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CITY OF SCANDIA

August 24, 2012

To the Scandia City Council,

The City of Scandia is a gold mine. We do not need to sacrifice our quality of life for another gravel mine. I am protective of the beauty that surrounds me & feel blessed to live in a community committed to rural character. I believe you feel the same way.

Take Action Conserve Our Scandia grew out of this commitment. Three years ago Take Action Conserve Our Scandia (TA-COS) organized to oppose the Tiller Zavoral Reclamation Project. Since then we raised well over \$30,000.00 from concerned citizens, mostly from Scandia, who oppose this proposed gravel pit. We hired a lawyer from the Dorsey law firm & reputable experts in the field of hydrology, ecology & traffic engineering. The reports they submitted were unbiased & honest findings. We expect the City Council to study these reports before making any decisions concerning the Zavoral Tiller Project because the information will help you make a wise decision.

The EIS contains lots of written & visual information from Tiller that is difficult if not impossible for an ordinary individual to comprehend; however letters from concerned citizens & the National Park & other agencies are crystal clear about what is at stake for the city of Scandia & the St Croix Scenic Riverway. We are

looking to you our elected officials to preserve our quality of life in Scandia.

It is clear from reading the FEIS that AECOM & Tiller work together. The FEIS by AECOM is the same old stuff, denying the obvious & glossing over our concerns & fears if this Project happens. The Met Council, DNR, Washington County & Applied Ecological Services all recommend re-defining the boundaries of the mine with a 100' setback. Tiller is not interested in the bluffs or streams or River. Tiller & Dr. Zavoral do not live here, they only want to make money. It is up to the Scandia Council to deny Tiller what they want because it is not in our best interest.

The title Zavoral Tiller Reclamation Project makes no sense. According to Washington County & any one walking through the 64 acres, the site has been reclaimed by nature for the last 30 years. During that time white pines, aspen, oaks & all sorts of plants have grown on the land. (Read Applied Ecological Services report.) Besides destroying & reclaiming the old mine, Tiller wants to destroy 9 more acres of pine hardwood forest so they can reclaim that too. The fact is Dr. Zavoral should have reclaimed the 64 acres in the 1990's but didn't; now he wants to make money & reclaim his land after he destroys it again. This is absurd!

What is this "reclaimed" land going to look like? It will be a 64 acre hole 15-60 feet deep, 3 feet above the groundwater, with 4" of topsoil & 3' of coarse sand covering it. The area will be so fragile that the Met Council states NEVER to use fertilizers or pesticides because of the close proximity to the ground water.

What is the "reclaimed" land going to be used for? The Met Council & anyone with common sense knows that there will be no use for it. It will be a permanent scar, unusable, a security hazard for the National Park, area citizens and especially the City of Scandia. The City Council needs to recognize that this scenic view shed will be a "dead zone" if Dr. Zavoral & Tiller get their way.

This land is on the Scenic Byway, adjacent to ecologically significant ravines & trout streams, on the bluffs of the St Croix River, at the exit & entrance to Scandia & the St Croix River valley & at the cross roads of two state highways. The Scandia Council needs to protect this beautiful area & the safety of their citizens & visitors.

The City Council should end the process now by denying the EIS. The EIS points out problems & should point out solutions. There are far too many loopholes about the reclamation, vague statements, mostly concerning the monitoring of the site in the future & of course the

traffic situation. Tiller assumes they know better because of data; but we live here they don't.

If the fear of a lawsuit is guiding your decision remember you are not alone. Many Scandia citizens, support you along with TA-COS, the National Park, the St Croix River Association, & countless numbers of people who believe you are right in saying "no more mining here". Remember too you are empowered. Tiller needs your approval for their mine off of Lofton, referred to as the Scandia Mine. What can Tiller sue you for? Isn't an EIS a source of information to guide decisions? Possibly your decision to say "no" will be considered the right decision. Several prominent lawyers have said not to worry the law is on your side. The Council needs to ask the city attorney to research the best outcomes in this situation; then ask for a second opinion. Wouldn't you do that if you were being sued?

We live in a gold mine. We are looking to you the Council to preserve our quality of life; not just for a few but for everyone who appreciates the beauty & heritage of this area.

Lisa Schlingerman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Schlingerman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

20661 Quint Ave N
Scandia MN 55073