

Sean Harmon

Among the most significant responsibilities of this commission is to preserve the environmental quality of our natural resources, but also to BE GOOD STEWARDS WITH TAXPAYER MONEY. These proposals fall short of sufficiently preventing future damage that will predictably be costly to continually mitigate. We NEED better use of your time, and better use of public funds that will be used for flood mitigation.

We cannot continue to have sand mines located so close to rivers, streams, and lakes where sediment will predictably be washed downstream filling the basins of rivers, streams, and lakes. Please cease the efforts to ignore this dangerous and costly issue that SIGNIFICANTLY contributes to downstream flooding.

The solution is readily and cheaply available with a stroke of your pens. These sand mines should be located much farther from rivers and on higher ground. Sand mines should be required to build levees containing their sediment runoff. Property owners and/or lease holders who operate these mines should additionally be required to inspect and repair these levees regularly. Breaches, if tied to their negligence, or failure to properly prevent sediment leakage of any kind, should result in heavy fines with these fines being devoted to funding the ongoing cost of dredging the affected downstream areas, or to fund the construction of levees that can protect downstream residential areas. Penalties MUST be tied to address correcting the effects on the downstream communities.

Natural vegetation should also remain in the regions where it can reduce the flow of floodwaters and minimize the effects of erosion.