

**From:** Joseph Roy  
**Sent:** Tue 9/26/2006 7:01 PM  
**To:** Todd Chadwell  
**Subject:** Public Comments - Proposal #13 -Housatonic River NRD Fund - BCAP Application

From:  
Joseph G Roy, Jr  
4 Miller lane  
West Stockbridge, MA 01266

To:  
Housatonic River NRD Fund - Project Proposal  
c/o Woodlot Alternatives, Inc.  
30 Park Drive  
Topsham, ME 04086

9/26/06

RE: Berkshire Conservation Agent Program

Dear Members of The Massachusetts SubCouncil and Proposal Reviewers,

I am an abutter involved with the many aspects of the rapid expansion of a stone quarry in West Stockbridge, Massachusetts [Berkshire County] that has for many years been a relatively small, seemingly dormant operation. In the past few years, this quarry has been undergoing an expansion which has doubled its size, almost tripled its production and has increased its presence in my neighborhood in every conceivable manner: noise [trucks, drilling, blasting, etc.] visual [the horizon of my front yard view has been permanently altered - trees are gone: replaced by stone cliffs,] air quality [dust clouds often obstruct the view as close as a hundred feet away and at those times the air is difficult to breathe,] and water runoff [after a heavy rain, runoff from the new configuration of this quarry spills over my driveway and fills my small pond with muddy water and takes days to clear sometimes. Fish die.] The new owner/operator of this quarry is making massive efforts to expand the potential of this quarry far beyond any growth spurt in the past thirty years or more [that myself and my neighbors have been watching.]

West Stockbridge is a small town of about 1700 people. We have a slowly growing downtown district and our main attraction for businesses is primarily tourism. We have The Norman Rockwell Museum nearby, as well as The Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival and Tanglewood Music Festival only minutes away. Although 100 years ago we were best known as an industrial town full of quarries producing marble, lime

and iron ore which brought the first railroad station in Western Massachusetts here [to West Stockbridge] before anywhere else in the county [even before our county seat, Pittsfield,] some 38 years ago, our zoning prohibited quarries in all zones of our slowly evolving residential community. Time has proven that this planning decision was a sound one. Values of residential properties have skyrocketed in the last few decades as industrial properties have diminished. The times have changed and our town has prospered with the changes.

The stone quarry is in fact grandfathered, and is indeed allowed to continue operations as per our zoning by-laws as well as our Wetland Act and flood plain laws. But it needs permits to do so according to law. After looking into the history of this quarry's permit applications, I came to find that not once in its century-old history did it ever apply or obtain a permit of any kind from our town for zoning or wetland purposes of any kind. It has dumped waste lime and fill directly into wetlands. It has blasted and quarried within a few feet of open water. It presently operates within a couple dozen feet of our Williams River. Its runoff spills into my pond. These are not accusations; they are facts. We can prove them. And all of this without ever filing a Notice of Intent! How does this happen? Our Building Inspection Department and our Conservation Commission has been made up of part time volunteers who have all the best intentions and sincerest motives, but have had little if any formal training and are no match for the high priced engineers and consultants that are hired by the owners of operations like our quarry [who also owns at least four other quarries in The Commonwealth - perhaps more.]

I am giving you this background information because for the first time in its history, this quarry has had to file a Notice of Intent with our Conservation Commission. Thanks to the foresight and involvement with the help of some new, enthusiastic members of The Commission and especially due to the participation of Ms Terry Eucher who has guided them through the process, suddenly abutters are able to speak, get answers, and most all, obtain some consideration as to the plans and procedures of the quarry's expansion projects. She is thorough, polite, considerate to both applicants and abutters, and offers a wealth of information to all parties involved and concerned. While attending hearings for the quarry, I have also observed her helping The Conservation Commission with many other applicants and abutters as well. Her experience, expertise and attention is an invaluable asset to our town officials. I can't imagine how they managed without her before she got involved with their work. Actually, I can... it was indeed limited.

After reading the letters posted on your website from other town

boards in our County, it is clear how important it is that the Berkshire Conservation Agent Program remain an active participant with our small town boards for the foreseeable future. Anything you can do to aid in this process will be extremely valuable to the needs of our evolving small towns and our ever-increasing need for professional assistance like the kind that Terry Eucher and her program can offer.

This is one taxpaying abutter who has first hand experience watching a Board come alive with responsible expertise especially because of the help of Terry Eucher and the Berkshire Conservation Agent Program. Please give her application your fullest attention and most generous consideration for her continued assistance in our town and in our entire area.

Thank you,  
Joseph Roy, Jr