

LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING
September 21st, 2021
6:00 p.m.

Call to Order

Chairman Glass called the Public Hearing meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

- i. **Rezoning request from IDI Land Holdings, LLC from Agricultural-Residential to Manufacturing-2 located on the Corner of Crawford Road and Hwy 41 South, Tax Map 094, Parcel 013**
- ii. **Special Exception from IDI Land Holdings, LLC for the Removal of Minerals (Rock Quarry)**

Chairman Glass explained some rules for the public comments. He said that he would allow 10 minutes from the presenters of the Rock Quarry for the Re-zoning and the Special Exception. For the people that signed up to make a public comment their comments should be limited to 4 minutes. If a comment has already been made then they can say whether they are for or against so that duplicate comments are not being made. At the end of the Public Comments, there will be some time to have some questions and answers from the IDI Land Holdings, LLC team.

Public Hearing Comments

Doug Sellars of Dillard Sellars Attorney at Law addressed the board stating he represented the applicant. The purpose is for a rezoning from Agricultural-Residential to Manufacturing-2 and a Special Exception for a Rock Quarry. The rezoning request is based on the 12 criteria of zoning in Section 410-E and to consider the Special Exception request based on the 5 criteria in 409-C in the Lamar County Code of Law. Mr. Sellars said that they had reached out to their client in person, on the phone, text, site visits, and community meetings so that the application satisfies those criteria and so that the project benefits Lamar County and its residents without adverse effects to Lamar County, its residents, and the surrounding property owners. The matter comes before you with a recommendation of approval with conditions from the Planning Commission to rezone the property to M-2 and from the Board of Appeals to grant the Special Exception. There was a 3-hour meeting in which the public was heard and their team answered questions. Mr. Sellars said that submitted for the record is a Good Neighbor Policy as well as the Special Exception Conditions for the Rock Quarry operations.

TJ Heath of 305 North Cross Road in Gray, Georgia representing Landmark Materials, LLC addressed the board. Mr. Heath said that there had been a lot of misinformation about the Rock Quarry project. This was intentional by outside groups that did not want this project to happen and who are intentionally trying to control what is happening in Lamar

County. Mr. Heath said that he appreciated the citizens who showed up with real questions and concerns. He enjoyed meeting them and said that he gives his word that they will do the right thing and be a good neighbor. This has been a good process and has helped them to come up with ways to ensure that they are protected even though some people are against the project no matter what the facts are or what they are committed to. Mr. Heath said that their main questions were; What are the impacts? What is their company going to do about them? Mr. Heath asked if there was a compelling reason for the County to turn down what potentially could be the largest economic contributor.

Chris Weiter of 224 Old Ridge Way, Macon, Georgia and CEO for Wieters Landmark Management, LLC. Mr. Weiter explained that air quality is a top concern and they are confident that they will be able to keep the emissions well within the EPA guidelines with measurements that they have in place. They will be constantly monitoring it. The conservative sound law shows that noise from their operations will be below the threshold identified in the EPA guidelines as a nuisance. There are numerous ways to make sure the sounds are not a nuisance. Mr. Weiter said that Greg Poole with Saul's Seismic, LLC reported that they have great tools with soil seismic and the vibrations will be well within or less than 25 percent of the stringent guidelines placed on them by the State Fire Marshall. The blasting will be less impactful than any one of the 5 or 6 trains that go by their site every day. They do not expect any property damage from their blasting which is covered in their good neighbor policy.

Mr. Weiter said that there is a fault line that runs through Lamar County. It is 5 miles to the North and East of the site. Mr. Weiter explained that even though KC Conway was not present at the meeting, he submitted an economic impact study for the record. Mr. Conway conservatively calculated 29.4 million dollars on a 25-year impact. The Industrial Development Authority (IDA) consulted with Georgia Power and they had similar findings.

Mr. Weiter said that they are paying around \$25.00 to \$27.00 for equipment operators or \$50,000.00 a year and 3 or 4 Administrative positions at around \$40,000.00 and 4 or 5 Professional positions over \$100,000.00 a year. Their intent is to hire local workers. Mr. Weiter introduced Carolyn Kennedy who started working for their company by accident. She was working full-time in the health care business for one of their employees. They recognized her talent and work ethic and now she runs their office. They are helping her go back to school to earn her accounting degree. Mr. Weiter said that they know how to find good people and provide them with good opportunities with advancements.

Mr. Weiter explained that a study on property values was also done by Mr. Conway around 7 stabilized quarries and there was no impact on property values within 1 mile of the quarries. Mr. Weiter introduced Ben Black, a geologist, who verified the quantity and the quality of the rock. It meets DOT standards and has an average of 40 ft. overburden which is dirt on top. They conducted an environmental study for zoning purposes and found nothing that would run them afoul because of stringent State and Federal guidelines that they would be forced to comply with in order to not only obtain but to maintain a permit. There were no contaminants used in the Rock Quarry process other than diesel fuel used

for their equipment. Most of the water that they use will be recycled and any water that does not get recycled will be subject to strict regulations.

Mr. Weiter introduced Dr. Daniel Markewitz, Professor of Soil Site Productivity from the University of Georgia who was present to support his study on the soil productivity of the site, and Jim Ramseur with Lee & Associates who was present to stand by his report on the value of the property as an agricultural tract, and Abdul Amer with A&R Engineering, Inc conducted their traffic study which shows that Hwy 41 is more than adequate to support 70 trucks per day that come to and from their site. They found that the Crawford Road intersection is not as safe as it can be and would not be adequate for their project so they are going to upgrade it to DOT standards at their expense. Mr. Weiter introduced Cody Hale with Nutter and Associates who was present to address any water issues.

Kristin Gantt of 1500 Crawford Road addressed the board with several issues of concern.

- Zoning: Lamar County's future land use maps placing this side as a potential commercial section and do they believe that the Rock Quarry is commercial. With the area being re-zoned does this change leave them vulnerable to further constructed projects.
- Jobs: If this project will create 35 jobs, what will this look like locally.
- Debt: Years ago, the County borrowed 24 million dollars. What is the status of this loan? If it has not been paid on will the revenue from this Rock Quarry go towards the payment of this debt?
- Taxation: What tax rate or incentives were offered to this company? How much actual Tax revenue will the Rock Quarry generate? How will the revenue help with property taxes? Will the County apply for Grants to help with the railroad?
- Property Value: Multiple studies have shown that property values will go down by 20 percent within 1 mile of the Rock Quarry. Studies show that the property values will fall from the Rock Quarry impact even though they do increase with the market.
- Accountability: When the Good Neighbor Policy fails them who do they turn to for help? Will the County require a bond to be posted to help with residential damage and environmental remediation? Will the County provide water when their wells run dry? What about adverse health effects? Ms. Gantt quoted an article from 2009, "Rock Quarries create invisible dust particles called silicosis, a progressive and incurable lung disease. Long-term exposure is strongly associated with stroke, infertility, heart disease, and pregnancy complications." Ms. Gantt said that in closing, The County Motto is "Home is Just Better Here" and do we all feel like we are living up to that? Ms. Gantt said that they have given their heart and soul, blood, sweat, and tears to keep their land haven. She said that her Father literally died working this land and they have been sold out to smooth-talking, fancy accents, and a big firm of lawyers with a fist full of cash. Ms. Gantt said that she hoped that the Lamar County citizens remember these actions going into November 2022.

Roan Holbrook addressed the board of 1588 Van Buren Road. Mr. Holbrook inquired about his well and if it would dry or if the value of his property would not decrease. He inquired

about his horses. He asked the Board of Commissioners a series of questions. Have they ever rode a horse and had a gunshot happen? If a train whistles the horse bucks. Have you ever been thrown off a horse? If that happens, who is paying for the medical bills? What about the water? When arsenic gets in the air and horses get colic and die who is paying for it because that will cost thousands of dollars? What about the roads? They said they are not coming down Van Buren or Crawford but Mr. Holbrook said that it will happen and when the roads turn bad what will they do? Are they going to use some of the money to pave the roads or are they going to let them live like that? Mr. Holbrook said that all of the County's money does not go to the County because some of it goes to the City. The roads are not maintained and the wells are maintained by them. County water is not on Van Buren Road because they are drinking their water off of their property. He said if they screw their property up, where will they get their water from? Are you bringing water bottles out there or running County water out there?

Mr. Holbrook said that in the Summer when there are droughts if you run a horse in a round pen there is dust everywhere. Are they running tractors and exploding 12 hours a day or 24 hours a day? Are they running 70 or 140 trucks? Are they exploding from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. or 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.? What about the land? What if the trees and grass start dying, what do the horses eat?

Mr. Holbrook said that the neighbors stay here because the land is agricultural and they raise cows. He asked again about the water, he said that he has done an Ephemeroptera, Plecopteran, and Trichopteran (EPT) test where you put a cone in the ground and it fills up with water in a few minutes so when you dig a couple hundred down feet it fills up with water and it hits the ground table it fills up with water. What are you going to do with the water? They are saying that they are getting rid of the chemicals because they are OSHA required so if they remove all of the water will it not fill up until the water table is gone? They will get rid of it because it is contaminated. Mr. Holbrook said that this water is the same water that is in their wells that they bathe with and use for their livestock; everyday water essentials. If they drain the water table then where is their water? How is that going to affect nature?

Mr. Holbrook said that he was at the last Public Hearing and they spoke about the money and the traffic. All the traffic is going onto Hwy 41 and they said that there will be right turns. Mr. Holbrook said that he is not worried about the traffic. He said that these experts have not told them everything that is going to happen. They say that there will not be any environmental issues. He said they need to tell them how it is going to affect his land.

Amanda Juarez of 216 Potts Pond Road addressed the board. Ms. Juarez said that they were told that they did not understand this project and they needed to listen to the experts. For the past 18 months, they have not been able to agree on anything. They are the real experts because they have lived there for the past 30 years or more. They know about the traffic and the big trucks that run up and down Johnstonville and Van Buren Roads to avoid the weight stations on I-75 and the impact the heavy trucks have on the road conditions. They know how much traffic comes through when there is an accident on I-75 and people use Hwy 41 to bypass that stretch of interstate. They know about their water supply and they

know that even in a drought, they never have to worry about their wells or ponds. They know that the underlying springs constantly feed their ponds and provide all the oxygen that they need for a healthy fish habitat. The EPD said that they may not notice a change in the water table immediately but there is a probability that it will happen. The Government cannot guarantee anything. They also said that it can affect the water availability, the water quality, and that will, in turn, affect our drinking water and wildlife or water habitats.

Ms. Juarez said that the EPD cracked foundations was the number one complaint received and that State laws can be somewhat lenient to promote a business. The problem that they face is a lot of these companies do just the bare minimum. The bare minimum concerns her because she lives on a concrete slab and also the concrete walls of her inground pool and her basement walls and how the constant blasting and the moving of the ground will affect all of this. The Rock Quarry in Macon was forced to buy the surrounding houses because of the cracked foundations. When a company says that when this happens, "Sue Us", that is when she should be concerned too. The EPD also mentioned the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Since the water that feeds her pond also feeds the entire community, it is required by law to have it permitted.

Ms. Juarez said that she did some research and in several reports across the United States, the United States Army Corps of Engineers stated, "It has serious concerns about the continuous blasting necessary for the operation of a Rock Quarry next to an earthen dam. There is a chance that the continuous operations will weaken the earth and the dams causing costly damage and catastrophic failure. We have been told that this is completely safe. The Rock Quarry in Griffin, Georgia was forced to buy the homes across the road from it. They had an incident that caused rocks to rain down on the houses across the road. The potential for injury and death as a direct result of this was just 20 miles from here. Must it literally be in our own yards?"

Ms. Juarez said that the effects on wildlife according to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). They always stock their freezers with deer meat during deer season, but now the deer will be gone. The health issues from the dust have been documented. A decrease in property values has been documented. The reality of what they are facing is that the Rock Quarry affects their water supply, food supply, homes, safety, and their health. Is it really worth it?

Robert Devane of 103 Lambdin Circle addressed the board. He said that he had been in and out of the politics in Lamar County for a long time. He read a saying "Dad, won't you take me back to Newlin Berg County, down by the green river where paradise lay." Dad says, "Son you're too late in asking, Mr. Peabody's Coal Train done hauled it away." Mr. Devane said that he did not know how far the Rock Quarry would be from the City Pond and asked the Board of Commissioners what they were going to do when the pond starts leaching out into the Rock Quarry. Are they going to build us a reservoir? He said that the two people who previously spoke were concerned about their well. Mr. Devane said that he was talking about water for the whole community and said that if you vote this is in, it is on you and there will be a change in the next election. Mr. Devane quoted, "Dad, won't

you take me back to Lamar County, down by Eady Creek where paradise lay," Dad said, "I'm sorry my son, but you are too late in asking, Mr. IDI Land Holdings company has done washed it away."

Ashley Anderson of 1588 Van Buren Road addressed the board. Ms. Anderson said that her mom is on oxygen and asked the board what they planned on doing about that. Are you going to pay for purified water? The dust will affect the well from the blasting. All it will do is kill everybody. It will cause complications for pregnancies, animals, the wells, and my mom who is on oxygen. Are you going to pay for my mom's funeral when she dies? Ms. Anderson asked the board if they had answers. Chairman Glass explained to Ms. Anderson that this is a Public Hearing where they are to listen to the public comments and said that they would address the questions at the end.

Janet Powell-McCord of 233 Northridge Road. Ms. McCord stated her husband was on the Tax Assessors Board and he went to all the training and meetings and got a big check of \$25.00 a month from which they took social security. Ms. Powell-McCord stated that she was there to speak in opposition to the Rock Quarry because it is located on property that is entirely within the Johnstonville-Goggans historic district which is on the National Register of Historic Places. If you decide that the property, that has been set aside as a historic place, is not something that can be rezoned and you have accepted to have industry then you are going to be setting a precedence. There are other historic properties in Lamar County, downtown, and the Gauche House. There are a number of places here that are on the National Register and someone else wants to put in something else that will destroy those historic places you set a precedence and you could be subject to lawsuits.

Ms. Powell-McCord said that she did not realize how much research had gone into putting this district into the National Registry and how unique it is. She remembers the ladies going out with the snakes, chiggers, and poison ivy and taking an inventory of all of the structure including the graveyards which were over 7000 acres. It took them 2 to 3 years to do this plus the study of the history of the land. The Johnstonville- Goggans historic district is significant in the areas of agriculture, architecture, community planning and development, ethnic African American heritage, and is all at the State level of significance. It is a unique area. There are associated outbuildings and agricultural fields representing more than a century of agricultural activity. There are aerial photographs from 1937. It may be the only area in Georgia that is this intact.

David Taylor of 343 Walton Road addressed the board sharing safety data sheets from the Vulcan Materials main website. It shows that granite is carcinogenic and the dust it puts off is known to cause cancer from prolonged exposure. He came before the Board of Commissioners opposed to the Rock Quarry and said the information shared can be found at Silica.org, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the American Lung Association. Rock Quarries produce numerous hazardous materials. One of the biggest and widespread is the dust that is generated while blasting. The dust contains silica and silica is a type of particulate matter that is categorized and laundered as fine particle matter, PM2.5, is 2.5 micrometers or smaller and that is less than 1/20th the width of a human hair, and PM10 which is 10

micrometers or smaller. Constant blasting and crushing and transporting operations mean a high level of arsenic particulate matter which means it will not only affect the immediate area but also the surrounding areas in Lamar County as the materials are transported out of the Rock Quarry. This particulate matter is inhaled and will go straight to the lungs and the bloodstream. Prolonged exposure to the silica can lead to silicosis, an incurable lung disease, along with heart disease, leukemia, lymphoma and stroke, low birth weight, premature birth, fertility problems, and miscarriages. Another natural arsenic is released during blasting and crushing of the granite which can also be carried by the wind just like silica. Piles of rock will be all around the site where hazardous materials can wash away and contaminate the rivers, streams, lakes, and creeks. Arsenic and silica will wash into the cracks in the ground from blasting and will make their way to domestic water sources. Other chemicals such as ammonia nitrate and other blasting agents will be in no short supply at the site. As the diesel exhaust emissions travel around the County, it will generate endless amounts of nitrous oxide, sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, and organic compounds. No one can predict the amounts of any of these hazardous materials. No one can say how much diesel exhaust will spew out in Lamar County because no one knows what year, make, or model the trucks will be used. No one knows if they will be clean air compliant or if the emissions systems will be altered or removed. No one knows how much silica will be released or how much natural arsenic will be present at this site because no two blasts will be the same and no two crushing of rock will be the same. Winds will change and rain amounts will differ, and there are simply too many variables.

Mr. Taylor said that everyone had a bottle of water placed in front of them. He asked that they look at that bottle of water. He said that if he told them that the bottle of water all contained these chemicals would you drink or bath in them or give them to your children. He said that he would not. If you vote for this Rock Quarry to go here in Lamar County then the message that you are sending is that you do not hold everyone's best interest in mind. Your message will speak loud and clear that you do not care about their way of life, their environment, or their wellbeing. It will say that their efforts to stop this Rock Quarry have fallen on deaf ears and you do not care if the Rock Quarry poisons the people of Lamar County and the environment for generations to come.

Joe Waldrop of 418 Crawford Road addressed the board. He said that he did not want this Rock Quarry and the residents of Lamar County do not want this Rock Quarry and they are making a grave error if they approve this. Why not work together to find some other type of industry to bring to Lamar County. Mr. Waldrop said that he could help them with this. He said that he thought that it would be better to do something else since the residents do not want it.

Wade Self of 150 Ingram Road addressed the board. Mr. Self said that the Board of Commissioners needs to understand that a lot of information has gone out. He said that he is a 24-year Veteran of the United States Air Force and he has Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). He sleeps with a Cpap every night. His property sits on this Rock Quarry and Hwy 36 where the fault line runs. Mr. Self said that he has a girlfriend and her family lives on Crawford Road. They have 6 children that range from age 10 to 3

and 3 of them are boys. Boys are going to be boys. Mr. Self asked the board if they wanted their grandchildren playing next to the Rock Quarry because they are going to be children.

Thomas Smith of 1473 Hwy 41 South addressed the board. Mr. Smith said that he felt guilty standing up here when he should be sitting on a horse in the Alamo because of what is going on around the border. He said he hears their legitimate concerns and more than anything else he would like to know what are the answers to the questions. Is it something that can be moved out or truly explained in a way that everyone feels comfortable about making this move? Mr. Smith said that he does not know what to feel at this point, but he can tell that everyone has done their homework but he wants to hear the other side of it and he wants to hear some real answers; some guarantees that will make him feel better. They need to do some good homework, do good research, and give people some good answers. If this is going to happen, that they are going to be okay and that they are going to be alright. Mr. Smith said that it is people like this that make the Country run and without it, this Country will not run. Without people to come in and put the industry into the town, the town will dry up and go away. Lamar County has needed some industry for a long time because the kids that grow up here do not stay because there is nothing here for them.

Doug Sellars of Dillard Sellars Attorney at Law addressed the board and stated that he would call 5 members of their team to address the concerns heard which include Air and Noise, Blasting, Geology and Mining, Traffic Impact, and Water.

Gage Miller of Golden Associates addressed the board concerning Air and Noise. Mr. Miller said that he wanted to address air and silicon. They did a quantitative study on this project site and found from analyzing similar quarries, within this area, that are similar in size projects, will have a limited minor source of particulate matter and silica will be a part of that equation. There will be controls involved that were detailed in the permit. These controls will keep dust to a minimum particularly using water sprays and washes to keep the dust to a minimum. When they are talking about emissions, they mean what leaves the property. Mr. Miller said that silica dust is a major concern for OSHA as far as the workers' health issues are concerned because they are right there with the dust. He said that what dust does get picked up travels and falls out of the atmosphere so impacts would be limited to the fence line.

Greg Poole of Sauls Seismic, LLC addressed the board. Mr. Poole re-iterated that blasting is the highest oversight industry in the Country. It is controlled and a safe operation and is regulated by the State, Federal Government, and the DOT. There is no way for them to go crazy with blasting because they have safety rules in place. The blasting and vibrations will not cause damage to structures such as homes, swimming pools, wells, or foundations. They blast in a safe and effective manner. The vibration from the blast is what you already feel from a train. The blast takes a second and is only 1 to 2 times a month. Mr. Poole said that there should be no impact on their property.

Abdul of Amer of A&R Engineering, Inc addressed the board. Mr. Amer highlighted the big picture of this study. The study indicates that there will be no issues on Hwy 41 and

Crawford Road in terms of capacity and the level of service after the project is completed. Most of the material, 80 percent will be transported by train and about 20 percent will go onto trucks. There will be 70 trucks per day that will enter and exit between the driveway of Crawford Road and Hwy 41.

Ben Black of Geologic addressed the board. Mr. Black said that he is a professional engineer and geologist with 26 years of experience in the State of Georgia and other States doing geologic assessment and mine planning. He said that he has been working on this property for the last 2 years doing geologic assessments, mine planning, and environmental analysis. Johnstonville-Goggans does overlay the site and it ends up in Monroe County. They have not found any structures or artifacts on the property but it remains to be seen if a more detailed analysis would find those things. The Towaliga fault line is located 3 to 5 miles Northwest of the property and is a Southwest Northeast fault line and it dips 70 degrees to the northwest away from the property. It is not affected by anything that is on the southern side of the fault line.

Mr. Black said that as far as discharging water from the site, there is a creek that runs on the top of the property from a small pond and runs towards the East towards Monroe County. It is an impaired creek that is already impacted by surface water runoff. Their operations will more than likely clean it up because they will have to fix the dam that is on the property and do some other things to manage the water.

Mr. Black said that the safety data sheet from Vulcan Materials is no surprise because most safety data sheets have health effects. He said that most safety data sheets will tell you that if you drink too much water you will drown. Mr. Black said that Mr. Miller from Golder Associates outlined what they are doing about noise and air emission. The EPA, EPD, and OSHA will all have a standpoint and a say about what happens with human health both inside and outside of the property.

Cody Hale of Nutter and Associates addressed the board. Mr. Hale said that he is a professional Hydrologist with 20 years of experience in mine water management and has worked on various sites across the State of Georgia. He said that when you talk about crystal rock and aquifers the aquifers are actually contained in the cracks in the ground. He said that there are cracks in the rocks here, 20 and 50 miles from here. He said that it is not the same water that is moving around and it is really isolated in one pool and localized areas. The extent of impact from the Rock Quarry is not expected to go very far. Mr. Hale said that they have Rock Quarries all over North Georgia and almost every one of them is next to a major water body. The Flint River, the Clayton County reservoir, Lake Juliette, and none of them have major issues with drainage into the Rock Quarries next door to them. The Flint River is less than 300 ft. from the Florida Rock Quarry and there are no issues with water flowing out of that river into the reservoir. Mr. Hale said that they do not expect any impacts to wells and there are not many homes located in the area. There is no impact on water quality both from a surface water standpoint or a groundwater standpoint based on the data that they had studied on this site. Mr. Hales said that the Barnesville Reservoir is over several groundwater divides across this site including the very large Towaliga River and they do not expect any water flow.

Doug Sellars of Dillard Sellars Attorney at Law addressed the board stating that they had satisfied the criteria for the re-zoning and they satisfied the criteria for the Special Exception.

TJ Heath of Landmark Materials, LLC addressed the board and said that in closing he appreciated the many months of positive and negative conversations about this project. For people that are opposed to this project or disagree with it, you can trust that they are who they say they are and this type of industry will be a great project for Lamar County in the decades to come. The simple fact is that quarries and the products that they produce are a vital part of modern life. Without quarries, we would not have stone, gravel, or sand that is essential to modern construction. It serves as an essential building block for many of the things that we use each day including our homes, driveways, hospitals, schools, and our public roads. In just about any place that you go in this town or any other town you can find the need for it. In fact, any one of these towns around here has one or more of these types of industry. You can choose to see the bad in anything and the only thing about this is if they do a bad job managing it but they are not going to do that. The industry is heavily regulated by the State. They have been upfront about putting things into place in writing to hold them accountable.

Commissioner Thrash requested that Cody Hale of Nutter and Associates be called back up to answer some questions. Commissioner Thrash asked him to explain to them about the water table that everyone is concerned about. Mr. Hale said that when you think about the water table and the aquifers, they are oftentimes thinking about the type of water tables that they have on the coastal plains of the State. Think about a sandbox filled with water. If you drain one side of the sandbox the whole sandbox will drain. Here, there is a rock that has vertical fractures and those fractures become less dense and less frequent with depth. There is not a lot of lateral connection so the water table is supported by the water that is draining in from above and hitting the watershed, soaking through the soil, and seeping down into the rock cracks from the hillslopes that are above the wells. What comes down from those cracks, the wells intercept this. This is the water table but it is not a solid line through the rock. There is no water inside the rock itself. It is living in the fractures of those rocks. The ability for the water to migrate laterally is very limited.

Commissioner Thrash asked what happens if there is a drought? Does nature replenish the water as you dig down deeper? Mr. Hale said that the fractures are recharged from above so as long as the pit is dug out it is going to intersect the local fractures that are right next to it. So, when you are in a drought, there will be little or no effect, other than the effect that you would normally see in a drought, except on those fractures that are next to the Rock Quarry. That is the water that they will be pumping out and reusing. They expect this in all of their Rock Quarries. He has seen no impact in all of the Rock Quarries, that he has dealt with, in any of the domestic wells around the Rock Quarries. They expect no impact other than the same type of effect you expect with any drought and your well runs dry.

Chairman Glass asked what was the closest well to the Rock Quarry. Mr. Hale responded that it was about ½ mile but it probably is less than that. They have data from other Rock Quarries that are much closer and they are not affected at all.

Adjournment

Chairman Glass called for a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. Commissioner Heiney made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing at approximately 7:05 p.m. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Charles Glass, Chairman

Bennie Horton, Vice-Chairman

Robert Heiney, Commissioner

Ryran Traylor, Commissioner

Nancy Thrash, Commissioner

Attest: _____
Carlette Davidson, County Clerk