

Citizen Resolution # 270214
(For Hearing Officer completion)



Silica Sand Mining in Wisconsin Study Update

270214

Each year the Conservation Congress accepts written resolutions from the public, in each county throughout the state regarding natural resource issues of statewide concern. These resolutions are introduced by the public in attendance during the Conservation Congress county meeting that is held annually in conjunction with the DNR Spring Fish and Wildlife Hearings in April.

In order for a resolution to be accepted for further consideration by the Conservation Congress and for public vote at the annual Conservation Congress county meeting, all resolutions introduced must meet the following requirements:

1. The concern must be of statewide impact.
2. The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.
3. The resolution must have a clear title.
4. The resolution must clearly define the concern.
5. Current state statutes and laws must be considered, with reasonable cause for change being presented.
6. The resolution must clearly suggest a solution to the concern and a description of further action desired.

WHEREAS, silica sand mining in Wisconsin continues to grow and will impact thousands of acres of Wisconsin's landscape; and,

WHEREAS, the WDNR report on Silica Sand Mining in Wisconsin was completed in January 2012 and should be updated and expanded to include the most current information available; and,

WHEREAS, silica sand mining is particularly concentrated in West Central Wisconsin and the WDNR report does not include a technical analysis of the potential cumulative impacts of the loss of open space, wooded hills as water filters, air quality, or wildlife habitat, nor does the report specify a process by which WDNR will consider such cumulative impacts; and,

WHEREAS, the WDNR report provides no technical evaluation of the long-term impacts that silica sand mining and related activities have on the character, productivity, and future use of soils.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the WDNR partner with other State and Federal agencies to conduct an independent evaluation of silica sand mining in Wisconsin, which includes: opportunities for local official and public participation; lessons learned from recent mine violations in Wisconsin; monitoring and regulatory approaches from Iowa and Minnesota; a technical analysis of the cumulative and long-term environmental and soil impacts; and an expanded discussion of non-environmental impacts (e.g., archeological, tourism economy, nearby property values). The report shall also include recommended best practices for the planning, regulating, and monitoring of silica sand operations, including the cumulative impacts of such operations, for use by State, county, local, and tribal governments.

Dianne Richardson
N12855 Poplar Rd
Fairchild, WI 54741
715-597-6717
Jackson County

Signature: Dianne Richardson

Please print your resolution on 8 1/2 X 11 white paper (one-sided) and provide the WCC County Chair with TWO COPIES at the spring hearing. Only the individual author or designated representative may present the resolution. The