

Thank you Commissioners,

Scientists agree that water flow in the Peace River has dramatically decreased in the last 40 years due to the impact from phosphate mining. Although it may not seem like it right now since we are in the middle of our rainy season. We cannot let phosphate mining continue to reduce the water flow. Charlotte Harbor will be affected if the Salinity changes beyond a certain range. The populations of Snook, spotted sea trout, mullet and redfish will be adversely affected. These fish depend on a specific freshwater flow from the Peace which regulates the salinity. Mosaic has been permitted for 69 Million gallons of water a day. So this is new news that they will pipe it in from Polk county which is having their own water problems. Are they planning on taking water from Polk for the next 30 years? Less water flow to the river means less water available to the tens of thousands of people that depend on it. In the Aquifer protection Element of the comp plan page 4 it reads that **"SWFW has the authority to establish consumptive permitting within the district the 3<sup>rd</sup> line reads: 'The use (of the water ) must be in the public interest' "** This proves that #13 would indeed grant special privilege to an owner (Mosaic) as opposed to the public welfare.

Mining redistributes phosphate, heavy metals, salts, lead and radioactive materials formerly bound in the ore. They are broken up and released into the environment. We have seen the changes in the increased intensity of the hurricanes Florida is enduring. Is it true that Mosaic doesn't pay for clean up? Is our little county supposed to foot the bill for a toxic chemical spill? If one of these clay "lakes" were to break open it will poison all the waterways going through the mining area. There are several including horse creek that all flow to the Peace. There are millions of gallons of fuel oil, heavy metals and chemicals, that Mosaic will not name, in the clay settling ponds. These ponds stay liquid for years. How many beautiful birds or animals will try to drink out of them? Or get trapped and die. None of our ground wells would be safe to drink from or cook with or even shower with. I did the math and I would have to use 3 cases of bottled water every day just to keep my 1 horse watered.

Desoto Comp Plan Aquifer Protection Element Objective 1.3 **“The quality of Desoto County’s groundwater resources shall not be degraded, either directly or indirectly, by human influences below the minimum criteria for groundwater provided in Chapter 62-520-400 F.A.C., and shall be maintained or as necessary improved to ensure the availability of this resource for present and future generations.”**

Policy 1.3.1 **“Except for bona fide agricultural operations and incidental domestic uses, land use activities which utilize, store, or generate hazardous materials, or which involve the bulk storage or continuous transmission of petroleum products or other hazardous substances, shall be prohibited within recharge areas for the intermediate aquifer, and within cones of influence and watershed areas for public water supply wells.”** Remember what these clay lakes are storing for our lifetime and our children’s life times?

Desoto County 2040Comp plan Future Land Use element: First item Goal 1: Future Growth **“ Through 2040, future growth in Desoto county will be managed using sustainability and smart growth principles to accommodate new growth without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The Future Land Use Element shall be used as a tool to direct the most intensive growth into the urban center and surrounding areas, optimizing services and infrastructure, protecting the rural character of the County, and protecting the environment.”** This will be the face of Desoto county traveling from Bradenton on hwy 70 and from Sarasota on hwy 72. Would you want to build here?

Of course our property values are holding steady. Of course the rezoning of the 9 acres has not affected drainage in that area. The mining hasn’t started yet...

How could Mosaic not know where these 5 NPDES drainage areas are. Do they just let it pour out into Horse Creek and 4 other areas ? and they monitor themselves? Are you serious?

Were they monitoring themselves when it took Mosaic 3 weeks to notify the public in 2016 about a massive sinkhole that opened up that was holding 215

millions of gallons of "slightly radioactive" water that was also contaminated with phosphoric acid, all of which drained into the Floridan Aquifer.

I have lived in this beautiful county for 31 years. My home is my sanctuary. Can we please be the county that has the courage to say no to phosphate mining? To stop Mosaic from their destruction of central Florida and leaving behind a toxic wasteland that is useless for development or farmland.

Look outside this bldg. and see the solar trees. Let's prove that we can look to the future. Maybe the land could be used for solar power and agriculture at the same time? The panels could just be <sup>RAISED UP</sup> lifted a little. The cows would love the shade. Let's not ruin Desoto County for future development in these rural areas. This is prime land between Sarasota, Bradenton and Port Charlotte. Now that's your **real** tax base for years to come but not if Mosaic mines.

Sincerely

Vicki Stiner