

Resolution #01-2021

Sulfide Mining

Whereas, Oneida County is an extremely water rich part of Wisconsin, with over 1,100 lakes, and with nearly 38% of its surface comprised of lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands, totaling over 463 square miles, and

Whereas, there are three known sulfide deposits in Oneida County that are associated with ancient rock formations of volcanic origin, and

Whereas, sulfide deposits contain minerals that are compounds of metal and sulfur, and the process of mining these deposits creates an enormous amount of waste material, when exposed to air and water, create a condition, know as Acid Mine Drainage, that leaches metals from the surrounding environment, and remain a threat to the water resource for hundreds of years, and

Whereas, in Oneida County, these ancient deposits were buried under thick layers of glacial drift and water when the Glaciers receded, and

Whereas, our lakes, streams, and wetlands are intimately connected to the water contained in this glacial material, and In order to keep a sulfide mining operation reasonably dry, the pumping required would reduce lake and water well levels, reduce stream flows, and impair wetland function, and

Whereas, more than 62% of Oneida County voters opposed a sulfide mine upstream of the Willow Flowage, which is of great County, Tribal, and regional significance, and

Whereas, any entity is planning to conduct exploratory drillings for sulfide minerals, at the Wolf River Deposit, near the upper Wolf River, which is also of great County, Tribal, and regional significance, and

Whereas, the water resources of Oneida County are of profound importance, providing many people that live and work here with sustenance, for generations, from our incredible fisheries, and many others that benefit economically from the folks that come from far and wide to enjoy the scenic beauty of the Northwoods, and

Whereas, the repeal of the Mining Moratorium Law, known as Act 134, eliminates the “Prove it first” provision from the metallic mining law, and also makes groundwater standards non-applicable in certain areas, weakens wetland protections, streamlines approval of bulk sampling, shortens the timeline for review of mine permits, weakens the criteria for the approval of high capacity wells, weakens the public process for the approval of mine permits, eliminates solid waste disposal fees, limits the timeframe for predictive modeling, and limits the timeframe to maintain an irrevocable trust for preventative and remedial activities, and

Whereas, the future of Oneida County depends on keeping our water clean and protecting our lakes, streams, and wetlands.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Pelican Town Board considers Sulfide Mining to be incompatible with the goals stated above, and ask the Wisconsin State Legislature to repeal Wisconsin 2017 Act 134.

By the Pelican Town Board this 12th day of April, 2021.

Gerald Roou, Chairman

Dave Hollands, Supervisor

Walter Dahlquist, Supervisor

Mike Ring, Clerk