



# **MINING PUBLIC INFORMATION SUMMARY**

**July 24, 2010**

Presented by Dan Kuzlik, CRD Agent  
Oneida County UW-Extension

# Data Categories

- Water Pollution
- Other Pollution
- Economic Concerns
- Questions About the Tamerlane Ventures
- County Concerns
- Infrastructure
- Other
- Thanks



# Water Pollution

- Site is filled with water, wetlands estuary, wetland extends to Willow River, large lakebed and water flow is to Willow River with very little high ground. Ecosystem will be damaged.
- Mining impact on Wisconsin Wetlands are concerns we need to address. If contaminated water flows into local flowage it could contaminate the whole state. Studies show higher levels of toxins in river below Ladysmith.



# Water Pollution

*- continued*

- Remember the oil spill in New Orleans and lack of safeguards that government often follows. How will this project be different?
- Numbers from Flambeau mining say reports show they are exceeding levels of groundwater contaminates contrary to what others say.
- What about rivers/streams clogged with debris/dead fish? Did reclamation project bring back indigenous species that were there before?



# Water Pollution

*- continued*

- I live close to Little Rice river. This is where contamination will occur.
- What if water contamination goes downstream to the Mississippi and beyond? Will this impact the tourist industry?
- Water pollution will have a serious impact; the risk is too great to offset the positives of the mine.
- I have seen the wetlands that are proposed. This is a very wild setting.

# Water Pollution

*- continued*

- We have been told about the positive elements, what about the harmful part of this? What about asbestos; what are the harmful deposits?
- There is a lot of water there; groundwater that goes into the mine can't stay there – they will have to pump it out and it will have to be treated after that.
- Concern about water impact on Tomahawk River.

# Other Pollution

- Noise pollution concerns.
- Mining is never a clean operation.
- Light pollution.
- What about arsenic/other chemicals out and in; roads, railroad, etc.
- What happens if there is an arsenic spill?
- Is health of residents of the county worth lowering of taxes? May spend more on medical bills.



# Economic Concerns

- What about unemployment in Ladysmith before, during and after the operation? If you look you will find there was not much of a change.
- Great deal at risk. Hope all will be evaluated. Ladysmith does have positives but some say the tornado contributed to more of the renovation than the mine ever did.
- Will you need a full-time fire department; who will pick up the cost?





# Economic Concerns

*- continued*

- What about the 300 jobs – are these local people or do you bring them in.
- Traffic on the roads.
- Whose product will it be? Is this stuff going to supply our needs or someone else's?



# Questions About Tamerlane Ventures

- What guarantee do we have the Tamerlane will not be the same as they were in other mines in addressing environmental issues?
- It is very hard to ask questions or give comments when we don't know what kind of mine it will be.
- I don't know what frozen shaft means.

# Questions About Tamerlane

- *continued*

- What about Tamerlane executives who have let a company go bankrupt, ran away from problems, then restarted with a new company?
- This is a Canadian company and we are not allowed to own shares in a Canadian Company if you live in U.S. (*A member of Tamerlane disputed this.*)

# County Concerns

- Concerns about trust. I don't know how the county will treat Lynne because we are so far away from Rhineland.
- Money – Oneida County is doing this for money. It is not in your back yard. We would not be here if the value of zinc wasn't high.
- What is in it for us in Lynne? You may want to address this.
- We need a lot more information. Lets not talk about starting a mine, but starting a conversation.



# Infrastructure

- Comparison of the Ladysmith site is completely different. Proximity of the infrastructure will result in unacceptable impact on the county forestland. In Ladysmith it was much closer.
- These jobs will not be local jobs.
- Why are they here now? This will be a boom bust economy. We have no idea how long it will last.

# Other

- Mining experience continues long after the mining is over.
- I say no to a mine - Not Ever!
- Will the DNR consider violating the trust of the citizens of Oneida County?



# Thanks for the Opportunity

- Thank the County Board for conducting the meeting. I know more about this than I did before.
- Thank you very much for having this session.

# Public Speakers

Who Attended – 7/24/2010

- Bill Ahrens  
Pearson – Langlade County
- Richard Altman  
Tripoli
- Jeff Beck  
Tripoli
- Jeff Brown  
Tripoli



# Public Speakers

Who Attended – 7/24/2010

- Karl A. Fate  
Spur Lake, Oneida County
- Douglas Flory  
Tripoli
- Tim Hoglund  
Tomahawk
- Kate Kelly  
Rhineland

# Public Speakers

Who Attended – 7/24/2010

- Dennis Marquardt  
Tomahawk
- Leonore Neumann\*  
Tripoli
- Diana C. Smith  
Tomahawk
- Alan VanRaalte  
Town of Little Rice, Oneida County

*\* Spelling interpreted from Signature*

# Evaluation Statistics

- **Ninety-three percent agreed or strongly agreed that the event was well organized.**
- **Eighty-six percent agreed or agreed strongly that the event was well facilitated**
- **Fifty-three percent stated that they agreed or strongly agreed that the materials would be useful.**  
*(33% remained neutral on this statement)*

# Evaluation Statistics

- *continued*

- Sixty percent agreed or strongly agreed that the event speakers were well prepared.  
*(26% remained neutral)*
- Sixty percent agreed or agreed strongly that event speakers were knowledgeable about the subject matter.  
*(20% remained neutral)*

# Evaluation Statistics

*- continued*

**Oneida County Mining Oversight Committee**  
**Public Information Session**  
**Saturday, July 24, 2010**  
**Willow Region Fire Barn (in town of Lynne)**  
**5086 Willow Road, Tripoli WI 54564**

Statement: Please choose one response for each	Disagree Strongly	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Agree Strongly
This event was well organized.		6%		53%	40%
This event was well facilitated.			13%	46%	40%
The material presented will be useful to me.	6%	6%	33%	20%	33%
The event speakers were well prepared.	6%	6%	26%	40%	20%
The event speakers were knowledgeable about the subject matter.	6%	6%	20%	40%	20%

<b>N/A</b> <b>6%</b>
-------------------------

# Evaluation Statistics

- *continued*

## PERSONAL COMMENTS

- The meeting seemed tilted towards proceeding with a mine. The citizens need mining information on possible scenarios of what the mine may be like. If there are no issues, put all of the cards on the table now.

# Evaluation Statistics

- *continued*

## PERSONAL COMMENTS

- Thanks for being open to diverse ideas.
- Please do not allow this mine in the area. I think it would destroy the public use and well-being of the area.
- I would like to see the meeting continue to be held on weekends when working tax payers can attend versus activists.

# Evaluation Statistics

- *continued*

## PERSONAL COMMENTS

- Weekend meetings are better attended.
- Would like to see more local meetings as this process continues.
- Much more information is needed.



# Evaluation Statistics

- *continued*

## PERSONAL COMMENTS

- As identified, this is a very preliminary process that will take time. Looking forward to future meeting with opportunity to be informed of process, as well as new information from resources that can speak to environmental protection plan to the water, plant, wildlife resources. Also would like more information regarding infrastructure effects and management of them.

# Evaluation Statistics

- *continued*

## PERSONAL COMMENTS

- I am very disheartened to see that town board members are “bought and paid for” and only see dollar signs. The solitude and pristine nature of the Willow Region are the tourism attraction, said mine would completely destroy this environment.

# Evaluation Statistics

- *continued*

## PERSONAL COMMENTS

- It appeared as though the meeting facilitators and information presenters came loaded with an overwhelming bias in favor of going ahead with a mine. The thought of easy money for budgetary shortfalls has left many hopelessly enamored beyond the point of logic, reason and vision.

# For More Information

Contact:

Dan Kuzlik, CRD Agent  
Oneida County UW-Extension  
3375 Airport Road, Rhinelander WI 54501  
715-365-2750  
715-365-2760 (fax)  
<http://oneida.uwex.edu>

