of operation's boundaries. MSHA does not protect residents.

Am I to disregard what MSHA states because Rep. Rivard lives on a gravel road and tells me I am safe? He does claim to be an expert.

Rep. Rivard mentioned that if we try to control this industry with regulations, we need to control all industries. Farming was used as an example. He stated that a water truck might have to be in the fields in front of farming equipment, to keep dust down. As a resident, I expect the farmers to be in the fields, slow moving farm vehicles using the roads, and I expect to find myself behind an Amish buggy. This is part of Wisconsin living and people who moved to, or were raised in, rural Wisconsin were not hidden from that reality. *It is the reason most of us live here.*

If the mining companies are confident there will not be negative impacts caused by their operations, why would they oppose ordinances establishing minimum standards? In my opinion, the oil/gas industry does not have a stellar reputation of accepting responsibility for their actions and we would be irresponsible to not have the legal means to hold them accountable.

At one point, he implied that my concerns were nothing more than "scare tactics." Why is it that when a person is trying to seek information it is considered scare tactics?

Rep. Rivard does not believe neighboring property values will be negatively affected. He has no concerns about health or safety. He believes reclamation in the amount of \$1,600/acre is sufficient.

Apparently anyone that questions him is an environmental extremist utilizing scare tactics. I am to trust him, to trust the companies that prefer to stay under the radar until operations are about to commence, and to trust the DNR, who is understaffed & overwhelmed.

An extremist I am not. I am not opposed to responsible mining. I am simply trying to gather information. It would be much easier if Mr. Rivard could provide me with documentation so I would not have to work so hard to try to prove myself wrong.

I followed up with emails, yet unanswered, providing links about Superior Silica's contamination, MSHA's Guide to Silicosis, and more questions. In all fairness, it has only been 4 weeks and 2 weeks respectively. Perhaps Rep. Rivard is busy educating himself. I will be reminded of our conversation at election time.

Sincerely,

Roberta Dzimielia

Hi All:

DeSmogBlog has released a massive trove of documents given to us by a whistleblower on the Heartland Institute, one of the key think-tanks at the heart of the climate denial machine, heavily funded by the fossil fuel industry and a key ally of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). Please do take a look at the docs and pass along to your friends and colleagues.

Best,
Steve

<http://www.desmogblog.com/heartland-institute-exposed-internal-documents-unmask-heart-climate-denial-machine>

Water and non-metallic mining in Minnesota:

<http://www.co.goodhue.mn.us/countygovernment/committees/MiningCommittee/Presentations/Goodhue%20County%20Silica%20Sand%20Mining%20and%20Natural%20Resources.pdf>

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Mixed Verdict on Hydraulic Fracturing Damages to Water
<http://news.sciencemag.org/sciencenow/2012/02/mixed-verdict-on-fracking.html?ref=hp#.Tz6F7uKNYdg.email>

Walker Presses for Legislators to Enact Mining Laws

http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/govt-and-politics/walker-press-for-passage-of-mining-bill/article_280fa750-5912-11e1-8486-001871e3ce6c.html

Mining Bill Hearing

http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/environment/dozens-pack-hearing-on-wisconsin-mining-bill/article_e562e20a-5993-11e1-bbf5-0019bb2963f4.html

Latest Mining Bill News

http://host.madison.com/wsj/news/local/govt-and-politics/assembly-republicans-oppose-latest-mining-proposal/article_75538b0a-5cad-11e1-8f90-001871e3ce6c.html

http://www.twincities.com/news/ci_20009484?source=rss

Plan unveiled to exempt sand firms from Eau Claire County mining moratorium

EXCELLENT WEBSITE FOR ALL OF YOU TO BOOKMARK!

Greetings from Buffalo County:

Sorry about the late notice. I just received it myself. Please remember that there is a Big Buffalo County Zoning Board Meeting on Thursday the 23rd.

Finally, Buffalo County now has a website dedicated to the sand mining issue www.fracsandfrisbee.com
The closed facebook site is **Respect Buffalo County**.

Here is a link to an excellent 1 page summary on why we need a moratorium in Buffalo County. Please note that I will try to include emails from other areas because together we are stronger. I really do believe that each of us has something to offer - whether it be a passion for the land, education, time, or sheer bull headedness - all of us have something to contribute. That doesn't mean that there is any large organized group at this time, but only that it is important the we network, coordinate and share information.

<http://fracsandfrisbee.com/2012/02/19/why-we-need-a-moratorium-a-one-page-handout/> (Great 1 page handout!)

Sincerely,
Lou Anne Roby
Buffalo County

If you haven't seen it, check out Houston co frac sand site, <http://www.sandpointtimes.com/> really easy to read and simple graphics.

According to information received this past week, Western Wisconsin Sand Company, 1 American Blvd., Eau Claire, WI has acquired 1346 acres of property in the Town of Auburn for mining silica.

This is in addition to the more than 1200 acres recently acquired by Preferred Sands also for the purpose of mining silica.

It is imperative that Chippewa County call for a **moratorium** so appropriate protections can be put in place for the safety, health and welfare of all those who live both in the Town of Auburn as well as in Chippewa Co. as all will be affected.

Patricia Popple
715-723-6398

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