

Laurentian Vision Partnership

Meeting XLIV Report

"Planning and Project Implementation 2010"



Wednesday, January 27, 2010
Mining and Reclamation Classroom
Chisholm, Minnesota



Laurentian Vision Partnership

Meeting XLIV

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

“Planning and Project Implementation 2010”

Meeting Objectives

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

Learn about the major neutrino scientific project and its implications currently underway at the Soudan Mine Underground Lab; learn about and discuss current mining environmental issues with key state regulatory and management agency representatives; find out how the Highway 169 reconstruction project has gone this past year; and hear progress reports from Work Groups and Regional Groups on major new and ongoing implementation initiatives underway for 2010.

Meeting Summary Laurentian Partnership Debriefing

- Participant introductions and expectations
- Opening comments
- Review of Meeting XLIII results and next steps (October 2009)
- Overview of meeting objective and agenda

Presentation: NOvA Update - A Continuation of Over 25 years of Neutrino Studies in NE MN Bill Miller, Soudan Underground Mine Lab Supervisor, University of Minnesota

Bill Miller used a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the new NOvA project and a project handout on the Soudan Underground Laboratory – MINOS project which is winding down at the State Park facility. He briefly described the 25 year research effort to study large neutrino and particle physics studies that have been underway and how the latest project on the Ash River Trail fits with this initiative. The new NOvA project is a \$278 million project that will operate for 12 years on the Ash River Trail. A building lab/detector is being constructed to assess cosmic Dark Matter–CDMS and its neutrino composition. A very technical process that has never been done before. The detector will be operational in Fall 2010 and will function until 2025. Bill shared information on the new building design and purpose, construction schedule and workforce that will support this research on and off the site. He also explained that the current project in Soudan will end in 2011 and the underground facility will be removed. A copy of his presentation is on the LVP web site for future reference.

Presentation: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Lands and Minerals: Mineral Environmental Research

John Engesser, P.E., Assistant Director, MnDNR Division of Lands and Minerals Presentation: Current

John Engesser joined us to share information on MnDNR’s mineral research efforts impacting ferrous and non-ferrous mining on the Iron Range. His PowerPoint presentation highlighted the agency’s land management responsibilities and role in minerals research to support public policy development for minerals. MnDNR currently operates three research programs including environmental research and Iron Ore Cooperative research to improve taconite processing and minerals diversification research. He proceeded to provide detail on the three research initiatives related to mercury reduction in taconite processing; impact of sulfate from taconite processing on mercury chemistry; and sulfide oxidation research related to non-ferrous mining which has been underway for over 30 years by MnDNR. John addressed the purpose and scope of each of these research initiatives and the goals they are trying to address. A copy of the presentation is online at the LVP web site.

Environmental Issues for Mining Projects in Minnesota
 Brian Timerson, Metallic Mining Projects Lead, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Brian Timerson presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the regulatory responsibilities of the state and how MPCA is addressing the mining industry and its needs for air and water permits. He commented on changing and growing demands as several mining companies prepared to expand; new processes are introduced such as Mesabi Nugget and Magnetation and how non-ferrous mining development is being addressed. He went on to explain five current mining issues including haze/visibility; climate change; mercury; sulfate and wild rice and several new issues including new rules for particulate matter 2.5; proposed new SO2 rules; proposed new NOx standards; and potential CO2 standards. Brian commented on the complexity of these existing and proposed new changes and the need to develop creative solutions to accommodate growth in a responsible manner. A copy of his presentation is online at the LVP web site.

Presentation: Highway 169/County Road 5 Reconstruction Update
 Kevin Adolfs P.E. and Michael Kalnbach, P.E., Minnesota Department of Transportation

Kevin Adolfs and Michael Kalnbach, MnDOT engineers provided a project handout and updated members on the Highway 169 Chisholm Area Subsidence Project. This is a multi-year \$7.4 million project to address the subsidence issues along the corridor near the Minnesota Discovery Center and City of Chisholm and west near Hibbing. The project will be completed in June 2010. They explained the findings of their assessment work and the solution they developed and are implementing. Members asked about ongoing monitoring and the likelihood of future problems in the corridor. They will use “geo phones” to measure changes in baseline conditions and are seeking funding to place 48 devices for annual testing and interpretation. They do not expect to drill in the future. LVP members have monitored this situation since the sink holes were discovered and underground mine areas were suspected as a contributing factor. A copy of the handout material is online at the LVP web site.

Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress 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. Innovation Grants 2010	Jim Plummer, IRR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approximately \$125,000 remains in fiscal year funding. Shared a video done by Lee Bloomquist, IRR with Julie Varichak at the UTAC test stockpile along TH 53.
	1. Fifty Year Mine Mapping Update	Tim Pastika, MnDNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mine maps are 10 years old and need to be updated. Tim will work with the counties and fee landowner representatives to begin tweaking the maps. We need to update about two dozen maps. Tim will provide updates as we proceed.
	2. Mesabi Iron Range Large Scale Projects Map – Quarterly Update	Tim Pastika, MnDNR Dan Jordan, IRR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current map has been updated and is online at the LVP website. We have new projects developing near Aitkin and Emily to consider. We will need to discuss and decide how to handle the projects that are beyond the core Iron Range. How or should we change the scope and even title of the map? We will address at the next meeting.
	3. Mining 101 Brochure Update	Jim Sellner, MnDNR Jim Plummer, IRR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The brochure is not completed as yet.

Regional Group Updates

The following Regional Groups were present and provided an update on their major activities related to LVP.

Regional Group	Current Projects
Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board (WMMPB) – Doug Learmont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board is interested in the Brownfield Assessment project and its applications for Itasca County. • The Canisteo Water Project is in the implementation phase now. • Major projects include the use of natural ores - aggregate stockpiles and their inclusion in the mine mapping activity; and the new lease activity occurring for non-ferrous resources in Itasca and surrounding counties. • MnDNR reported there were 130 bids, the largest lease sale ever, for precious metals exploration in Aitkin, Carlton, St. Louis, Itasca and Koochiching Counties this past year.
Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) – Scott Allison/Lory Fedo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report
East Range Community Readiness (ERJPB) – Curt Anttila	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report
East Central Range Partnership – Jeff Jacobson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report
Quad Cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report

Other Business Updates and Future Topics

A. Range Readiness Initiative (RRI) Update

Randy Lasky facilitator for Range Readiness Initiative reported that the RRI Strategy Team met in early November 2009 and heard updates from major large scale project representatives and a special report on the Enbridge Pipeline Project. The Mesabi Nugget project expects to be operational with its first production to occur in December and the Polymet EIS Review Process is underway. Other projects continue to make headway as they pursue permits and complete financing. The three Work Teams including Housing Development, Workforce Development and Communications are continuing to meet and develop and implement key strategies under the direction of the RRI Strategy Team. A copy of the most recent direct email communications campaign piece was shared with the group. These go out to key opinion leaders throughout Minnesota to remind them of the major work underway on the Iron Range today. Work will continue in 2010 as the large projects continue to evolve.

B. Future Topics

The group discussed a number of possible discussion topics highlighted on the agenda by the Coordinating Committee and settled on nine (9) priorities for future upcoming meetings:

- Non-ferrous related legislation this session
- Future Mining 2030
- Essar Steel rep/update
- Excelsior Energy update
- Wind – large scale
 - Minnesota Power project/Minntac
 - Potential sites on the Range
 - Biwabik area project

- Community level (ARDC study)
- Great River Energy – energy storage pump
- Workforce development/Northeast Higher Education District (Roy Smith)
- Enbridge project restoration?
- CMR – fall topic

Coordinating Committee Meeting

The next Coordinating Committee will be held in mid- April 2010 **from 9:00 A.M. to Noon at the Mining and Reclamation Classroom**, at Ironworld Discovery Center in Chisholm. A final date will be determined and Work Group and Regional Group representatives as to assist in developing the May, quarterly membership meeting agenda.

LVP Quarterly Meeting

The next Laurentian Vision Partnership meeting will be **held on May 19th from 9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. at the Mining and Reclamation Classroom** at Ironworld Discovery Center in Chisholm. Note: The meeting date was later changed to May 26th same time and location.



Laurentian Vision Partnership
Transforming pits and piles into lakes and landscapes

MEETING XLIV

Wednesday, January 27, 2010– 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Mining and Reclamation Classroom
Chisholm, Minnesota

“Planning and Project Implementation 2010”

OBJECTIVE

Learn about the major neutrino scientific project and its implications currently underway at the Soudan Mine Underground Lab; learn about and discuss current mining environmental issues with key state regulatory and management agency representatives; find out how the Highway 169 reconstruction project has gone this past year; and hear progress reports from Work Groups and Regional Groups on major new and ongoing implementation initiatives underway for 2010.

AGENDA

- | | | |
|--------------|--|--|
| 9:00 | Laurentian Partnership Debriefing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participant introductions and expectations• Opening comments• Review of Meeting XLIII results and next steps (10/09)• Overview of the meeting objective and agenda | <i>Randy Lasky, Facilitator</i> |
| 9:15 | Presentation: NOvA Update-A continuation of over 25 years of Neutrino studies in Northeastern Minnesota | <i>Bill Miller, Lab Supervisor for the Soudan Underground Mine University of Minnesota</i> |
| 10:00 | Presentation: Current Environmental Issues for Mining Projects in Minnesota | <i>Brian Timerson, Metallic Mining Projects Lead, Mn Pollution Control Agency</i> |
| 10:30 | Presentation: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Lands and Minerals: Mineral Environmental Research | <i>John Engesser, P.E. Assistant Director, MnDNR Division of Lands and Minerals</i> |
| 11:00 | Break | |
| 11:15 | Presentation: Highway 169-County Road 5 Reconstruction Update | <i>Kevin Adolfs, P.E. Mn Department of Transportation</i> |
| 11:30 | Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">1) Targeting PRIORITY PROJECTS<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Innovation Grants 2010 | <i>Jim Plummer, IRR</i> |

- 11:35 Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress Reports**
- 2) Delivering TOOLS and RESOURCES
 - Fifty Year Mine Mapping Update *Tim Pastika, MnDNR*
 - Mesabi Iron Range Large Scale Projects Map – Quarterly Update *Tim Pastika, MnDNR*
Dan Jordan, IRR
 - Mining 101 Brochure Update *Jim Sellner, MnDNR*
Jim Plummer, IRR
- 11:45 Partnership Priorities: Regional Group Action Progress Reports**
- Regional Group Updates
 - 1) Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board (WMMPB) *Doug Learmont*
 - 2) Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) *Scott Allison/Lori Fedo*
 - 3) East Range Community Readiness (ERJPB) *Curt Anttila*
 - 4) East Central Range Partnership *Jeff Jacobson*
 - 5) Quad Cities *TBD*
- 12:10 Other Business Updates and Future Topics**
- Range Readiness Initiative Update *Randy Lasky*
 - Future Topics
 - Future of Mining 2030 – Larry Lehtinen, Magnetation
 - Cooperative Mineral Resources – Brad Moore, Barr Engineering
 - Wind Energy Facility Siting and Impacts, Gary Cerkvenik
 - Discharge Water Sulfate Concentrations and Impacts
 - Future Charrettes at KeeTac and PolyMet areas
 - Essar Steel Minnesota Project Update
 - Mesabi Nugget Project Update
 - State Wetland Inventory Update
 - Central Range Brownfield Assessment Grant
 - Regional GIS Collaborative Update
 - Other?
- 12:25 What’s Next?**
- Meeting Schedule (May and October 2010) *Randy Lasky*
 - Next meeting date and agenda
 - **Coordinating Group** –April 2010?
 - Representative from each Work Group and each Sub-Regional Group
 - **Laurentian Vision Partnership** – May____, 2010?
 - Wrap up announcements and conclusions
- 12:30 ADJOURN**



Laurentian Vision Partnership

Transforming pits and piles into lakes and landscapes

Meeting Participants - Meeting XLIV

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Adolfs,	Kevin	MN/DOT	kevin.adolfs@state.mn.us	(218) 742-1060
Bartovich,	Chrissy	U.S. Steel	clbartovich@uss.com	(218) 749-7364
Bloomquist,	Lee	Iron Range Resources	lee.bloomquist@state.mn.us	(218) 735-3004
Engesser,	John	DNR Lands & Minerals	john.engesser@dnr.state.mn.us	(218) 231-8448
Fedo,	John	RLK Inc., CIRI	jfedo@rlkinc.com	(218) 262-5528
Gunderson,	Kate	DNR LAM	kate.gunderson@state.mn.us	(218) 231-8459
Heltunen,	Peter	RGGS	pheltunen@rggs.us	(218) 749-1291
Henderson,	Pat	ARDC	phenderson@ardc.org	(218) 529-7547
Kalabach,	Michael	MN/DOT	michael.kalabach@state.mn.us	(218) 742-1062
Lasky,	Randy	Northspan Group	rlasky@northspan.org	(218) 529-7561
Learmont,	Doug	WMMPB	dlearmont@2z.net	(218) 326-0384
Lesar,	Barry	St. Louis County	lesarb@co.st-louis.mn.us	(218) 742-9840
Meineke,	Dave	Global Minerals Engineering	david.meineke@globalmineralseng.com	(218) 262-0799
Minne,	Jon	Barr Engineering	jminne@barr.com	(218) 262-8600
Oreskovich,	Julie	NRRI/DNR	julie.oreskovich@state.mn.us	(218) 231-8466
Ous,	Garrett	Itasca County	garrett.ous@co.itasca.mn.us	(218) 327-2855
Pastika,	Pete	Babbitt	info@babbitt-mn.com	(218) 827-2188
Pastika,	Tim	DNR Lands & Minerals	tim.pastika@dnr.state.mn.us	(218) 231-8467
Plummer,	Jim	Iron Range Resources	jim.plummer@state.mn.us	(218) 744-7344
Pylka,	Kevin	PolyMet Mining	kpylka@polymetmining.com	(218) 225-4417
Stevinson,	Jim	U.S. Steel	jestevinson@uss.com	(218) 749-7340
Varichak,	Julie	Cliffs Natural Resources	julie.varichak@cliffsnr.com	(218) 969-4785