

Dear Dane County Zoning

I want to provide a written statement regarding CUP 2022-02563 by Kevin Hahn for a non-metallic extraction operation.

I want to register that I am opposed to this CUP.

I completely understand that quarries are a necessity for our society. As you may know, I purchase product from quarries multiple times a year for my farm. That said here are the things that I believe the Town needs to answer or gain information on prior to approving or denying this quarry;

If there is a chemical spill, what will the process be to prevent ground contamination?

If there is a non-planned explosion or a blasting goes wrong, will there be someone on site that can provide emergency care?

When water is pumped into the road, how will the quarry ensure that harmful chemicals or contaminants don't get flushed down the hill to neighbors and their ground water?

One argument heard is that this quarry is a small family business. What will the Town do to prevent this family from selling some day to a large quarry operator like Wingra? We all know what the large quarries look like, sound like and smell like. If this happens is this truly what the Town meant when writing in its comprehensive plan "Currently Rutland is a rural community that is home to active agricultural lands, natural open spaces, and low density residential development. Residents value the quiet and the sense of community this rural character offers"?

Many have said homeowners bought land and built beautiful homes next to a quarry so they should have expected the traffic and noise. But I believe it is more likely that the quarry was in its non-functional mode. But even with that said, I think we can all assume that a quarry that has been in existence since the mid 1930's is almost at the end of its life. A homeowner can "put up with" another 5-10 years of being a neighbor to an active quarry. If the extension is approved, those same neighbors and the entire neighborhood will have to plan on an active quarry being their neighbor or in the neighborhood for the remainder of their lives and possibly their children's lives.

Everyone knows that my biggest issue is the constant sound and increased number of dump trucks running by my house. The Hahn's say there will only be 50 trucks a day using this proposed quarry. That means there will be 100 trucks passing the homes going to and from this quarry. Can the Town prevent that number from increasing? Can the Town require truck drivers use different routes so no one road is over used, ruining the lives of those who live on it? When I have asked these

questions in the past, I have been told that the Town can't control where trucks travel as they have a legal right to use the roads.

I have read information from a licensed realtor that home values will go down if they are next to a quarry or on the route of heavy dump trucks. My farm is my largest asset. I am sure this is the same for all the homeowners that live near this proposed expansion. This year the Town is undergoing a revaluation for property assessment. Can the Town absorb the lower assessment values of all the homes affected by this expansion? How will the Town handle the possibility of a lower tax base generated by home property taxes to conduct Town business? I am sure many of these homeowners affected will be closely watching the revaluation of their properties if the CUP is approved. I understand that a home in the Town of Deerfield had their assessment cut in half due to the fact that the home was next to or close to one of the quarries within that Town.

I have expressed my concern that Rutland may become one quarry after another because we have been blessed or cursed by having a lot of land with the appropriate material under our beautiful farmland. What is the Town's plan to limit the number of quarries within its boundaries? Is it even legal for the Town to have a limit on the number of active quarries? Will the Town be opening a "Pandora's box" if they approve this CUP? If homeowners give up and believe that their property is worth more as a quarry than a home or farm, can the Town deny future quarry CUP applications? Is the Town ok with having the landscape change from beautiful homes and farms along its roads to large piles of rock and sand?

At the Annual Town meeting that occurred on April 19<sup>th</sup> Chair Zentner spoke of highlights for the Town of Rutland in 2021. One of those highlights was a successful bike race event. This race lasted only a couple hours and was such a success they want to come back in 2022. An event like this is completely in line with the Town's comprehensive plan in my opinion and something we should embrace. That said, I understand that the two quarry operators were contacted and asked to avoid the bike race route. They both agreed to do this. Why was this request made? Is this the Town's own admission that it is unpleasant and/or unsafe for bicyclists and pedestrians to have dump trucks passing them while on our roads? If the answer is yes, then why would the Town want to promote this unpleasant or unsafe activity on a daily basis for the people that live within its boundaries?

The Hahn's themselves have said that if this CUP is not approved, they will fill in the existing 10-acre quarry. They have said this will cause an increase in dump truck traffic like never seen before. This might be true, but eventually the quarry will be filled and after reclamation, will be farmland again. Then there will be no dump trucks going to that location. So this will be a temporary disruption to the rural quality of life we all desire, unlike the increase in dump truck traffic that will occur as a result of an approved expansion that will go on for 50 plus years.

I feel like our town board passed "the buck" on not acting on the eight standards. The environmental standard is of great concern for me. Safety is also a huge

concern. Not only increased truck traffic but what if that was an accident? Who is qualified to act? We have another quarry less than a quarter of a mile from the new proposed quarry. It is over kill for the people that travel these roads, the noise, dust, potential contamination of our wells, increased truck traffic, home values plummeting just to name a few of the many concerns. Old Stage Rd cannot take on any more truck traffic. I know the people on Center and A don't want truck traffic but neither do Old Stage residents. We already deal with hundreds a day from the Northwestern pit. I'm asking the truck route stays on Center and A and Old Stone, and Lake Kegonsa could take on some of this traffic. Speed limits need to be lowered on these heavily traveled routes. The residents all lose with destruction of the roads do to the constant traffic and weight of the trucks. If we try to sell our homes and people sit by the road and see the constant truck traffic most likely loss of sale of for sure will take a hit as to what our homes our worth.

I don't know how you can pass the eight standards but if for some reason you do there has to be several conditions placed on this NEW quarry. Hours of operation should be 8 am to 4pm. No weekends. 15 foot berms with professional landscaping, 1500 feet from the graves house and cemetery, 1500 feet from road. Testing of wells in close proximity of pit. Proof of insurance and all safety courses taken in operating a pit. If owner decides to retire so does the pit. It cannot be sold to an outside interested party. This also does not meet Rutland's comprehension plan.

This whole thing has become sad, disrupting, quality of life compromised, and just downright depressing. Many residents feel the loss of living in the country. Our roads getting ruined and residents have to pay for them through taxation. Our homes will lose value as stated above. The unknown if what if it is sold to a bigger operator? Can they come in and then put in a tar pit and then it is another issue? I feel the town needs to research all environmental aspects, loss in revenue, cost to road repair, and the so many questions I have listed in this letter before any decisions should be made. Hoping there will be peace in my life again.

Just so I know you read my letter can you please announce that you received this and have read it.

Concerned Citizen,

Mary Celley