

Chris Sonnek

Members of MPCA:

I initially wrote this Letter as a response to request from the "Land Stewardship Organization" to fight this dairy expansion. My response also fits the same purpose for public comment for West River Dairy Expansion

I'm truly disappointed in your decision to fight this preliminary permitting process for Riverview LLP or any other Livestock facility for the following thoughts and reasons. -

There are already Strict Federal, State, County, and Township thresholds and regulations put into place to address the multitude of concerns any Livestock operation operates within.

The manure can be handled through digester system and the Methane Gas used to generate electricity to power the operation.

Compost can be made and sold in multiple ways to surrounding farmers or bagged up and sold throughout United States.

Humus can be made from the manure as well and used in the multitude of Biological products in the Fertilizer Industry. (Organics Included)

The remaining liquid still makes an excellent renewable fertilizer option to the area farmers.

Who are you (Land Stewardship) to decide as an organization how many animal units are too much?

I had a personal friend that expanded his 70-cow dairy to 500 cows back in the late 90's.

I had my own 35 cow herd for 20 years and had considered the same option to expand my herd.

Instead, choose to follow the opportunity to be involved in a Sow Coop.

30 years ago, a group of 12 farmers, myself included, established a 2,400 Head Sow unit that was built on my 170 Acre farm.

We all experienced this same outrage that you are promoting yourselves now.

I heard a Quate while attending a MN Pork Producer Seminar that said "In the Lack of Sound Science Based information, Outrage Drives Perception" How True and fitting is that Quate unfolding right now for this proposed Dairy Expansion.

All Livestock operations can create beneficial opportunities to other area farmers and communities.

I've had the privilege to attend a few of your different Seminars and on Farm presentations.

My suggestion for Land Stewardship Organization and yourself, Continue to offer Educational Seminars, Hands on Field Days, Informational communication via email, texting, Facebook, Tic Tok or whatever the upcoming communication tools that develop. We will be able to Learn and see these alternative ways of farming and decide individually whether it warrants the risks, efforts to pursue those new paths forward.

In the end of the day, Economics still play a Huge role in every decision that each and every one of us must do remain viable. Doesn't matter how big or how small, at the end of the month, we all have to pay our bills to remain in agriculture.

Thanks for your time

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