

Greetings to you from Wisconsin! This issue of the Frac Sand Sentinel contains many important pieces of information you will want to read. It is attached in PDF format along with a poster about the meeting in Winona, MN with Winona LaDuke on Feb. 19th. You are invited. All the information about that meeting is within the context of the Sentinel.

In addition, please find a poster from Houston Co. MN. They are asking for the help of everyone to help stop frac sand mining in the beautiful DRIFTLESS area of SE MN. Your assistance is truly needed!

The latest news I have from WI is that Barron Co. Plan Commission has accepted the development of 16 more mines in the Town of Sumner in Barron Co. How can it be that our state is being so ripped apart? How can we be of assistance to those people who have been fighting that effort? Air quality permits for nine new mines have been approved in the Town of Dovre/Town of Sioux Creek within the last couple of months by the Wisconsin DNR! Ted Auch has written a paper about the ecological disadvantages to the area. Please read it. It is most relevant at this time!

Meetings will be held in WI in Feb. and March to allow you to give input on how frac sand mining has impacted your life. You will find important information within this newsletter to help you write or orally make statements as the Natural Resources Board scopes out information for the study requested by Midwest Environmental Advocates. Please make plans to attend and share your concerns, your expertise, and your experiences over the long duration of frac sand mining in WI.

The Chippewa River Water Walk is being planned for April 25. More details inside. We must celebrate Earth Week with all people living in surrounding states who have helped work and yet watch our

state totally being overtaken by mining companies. Plan to attend the event. It will be a learning and a celebration event for all of us in WI as well as surrounding states. Your attendance is most welcomed. The 10th Anniversary of the Aldo Leopold Celebration will be held in Wabasha on the 25th. Plan to attend.



Issue: #43

.....*keeping watch on the industry*

Date: February 11, 2015

A RESOURCE FROM TED AUCH FROM fracracker.org: take a look at this document.....

While the document within the link below is a work in progress, your feedback is important. It regards his work on the issues revolving around the addition of 9 additional mines in Barron County by Chieftain.

www.fracracker.org/2015/01/chieftain-sand-mine-proposal/

"We deduced as best we could the potential footprint of Chieftain's recent sand mine proposal and would appreciate your feedback and/or sharing this analysis with interested collaborators and constituents. We believe it is crucial that these types of costs be incorporated into policy as reclamation is so haphazard and productivity a fraction of pre-mining rates. We will be formalizing this analysis for peer-review and presentation at this year's National Environmental Monitoring Conference in Chicago and Ecological Society of America in August."

Sincerely
Ted Auch



Chieftain Mine-Barron Co. Wisconsin (photo by Julie)

Latest News: from Midwest Environmental Advocates

The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

The good – Last week, [the state Natural Resources Board officially directed the Department of Natural Resources to do an in-depth, comprehensive study on the impacts of frac sand mining!](#)

This news is great because the NRB and the DNR quickly responded to [a citizen petition asking for a study that assembles unbiased facts on how silica sand mining across the Driftless region impacts our health, the health of our environment](#), property values, clean streams and more. Stay tuned for announcements of listening sessions for the public to give their input on what they think the study should include.

The bad – [less than a week after this important step forward, Governor Walker introduced his proposed](#)



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state budget that included a change in policy that would demote the citizen appointees on the state Natural Resources Board to a disempowered “advisory” board, an unexpected move that left some NRB board members “speechless.”

The citizen-led Natural Resources Board provides some checks and balances over environmental policies created on the state level. If the Governor uses his proposed budget to disempower the NRB to being simply ‘advisory,’ it in effect allows one of the last avenues of citizen voices and power to be more easily disregarded and dismissed.

The ugly – the Governor’s proposed state budget also includes cutting up to 66 more science and education staff positions at the DNR, freezing the purchase of land for conservation until 2028, and – similar to the move to take away the policy-making power of the Natural Resources Board – demote the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection board to advisory and remove another avenue of citizen power to have a say in policies on

agriculture and consumer protection. These cutbacks will in effect leave our clean water, air, land and government at risk.

We issued a statement today on the Governor's proposed cutbacks in environmental protection. You can also read more in the [Wisconsin State Journal](#), [Chippewa Herald](#) and the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#).

Three meetings are being planned to allow all of you the opportunity for your input on frac sand mining and the special need for an Environmental Impact Study in WI. Since the Wisconsin DNR Board is interested in scoping out the concerns of citizens for their study, you and all interested folks from throughout the State of WI and other areas impacted by sand mining from our state are invited to participate and share your concerns as well as information about unanswered questions as more mines, processing plants and trans-load facilities are approved in the state.

Locations for the gatherings are noted below:

1. Town of Howard Town Hall-Chippewa Co. –Tuesday, February 24, 2015-5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
2. Roger Martin Center-Mondovi, WI-Buffalo Co.-Monday, March 2, 2015-5:00-8:00 p.m.
3. Ho Chunk Casino-Black River Falls, WI-Bingo Room-Jackson County-to be developed (Additional details will be send shortly. People can come and go as they desire)

Listed below are a few issues which have been identified by individuals and should be addressed in the scoping process. This list is not complete and if you feel you have firsthand knowledge or experience with any of them, please enter a comment , a story, or a request at one of these meetings.

1. It is critical to study the 2011 DNR Silica Study and differentiate between how various groups (industry, press, politicians etc.) interpreted the findings. We need to highlight and expand upon the “unknowns” stated in the document. The same is true for the 2012 WDNR release.
2. DNR personnel have openly admitted there is a danger of heavy metals getting into water supplies

due to sulfides and low pH levels(acid mine drainage) Heavy metals have been found in some frac sand mining areas in WI. Some wells have required replacement. Even more disconcerting is the dumping of waste created by washing the sand back into unlined pits and using reclamation strategies. Intensive studies are required to protect all water sources from contamination.

3. Some concerns might not be fully addressed within the 365 day time line parameter. It might be that some portions of the study will require a longer period of time to complete. If this is the case, progress reports should be submitted to the NRB every 6 months as data is collected.

4. The continued use of flocculants (especially residual acrylamide) in relationship to volume of use and disposal in mines for reclamation purposes require additional study to assure the public there are no unintended environmental issues.

5. There is a need to also concentrate on reclamation requirements of huge acreages. What processes are used? How will the land be used, and what is the fate of mine sites in terms of value after mining is complete? How adequate are the bonding requirements and are the taxpayers covered long term?)

6. Study of borehole abandonment issues is critical to protect surface and ground water.

7. Stormwater and wastewater issues including monitoring and enforcement must be studied in depth in relationship to the frac sand mining industry.

8. Actual economic impacts of the industry on tourism, agriculture and other manufacturing and commercial interests must be studied and reported out.

9. A study of the cumulative impacts on air and water quality due to multiple industrial sites being in close proximity to each other is critical. Monitoring of 2.5 micron particulates and respirable crystalline silica is imperative due to reported health concerns. Different formations vary throughout the state and need to be evaluated for the amount of respirable crystalline silica and cementing materials in them due to the natural variations of deposits.

10. A study of the declining property values around mines and significant impacts on valuations when the mining company leaves is critical.

11. The impact of resin plants on surroundings is imperative.

12. Rail issues such as blocked crossings for long periods of time, the costs to agriculture and logging because sand transport ties up other industries from moving their products, and the cost to energy generating industries due to the inability to get coal to power plants because of the congestion of transportation infrastructure are necessary concerns to study.

13. Protection of endangered species as well as a general loss of wildlife habitat must be considered.

14. Financial impact of truck traffic on local, county , and state road systems and the responsibility of local citizens to maintain the costs of repairing the infrastructure including

replacement of roads, bridges, culverts and related requirements for safety of the public must be studied.

15. Responsible use of mined land after mining is completed. 16. Other concerns you have identified.

ISSUES WITH THE BUDGET:

<http://m.jsonline.com/news/statepolitics/walkers-budget-steeply-cuts-dnrs-science-bureau-b99440503z1-291112181.html>

BLAIR: AND ANNEXATION IMPACTS

<http://www.startribune.com/local/east/189479651.html>

Industrial Silica Sand/Frac Sand Mining

Judge Upholds County's Decision To Reject Frac Sand Mine Application

<http://www.wpr.org/judge-upholds-countys-decision-reject-frac-sand-mine-application>

The company went to court to overturn the rejection of the permit, but a judge upheld the decision this week. Board Supervisor Tim Zeglin said it's an important win for the county. "We feel that our resolve and demonstration of backbone has been upheld and vindicated and I hope other counties get a little backbone from us," said Zeglin.

This is the second court battle AllEnergy has lost. Another suit sought \$20 million in damages from the county. An attorney for the company said they'll appeal within the next month.

MN Towns Ignored In Frac Sand Mining Debate Says Wabasha City Council Member

<http://theuptake.org/2015/01/27/mn-towns-ignored-in-frac-sand-mining-debate-says-wabasha-city-council-member/>

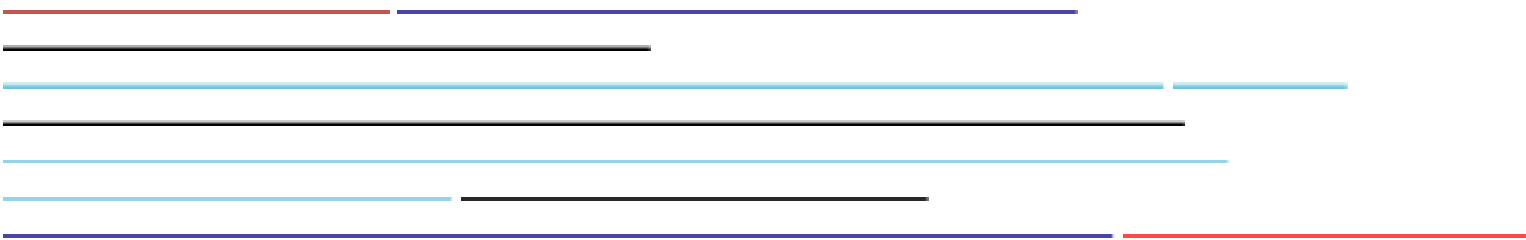
She chastised the committee for listening to a paid witness from one of the mining companies testify on particulates and not reaching out to the University of Minnesota which she says is a world leader on studying particulates.

This is all great news: (thanks Eric!)

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.136077452707.110998.12185972707&type=1>

PIPELINE UPDATE IN WISCONSIN: Enbridge has been building a new pumping station to support the increase volume on the existing pipelines. It is visible from Hwy 27. Enbridge is likely building there to avoid dealing with the LCO tribes more strict environmental concerns. There is already an older pumping station located in Hauer.

A few weeks ago, the weekly paper ran an article on the construction.



http://www.haywardwi.com/news/local/enbridge-constructs-pump-station-in-county/article_0c653b22-9b78-11e4-b36a-8b5392aaff3d.html

Three people spoke on the environmental and safety concerns at a meeting this week. One gentleman (lives where the ATC high voltage power lines, CN railroad and the pipelines all converge. Environmentally it is also where two large watersheds meet. One is the Couderay watershed and the other is where the Red Cedar watershed originates. He has concerns with the integrity of the old pipelines because of vibrations from the increasing train traffic. Concerns were also over whether there are emergency plans in place in the event of a derailment, a pipeline leak or other disaster event. According to the company's website, response time for their trained crews would be 2 to 4 hours. The town chair told people that when construction is complete, town officials and emergency responders will be given a tour of the facility. He told people to write down their questions and concerns and he would pass them along to Enbridge. No representatives from Enbridge were at the meeting, but there was literature left at the town hall.

Since the Enbridge line affects many WI people, we all should be following its construction and improvement of existing lines. It may actually be carrying more tar sands than the Keystone.

Friends: an invitation!

Winona LaDuke is sponsoring a teach-in — Our Future, Our Choice — on Thursday, Feb 19 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Tau Center in Winona, MN ... and YOU are invited! This free event is open to the general public, and pre-registration is required. Please see attached poster, or the information below.

LaDuke — internationally acclaimed author, orator and activist — belongs to the Anishinaabe Tribe and lives in the White Earth Community of northwest Minnesota. She graduated from Harvard and Antioch University, and was twice Ralph Nader's Green Party running mate for U.S. Vice President.

LaDuke will discuss extreme vs clean energy options, the Cowboy-Indian Alliance, and energy infrastructure hazards. Local and regional grassroots groups will discuss how such hazards as frack-sand mining and oil "bomb-trains" threaten our local communities, the Mississippi River, and climate -- and how those crises are interrelated.

The Teach-in will include a talk by LaDuke, presentations by scientists, a panel of regional activists, a short film, (and) round-table discussions and recommendations for action-steps for citizens. It is hosted by WSU's Sustainability Committee and co-sponsored by: Citizens Against Silica Mining (CASM), Citizens Acting for Rail Safety (CARS), Land Stewardship Project (LSP), and Houston County Protectors (HCP).

The Tau Center is located on the west campus of Winona State University, 511 Hilbert St, Winona MN 55987.

To register, please call 507-523-3366 or go to <https://landstewardshipproject.org/events/item/640>

For more information: contact WSU Sustainability Advisor Tex Hawkins at 475-5390 (a.m.) or ahawkins@winona.edu

Please forward this message to others who may be interested, and print/post the attached flyer in public locations.

NEWS FROM A FRIEND IN LADYSMITH, WISCONSIN:

“There was a 250+ car frac sand train that went through Rusk County, Ladysmith, recently around 6:20 to 7:00 a.m.. All cars were hauling sand. They were stopped on the tracks for about 10 minutes. HWY 27 is the only hospital access from the East, West, and North. It is also a major police and Fire Department access. Thankfully, the only vehicles that were delayed were about 20 Enbridge trucks. And me!! Many lives were impacted because I was 30 minutes late for work. World-wide commerce was also impacted, as I was unable to do what I needed to do for shipments from work causing orders to not be shipped on time. This is the longest train I have ever seen in Ladysmith or anywhere else.”

CHIPPEWA RIVER WATER WALK BY SHARON DAY AND OJIBWE WOMEN-APRIL 20-25, 2015---during EARTH WEEK

Join them on their sacred walk from New Post, WI to Wabasha, MN. Water from the headwaters of the river will be carried to the mouth of the Chippewa at Wabasha for placement in the big Mississippi. We will celebrate our water and the mighty Chippewa River with all kinds of activities including the 10th anniversary of the Aldo Leopold Gathering. More information will be coming. There will be Native American dancing and singing, learning camps, outdoor activities, activities at the Eagle Center and much more! There will be overnight stops along the way. They will include Bruce, Holcomb, Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire, Durand and Wabasha. If you or your city or group would like to organize activities in your community along the way for Earth Week celebrations, please contact me. This event will create significant connections with our neighboring states!

Welcome to the Frac Sand Sentinel, a newsletter highlighting resource links, news media accounts, blog posts, correspondence, observations and opinions gathered regarding local actions on, and impacts of, the developing frac sand mining and processing industries.

The content of this newsletter is for informational purposes only. The editor of the Frac Sand Times does not accept any responsibility or liability for the use or misuse of the content of this newsletter or reliance by any persons on the newsletters contents.

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CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: WWW.CCC-WIS.COM for additional information.

Frac Sand Sentinel, please send me an email and not that you would like to have me remove your name from my list.

DANGEROUS FRAC SAND MINING NEAR APPROVAL IN HOUSTON COUNTY

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO STOP IT - SAVE YOUR COMMUNITY - DEMAND A FRAC SAND BAN

Houston County Commissioners are about to approve a mining ordinance that will open the doors to an unlimited number of frac sand mines in the County. They could approve it as soon as **Wednesday, February 18th.**

THE DRAFT ORDINANCE:

- Contains **NO** provision for monitoring deadly silica dust, a known major cause of lung disease.
- Contains **NO PROTECTION** of our precious water supply — neither its quality nor its quantity.
- **EACH MINE** can have 20 acres (15 football fields) of active mining.
- **EACH MINE** could add 4,000 truckloads of sand per mine, per year on Houston County roads.
- There is **NO** limit on the number of mines (Fillmore Co. allows only **FIVE** mines!) Houston could have **HUNDREDS!**
- **YOU** will pay for the road maintenance (road agreement with the county will only be required if mines run 30 or more trucks a day — 22 trucks (15 cubic yard trucks) over 180 days can haul 60,000 cubic yards.)
- Provides **NO PROTECTION** for our beautiful bluffs.
- Provides **NO PROTECTION** of your investment in your home (home values decrease up to 30% within a mile of a mine, that is if anyone would want to buy it.)
- "Grandfathered" mines (Houston County has 130 of them) will **NOT** be required to follow most of the regulations.
- Contains **NO** provisions for enforcement of what little regulation it does contain.

PLEASE JOIN LOCAL FAMILIES - THE ONLY WAY TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES IS TO BAN FRAC SAND MINING IN HOUSTON COUNTY!

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE - SPEAK UP AT THE PUBLIC HEARING:

Wednesday, February 18, 10:00 AM
Houston County Courthouse, Commissioners Room
304 S. Marshall St., Caledonia, MN 55921

DO THREE THINGS NOW: EMAIL, WRITE, AND CALL ALL FIVE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Steve Schuldt - 507.724.3639

steve.schuldt@co.houston.mn.us
12874 County 10
Caledonia, MN 55921

◀ **KEY VOTES
CALL FIRST** ▶

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Dana Kjome - 507.498.5676
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PO Box 15
Spring Grove, MN 55974

Judy Storlie - 507.895.8994
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La Crescent, MN 55947

Take this flier to your Houston County neighbors and ask them to do the same!

To learn more about frac sand mining, go to: www.sandpointtimes.com and www.freehoustonsand.com