

February 26, 2018

Wedron Silica Mining Business:

Since the public comment is over for the Wedron Silica mining request I wanted to enlighten you about something that was not mentioned at the ZBA meeting. In the past 5 years I think that Wedron Silica has been a good community player, but this is Business and emotions cannot get in the way of common sense business decisions that protect all County citizens.

Wedron Silica was less than sincere when they reported they had 1900 acres, but their pit #9 would run out of sand in a decade. All that may be true, but they also said they were throttled on the North and South by lack of resources and they were up against the Fox River on the East. The assumption to all was that they needed to go to the West into prime farmland to survive.

The problem is their management made a business decision to build their 2 new plants near pit #9 straight east of where they want to mine next. They were less than truthful because they have 660 acres of sand reserves on the east side of the Fox River in Rutland Township just north of their original plant. They grandfathered these reserves in the 1970's era when they built the slurry tube across the river and dug a hole at the east end of the slurry tube as though they began a pit on the east side of the Fox River.

Their problem of using this reserve is it will cost much more than getting the reserves they requested. On the East side of the Fox River there may be more overburden to remove; there is cost in updating the slurry tubing (probably under the river like US Silica did for the Covell Creek sand mine); and they have much further to slurry the sand to the new production facilities (as they mine north the distance grows).

It turns out there are too many players (12) in the mining business wanting the same area of LaSalle County (US Silica, Unimin, Northern White Sands, Manley Brothers, Illinois Cement, Marquette Cement, Utica Stone, Riverstone Group, Elmhurst Chicago Stone, Aramoni LLC, Kelly Family Ventures LLC and Wedron Silica). We already have about 12% of the targeted area either pitted by mining, in the process of being mined or owned as mining reserves.

If this is new information I ask you to bring it up before the vote so that all information is out on the table so all County Board members can make an informed decision. Thank you for your time.

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