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TO: File

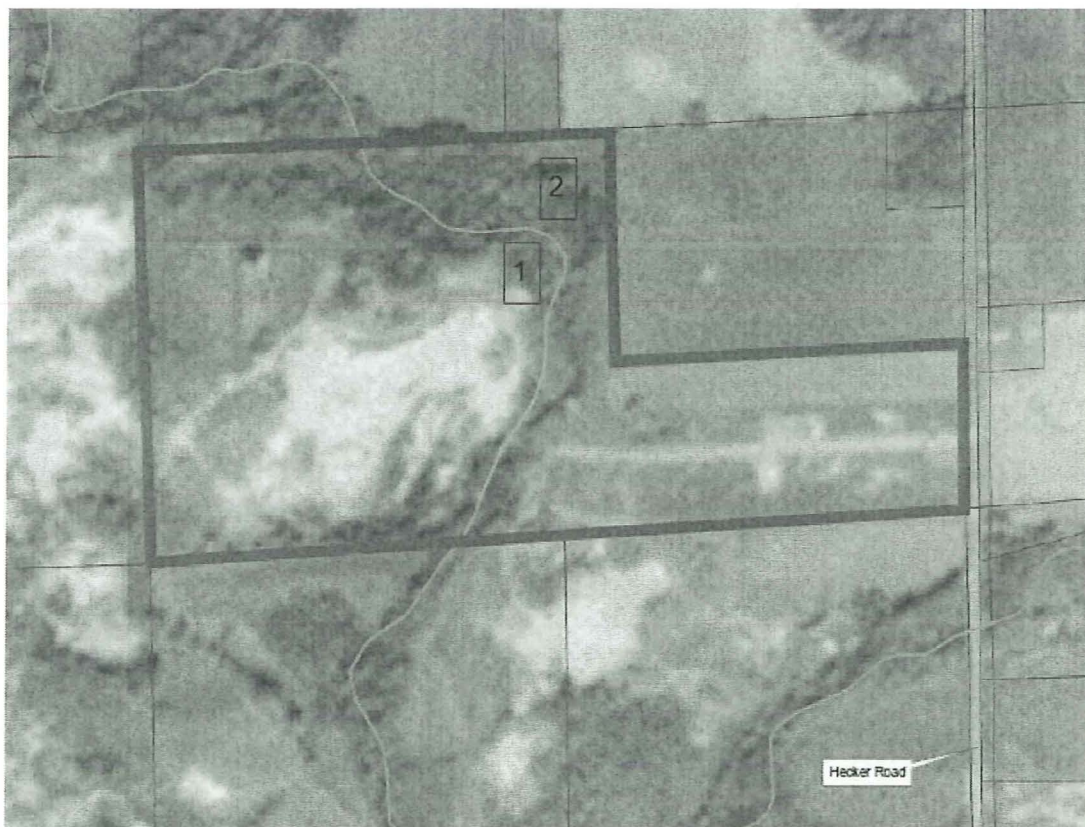
FROM: Annette Weissbach, RR, Liz Heinen DWG



SUBJECT: interview of Jim Aasen, retired conservation warden, Manitowoc County, 1974- 1994

Aasen contacted Weissbach and Heinen after hearing the news about the potable well contamination near the Newton Gravel Pit. We met at the Mishicot DNR office from 9:20- 11:00 am Friday January 10, 2014 to talk about his recollections of several visits he made to the pit.

Aasen's primary contact in relation to the Newton Gravel Pit in the early 1970s was the fire chief for the city of Manitowoc, Reinhardt Herzog (Reinnie). Aasen said Herzog disposed of solvents for the city. The city would accumulate excess solvents in drums, barrels, etc. and then bring them to the pit for disposal and burning. The gate into the pit was just before the creek and in the low area in the woods. There was no gate at Hecker and Gravel pit road. Aasen would watch trucks back up to the edge of an elevated, wooded area and dump their contents in the location marked #1. The map below is a copy of the 1974 aerial photo, (same as used at the open house on Dec 7). Aasen said he responded to complaints of dumping at the pit and he filled out spill reporting forms and forwarded them to the Green Bay Area DNR office. He doesn't recall exactly how many or on what dates he was at the pit.



Aasen stated there may also have been an area on the east side of Silver Creek marked as #2 in the photo above. In the 1970s he recalls there might have been signs and a construction gate and a road leading north from the main east-west gravel pit road.

Herzog would also take excess solvents and add them to demolitions burns in the city. It was common practice to burn demolition debris and the city would add accelerants (solvents) from their stockpile to help the burn. The fire department also did many training burns on houses to be demolished and used these as opportunities to get rid of excess chemicals.

Chuck Herzog, was Reinnie's son, took over as fire chief when Reinnie retired and continued the practices described above. A new mayor was elected and he discontinued the demolition burns.

Aasen also mentioned responding to a complaint at a business on HW 42 near Fricke drive, north of silver creek. This business supposedly flushed waters and cleaning agents from tankers into Silver Creek. Aasen recalls looking for soap suds and dead fish, he traced the suds downstream toward Fricke Pit.