

## Earl Hahn

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**From:** Henry Kuhlman <hjkuhlman@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 03, 2018 6:41 PM  
**To:** Earl Hahn; Kathy Heitman; Mandy Hines  
**Subject:** Letter for delivery by staff to Members of the Desoto Planning Commission and County Commissioners

Mr. Hahn, Ms. Heitman, Ms. Hines

Could you please help forward the letter below to each person on the Desoto Planning Commission and County Commissioners? I do not have their direct email addresses. I do not expect responses unless they would like, individually. I understand constraints of the Sunshine Law, so if you could please just deliver my letter to each person, that will be great.

The purpose of the letter is to give each member some idea beforehand of general remarks I intend for your June 5 planning meeting. My letter may also bring up questions that have not been considered. I have submitted a similar letter to the Arcadian, but it will not be printed in time for this meeting.

BTW, there is a new Facebook page called Wake Up Desoto. It is loosely patterned after a page called Wake Up Hardee which has 1700+ likes and been around for many years.

**Dear Members of the Desoto County Planning Commission and County Managers,**

Recently, a member of Desoto's Econ. Dev. Advisory Committee, Ms. Heather Nedley, chose to present personal/corporate positions in your local Arcadian newspaper. Those statements reflected the fact she is a ten year public affairs employee of Mosaic Corp. They had a legal department approved read about them. Whether this is ethical or not is troubling. Her letter came before the upcoming hearings that are supposed to be Quasi Judicial proceedings. If she were just a citizen, or just a Mosaic employee, that's one thing. But Ms. Nedley is an prime member of Desoto's Economic Development Advisory Committee. A Committee member publicly promoting strip mining 28 square miles of Desoto making statements of fact that it is not detrimental to the citizens she is representing on that Committee? This is not only improper, it may be illegal.

The second point to be made is that most of what she wrote was flat WRONG.

Generalizations about "Modern Processes" and characterizations of bad people she refers to as a SMALL BUT VOCAL GROUP cannot be defended with facts, data, pictures, or history. It is fluff. I request your Commissions to read her letter carefully with a skeptical eye. I have highlighted active words. Think about what she left out. What will be left long after the draglines have gone along with their money? Think about the questions below Mosaic cannot answer. Questions each or you should ask.

Thank you so much for reading my questions. I so much look forward to getting to know each of you.



Most people know me by my slogan, **JusTHIS -- Justice - Truth - Honesty - Integrity - Skepticism**

Henry Kuhlman

**Here is the letter by DeSoto's Economic Development Advisory Committee Member::**

### **Letters paint a false picture of phosphate mining (by Heather Nedley)**

Since childhood, DeSoto County has been my home. I'm a proud Bulldog, raising my kids here and my family's roots in DeSoto County run deep. So when someone says the company I work for plans to do something that **would be of detriment** to our community, I take it personally, and feel the need to **set the record straight**.

Recent letters to the Arcadian from a small but vocal group of phosphate industry opponents paint a **misleading picture** of what DeSoto County is considering in the coming months, and of **modern** phosphate operations and environmental practices.

Mosaic's efforts to **re-zone** its current land holdings is in the public interest because it **signals** the company's **intentions** and **allows the county's land use plans to reflect what will eventually occur** on this land and plan accordingly when looking ahead. When mining permits are sought in the future, the specifics of those plans must be detailed and **debated** in a way that ensures openness, public input, and **considers concerns** from all interested parties.

These letters paint a **false picture** of phosphate mining and reclamation practices. A common ruse of phosphate opponents is to point to land that was **mined a half-century ago** or more, **before modern reclamation practices** existed, or were required by law.

Every acre of land that is mined must be either **returned to fully functioning natural systems** and habitat, or returned to agricultural uses. Reclamation provides an opportunity to preserve agricultural uses, while **reconnecting** historic wetlands and streams, and creating larger wildlife corridors than exist today. Today our reclaimed land is highly valued by **bird-watchers and bass fishermen** alike as some of the best places to experience and enjoy the natural wonders of "old Florida." And, thanks to modern water conservation practices, mining in our region only consumes two percent of the groundwater allocated across the entire Southwest Florida Water Management District.

I've worked for Mosaic in DeSoto County for nearly a decade and I'm proud of what the company does to **invest in the community and its employees**. I'm also proud of our role in helping **farmers across America** grow the food we all need. If you have any questions about our company or our plans, **please feel free to email me at [Heather.Nedley@mosaicco.com](mailto:Heather.Nedley@mosaicco.com)**.

**Following is a letter to Heather Nedley from Henry Kuhlman**



**He will be at the June 5, 2018 Planning Commission meeting in Desoto County. Hopefully, Ms. Nedley, Mosaic Public Affairs Manager, will be able to address his questions at that meeting.**

**Dear Mosaic Public Affairs Manager, Heather Nedley,**

You finished your recent letter in the Arcadian by requesting those with questions to write you. Thank you, for your offer. Could you please help me with these?

1. -- You wrote that Mosaic returns land to a natural functioning system? What is a "Natural Functioning System" (NFS) anyway?
2. -- I seems from Google maps that land Mosaic mines, even after reclamation, is missing roads, farms, orange trees, pastureland with native grasses, natural streams, houses or even people. Why is this?
3. -- As I look at the property appraisal records of Hardee County, it's easy to see that Mosaic's beautiful land before mining with orange groves is valued at around \$7,000 per acre. But next door, Mosaic's mined out land is valued from around \$1,100 to \$3,500 per acre. How do you explain this?
- 4.. -- It's easy to see from Google maps that Mosaic is clearing land already where they intend to mine. Can you explain why your company looks to have destroyed thousands of acres of productive orange groves without any INDICATIONS from Desoto County, the State of Florida or the Federal Gov. that your company will be able to mine out that land? Have Out-Of-The-Sunshine deals already been cut between public officials and Mosaic?
5. Would you agree that the "Naturally Functioning Systems" which is what you said remains after mining, are mostly places where People cannot live?
6. Aren't a high percentage of the 28 square miles going to be Clay Settling Areas? They are toxic, permanent, impervious to water and confined by high berms, correct? There are no known uses for these areas, correct?
7. Is it accurate that Clay from Mosaic's Manatee mines will be dumped into your Desoto pits so more of Manatee can become a "Naturally Functioning System?"
8. Do you think we have too many NFSs in Hardee? Polk has 250,000 acres of NFSs with no people on any of them thanks to Mosaic. Are you afraid Desoto Planners and Commissioners will zoom in on Google Maps of Hardee and Polk Counties and see the truth of what Mosaic is doing there now? It's in plain sight.

Just click on this link: <https://www.google.com/maps/@27.6501057,-81.9687294,25930m/data=!3m1!1e3?hl=en>

9. What % of the land your company will dig up in Desoto will end up in a sulfuric acidic radioactive gypsum stacks like the one in New Wales with the gigantic sinkhole that took two years to close up? Where will these gypsum stacks be located for Desoto waste? Do Desoto County residents bear a moral responsibility for adding to permanent toxic waste sites the public will eventually end up paying billions maintain?

10. How will Mosaic transport the rock ore to the gypsum stack fertilizer plant? In Hardee, you recently received approval to operate 268 trucks per day (multiple trips) across the county through towns, hauling fine gray phosphate rock to your Fort Meade plant. Are you going to tear up Desoto roads and fight with their school buses also?

Thank You, so much Ms. Nedley for taking my questions. I hope you will be so kind as to address these questions at the June 5, 2018 Desoto Planning Commission hearing.

Sincerely,  
Henry Kuhlman  
Long suffering mining resident of Hardee County