

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

Cassandra Beckworth, Kelly Ledwein, Brandy Kopa, Dr. Thomas Pearson, University of Wisconsin-Stout

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

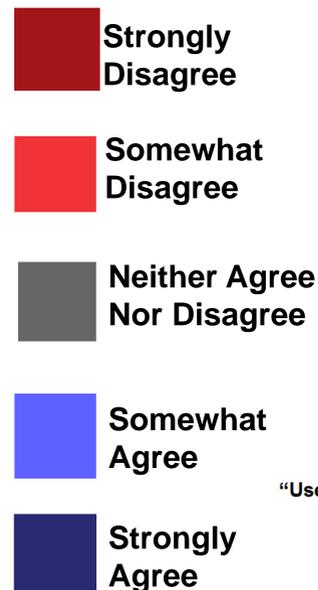
Collaboration with Concerned Citizens of Bridge Creek (CCBC)

- Community based group rallied around the issue of fracking
- Participatory Research

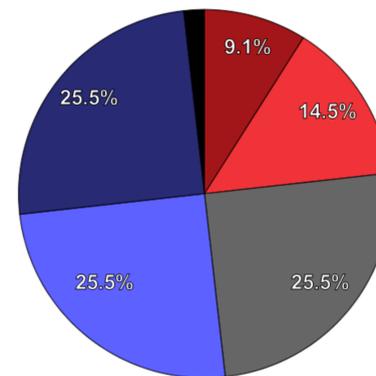
Distribution and Responses

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

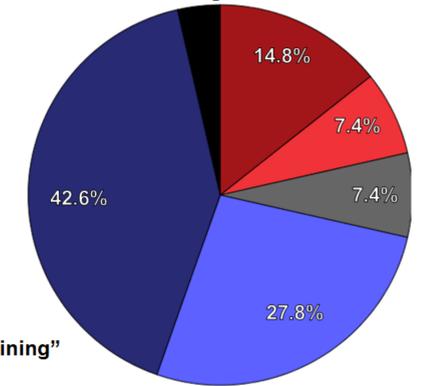
Results



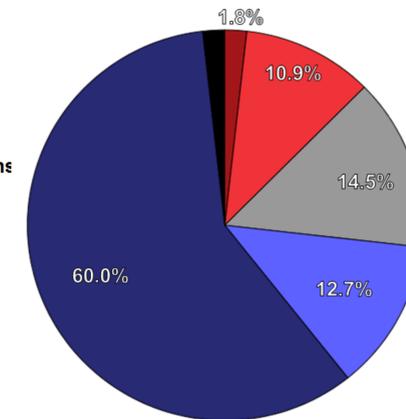
“Local citizen groups in my area act in the best interest of the community when addressing frac sand mining issues”



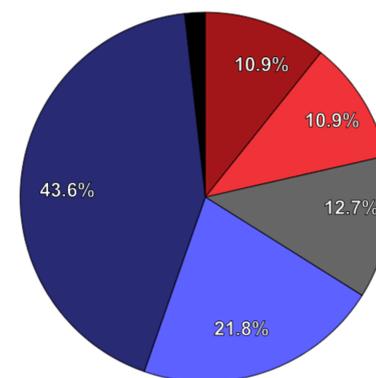
“Use of licensing ordinances to permit mining but with regulation”



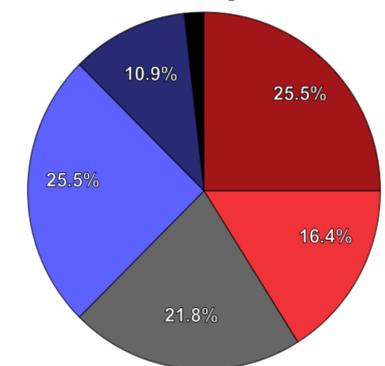
“I support local control over sand mining”



“Use of zoning to restrict where mining operations are located”



“Local elected officials in my area act in the best interest of the community when addressing frac sand mining issues”



Correlations between Variables of Interest

Variable	Response	Percentage	Total (Includes all categories)
Quality of Life	Strongly Agree		
	Negative	68.80%	50.0%
	Has Not Changed	12.50%	24.1%
	Positive	9.40%	11.10%
Local Government	Strongly Agree		
	Negative	51.50%	33.30%
	Has Not Changed	30.30%	35.20%
	Positive	12.10%	22.20%
Local Economic Development	Strongly Agree		
	Negative	24.20%	14.50%
	Has Not Changed	45.50%	36.40%
	Positive	15.20%	14.50%
Effect on Fuel Prices	Strongly Agree		
	Negative	9.10%	5.50%
	Has Not Changed	45.50%	40.00%
	Positive	33.30%	30.90%
Total	Strongly Agree		
	Unsure	9.40%	14.80%
	Unsure	6.10%	9.30%
	Unsure	15.20%	34.50%

Those who “Strongly Agree” with supporting local control over the industry are more likely to state that “Quality of Life” and “Local Government” have been **negatively** impacted by the industry.

Those who “Strongly Agree” with supporting local control over the industry stated that “Local Economic Development” and “Effect on Fuel Prices” **have not been changed** by the industry.

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.”

