From: Richard Contardi
To: *EQB_Silica Sand
Subject: Comment on silica sand mining
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I have been following the comments regarding silica sand mining and the regulations proposed for SE MN. It looks to me that whatever regulations are imposed there will be no way to ensure that there will be no adverse impact to this unique area and its recreational resource because of weak regulations and/or violations. Mining of any kind and its infrastructure (noise, roads, traffic, dust, pollution, water consumption) will have an adverse effect on the quality of life in the area and an adverse impact on the rivers and water sources. There can be no set of rules, regulations, or procedures that will completely protect the area. In a matter like this, it is not if some disaster or significant problem when occur will occur, but when. I trust that all involved in the regulation decision making on this matter are sincerely trying to balance the business aspect vs. the environmental/health considerations. Why not take the safe and easy position; completely prohibit silica mining in this area.