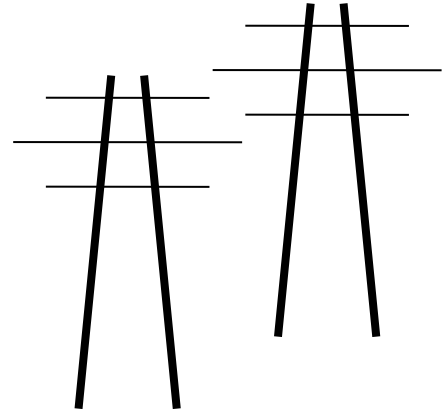


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May 11, 2023

Neil Jensen
City Administrator
City of Cannon Falls
918 River Road
Cannon Falls, MN 55009
njensen@cannonfallsmn.gov

Laura Qualey
Economic Development
City of Cannon Falls
918 River Road
Cannon Falls, MN 55009
laura.qualey@cedausa.com

RE: **Data Practices Act Request** of City of Cannon Falls re: Blue Water Farms

Dear Mr. Jensen and Ms. Qualey:

FULL DISCLOSURE: I am making this request as an individual, and not on behalf of or representing any party.

I've been observing and commenting on the Blue Water Farms fish farm project here in Red Wing, and trying to learn what exactly is proposed. The Blue Water principals, some City Council members, and some members of the public have been stridently attempting to circumvent the delegated Port Authority's review and due diligence, and have demanded that the City immediately approve a land sale to Blue Water, without due diligence! Thankfully both the Port Authority and the City Council did not approve the sale. The Port Authority gave these specific reasons:

- Purchase price does not align with stated value of the property
- Did not meet the land development guidelines
- Timeline does not align with archeological survey timing
- Purchaser does not meet zoning and covenant requirements
- Has not been vetted by City Attorney.

Recent Letters to the Editor claimed that if not approved now, "Red Wing is poised to lose yet another amazing business opportunity," "Blue Water Farms must consider firm offers from Cannon Falls and Lakeville due to the subcommittee's two-year stall," and that "several communities are waiting in the wings." Is this true? At this time, I'm looking to determine the

veracity of these statements. Is there a proposal before Cannon Falls and a “firm offer” from Cannon Falls?¹

DATA PRACTICES ACT REQUEST: I am looking for any and all documents in the possession of the City, its staff, and/or elected officials including but not limited to:

- Promotional materials from Blue Water, including presentations, purchase offers (to the extent public), grant, and/or loan applications;
- Any and all Blue Water business, investment campaign, and/or marketing plans;
- Records of meetings with Bischoff and/or agent of Blue Water and notes thereof;
- Any and all grant and/or loan applications and/or agreements;
- Minutes of City meetings attended by and/or regarding Bischoff and/or Blue Water, including decisions, resolutions, and/or offers to Blue Water;
- Agenda packets for meetings attended by and/or regarding Bischoff and/or Blue Water;
- Presentations to City staff, Council, Economic Development, and/or Planning regarding Bischoff and/or Blue Water, packet materials for such meetings, and minutes of agenda item.
- Any other information and documentation in the possession of City staff, Council, Economic Development, and/or Planning regarding Bischoff and/or Blue Water.

For efficiency and limitation of staff time, I’d like to schedule a file review of City materials to identify what copies I’ll need. Please let me know when this would be convenient – email is always best.

Thanks for your consideration in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Carol A. Overland
Attorney at Law

Enclosures: Mayor Wilson Letter to Editor
George Snyder Letter to Editor

¹ FYI, I’m asking the same of Lakeville.

Blue Water project is right for Red Wing

BY MIKE WILSON
Red Wing Mayor

You've probably heard the old expression "It's a no brainer" – a deal that makes so much sense that it would be foolhardy not to run with it.

The Blue Water project – a \$30 million dollar organic "walleye farm" and aqua phonic vegetable growing center proposed for the long vacant, city-owned corner of Highways 61 and 19 – is a "no brainer" for Red Wing. The City Council should approve it. If they fail to do so, several other communities are eagerly waiting in the wings.

Blue Water – bluewater-farmswalleye.com – checks all boxes for a desirable, well run, new industry in Red Wing:

- ▶ 30 to 50 permanent, good-paying jobs once the operation is fully up and running.
- ▶ High consumer demand – the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources would purchase substantial quantities of walleye fingerlings to help stock thousands of lakes – as well as for lettuce and other organic vegetables grown using cleaned and processed water. Fish remnants would be transformed into fertilizer to augment local and statewide food production. The Minnesota Farmers Union is a major stakeholder in the project.
- ▶ Blue Water would be clean, non-polluting, carefully controlled, and run by highly experienced people.
- ▶ The existing building's



MIKE
WILSON

architectural integrity would be preserved. A \$1 million dollar rehabilitation project is set to go.

In addition, the Port Authority has entered into a memo of understanding with the Prairie Island Tribal Community regarding an archeological study to ensure that historic or religiously significant features of the property are respected and preserved.

Any other issues will be addressed.

Land on the corner of Highways 61 and 19 has been vacant for 17 long years, producing not one cent of tax money to help build Red Wing. It's time to move forward.

Please take a few minutes to contact your city council representative and convey your views. You can find email and phone information at red-wing.org/Directory.aspx?did=28

Now what do you think?

Mike Wilson is Red Wing mayor. When "The Mayor is IN" sign is out at 327 Third St. feel free to stop in and share your ideas and opinions, or email me anytime at: mike.wilson@ci.red-wing.mn.us

of the heart" that you make each and every day, your community is grateful.

We appreciate Red Wing Public School teachers.

*Jake and Alexa Bjornstad
Red Wing*

Business opportunity

Red Wing is poised to lose yet another amazing business opportunity.

For two years Blue Water Farms (bluewaterfarmswalleye.com) has sought to bring a fully integrated aquaponic walleye farm to the former Dover Industry property on the corner of Highways 19 and 61.

Regrettably the Red Wing Port Authority has been cool to the project from the beginning. This project proposal has sat in a subcommittee of the Port and the entire Port Authority has never had the opportunity see a full presentation of the proposal from the company.

Two weeks ago, the Port did receive a purchase agreement for the property from Blue Water Farms, which was not endorsed by the Port Authority and the subcommittee now recommends a moratorium.

What Red Wing citizens will lose?

▶ We lose the opportunity of having a dynamic eco-friendly green enter-

prise that will contribute to our tax base.

▶ Blue Water Farms will renovate the existing structure on the property, saving taxpayers \$600,000, which is the city's estimate for the demolition of said structure to accommodate resale.

▶ A fully integrated facility that will produce walleye fish and leafy produce for eight Midwestern states with zero waste or fertilizer run-off including a solar panel system to reduce demand on the electrical grid.

▶ This facility will create initially 12-30 new jobs for the community. Job opportunities will expand as production expands.

▶ In 17 years there have been only three parties interested in this property

▶ Blue Water Farms must consider firm offers from Cannon Falls and Lakeville due to the subcommittee's two-year stall.

Call Council President Kim Beise as well as council persons Becky Norton and Evan Brown who are council liaisons on the Port Authority to put this on the City Council agenda at the upcoming meeting this Monday.

Attend the council meeting and ask the question: "why was the public denied full disclosure?"

*George W. Snyder
Red Wing*