

Gordon Dalseide

First of all, this is not an expansion of the existing West River Dairy. It is a complete stand-alone new construction that could be built anywhere with little or no additional cost. It appears that very little of the existing infrastructure will be used to support this proposed project.

Official Public Notice published in the Stevens County Times January 6, 2026, is misleading indicating that the expansion will take place in the NW 1/4 of section 1 Synnes Township.

Are manure management acres secured by written contracts or are they simply "Handshake agreements"?

Water use is a major concern. According to Minnesota Well Index records that I have viewed River View currently has at least eight active wells and has drilled at least 5 additional test holes. Active wells range from 138' to 300' in depth. Test holes range from 302' to 418' deep. Static levels range from 90' to 119'. Pumping levels range from 101' to 200' at the time the wells were drilled. No information relating to recharge rate was found. Bed rock level is approximately 300'. Existing water wells surrounding WRD range from 75' to 340'. The 340' well just happens to be owned by a WRD employee. Looks like the same issue that people in Arizona are facing is happening or about to happen in Stevens County. My own well located 1 1/2 miles north of WRD has dropped in production from an estimated pumping capacity of 150 gallon/min to barely 3 gallon/min currently. Intensive water well testing needs to be done by independent testing company before any permit for WRD is approved.

Damage to County and Township roads during harvest are to the point that they are impassible with anything but a 4-wheel drive pick-up. Roadbeds have been displaced to the point that ditches no longer drain properly, culvert aprons have separated from nearly every culvert along my property and have had to be repaired at county expense.

Manure spills have occurred on several occasions as the result of failure to connect hoses or lack of proper monitoring. Several of these spills have been of a size requiring considerable time to clean up and occurred on public property (county road ditches).

Animal disease should be a major concern to be looked at. New World Screw worm currently less than 100 miles from the US- Mexican border is a devastating disease. Riverview transports animals between Minnesota and Wilcox AZ. almost daily. What is the Minnesota department of animal health emergency management protocol for handling such and outbreaks?

No one has discussed negative economic issues involved with the project. Farmers not participating will likely see lower bids for grain, higher prices for fertilizer and propane due to lower volumes. Employees will be let go or have time reduced. People will have to leave the area to find full time employment.

There are many more important issues that need to be studied. The fact that the commissioner has not made an independent onsite visit and possibly even with close neighbors that are not part of WRD is a very concerning issue. Boots on the ground, ears open, smell the air, see the situation before you make a final decision. Once the damage is done it cost a lot more to fix. A full and complete study is the only option!