

Elbert and Laurie Stoltenberg

By Bill Pegler

Meet Elbert and Laurie Stoltenberg. They've owned a business in Nelsonville about 13 years, and have been a resident of the Village almost 6 years, but the Stoltenberg family has been in and around this area since about 1852. The Stoltenberg Creek carries the family name and the changes the Stoltenberg's have seen in those years have been alarming.

Over recent years, Stoltenberg Creek has shown a dramatic change in direct correlation with the increased usage of high capacity wells. For 160 years the Creek was able to support a rich variety of wildlife, especially waterfowl. Now the Creek cannot support the waterfowl because it has lost over ½ mile of its headwaters. And in dry seasons the loss of headwaters can be a mile or more. Reports of increased nitrate contamination in private wells have also been documented.

Laurie Stoltenberg said, "It is inconceivable to us that there is a possibility that the highest bidder & sole owner of a High Capacity Well may be able to dictate where & when a well is installed with absolutely no regard for the cumulative effect it may have to the health and well being of the community."

In June of 2017, members of CSWAC filed an Amicus Brief in support of Clean Wisconsin's litigation on high capacity wells. Members and non-members have been personally impacted by over pumping and are concerned that problems are getting worse.

That's why Elbert and Laurie Stoltenberg are taking action by supporting CSWAC and adding their voice to the Amicus Brief in order to give notice to the DNR who work for us. According to the State Constitution, the public waters belong to all of us. "We absolutely implore you, before our water is compromised to the point of no return, to look at the scientific proven research, not hearsay or fallacy, on the condition of and the outlook for, Wisconsin's water resources before you give away your families rights and the rights of all, to enjoy and consume pure clean water, to a select few.