

COMMUNICATIONS TEMPLATE
PICK AND CHOOSE FROM BELOW BASED ON YOUR AUDIENCE

Remember nothing is as powerful as your own personal testimonial!

Quick Stats on the mine from the Levy Proposal:

- 30 million tons of gravel.
- 30 years of mining.
- 724 acre site.
- 500 acre excavation.
- Bigger than all of the other mines in the Township put together.
- 400 acres of woodlands removed.
- Nine acres of wetlands destroyed.
- Hours of operation 6:00 am to 6:00 pm Monday through Friday, and 6:00 am to 12:00 noon on Saturday, from mid-March through the end of November.
- 100 trucks in and out each day, or 200 total truck trips each day. About one every three-and-a-half minutes.
- Gravel processing plant on site. Includes a crusher which create fugitive dust – also known as particulate matter, a harmful air pollutant.
- All within 1500 to 2000 feet of a landfill site (the “Superfund” site) still undergoing remediation.

For further information see dbaraproject.com.

The Levy Co./Boy Scout Application:

Levy, through a subsidiary American Aggregates, has applied for:

1. Conditional rezoning of part of the Boy Scout property from Recreation, which prohibits mining; to Agriculture, which allows mining by Special Use Permit.
2. A Special Use Permit to mine the leased portion of the Boy Scout property and the adjacent Guy property, which Levy owns.
3. A permit under the Township's Soil Removal Ordinance, which governs mining – as well as a request to waive some of the requirements of that ordinance.

Levy requested that all of these approval requests be processed simultaneously. The Township has decided to take them one at a time, with rezoning first.

The Moratorium and Amending the Zoning Ordinance:

In the week after Levy submitted its proposal, MLPA renewed its request to the Township Board (made to the Township in 2012 and recommended to the Township Board by the Planning Commission in 2013) (1) to strengthen the Master Plan by describing the impact of increased mining on other Township planning goals and (2) to incorporate the standards of a recent law, Public Act 113, into the zoning ordinance to be used when deciding a request for mining or a request for a Special Land Use permit. The Levy Company submitted objections to MLPA's request.

Subsequently, as of January 2016, the Township Board adopted a four month moratorium on all requests seeking approval of gravel mining in Metamora Township, determining it was of "critical importance to public health, safety, and welfare of the Township and its residents to study its ordinances with the view of determining whether amendment of the Township Zoning Ordinance with regard to gravel mining is necessary or appropriate." The moratorium will run until April.

At an informational meeting in January, the Township's Special Counsel announced that the Township plans to update its zoning ordinance to address Public Act 113 of 2011, the "Very Serious Consequences" law. The Township's Special Counsel mentioned amending the Master Plan as an option for the Township to consider as well.

Levy has petitioned the Township to be removed from the moratorium. The Township Board will need to hold a public hearing on this request. No date has been set. [NOTE THE STATUS MAY CHANGE IN FEBRUARY 2016]

MLPA (General)

The Metamora Land Preservation Alliance is a citizens non-profit with supporters in Metamora and surrounding areas. Formed in 2005 in response to the Levy Company's last attempt to mine the Boy Scout Ranch, we worked closely with hundreds of citizens and the local business community, to keep our town and way of live free from the devastating consequences of large scale surface mining.

MLPA Mission: To support thoughtful land stewardship practices in the Metamora community to sustain its unique rural characteristics.

To fight this mine, MLPA has retained Chris Bzdok of Olson, Bzdok & Howard, www.envlaw.com. Chris has been named a best lawyer in America and a Michigan Super Lawyer both in environmental law; has served as Mayor of Traverse City; and an Adjunct Professor of Law at Michigan State University College of Law. Chris has the needed experience with sand and gravel projects to help us navigate the long path to success. And make no mistake, Chris and the MLPA believe we can defeat this proposal.

Winning will take time and it will take effort. We ask you to help us. Talk to your neighbors; talk to those who visit; help them understand that a mine of this size destroys towns – and fundamentally alters the families, businesses, and lives within them. We will keep you up to speed on what's happening and what you can do to help. We need you to help gather interest and ideas in the fight. Most importantly, there will be two critical points in the process where community participation is of paramount importance.

- The first will be a public hearing – yet to be scheduled – at which the Township will hear arguments for and against the proposal. Anyone and everyone should show up to let the Township know that you oppose this mine. We need 100s of people!!
- The second would be a vote on a referendum if the Township votes for the mine. Again, we would need 100s of people.

More information on MLPA's efforts can be found at metamora.org.

MLPA ACTIONS

The MLPA has already identified experts in geology, community planning, traffic safety, and property values to make clear at the relevant governmental and litigation steps that “very serious consequences” (the applicable legal standard) would result from this mine. It might seem obvious that the Town would be entirely decimated by this mining operation – for decades – before being able to start thinking about recovery or reclamation, but Levy will argue that no significant harm will be done and that the Boy Scouts and the Township will benefit.

Incredibly, the Levy Company claims that its massive mine will not have “very serious consequences” for our beautiful and unique community! There is no doubt that it will. This is important because that is the legal standard by which this proposal, and eventual litigation, will be decided. So, we as a community, must prove the obvious: The proposed mining operation will have *very serious consequences* for our town, for communities along the haul route, and our way of life.

MLPA DONATIONS

There is much work ahead of us. We ask you to consider making a donation to the MLPA. To fight this will require money to hire experts, to pay counsel, to drive any needed ballot referendums, to study the Levy proposal so we can convince the Township and eventually a Court that the mine presents “very serious consequences” to the Township – to you and to your neighbor. Please send your tax deductible donations to: MLPA, P.O. Box 203, Metamora, MI 48455. Please include your email address if we don’t already have it so we can communicate with you. For more information see metamora.org.