



Dear Friend of Metamora,

As you may know by now, in order to start an enormous mining operation in Metamora, the Levy Company and the Boy Scouts have sought conditional rezoning, a Special Land Use permit, and a soil removal permit. In short, the Boy Scouts and Levy propose:

- \* 496 acres will be excavated from a 724 acre site
- \* 30 year project lifetime (approximate)
- \* 100 trucks in and 100 trucks out a day on Dryden Rd, 5 days a week, and perhaps 50 trucks in and 50 out Saturdays
- \* 406 acres of woodland removed
- \* All within 1500 to 2000 feet of a Superfund contamination site still undergoing remediation.

See [dbaraproject.com](http://dbaraproject.com). To fight this mine, we have retained Chris Bzdok of Olson, Bzdok & Howard, [www.envlaw.com](http://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.

In the meantime the Planning Commission meets the second Wednesday of every month and the Township Board meets the second Monday of every month. You certainly can attend these meetings; we will do our best to keep you up to speed on developments along the way.

In the week after Levy submitted its proposal, MLPA renewed its request to the Township Board (which had been approved 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.

In response, 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."

We will not sit still during these four months. The MLPA is already identifying experts in geology, groundwater pollution, traffic safety, and property values to make clear at the public hearing 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. A Levy Company representative has already asked to speak with MLPA leadership to provide the Company's perspective. We need to make clear to Levy, to the Township and eventually to a Court if litigation ensues, how incredible Levy's claims are.

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.

We have a wonderful town. Please help us fight for it.

Sincerely yours,

The MLPA Board

P.S. In the December 16 Lapeer County Press, pg. 4A under "Sound Off", the paper asks "**Tell us what you think:** the Boy Scouts stands to make a substantial profit if the mining of D Bar A is allowed. How do you feel about that?" Call or write and tell them!

*Metamora Land Preservation Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible as provided by law.*