

#1

From: Peter Hildebrand *
Sent: July-06-18 1:12 PM
To: +WPG139 - TRC (MR)
Subject: TRC 12-046

I received a letter giving notice of the above application. I am in favour of it; I believe it to be in the best interests of the community.

Peter Hildebrand
Box
Stonewall, MB
ROC 2Z0

#2

From: Clare *
Sent: July-11-18 1:02 PM
To: +WPG139 - TRC (MR)
Subject: TRC 12-046

Definetly in favour of this expansion
From
Lyle Harris
Sent from my iPhone

3

RECEIVED BY
JUL 11 2018
S. I. P. D.

Henry & Gertrude Neufeld
PO Box
Stonewall, Manitoba
ROC 2Z0
July 10, 2018

South Interlake Planning District
PO Box 1219
Stonewall, Manitoba
ROC 2Z0

Dear Sir and Madam:

In reference to TRC 12-046, we are deeply concerned over the proposed expansion of the dairy at SE 17-13-2E. This farmer has shown poor judgement in the spreading of manure in the past. It should be illegal to spread fresh manure containing afterbirth and dead carcasses. The stench is unpleasant. This practice could cause Mad Cow Disease, and also problems with contamination of our well water. We are completely opposed to the expansion.

Yours truly
Henry Neufeld

4

From: Irene Ron <@gm
Sent: July-16-18 4:35 PM
To: +WPG139 - TRC (MR)
Subject: TRC12-046

I received a notice concerning the proposed expansion. We have a few concerns that we would like considered. 1. The effect on ground water and the potential for contamination of the aquifer.
2. The odour that may occur with having the same amount of land but more than double the animals.
3. The effects of the health of the animals using the same amount of land and increasing the population.
Unfortunately I do not possess adequate knowledge to determine if this increase in size will have an effect on our concerns.
I ask that the decision be made while assuring the above concerns are addressed.
Thank you,
Irene Pawlow
Ron Bay

#5

From: Jeanine Anne Woods <
Sent: July-16-18 6:34 PM
To: +WPG139 - TRC (MR)
Subject: Re: TRC 12-046

To Whom it May Concern:

My mother, Margaret F. Woods of Road 8E Sturgeon Road, Stony Mountain (mailing address Box Group 238, RR 2 Winnipeg R3C 2E6 and myself, Dr. Jeanine Woods are adamantly APPOSED to the proposed request to expand the dairy operation from 280 to 720 animal units.

Sincerely,

Jeanine Woods DVM, MS, DACT
And Mrs. Margaret Woods

#6

From: rgushulak@
Sent: July-22-18 11:18 AM
To: +WPG139 - TRC (MR)
Subject: TRC 12-046

In reference to the proposed expansion of the dairy operation TRC- 12-046 Lifewind Dairy Ltd, located at SE 1/4 17-13-3 EPM:

We live in the rural municipality of Rockwood and are opposed to the above mentioned expansion. The proposal will be more than doubling the current existing operation which presents concerns of possible contamination of the ground water as well as a foul smell. Should these issues present themselves, it could negatively affect the resale value of our property.

Thank you.

Randy and Heather Gushulak

7

From: Bidy Dab Dab <<
Sent: July-26-18 10:56 PM
To: +WPG139 - TRC (MR)
Subject: TRC 12-046 Lifewind Dairy Ltd. Expansion

We oppose the Lifewind Dairy Ltd. expansion from 140(280) to 360(720) animals.

While near neighbours of the dairy were sent your one page, abbreviated notification of Lifewind's request, we were concerned that it contained no information upon which recipients could develop an informed opinion without doing all of the legwork to educate themselves on the possible ramifications of this expansion. Since the expansion will also affect the residents of the Town of Stony Mountain (their water supply), they should also have received the notification. Additionally, it was the one and only notification that was sent out though I believe that this request has been in the works for at least six months.

We did some research and found that thorough studies have been conducted by Yale University and others on dairy expansions in both New Jersey and Wisconsin. Both of these states have seen small farms amalgamated and others bought outright by large corporate "super farms". Some of the statistics that have been compiled are alarming. Without our own effort, we would not know that one dairy cow:

- 1) drinks 35 gallons of water per day;
- 2) requires 15 gallons of water for the milking process; and
- 3) produces 120 lbs. of manure daily.

This raises red flags on two fronts, the first being the amount of water consumed by a herd of 360 milking cows. At 55 gallons per cow per day the amount of water required would be just slightly less than 20,000 gallons per day. This does not take into account the water required to sustain an equal number of calves from birth to sale. That water would come directly from the same aquifer that supplies water to the Town of Stony Mountain as well as residences and small farms near Lifewind Dairy. We are concerned that with the digging of deeper wells to supply their water needs, Lifewind may very well drain our own well.

Recently the residents of the Town of Stony Mountain were encouraged to accept a proposal that would change the source of their water from a local well to a network deriving water from the Assiniboine River. The argument presented in support of this proposal was that the Stony Mountain pumping station would likely run short of water in the not to distant future. Since that proposal was rejected by the residents, another mega farm (Canada Sheep and Lamb) has been granted approval to quadruple the number of their ewes to 8,000. They also support 100 rams and 4,558 lambs. It is our understanding that they will be tapping into the same aquifer that Stony Mountain residents were warned would not support their water usage. How can an already declining aquifer support the numbers of animals on these mega farms?

The second red flag is the many problems presented by the increase in the amount of manure to be handled. Typically, the manure would be stored in a lagoon until it can be spread on surrounding land but lagoons are notorious for developing leaks. The karst (limestone) soil of the Rockwood Municipality would allow lagoon breaches to pollute surrounding wells including the wells of the Town of Stony Mountain which are approximately two miles over land from Lifewind Dairy. The USDA estimates that the manure from one cow equals as much nitrogen as sewage from 25-50 people as well as nitrates and pathogens like E-coli and other coliforms. The RM of Rockwood is sufficiently concerned with sewage handling that, for more than 25 years, in areas of development (for instance along Sturgeon Rd. north of Road 75N), each new dwelling must

have two septic fields to ensure that there is no seepage of sewage into the aquifer. How much greater is the risk of well contamination from the manure of 720 cattle?

The RM of Rockwood has been eagerly encouraging development of small holdings of five acres or less in the areas around and between Stony Mountain and Stonewall. To also encourage the establishment of mega farms in the same area is ridiculous. Along with mega farms comes manure, unpleasant odours which in times of manure spreading can become insufferable, disease-spreading and nuisance flies, and the risk of contaminated or defunct wells.

With the expansion approval of one sheep farm or one dairy, a precedent is set which will encourage other mega farms to move into this area. With the location of mega farms comes the lowering of property values surrounding those farms. We don't want our property value to evaporate before our eyes nor do we wish to live with the discomfort and risks that accompany expanded farms. If the governing bodies truly want input and don't just want to tick off the box to indicate they've consulted all stakeholders, then this expansion needs further consideration and a process to educate everyone who may be affected.

Nestor and Debbie Molina

#8

From: Shawn Berg <
Sent: July-27-18 2:14 PM
To: +WPG139 - TRC (MR)
Subject: TRC 12-046

Good Day

With regards to the proposed expansion of Lifewind Dairy Ltd. I have a few concerns. My first concern is regarding the spread of manure and potential contamination of well water. In 2010 we had a boil water in effect for most of the summer due to coliform and E. coli contamination. That year the soil was saturated from fall, winter and spring moisture due to excessive rain and snowfall. The boil water advisory effected our subdivision Oakwood Estates and surrounding areas. My concern is if there are any unsealed wells in the drainage areas near where the manure will be spread. I would also like to know if there have been measurements of the overburden layers where the spreading will take place as well as drainage areas.

If we have an excessively wet spring, summer or fall how long can the manure be stored, or are there alternate areas where it can be spread if they cannot spread in this area.

My last and perhaps most important concern is the amount of water required for the expansion. I have been reassured that we have an abundance of potable water in our aquifer, but it is still a concern. It is my understanding that if the level of water drops below a certain level there is a risk of saline contamination.

Thank You
Tracey Berg
Oak Lane
RM Rockwood