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News Release

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Bridgeport Concerned Citizens (BCC), Crawford Stewardship Project (CSP) and Friends of the Lower Wisconsin (FLOW) are responding to the Bridgeport official's decision to permit the Pattison Sand Mine with virtually no regulations for 60 or more years by seeking legal advice. Attorney Glenn Reynolds of Reynolds and Associates of Madison, WI, is reviewing the Bridgeport decision. Mr. Reynolds brings a wealth of experience in environmental and township law issues.

"The complete lack of presentation of any data to support permitting a sand mine with no conditions is unacceptable to the people of Bridgeport Township," claims Irene Steele of BCC. "Our questions were never addressed by the Bridgeport board and planning commission."

"Destruction of agricultural land and reduced residential property values are a major concern, and our officials ignored those serious considerations," comments Loren Fishler, a life long farmer near the mine site.

"The Zoning ordinance of Bridgeport Township was begging for refusal of the sand mine or substantial regulation," comments Edie Ehlert, CSP Co-coordinator. The zoning code states conditional uses must be "found not to be hazardous, harmful, offensive, or otherwise adverse to the environment or the value of the neighborhood or town."

"This decision is an insult to the people of Bridgeport and the citizens of Wisconsin who value the Wisconsin River Valley as a most precious resource. Their action is especially egregious considering the history and recent violations that Pattison Sand has with various state and federal agencies," adds Jordan Brudos, CSP Co-coordinator.

"BCC presented the township with 164 signatures from residents and 245 total in opposition to this frac sand mine," Sheila Linder adds, "Any other township would have responded with respect and serious review. Why did the officials choose to side with three landowners and Pattison Sand of Iowa over the majority of their citizens, over our financial welfare and quality of life?"

"All three organizations realize that we owe it to our supporters to use our resources to get legal review of this unjust decision," concludes Edie Ehlert.