



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

Issue: #332
Date: June 2, 2020



EXTRATERRITORIAL ZONING?

What is it? How can the life of the moratorium be extended?

The St Croix River Communities group on Facebook shared this article from StCroix360 that shows that the residents are headed to a critical juncture. From the map in the article, it appears that a landowner has sold or leased property to the mining company.

Where are they at right now?

- The newly acquired land is in Farmington Township, on the border of Osceola. The mine sits on top of a hill that has neighbors and their wells very close by. It's less than 1/4 mile to the St. Croix River. The company is drilling down to new depths that are reaching the aquifer, which is bound to affect drinking water and the risks that accompany dumping pollutants into the nearby river. Because of its hilltop position, there's a good chance that respirable crystalline silica particulate matter dust from off the silica piles that develop could be blown into the river, to the medical center across the street, or into the Village of Osceola at the bottom of the hill.**

- Last year, Farmington Township put a**

moratorium on issuing new permits until the end of June 2020. Locals are trying to push to get them to extend the moratorium due to the lack of interactive meetings during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- . Locals are pushing Osceola to use extraterritorial zoning to limit activity. They're allowed to do this for sites within 1.5 miles of town limits. In actuality, the mine is less than 1/2 mile from town.**

- . The article says there's a lawyer and hydrologist working with community interests.**

As with most frac sand mining operation developments, it takes time, a strategy and much community cooperation and work before all permits are approved and the companies are ready to begin operations or walk away altogether from an impossible, costly project. There are many communities, villages, towns, and municipalities who can offer some solid advice to the citizens as to how they can move ahead. Anyone with suggestions who is willing to comment about a recommendation or idea is invited to add it to the Facebook page.

In other developments, Project Outreach and the Frac Sand Sentinel in collaboration with Public Lab have developed the Sand Sentinel Program, one designed to train citizen science groups in the art of reporting suspected violations in several different areas of concern.

If you or your group are interested in being trained in the techniques, feel free to contact Pat Popple <sunnyday5@charter.net> or Stevie Lewis <stevie@publiclab.org> for possible discussions on setting up a virtual setting for the training. Free materials for reporting violations can be mailed to you for use after the training. Save the Hills Alliance has partially funded this project. It is a neat, helpful, and well thought out approach and you and others will find it of great use in keeping records of potential violations needing further investigation so that all citizens who are harmed by the industry will have plenty of documentation as a back-up.

Join in this effort as a cooperative project.

Patricia Popple 715-723-6398 sunnyday5@charter.net

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 Sentinel 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.

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: CCC-WIS.COM and for additional information, [click here](#) for panoramic aerial views of frac sand mines, processing plants, and trans-load facilities. FracTracker.org is also an excellent source of information.