

Laurentian Vision Partnership

Meeting XXXX Report

"Planning and Project Implementation 2008"



Wednesday, October 8, 2008
Mining and Reclamation Classroom
Chisholm, Minnesota



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Meeting Objectives

The Facilitator reviewed the past meeting results and next steps, highlighted meeting objectives and went over the agenda for today’s meeting.

The primary objective for the meeting was to learn about the status of the Mesabi Nugget Project, be introduced to a proposed new education initiative and hear progress reports from Work Groups and Regional Groups on major new and ongoing implementation initiatives underway for 2008-2009.

Meeting Summary Laurentian Partnership Debriefing

- Participant introductions and expectations
- Opening comments
- Review of Meeting XXXIX results and next steps (May 2008)
- Overview of meeting objective and agenda for the day

Presentation: Mesabi Nugget Project Overview and Update Steve Rutherford, Project Manager

Steve Rutherford, Project Manager for the Mesabi Nugget Project in Hoyt Lakes provided an overview and status report on the \$250 million project currently under construction. He shared a historic overview of the evolution of the company/process development with pilot work beginning in 2002 and construction beginning in September 2007 for the first nugget processing module. Steel Dynamics is constructing the DRI Nugget production facility and is also working on the permitting to reopen Mesabi Mining to provide concentrate by 2010. The mine site has ore reserves that could serve a 2 million ton processing facility for over 60 years. Steve shared information on key mining inputs, transportation needs and costs, personnel currently on the site and projected employment for the first and potentially future processing modules which could equate to added investment approaching \$1.5 billion over the next five years. He commented on their byproducts and major equipment needs. They are serving a global market shipping nuggets to Indiana for value added processing and then off to world market consumers.

Currently they have 150 construction workers and will be ramping up to 250 or more this spring. Many of those workers are coming from the Range and Duluth. Their biggest challenges include the ability to secure needed equipment – long lead time and risky given the recession situation and a skilled workforce to support the permanent operations and future expansion plans. They are pushing ahead with their long-range agenda and will continue to make the investments as planned. The next major hurdle is securing the environmental permits to reopen the mine for concentrate.

Presentation: Transportation Planning Kevin Adolf, MnDOT

Kevin Adolf, regional transportation planner for MnDOT provided an overview of the state’s transportation improvement planning process, how that is carried out in the region and how transportation projects are identified, evaluated and prioritized for funding and construction. State and federal dollars are appropriated for major transportation modes (roads, rail, transit, airports etc.) and other needs including safety, bridges, lighting, rail crossings, streetscapes and enhancements and transportation museums are all eligible. The state prepares a five year ATP plan and updates every year. Statewide there is \$1.7 billion available. Approximately \$100 million is available for District 1 which covers the Iron Range and Duluth. There has been a major shift in priorities to focus

about 95% of the funding on existing road reconstruction. There was some discussion about the Highway 53 realignment possibilities in the Quad Cities and completion of Highway 169 four lanes in the foreseeable future. Both are major improvement projects not currently on the State's priority list for the next five years. Kevin provided information on Web access to the current five year plan priorities and more details on the regional process to set priorities. The Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) assists MnDOT with the District 1 planning and prioritization process. For more information contact MnDOT, ARDC or go online to the MnDOT District One site.

Partnership Priorities: Work Groups and Sub-Regional Group Reports

Individual work group representatives provided the following reports and next steps.

Action Areas	Work Group Priorities	Work Group Representative(s)	Update/Next Steps
Targeting Priority Projects	1. FY 2009 LVP Budget Update	Brian Hiti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved \$125,000 in Innovation Grants • Program guidelines are on Web/quarterly reviews are conducted • \$100,000 not approved for Partnership Grants • Other monies will be used to get things done
	2. FY Bricks and Mortars Projects Review (Innovation and Reclamation Grants)	Dan Jordan Jim Plummer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRR Board wants to see short-term two to five year construction projects, i.e. current mining process improvements to position for future re-use or prepare an old site for re-use
	3. Project ideas - Brainstorming (active mining operation related)	Dan Jordan Jim Plummer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go back to charrette evaluations to see if short-term opportunities exist • Identify areas where mining is about to end...look at rail corridors, etc. (ask mining companies) • Look at old pit areas for restoration • Consider use of pump storage for electrical generation (tie to wind power) • Magnetation – tailings basin changes, wetland bank creation • PolyMet involvement as they construct over next 2-5 years • Housing development needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Innovation & Infrastructure Grant combination to support site development, i.e. Buhl housing project • Reclamation of old mine properties around Hibbing – trees/pine • Lake Vermilion/U.S. Steel State Park site • Quad Cities – Virginia Charrette work, UTAC work (not short-term) – relocation of Hwy 53 • Determine best sites for redevelopment using GIS data • Use of bio-solids for work on minelands (clean stuff) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Next year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 10,000 tons available o 27% solids o 73% water – \$30,000 - \$80,000 value per ton • Duluth dredge material use as backhaul • Biwabik county road relocation – Charrette implementation priority • Mining/community land use conflicts – active expansion areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Identify the positive relationships and outcomes to be achieved
Delivering Tools & Resources	1. Report on targeted out reach and dissemination of Mine Map Charrette information to key stakeholders	Tim Pastika Jim Plummer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most current Mine map information will go on Web site by Jim Plummer

Action Areas	Work Group Priorities	Work Group Representative(s)	Update/Next Steps
Delivering Tools & Resources (continued)	2. Underground mine mapping projects update	Pete Clevenstine and John Engresser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase I done and information is out to key players Two volume DVD set is now available – data intensive Phase II fully funded (\$300,000 committed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Underway Julie R. is back as the lead researcher Starts where Phase one left off going east – east side of the Range will be covered next Outreach has been limited on the information developed to date Mine maps available for dissemination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 x 17 versions are now on the Web site (summary version only)
	3. Laurentian GIS Collaborative update	Andy Hubley , Kara Kent and Jim Plummer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven pilot communities engaged and well along All have sites online with GIS based data available Outreach underway to other communities to expand the project scope Funding development also underway to support the next round of communities
	4. LVP Mining 101 Primer	Tim Pastika and John Koepke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed educational tool Focus on the basics of how mining works Design principals/use integration in land use planning and development MNDNR does presentations now for groups Package what we have today and disseminate Tie to the engineer training course Valuable in addressing potential land use planning conflicts (counties and communities) Iron Mining Association (IMA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase communication on mining Front-end component to our education outreach on LVP Economics impacts/significance should also be highlighted Mine view use as part of the education exposure at a major tourist attraction <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jim Plummer and Tim Pastika to develop a draft tool
	5. LVP Training for Engineers Project Update	John Koepke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The program curriculum will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land use Water & vegetation Land shaping Regulatory/rules/implications February/March timeframe...still firming up dates CE credits for engineers – eligible? Expect 20-40 participants Location to be determined Open to other consulting engineers?
Facilitating Regional Outreach	1. LVP Coordinators Report	Jim Plummer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web site up-to-date Outreach underway/list in place Minnesota Humanities Center/presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fifty educators here studying the Range/update on LVP Lands and Architecture national magazine article – place on Web site? First national publication to produce a story on LVP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$2,000.00 to use Other alternatives? Biwabik Charrette summary by Iron Range Resources –will be uploaded to the site St. Louis County master planning for smaller communities to incorporate LVP information – part of Range Readiness <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tie to Range Readiness Community Readiness Initiative Tie to the County's Comprehensive Plan in the future

Regional Group Updates

Three of five Regional Groups were present and provided an update on their major activities related to LVP.

Sub-Regional Group	Current Projects
CIRI - Lory Fedo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity issues – “Focus on India” event to be held in December <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hibbing Community College web site – December 10 -11th – main event is on the 11th • Applied for a Brownfield study – EPA grant \$250,000 x 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Hwy 169 – Re: Reclamation mining land and petroleum affected land – Reapplying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o November submission, May approval o Need draft support letters from any members interested in providing • Sanitary District <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Comprehensive planning process extended six months – Still in process
Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board - Doug Learmont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canisteo Steel – level of water stabilization being debated • Project activity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Essar Steel of Minnesota – KeeTac – Magnetation Inc. • Board is more active in addressing regional transportation issues – rail/roads
East Central Range Partnership - Jeff Jacobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocation of Co Rd 715 is a major issue • St. Louis County has three alternate plans/routes prepared <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Most northern route is preferred – Funding needs and timing still unclear • New Regional Group make-up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – City – Town of White – Fee owners – Giants Ridge
East Range Readiness - Curt Anttila	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curt Anttila had to leave for another meeting and will report at the next quarterly meeting.
Quad Cities - Representative to be named	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report at this meeting.

Other Business/Discussion Topics

A. Range Readiness Initiative (RRI) Update - Randy Lasky

Since the May LVP meeting, the RRI has been very busy addressing workforce needs; conducting housing market research and developing action plans to address temporary and permanent workforce housing needs; conducting meetings with representatives of the major projects to assess their status and seek their assistance with key information; communities are updating their comprehensive plans and are using LVP maps and data, have applied for community assistance grants and are focusing on sites for both business and housing development needs; economic developers are starting to look at value-added business development opportunities and working on conducting a vendors fair to provide information on project procurement needs and timing. Essar Steel held its groundbreaking in September and other projects have conducted information meetings this summer as they prepare to go into the Environmental Review processes. The RRI Strategy Team of over thirty members continues to meet on a monthly basis and is leading this initiative. A new Web site has been launched with a lot of up-to-date information on the projects and the work team efforts in many of the areas highlighted today. The URL is www.rangereadiness.com. It was launched in late June and has had steady activity. The site is also linked to the LVP, Northland Connection, Northland Works and Iron Range Resources Web sites.

B. Future Topics

The group discussed a number of possible discussion topics highlighted on the agenda by the Coordinating Committee and settled on four (4) priorities for future upcoming meetings:

- PolyMet and EIS Process – Joe Scipioni and/or LaTisha Gietzen
- NE Wetlands Taskforce Update
- MNDOT Projects
- Other?

Coordinating Committee Meeting

The next Coordinating Committee will be held on **Tuesday, December 2nd from 9:00 A.M. to Noon at the Mining and Reclamation Classroom**, at Ironworld Discovery Center in Chisholm.

LVP Quarterly Meeting

The next Laurentian Vision Partnership meeting will be held **Wednesday, January 7th from 9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. at the Mining and Reclamation Classroom** at Ironworld Discovery Center in Chisholm.



Laurentian Vision Partnership
Transforming pits and piles into lakes and landscapes

Meeting XXXX

Wednesday, October 8, 2008– 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Mining and Reclamation Classroom
Chisholm, Minnesota

“Planning and Project Implementation 2008”

Objective

Learn about the status of the Mesabi Nugget Project, a proposed new education initiative and progress reports from Work Groups and Regional Groups on major new and ongoing implementation initiatives underway for 2008

AGENDA

- 9:00 Laurentian Partnership Debriefing**
- Participant introductions and expectations *Randy Lasky*
 - Opening comments
 - Review of Meeting XXXIX results and next steps (May 2008)
 - Overview of the meeting objective and agenda
- 9:15 Presentation: Mesabi Nugget Project Overview and Update** *Steve Rutherford,
Project Manager*
- 9:50 Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress Reports**
- 1) Targeting PRIORITY PROJECTS
 - FY 2009 LVP Budget Update *Brian Hiti*
 - FY Bricks and Mortar Projects Review (Innovation and Reclamation Grants) *Dan Jordan*
 - What’s Next?
- 10:15 Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress Reports**
- 2) Delivering TOOLS and RESOURCES
 - Report on Targeted Outreach and Dissemination of Mine Map and Charrette Information to Key Stakeholders *Tim Pastika and
Jim Plummer*
 - New 11x17 maps
 - New outreach targets
 - Progress to date
 - Underground Mine Mapping Projects Update *Pete Clevenstine and
John Engresser*
 - Phase I report and results use and dissemination
 - Phase II
 - Laurentian GIS Collaborative Update (Pilot Project) *Andy Hubley and Kara Kent*
 - Progress to date
 - Next steps and timing

- 10:45** Break
- 11:00**
- Mesabi Iron Range Large Scale Projects Map – General Update and Access *Tim Pastika and Jim Plummer*
 - LVP Mining 101 Primer – A Proposed New Education and Training Concept *Tim Pastika and John Koepke*
 - Proposed approach
 - Tie to engineer training initiative and outreach efforts
 - LVP Training for Engineers Project Update *John Koepke*
- 11:30** **Partnership Priorities:** Work Group Action Progress Reports
- 3) Facilitating REGIONAL OUTREACH
- LVP Coordinators Report *Jim Plummer*
 - Web site use and analysis
 - Other outreach activities
- 11:45** **Partnership Priorities:** Regional Group Action Progress Reports
- Regional Group Updates
 - 1) Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) *Lory Fedo*
 - 2) Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board (WMPB) *Doug Learmont*
 - 3) East Range Community Readiness (ERJPB) *Curt Anttila*
 - 4) East Central Range Partnership *Jeff Jacobs and Jim Plummer*
 - 5) Quad Cities *Jim Plummer or Quad Cities Representative*
- 12:15** **Other Business Updates**
- Range Readiness Initiative (RRI) Update *Randy Lasky*
 - Future Topic?
 - PolyMet and EIS Process
 - NE Wetlands Taskforce Update
 - MnDOT Projects
 - Other?
- 12:25** **What's Next?**
- Next meeting date and agenda *Randy Lasky*
 - **Coordinating Group** – December _____ 2008?
 - Representative from each Work Group and each Sub-Regional Group
 - **Laurentian Vision Partnership** – January ____, 2009?
 - Wrap up announcements and conclusions
- 12:30** **ADJOURN**



Meeting Participants Laurentian Vision Partnership Meeting XXXX

Wednesday, October 8, 2008 - 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

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