

# MANASOTA-88

## A Project for Environmental Quality 1968-2088

Richard Bedford, Chairman  
Planning Commission  
Manatee County Government Administrative Center  
1112 Manatee Avenue West  
First Floor, Commission Chambers

November 29, 2007

**Re: Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC/Four Corners Mine Northeast Tract Addition-Parcel 4 (Altman Tract), RESOLUTION R-07-100 - MASTER MINING PLAN, ORDINANCE 07-50 & MANATEE COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE NO. Z-07-13**

### Directors

- Glenn Compton
- Mary Compton
- Rebecca Eger
- Barbara Hines
- Mary Jelks, M.D.
- Greg Nowaski
- Joan Perry
- Hilda Quy
- Doris Schember
- Janet Smith

Dear Chairman Bedford:

ManaSota-88, Inc. (ManaSota-88) is a public interest conservation and environmental protection organization, which is a Florida not-for-profit corporation and a citizen of the State of Florida. The corporate purposes of ManaSota-88 include the protection and preservation of water quality and wildlife habitat in Manatee and Sarasota Counties and, therefore, objecting the proposed Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC requests fall within ManaSota-88's general scope of interest and activity.

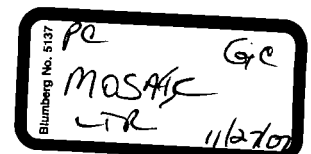
ManaSota-88 and its members will be substantially and adversely affected by the conditions and activity which will result if Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC (Applicant) requests are approved, including by water pollution (such as from mining water run-off, unreclaimed or untreated wastewater, mining byproducts and chemicals used therein), air pollution (from the dirtying and fouling of air from large mining and earthmoving heavy equipment and fumes), noise pollution (from noise by large mining and earthmoving equipment, including at late and very early hours), degradation of the water quality of surface and ground waters, long-term degradation or destruction of natural habitat for wildlife which members of ManaSota-88 enjoy and value observing, and by those consequences and others will have a substantial and adverse effect on the property values of ManaSota-88 and its members and on the quality of life of its members.

The permit approvals being sought in these proceedings will have the effect of impairing, polluting, or otherwise injuring the air, water or other natural resources of the State of Florida, directly, and cumulatively, by degrading the water quality of surface and ground waters, adversely affecting wildlife habitat, and otherwise.



### Information

P.O. Box 1728  
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www.manasota88.org



Parcel 4 contains a significant percentage of wetlands and listed plant and animal species. Many of the wetlands are high quality in condition. The majority of Parcel 4 is located in the Peace River Overlay District and Parcel 4 contains a system of wetlands that form the headwaters of Horse Creek. Parcel 4 lies almost entirely within the watershed of Horse Creek.

ManaSota-88 strongly recommends the Manatee County Planning Commission **deny** Mosaic Fertilizer, LLC's request to phosphate mine the Four Corners Mine Northeast Tract Addition-Parcel 4 (Altman Tract) for the following reasons:

1. Manatee County staff has found the requests to be **INCONSISTENT** with the Manatee County Comprehensive Plan and the Manatee County Land Development Code, and recommends **DENIAL** of Manatee County Zoning Ordinance No. Z-07-13;
2. The proposed mining will be in the headwaters of Horse Creek, a tributary of the Peace River. The direct impacts of Applicants proposed phosphate mining and associated activities will result in unpermittable adverse impacts which may violate water quality standards, and will be contrary to the public interest. Such direct impacts include but are not limited to alterations in the primary productivity and organic matter processing within the downstream areas of the Horse Creek that will temporarily and permanently affect the food chain within Horse Creek, will likely result in significant levels of pollution to Horse Creek; water quality within Horse Creek will be degraded and the project site will suffer a loss of complex, diverse and unique wetland, forested and marsh ecosystems that Applicant will be unable to successfully restore;
3. There will be significant unpermittable foreseeable adverse cumulative impacts affecting fish, wildlife, listed species and their habitats, hydrologic conditions, uniqueness, location, fish and wildlife utilization, water quality, conservation and protection of fish and wildlife, including waterfowl and their habitat, water flow, fishing and recreational values and the permanence of the proposed mining activities and associated impacts of adjacent and upstream mining activities in the Horse Creek watershed. The majority of Parcel 4 is in the Peace River Watershed Overlay District. The Applicant proposes to mine or disturb 397 acres of wetlands;
4. The proposed activity will be permanent in nature;
5. The Applicant has not provided reasonable assurances that the current conditions and relative value of functions being performed by of Horse Creek will not be adversely affected by the proposed permit;
6. Manatee County staff finds the Applicants application is inconsistent with

Comprehensive Plan Policy 3.3.1.1, which requires the Applicant to demonstrate avoidance of wetlands before causing an impact;

7. The Applicant has not provided reasonable assurances of compliance with Class III water quality standards for the direct, secondary and cumulative impacts of the proposed project. These include, but are not limited to, the water quality standards for: nutrients, turbidity transparency, biological integrity, nuisance conditions, heavy metals and other contaminants, and dissolved oxygen, and including the antidegradation and public interest provisions;
8. The Applicant has not provided sufficient measures to mitigate and offset the adverse effects that will be caused by the proposed mining and excavation project and associated activity;
9. The Applicant's proposed wetlands reclamation activities may not be sufficient to maintain or improve the water quality and the function of the biological systems present at the project site prior to the commencement of mining activities;
10. The Applicant has not provided reasonable assurances that the cumulative impacts of the proposed project, including applicable past, present and foreseeable cumulative impacts, will not cause violations of any state or federal standard;
11. The Applicant has not provided reasonable assurances that the secondary impacts from wildlife and habitat disturbance and destruction of the proposed project site will not cause violations of any state or federal standard;
12. The rezone area contains significant habitat for Bald Eagles, Scrub Jays, Gopher Tortoises, and Eastern Indigo Snakes and four plant species listed on Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) lists of endangered, threatened, or commercially exploited plant species (the giant airplant, wild coco, cinnamon fern, and royal fern). Policy 3.3.2.1 of the Comprehensive Plan requires endangered and threatened species be appropriately protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenn Compton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Chairman - ManaSota-88

**IF YOU WISH TO ADDRESS THE BOARD DURING A PUBLIC HEARING ON TODAY'S AGENDA, PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM. THANK YOU.**

Individuals wishing to speak on any Public Hearing matter must indicate so by filling out this form and returning it to the Clerk prior to the beginning of the Public Hearing.

**PLEASE PRINT**

Name Barbara Hines

Address 117 81st St.  
Holmes Beach, FL 34817

Representing Vol. of Manasota 88

Public Hearing matter on which you want to speak:

Mosaic Phosphate

**Please check one for each #:**

1. Are you in favor:  \*  
opposed:

2A. Speaking as an individual? Yes

**OR.**

2B. If you are speaking as an official representative of a group: \*\*

Name of Group: Manasota 88

\*\* You are required to provide the Clerk with written evidence of your authority to speak on behalf of the organization or group you represent for land use public hearings.

3. Do you have a visual presentation or other evidence to be submitted to the Board?

Yes  No

4. Do you wish to be notified of any subsequent dispute resolution proceedings?

Yes  No

\* Designation in favor or opposed is required solely for determination of the order of appearance. The number of people for or against a matter is not considered by the Board with regard to whether to approve or deny the matter.

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**PLEASE PRINT**

Name Glenn Compton

Address P.O. Box 1728  
Nadomis, FL 34775

Representing Manasota 88

Public Hearing matter on which you want to speak:

Mosaic Phosphate

**Please check one for each #:**

1. Are you in favor:  \*  
opposed:

2A. Speaking as an individual? Yes

**OR.**

2B. If you are speaking as an official representative of a group: \*\*

Name of Group: Manasota 88, Inc.

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