



TO: Red Wing Advisory Planning Commission Members  
Red Wing Sustainability Commission

FROM: Brian C. Peterson AICP, Planning Director;

RE: Notes from Joint Workshop Meeting: Silica Sand Mining  
Study 7-17-12

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**Attendance:** Planning Commissioners – Dave Lewis, Susan Kinyon, Scott Safe, Heidi Jones, Laurel Achen, and Carol Duff; Planning Commission Council Liaison Peggy Rehder; Sustainability Commission – Ken Moon, Sylvia Smythurst, Erik Fridell, Tom Peschges; Council Liaison Lisa Bayley; Council Member Dan Bender; Council Member Marilyn Meinke; Planning Director Brian Peterson, Deputy Public Works Director Jay McCleary, and Assistant Planning Director Steve Kohn

**Notes:**

1. Dave Lewis and Ken Moon opened the meeting at approximately 7:35 PM and introduced Lisa Hanni, Goodhue County Land Use Management Director. Lisa presented a status report of the Goodhue County Mining Study Committee’s work and report. She review the following points in the report and draft ordinance amendments:
  - Reports, studies, and other pertinent information can be viewed on the County website
  - The Goodhue County Mining Study Committee Summary Report can be viewed on the website
  - Proposed changes to Article 14 of the County Zoning Ordinance can be viewed on the website
  - With the proposed zoning changes, the county will be asking for more information upfront including more existing information
  - Added requirements for underground mining
  - The creation of a Mining Technical Panel paid for by the applicant
  - Requiring continuous monitoring
  - Setbacks are in existing language and may be increased
  - Road impact study/statement may be required
  - No mining will occur between the top and the toe of slopes
  - Article 14 is the special provisions for mining and there are other portions of the county zoning regulations that will apply

2. Peggy Rehder asked about the County Study and health implications (air quality); Lisa Hanni responded that workplace rules are different than off-site impacts; they will deal with potential risks by requiring dust control and continuous monitoring in the draft Article 14; you can't quantify ambient dust implications based on most reports reviewed
3. Lisa Bayley commented that the draft regulations have a lot of mays rather than shalls – who will determine the standards for whether something is required or not? Lisa Hanni responded that silica sand mining will require actions that other types of aggregate mining will not require; there are 38 existing registered mines in Goodhue County
4. Carol Duff asked about time limits for responding to complaints. Lisa said that with continuous monitoring the applicant will be responsible to respond.
5. Brian Peterson asked how do new rules apply to existing mines? Lisa suggested that the moratorium and new rules will not apply to existing mines. Brian commented that existing mines are not mining frac sand now and the county could have the new rules apply to this new type of mining operation.
6. Brian Peterson asked about how the county views the transportation issue and the impact on municipalities and townships? Lisa said that the road impact studies would look at the impact on all roads not just county roads.
7. Ken Moon asked if the county had considered taking any areas out of the permitted use area? Lisa said that mining is only allowed in the Agricultural zone.
8. Erik Fridell asked who will determine the mining technical committee? Lisa said that it will be administrative.
9. Carol Duff asked about health reports; Lisa mentioned that only 40 acres can be exposed at a time; there will be baseline monitoring; they will look at cumulative effects of multiple operations.
10. Dave Lewis asked if the county looked at the County Comprehensive Plan and how it might direct where the mining should happen? Lisa said that the committee looked at setbacks from roads, properties, residents to see where it would be allowed.
11. Tom Peschges asked what happens when air quality standards/limits are exceeded? Lisa stated that this would be known through continuous monitoring and would be a condition of permits.
12. The County moratorium ends on September 6<sup>th</sup>; the county board will be making a decision in August.
13. Townships can be more restrictive than the county if they have a comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances.
14. Carol Duff asked what the difference was between conditional use permits and interim permits? Lisa said that interim permits have an end date, conditional use permits go with the land.
15. Keith Fossen, Supervisor and Planning Commission Member with Hay Creek Township stated that they were not satisfied with the county study; Hay Creek may establish its own moratorium; Hay Creek is looking at licensing; he knows that Florence and Wacouta townships are also interested in similar regulations; he thought that the three townships would be interested in meeting with Red Wing and sharing information.

16. Marilyn Meinke spoke to the commissions about some research she has done in regard to the Health issue, key points are:
  - Occupational Exposure is well studied
  - Not much research or studies for casual exposure
  - General rule should be to limit exposure
  - She liked the base line measurement idea
17. The Commissions will hold another joint meeting at 6 PM on July 24, 2012 to discuss the recommendation section of the report.
18. Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.