

Public Hearing Verbal Testimony
Haas Sons, Inc. – Lawin South Site
September 22, 2016

Joe Knight, 5555 Northwood Court, Eau Claire, WI

My name is Joe Knight. I live at 5555 Northwood Court in the Town of Seymour, which is almost in Chippewa County, but not quite. I'm the President of the Clear Water Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and, I think it was in that capacity that one of the neighbors of mine gave me a call and was worried about the fishing. After looking at it and talking to Dan Masterpole a little bit, I'm not quite as concerned. I will say that McCann is a pretty good trout stream and the part of O'Neil Creek that the mine will be adjacent to, given the buffer, is also used by brook trout from time to time, that kind of run up and down. I've caught them in that section of O'Neil Creek and I have heard of other people catching them there, although O'Neil Creek is not classified as a trout stream.

I guess any time you are going, well, I'm getting more into the operation, anytime you go below the water table near a trout stream, I get a little worried, because McCann Creek there actually has a fair amount of gradient. There's good parts of McCann and kind of slow, not so good parts of McCann, but the area by where Betty Lawin, Betty & Tom used to live there, is fairly good gradient, alot of gravel...could be used potentially for spawning. So it'd be nice to keep the water there as cold as possible, although after Dan sent me a alittle map with the arrows showing the direction of groundwater flow, and it seemed to be flowing more in the direction of O'Neil, which I think would be better.

As far as the pond and the grass after the land is reclaimed, I think that would be beneficial for both wildlife and probably for fish. It would be a buffer between the working ag fields and the stream itself so, feel pretty good about that.

That's all.