Understanding Citizen Opinion: Frac Sand Mining in Bridge Creek, WI

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Background
Numerous residents of the Bridge Creek area have shown concern over the growing frac sand mining industry, publicized by various policy solutions and debated by local government. This study targets public opinion to better understand a possible means of regulating the industry, as well as the associated pros/cons.

Research Questions
How do Bridge Creek residents experience, understand and perceive frac sand mining in their community?

How can policy makers accommodate public opinion when implementing regulations and addressing the frac sand mining industry?

Methods
Survey Questions

Data Collection
Collaboration with Concerned Citizens of Bridge Creek (CCBC)
• Community based group rallied around the issue of fracking
• Participatory Research

Distribution and Responses
• Mailed and emailed survey URL link to residents
• Advertised poster in community
• 56 surveys responses (7 received by mail, 49 taken online)

Results

Correlations between Variables of Interest

Discussion
Those in Bridge Creek tend to support local control in regards to regulating the frac sand mining industry.

Majority of respondents tended to state that “Local Government” has been impacted negatively.
• Community divided in terms of supporting local elected officials.

There are many components that are affected both positively and negatively by the frac sand mining industry.

“The saddest aspect that I have seen as an outcome of frac sand mining, is the feuds between once good friends and neighbors.”