

# **Label: "kankakee comments - Dec 2016"**

**Created by: [r3planning@fws.gov](mailto:r3planning@fws.gov)**

Total Starred Messages in label: 19 (19 conversations)

Created: 05-08-2017 at 23:06 PM

# Conversation Contents

Wild Life Refuge

**Tom DeYoung <whitesandsfarms@gmail.com>**

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**From:** Tom DeYoung <whitesandsfarms@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sat Dec 31 2016 19:36:02 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "U.S. FWS Jeanne Holler" <r3planning@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Wild Life Refuge

Dear U.S. FWS Holler, I am a land owner and farmer in Pembroke Twp. For nearly 50 years now. We have always be protective of our property and feel we do not need the outside interference of government intervention of our private property. The Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nature Consevancey along with The Friends of Kankakee are all working together in effort to make a land grab resulting in a divistating effect on our local tax base. As a farmer and land owner I am very concerned to the effects all of this nature conservation will have on our local drainage. It will not be positive. The thoughts that this will increase tourism for Pembroke Township is a joke. A few cars may pass through the area but no positive empact will be felt in the area. Come and see the area and make your own judgement. The empact studies that are done are just some studies that justify the cause but seldom are real and factual. Live here and you would see. I'm just a practical guy that has seen a lot and this is not good for our area. Trample the locals for some do gooders agenda. Please listen and lend your support to stop this while you can Thank you for your support. Sincerely, Tom DeYoung 8838 E 4500s Rd Saint Anne, IL 60964 whitesandsfarms@gmail.com



# Conversation Contents

Refuge

**Mark Brinkmann** <user@votervoice.net>

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**From:** Mark Brinkmann <user@votervoice.net>  
**Sent:** Sat Dec 31 2016 16:43:02 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "U.S. FWS Jeanne Holler" <r3planning@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Refuge

Dear U.S. FWS Holler, The proposed wildlife refuge by the US Fish and Wildlife would greatly affect our family. It would directly remove farm ground we own and rent. Not only would this affect us currently, but it would also affect the ability of future generations to be able to farm in an area in which Our family had been established and farming for over 100 years. We DO NOT support this refuge. This will not bennifit our community. Sincerely,  
Mark and Jamie Brinkmann 15171 E Base Line Rd Momence, IL 60954  
markyboy82@aol.com

# Conversation Contents

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge

**Keith Mussman <user@votervoice.net>**

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**From:** Keith Mussman <user@votervoice.net>  
**Sent:** Sat Dec 31 2016 12:52:02 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "U.S. FWS Jeanne Holler" <r3planning@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge

Dear U.S. FWS Holler, My name is Keith Mussman. I farm in Northeast Kankakee County and serve as President of the Kankakee County Farm Bureau. I am writing to register my opposition to the U.S. Wildlife Refuge proposed for our county. The rainwater that falls on my farm eventually drains into the Kankakee River. Because this area would gradually revert to a marsh it would have huge negative impacts on my ability to farm my land. The communities involved are some of the most economically challenged in the state. The tax dollars that would be lost would have a huge impact on safety in the rural areas and be a financial blow to the schools involved which are already struggling. Finally, I don't like the way the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has come to the area to create something that is not needed and opposed locally and if used at all will be used by people from the city that should destroy one of their communities if they want something like this. Sincerely, Keith Mussman 2032 Bittersweet Dr Saint Anne, IL 60964 mussmank@yahoo.com

# Conversation Contents

Previous message

**Michelle Marhoefer <user@votervoice.net>**

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**From:** Michelle Marhoefer <user@votervoice.net>  
**Sent:** Mon Dec 26 2016 16:10:02 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "U.S. FWS Jeanne Holler" <r3planning@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Previous message

Dear U.S. FWS Holler, I had to direct my very current previous message as being from myself and my husband. Due to this email format I have no record of it. I want to let the proposed refuge know of our discontent. We who live on this beautiful Kankakee River revere it and maintain it. We do not wish to have the government interfere with our property, lives and investment. I hope I'm not repeating the previous message however I want to make this very clear. Thank you, Michelle Marhoefer Sincerely, Michelle Marhoefer 12182 E Metcalf Ave Momence, IL 60954 marhoefer@sbcglobal.net

# Conversation Contents

U.S. FWS Kankakee Nat'l Wildlife Refuge

**Sean Elliot <seanelliot@hotmail.com>**

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**From:** Sean Elliot <seanelliot@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thu Dec 22 2016 12:54:02 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "U.S. FWS Jeanne Holler" <r3planning@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** U.S. FWS Kankakee Nat'l Wildlife Refuge

Dear U.S. FWS Holler, Please oppose the Wildlife Refuge in Kakkakee. Below are just a few consequences of the refuge. Loss of farm land - the refuge could remove enough farm land from production in Kankakee County to remove \$43.6 million of agricultural economic output annually. Loss of property tax revenue - land acquired by US Fish & Wildlife does not pay property taxes. The loss of property tax revenue to our local schools and municipalities could make our communities unsustainable. Impacts to established drainage - The Kankakee River watershed is very large and disrupting drainage to the river could cause flooding and water management issues for the farm land and residential areas for miles outside of the proposed focus areas. Sincerely, Sean Elliot 185 S Evergreen St Clifton, IL 60927 seanelliot@hotmail.com

# Conversation Contents

## U.S. FWS Kankakee Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Comments

**Jon Clark <user@votervoicenet>**

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**From:** Jon Clark <user@votervoicenet>  
**Sent:** Thu Dec 22 2016 09:11:02 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "U.S. FWS Jeanne Holler" <r3planning@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** U.S. FWS Kankakee Nat'l Wildlife Refuge Comments

Dear U.S. FWS Holler, I am not in favor of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service plan to create a Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge & Conservation Area. Loss of farm land - the refuge could remove enough farm land from production in Kankakee County to remove \$43.6 million of agricultural economic output annually. Loss of property tax revenue - land acquired by US Fish & Wildlife does not pay property taxes. The loss of property tax revenue to our local schools and municipalities could make our communities unsustainable. Impacts to established drainage - The Kankakee River watershed is very large and disrupting drainage to the river could cause flooding and water management issues for the farm land and residential areas for miles outside of the proposed focus areas. No Land Protection Plan - This Land Protection Plan (LPP) is to give detail on how the lands in the focus area are to be managed. US Fish & Wildlife Service has not released an LPP and without it, we have no idea what areas of the refuge would be publicly accessible and what areas would be off limits. No updated Environmental Assessment - The Environmental Assessment (EA) study for this refuge is over 17 years old and there have been many changes over that period of time which warrant a new EA. Sincerely, Jon Clark 916 N 600E RD SIBLEY, IL 61773 clarkagservice@yahoo.com

# Conversation Contents

Kankakee wildlife refuge

**Bret Perreault <user@votervoicenet>**

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**From:** Bret Perreault <user@votervoicenet>  
**Sent:** Wed Dec 21 2016 15:35:03 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "U.S. FWS Jeanne Holler" <r3planning@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Kankakee wildlife refuge

Dear U.S. FWS Holler, This is NOT what we need in Kankakee county. We need our land for AG not to be used for a wildlife refuge. The facts that have been seen from the other refuges in southern Illinois prove to not be beneficial. Sincerely, Bret Perreault 4527 S 5000w Rd Kankakee, IL 60901 ampatfarms@yahoo.com



# Conversation Contents

U.S. FWS Kankakee Nat'l Wildlife Refuge

**Linda Krause <lmkone@gmail.com>**

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**From:** Linda Krause <lmkone@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wed Dec 21 2016 14:30:05 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "U.S. FWS Jeanne Holler" <r3planning@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** U.S. FWS Kankakee Nat'l Wildlife Refuge

Dear U.S. FWS Holler, I chose not to have this government agency involved here in Momence and the surrounding areas. We have managed to survive without them for a long time. This reeks of big government running out the little man. Please stop them now!!! Respectfully submitted Linda M. Krause Sincerely, Linda Krause 227 W Washington St Momence, IL 60954 lmkone@gmail.com

# Conversation Contents

Refuge proposal

**"Mr. & Mrs. Dale VanDerVliet" <lvandervliet@mchsi.com>**

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**From:** "Mr. & Mrs. Dale VanDerVliet" <lvandervliet@mchsi.com>  
**Sent:** Wed Dec 21 2016 12:59:03 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "U.S. FWS Jeanne Holler" <r3planning@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Refuge proposal

Dear U.S. FWS Holler, This is not wanted by the community. It will be detrimental to the community. Losing the tax money for the schools, police, volunteer fire department etc. Please vote against this refuge. It will also hurt the farming community and take valuable land away from farming. Less land to produce food, grain etc. Sincerely, Dale VanDerVliet  
417 W 6th St Momence, IL 60954 lvandervliet@mchsi.com

# Conversation Contents

Politicians need to get to work. Or get out of politics.

"L. Fredette" <user@votervoice.net>

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**From:** "L. Fredette" <user@votervoice.net>  
**Sent:** Wed Dec 21 2016 08:31:02 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "U.S. FWS Jeanne Holler" <r3planning@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Politicians need to get to work. Or get out of politics.

Dear U.S. FWS Holler, Take a look at what you are doing. Before doing anything get the Illinois budget. Madigan needs to get out and all politicians need no pay till The State has a budget. Our state is i big eye sore across the WORLD. Take a look at your self. Leave things alone till you all work downstate. No raises either. Sincerely, L. Fredette 17841 67th Ave Tinley Park, IL 60477 fredlaunch@aol.com

# Conversation Contents

## Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge & Conservation Area

**Westin Arseneau <westinar93@gmail.com>**

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**From:** Westin Arseneau <westinar93@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Mon Dec 19 2016 13:15:51 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** <r3planning@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge & Conservation Area

To whom it may concern,

I, along with my father and grandfather farm in northeastern Iroquois and southeastern Kankakee Counties in Illinois. Of the 1200 acres we farm, 240 acres lie within the proposed area that the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area would consume. Not only would we be losing 20% of our vital farm land, we would be losing our most productive farm. The 160 acres where my grandfather lives, which lies in Iroquois county has our highest production history of all our farms. It was my understanding that the desired land would be mostly marginal ground and this farm is far from marginal. This farm has been in our family for many generations and it would be very tough to lose what we've worked so hard for.

Another aspect of this I see as troublesome is the displacement of many residents of the Hopkins Park and Pembroke communities. These are low income communities and relocating would be tough for many families. Pembroke township has a very low tax base as it is and they are doing their best to maintain their infrastructure with their low budget. Taking the proposed land out of the tax base would put more of a burden on the remaining tax payers who will have to pick up the slack and our taxes are high enough as it is.

Drainage is another substantial issue. Row crops such as corn and soybeans are the majority of crops grown in this area. These types of crops need proper drainage to grow and mature into a successful crop. I would like to speak on behalf of all farmers, past and present by saying that we have invested substantial amounts of money, time, and effort over the generations to properly drain our farms and the proposed refuge would ruin our watershed. This would not only hurt our crops, but would pose threats to roads, bridges, homes, businesses, and communities that are a part of this watershed. Flooding is already an issue if we receive heavy rains, but cutting off all drainage through the refuge would only exacerbate this problem. Also in the winter, ice jams would become a greater problem because of the backup of drainage waters posing a great threat to drivers as well as emergency personnel.

One interesting aspect of this area is that the sandy soils provide a perfect medium for growing "truck crops" like melons, peppers, pumpkins, gladiolus, and potatoes. Kankakee county is in fact the top producer of potatoes in Illinois. Most of the land used for potatoes lies within the proposed refuge area. If that land were taken out of potato production, many companies that rely on these potatoes for various products may struggle or even fall by the wayside. Also many of the employees of these "truck crop" producers are

migrant workers. They are generally unskilled and would have a very hard time finding other employment. Our unemployment in the United States is high enough and we don't need anything to increase this problem.

Furthermore, I along with many of my friends and family **STRONGLY** oppose this refuge. I see no benefit to the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area. It will hurt farms, it will hurt families, it will hurt taxpayers, it will hurt drainage, and it will hurt jobs. Everything about this seems like a bad deal and is a terrible proposal for not only the immediate communities affected, but all communities in Kankakee and Iroquois Counties. Your environmental assessment is 17 years old and your Land Protection Plan has not been released. I have yet to meet someone who is supportive of this refuge and I hope that this will eventually fizzle out and fall by the wayside just as many of us would if this becomes effective.

Sincerely,  
The Affected

# Conversation Contents

## Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge

**"Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Ritter" <dobes4us@gmail.com>**

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**From:** "Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Ritter" <dobes4us@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wed Dec 14 2016 10:12:02 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "U.S. FWS Jeanne Holler" <r3planning@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge

Dear U.S. FWS Holler, As a concerned resident I cannot support this refuge due to the following reasons:

- The Environmental Assessment study is 17 years old. There have been many changes in the past 17 years. The changes of increase in population, new residences, and much higher land values make the environmental assessment study out of date. Environmental changes have happened one of which is a quarry in Indiana pumping more water downstream is just one to mention.
- My biggest concern is the increased flooding that will occur. The refuge will negatively affect drainage to and from the river which will mean more flooding. The last couple of years we are seeing increased flooding and water levels from the environmental impact from Indiana.
- Why is a land protection plan not available for review this is to give details on plans for the land so by not providing this important report to the public appears there are things that are being hidden from the public.
- The federal government is 20 trillion dollars in debt with a financial situation this out of control how can there be funding for this project? No new project should be proposed with the current finances of the government.
- The significant loss in property taxes for the Momence and Pembroke school districts and governments could make these community's non-existent and put an extreme financial tax burden on the remaining citizens of those communities. Since refuge revenue sharing payments are not guaranteed how are government and schools to run without revenue?
- The economic loss that would occur from the refuge in agriculture alone would be significant to the area. Tourism will not be enough to cover the millions that agriculture provides. My research of U.S. Fish and Wildlife refuges show that no admission fee is collected at refuges. Since no land protection plan has been issued I cannot just take your word that tourism would make up this income. We would also have loss of tourism because the Kankakee river provides many people with recreational access.
- From my viewpoint the U.S. Fish and Wildlife was incompetent in the organization and information provided and the October 25, 2016 Q&A/meeting at Momence High School. The map provided at the meeting was not the most detailed map the one provided on your website has more details why was that not provided? When certain questions were asked the answer was that's not us that is the Nature Conservancy so if there are multiple organizations working towards a refuge why was no one from those other organizations there to answer questions. The information is very vague especially when considering people's lively hood and family history. People have worked their whole lives to create homes, homesteads, farms, and agricultural businesses to sustain their families, family history and for some a legacy.
- The Kankakee Wildlife Refuge should not be done on the backs of working Americans. A wildlife refuge should not take precedents over people please have some compassion.

We believe there are other ways to do this. We oppose the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge! Sincerely, Jeff and Rene Ritter Jeff and Rene Ritter Sincerely, Jeff and Rene Ritter 6449 N 15000E RD GRANT PARK, IL 60940 dobes4us@gmail.com



# Conversation Contents

Kankakee NWR and Conservation Area

**Francine Nelson <nelsonmfds@msn.com>**

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**From:** Francine Nelson <nelsonmfds@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Tue Dec 13 2016 18:03:55 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "r3planning@fws.gov" <r3planning@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Kankakee NWR and Conservation Area





Planning, FW3 <r3planning@fws.gov>

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## Kankakee NWR and Conservation Area

1 message

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**Francine Nelson** <nelsonmfs@msn.com>

Tue, Dec 13, 2016 at 7:03 PM

To: "r3planning@fws.gov" <r3planning@fws.gov>

No, the area does not need a wildlife refuge because most of the area along the river is usable for fishing and hunting.

My farm property has been owned by my grandfather and my dad since the 1950's. We have sold timber by select cut harvest. We have problems with flooding caused by sand filling the Kankakee River. The hardwood trees have died off because of flooding. Use the money to repair the river instead of buying property.

Please consider correcting the river problem.

Thank you for reading this.

Michael Nelson

# Conversation Contents

Kankakee NWR&CA

**Jeff Rene Ritter <dobes4us@gmail.com>**

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**From:** Jeff Rene Ritter <dobes4us@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wed Dec 14 2016 09:43:02 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** <r3planning@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Kankakee NWR&CA

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
To Whom It May Concern:  
Subject: Kankakee NWR&CA

As a concerned resident I cannot support this refuge due to the following reasons:

- The Environmental Assessment study is 17 years old. There have been many changes in the past 17 years. The changes of increase in population, new residences, and much higher land values make the environmental assessment study out of date. Environmental changes have happened one of which is a quarry in Indiana pumping more water downstream is just one to mention.
- My biggest concern is the increased flooding that will occur. The refuge will negatively affect drainage to and from the river which will mean more flooding. The last couple of years we are seeing increased flooding and water levels from the environmental impact from Indiana.
- Why is a land protection plan not available for review this is to give details on plans for the land so by not providing this important report to the public appears there are things that are being hidden from the public.
- The federal government is 20 trillion dollars in debt with a financial situation this out of control how can there be funding for this project? No new project should be proposed with the current finances of the government.
- The significant loss in property taxes for the Momence and Pembroke school districts and governments could make these community's non-existent and put an extreme financial tax burden on the remaining citizens of those communities. Since refuge revenue sharing payments are not guaranteed how are government and schools to run without revenue?
- The economic loss that would occur from the refuge in agriculture alone would be significant to the area. Tourism will not be enough to cover the millions that agriculture provides. My research of U.S. Fish and Wildlife refuges show that no admission fee is collected at refuges. Since no land protection plan has been issued I cannot just take your word that tourism would make up this income. We would also have loss of tourism because the Kankakee river provides many people with recreational access.
- From my viewpoint the U.S. Fish and Wildlife was incompetent in the organization and information provided and the October 25, 2016 Q&A/meeting at Momence High School. The map provided at the meeting was not the most

detailed map the one provided on your website has more details why was that not provided? When certain questions were asked the answer was that's not us that is the Nature Conservancy so if there are multiple organizations working towards a refuge why was no one from those other organizations there to answer questions. The information is very vague especially when considering people's lively hood and family history. People have worked their whole lives to create homes, homesteads, farms, and agricultural businesses to sustain their families, family history and for some a legacy.

· The Kankakee Wildlife Refuge should not be done on the backs of working Americans. A wildlife refuge should not take precedents over people please have some compassion. We believe there are other ways to do this.

We oppose the Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge!

Sincerely,

Jeff and Rene Ritter

Jeff and Rene Ritter

# Conversation Contents

Momence refuge

**Joyce Siwicki <joycesiwicki@gmail.com>**

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**From:** Joyce Siwicki <joycesiwicki@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Fri Dec 02 2016 08:18:02 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "U.S. FWS Jeanne Holler" <r3planning@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Momence refuge

Dear U.S. FWS Holler, Impacts to our local community could be extensive: Loss of farm land - the refuge could remove enough farm land from production in Kankakee County to remove \$43.6 million of agricultural economic output annually. Loss of property tax revenue - land acquired by US Fish & Wildlife does not pay property taxes. The loss of property tax revenue to our local schools and municipalities could make our communities unsustainable. Impacts to established drainage - The Kankakee River watershed is very large and disrupting drainage to the river could cause flooding and water management issues for the farm land and residential areas for miles outside of the proposed focus areas. No Land Protection Plan - This Land Protection Plan (LPP) is to give detail on how the lands in the focus area are to be managed. US Fish & Wildlife Service has not released an LPP and without it, we have no idea what areas of the refuge would be publicly accessible and what areas would be off limits. No updated Environmental Assessment - The Environmental Assessment (EA) study for this refuge is over 17 years old and there have been many changes over that period of time which warrant a new EA. Sincerely, Joyce and Mark Siwicki 12998A E 4000n Rd Momence, IL 60954  
joycesiwicki@gmail.com

# Conversation Contents

## Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area

**"Mr. & Mrs. Monty Gina Buchanan" <user@votervoice.net>**

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**From:** "Mr. & Mrs. Monty Gina Buchanan" <user@votervoice.net>  
**Sent:** Fri Dec 02 2016 06:11:02 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "U.S. FWS Jeanne Holler" <r3planning@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area

Dear U.S. FWS Holler, This town cannot withstand the loss in property tax revenue this refuge would bring. Our schools are in financial distress already. The people who live in the map area should not feel pressured to sell their property to Fish and Wildlife. Already, the people with homes currently for sale in the map area, have lost potential buyers because no one want to buy property that may be in danger of being taken over by the refuge. Fish and wildlife doesn't seem to understand how much turmoil this has caused in our town. The farmers want to keep their land and the loss of farm production would be detrimental. FWS is continually told that their refuge is not wanted, yet the fail to listen and simply "reword" their dialogue to to try to get our support. They are fooling no one- we want to continue our lives like they are, without Fish and Wildlifes interference. There is no one better to protect the land, river and wildlife that is all around us, than we who choose to live here. This is WHY we live here. The properties FWS refers to as "absentee owners" are far from that. Those are summer homes. They are owned and maintained by legal owners, and whether they are lived in full time or part time, is none of FWS's business. This is a farming town- the farmland FWS wants to vacate produces substantial and essential yields. The fact that FWS thinks this is an okay plan, proves how much they are out of touch with our town and its ways. Sincerely, Monty Gina Buchanan 3580 N Vincennes Trl Momence, IL 60954 montygina@sbcglobal.net



# Conversation Contents

Public Input RE Kankakee Project

**Nick Cornilsen <nick.cornilsen@gmail.com>**

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**From:** Nick Cornilsen <nick.cornilsen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thu Dec 01 2016 16:27:52 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** <r3planning@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Input RE Kankakee Project

My input on this project is that I do NOT believe it is appropriate for this project to continue for a multitude of reasons.

While this is not local to me, a similar project in my area had very negative consequences for the people who live near it.

Thank you.

# Conversation Contents

Re: Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area

**Tracy Estabrook <teboal@yahoo.com>**

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**From:** Tracy Estabrook <teboal@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thu Dec 01 2016 16:20:05 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "r3planning@fws.gov" <r3planning@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Kankakee National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area

I am in full support of this project because of my strong interest in conservation of wildlife and watershed integrity, and in increasing the amounts of multiple-use public land.

Sincerely,

Tracy Boal

# Conversation Contents

Marsh not welcome in Momence.

**Amy Wagner <wagmyfamily@gmail.com>**

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**From:** Amy Wagner <wagmyfamily@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thu Dec 01 2016 10:26:02 GMT-0700 (MST)  
**To:** "U.S. FWS Jeanne Holler" <r3planning@fws.gov>  
**Subject:** Marsh not welcome in Momence.

Dear U.S. FWS Holler, I have attended meetings that were presented as informative, but it was not possible to get a straight answer. Most truth came into light when well informed residents asked specific fact challenging questions. The unknown is concerning, yet the facts are already alarming. The loss of tax revenue will put an unrealistic burden on myself and other property owners. Our town will not be able to continue without this revenue. FWS has made it clear that they intend to wait us out. This is a long term plan to allow our town to slowly sink into ruins with delapidated houses that negatively reflect our property values. FWS admitted that there are times when they purchase property and just wait it out as the structures deteriorate and rot. I do not want that in my community. Property values have already seen a negative turn with buyers being wary of what the true plans for this sweet historic border town will endure. FWS seems to believe that they can work a strategy that leaves local property owners at their mercy and without a voice. We are not asking for great sums of money to be spent to correct a situation. There is no tax burden to request that they move their plans to a new venue. The money that they are spending to circumvent the will of our citizens is a gross misuse of taxpayers dollars. I believe this is not very American. We take pride in our town and although it's not perfect it's ours. Any extra tax money that is in need of a cause could be put towards many better programs. Our schools and first responders deserve tax money before it should be squandered. Sincerely, Amy M Wagner 1171 N Riverside Dr Momence, IL 60954  
wagmyfamily@gmail.com

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