

# **Laurentian Vision Partnership**

## **Meeting XXXVI Report**

*"Planning and Project Implementation 2007"*



**Laurentian Vision Partnership**  
Transforming pits and piles into lakes and landscapes

Tuesday, August 21, 2007  
Mining and Reclamation Classroom  
Chisholm, Minnesota



# Laurentian Vision Partnership Meeting XXXVI

Tuesday, August 21, 2007

## “Planning and Project Implementation 2007”

### 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 *hear progress reports from Work Groups and Regional Sub-Groups on major new and ongoing implementation initiatives underway for 2007, review and finalize the 2007-2011 Strategic Action Plan and hear special topics presentations.*

### Meeting Summary

#### Laurentian Partnership Debriefing

- Participant introductions and expectations
- Opening comments
- Review of Meeting XXXV results and next steps (May, 2007)
- Overview of meeting objective and agenda

### Presentation: Land Subsidence Issues and Concerns on the Iron Range

The facilitator introduced Jay Richter, MnDOT Engineer from the Twin Cities and Derek Fredrickson soils engineer with the MnDOT District Office in Duluth to provide an overview and answer questions about a recent study to assess a land subsidence occurrence in the median of Truck Highway 169 outside of Iron World in Chisholm. A 10 x18 foot collapse occurred in the median above a known underground mine area outside of Iron World. MnDOT studied a one mile stretch of TH 169 going eastward from Iron World road using an electrical resistivity analysis technique profiling in 2D, 3D and 4D the underground features and conditions in this area. They completed some borings and used electrical electrodes to test the stretch and also relied on MDNR’s underground mine mapping information which has historical data on the area for comparisons. Three suspect areas were identified but no additional “void” areas were found. They provided a PowerPoint presentation of the technique and findings. Engineers felt the analysis was good and are confident that they did not miss any other major voids within 50 feet of the surface in this stretch. Members were interested in knowing more about the risk of collapse for the suspect areas identified. MnDOT staff explained that the risk assessment calculation is not part of the scope of their work and that others in MnDOT would be looking at the assessment results. The engineers will be presenting their findings to the Duluth District Office in late August or early September to determine next steps at this site and other areas they may evaluate along the corridor. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation will be made available online and that information will be provided to Iron Range Resources.

### Presentation: Iron Mining Association

Craig Pagel was introduced as the new President of the Iron Mining Association (IMA) and he proceeded to explain the organization mission, membership composition and structure, and the major problems and issues facing the industry. Craig is currently working on three focus areas: energy and environmental issues and regulatory policy, workforce development related to a large number of upcoming retirements, and support base expansion through education and awareness of industry contributions. A major responsibility is to lobby and address public policy

issues in St Paul. Major issues they are tackling include the increasing cost of natural gas and reductions in Co2 emissions through energy efficiency improvements; mercury and haze reduction issues; and the ongoing challenge to improve the competitiveness of Minnesota's mining operations. Member's asked about non-ferrous mining and similar issues faced by PolyMet and others not currently associated with IMA. Craig acknowledged similar challenges and is aware of what the non-ferrous mining contingent is addressing as well. Members encouraged Craig to attend future LVP meetings and participate when he has time. He was a former lobbyist with Minnesota Power and works out of the IMA office in Duluth.

### **LVP Strategic Action Plan 2007 - 2011**

The facilitator referred members to the draft Laurentian Vision Partnership 2007-2011 Strategic Action Plan and supporting planning materials developed as a starting framework by the LVP Coordinating Committee. He briefly reviewed the priorities and scope of the current three year plan developed in 2004-2005 which focused on three areas of priority and multiple work tasks within these areas:

- Facilitating Regional Visioning
- Delivering Tools and Resources
- Targeting Priority Projects

He went on to describe the Coordinating Committee planning approach reviewing the vision, mission and accomplishments and advantages that have been built or are in process. He concluded with a set of recommended draft objectives/next actions proposed as a starting framework for more discussion by the LVP and its Work Groups. The Coordinating Committee is challenging the membership to further assess and decide on its strategic priorities and actions, concentrating on measurable results that add value and further the mission emphasizing:

- Communication and education
- Sub-regional leadership development and expanded commitment to Charrette implementation and related priorities
- Institutionalize LVP design principles
- Provide relevant baseline and customized data and supporting technical resources
- Engage and challenge the sub-regional groups to use this information and resources to build economic development opportunities
- Make sure we add value for our funders and partners which comprise and support this voluntary effort

Following the presentations and comments by Coordinating Committee members reinforcing the major points, the membership responded to the information presented and commented on the following as needs we should emphasize or address:

- Need to focus on Charrettes
  - Past
  - Current
  - Implementation of the ideas and supportable concepts
- What is the sub-regional groups' commitment? Are they on board with us as much as we want to educate and engage them?
- We need to conduct a "breadth-test" to make sure we focus on the core mission
- Strategic space utilization
- Exclusion – mine land liability implications
- Need MnDOT and federal representatives as participants on LVP
- Need broader community involvement in use of reclamation resources
- What are the land demands in 50 years? What do we look like?

- Reference to “magnetic taconite” is confusing to local groups as the LVP focus – see brochure
  - Done already?
  - Should be broadened to include non-magnetic ore mining
- Minorca Charrette implementation – what are the next steps?
  - Is Minorca committed? Is Biwabik committed?
  - What’s next?
- Like sub-regional groups to push for more funding for underground mapping on East Range and Quad Cities areas
  - Timing for this work?
  - Funding needs and sources?

**Next Steps:** Members thanked the Coordinating Committee for their work and asked that the Work Groups convene between now and the next quarterly meeting to review the draft recommendations, suggestions from today’s discussion and be prepared to outline their proposed objectives and action steps for the group to review and finalize for adoption. The Coordinator will provide information to the Work Group Chairs and encourage their engagement over the next several months.

### Partnership Priorities: Work Groups and Sub-Regional Group Reports

#### Work Group Action Progress Reports

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

Action Areas	Work Group Priorities	Work Group Members	Next Steps
<b>Facilitate Regional Visioning</b>	1. Web Site	Tim Pastika, <i>Convener</i> Doug Learnmont John Koepke, <i>Handbook</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Web site/page will be on Iron Range Resources web site</li> <li>• We intend to add links to Sub-regional groups...both ways</li> <li>• Contract in place to complete the work</li> <li>• Design in process should be done by the end of the week</li> <li>• Demo will be up and running by the next meeting for review</li> </ul>
	2. Brochure		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies were distributed</li> <li>• To be printed as needed – plan to use as a dynamic tool that can be modified as things change</li> <li>• Will update – any changes?</li> <li>• Copies area available for use</li> <li>• PDF version will be available on the Web site and can be emailed</li> <li>• See Dan Jordan or Shelley Perkovich for copies</li> </ul>
	3. Handbook		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On hold</li> <li>• Conference with Chris after Labor Day to redirect the efforts</li> <li>• Shorter version is envisioned</li> <li>• On the back burner for now</li> </ul>
	4. Sub-regional Group Meetings		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CIRI - September</li> <li>• WRPB – September 13</li> <li>• Quad Cities - ?</li> <li>• East Range – October (date/time TBD)</li> </ul>
Action Areas	Work Group Priorities	Work Group Members	Next Steps
<b>Deliver Tools and Resources</b>	1. Aerial Photography	Marty Vadis, Convener Tim Pastika Dennis Hendricks Pete VanDelinder Doug Learnmont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult to bring all the companies to the table for a variety of reasons</li> <li>• Piece together one map at MDNR – option?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– One time stamp</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		Tom Gardner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Baseline/benchmark data will be in play</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION: Take this issues up as part of the Work Group strategic discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Talk with mining companies and regional groups on value</li> </ul>
2. Underground Mine Mapping – Future Study Expansion to Minntac		Julie Oreskovich	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moving west with our work now</li> <li>• Current project is over 50% complete</li> <li>• All mapping will be done by 6/30/08</li> <li>• Meetings with MnDOT on sites of concern</li> <li>• Need more P.R. on these activities and what we learn</li> <li>• Future funding to expand this work to Minntac? Current funding is in place through 12/08</li> <li>• Bonding bill funding to do this addition work is not included in MDNR request this year</li> <li>• LCMR may be a potential source.</li> </ul>
3. Iron Range GIS Collaborative Phase III Update		Andy Hubley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$130,000 project funding is now in place</li> <li>• The project is underway</li> <li>• Steering Committee is being formed to lead the project</li> <li>• Six pilot communities have been asked to participate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Nashwauk</li> <li>– Quad Cities</li> <li>– Babbitt</li> </ul> </li> <li>• More information is online at ARDC’s web site (<a href="http://www.arrowheadplanning.org">www.arrowheadplanning.org</a>) go to the Iron Range GIS link</li> <li>• Why are no central Iron Range communities included in the pilot?</li> </ul>
4. Wetland Banking Policy Update		Andy Hubley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$140,000 study requested to do: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Wetlands Inventory/Assessment</li> <li>2) Strategy-Policy Assessment</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
5. Large Scale Projects Map		Tim Pastika	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handed out and reviewed the current map and asked for any changes? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Status of projects?</li> <li>– Add/sub-committee</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Getting a lot more use</li> <li>• Copies provided to a number of requests. Statewide visibility</li> <li>• PDF available to email</li> </ul>
6. Minorca Charrette Implementation Update			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Executive Summary #3 done and provided to everyone involved</li> <li>• June 26<sup>th</sup> – Community follow-up meeting was held. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Well attended</li> <li>– Options presented</li> <li>– Other new ideas proposed</li> <li>– LVP role – help with finalizing concepts</li> <li>– Water and highway alignment are the two key issues now</li> <li>– City’s looking at adopting in their Comprehensive Plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7. Mine Engineer Training			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iron Ore Coop Research Program. Cost shared <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 2/3 MDNR</li> <li>– 1/3 mining companies</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Contract being developed with the University of Minnesota</li> <li>• Planned for winter/spring 2008</li> <li>• Opportunity to institutionalize LVP land planning and design principles</li> </ul>
8. 2007 Grant Programs			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mineland Reclamation Program review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Handout provided by Dan Jordan</li> <li>– 19 proposals received for funding</li> <li>– Nine approved totaling \$500,000</li> <li>– Contracts are now being developed</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Innovative Grant cycle upcoming <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Information out early Fall</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Format being finalized by IRR</li> <li>- Sub-regional groups and mining companies will need to be involved</li> <li>- Hope to complete by December</li> </ul>
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**Sub-Regional Group Updates**

Representatives of three Sub-Regional groups provided updates on major activities related to LVP.

Sub-Regional Group	Current Projects
<b>CIRI - Lory Fedo</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Doug Hildenbrand has resigned and is no longer the chair of this group – was a very active driver.</li> <li>• Group is in transition.</li> <li>• Need to decide if we want to continue to exist or not, and where are we going next?</li> </ul>
<b>East Range Joint Powers Board – Curt Anttila</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Far East Charrette probably a little later in future</li> <li>• Aurora Mining Pit reclamation in third phase. Not a planned Charrette but being done.</li> </ul>
<b>Western Mesaba Mine Planning Board – Doug Learmont</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Charrette still under discussion. Waiting on Minnesota Steel EIS completion.</li> <li>• Major hearings on Itasca County land use – zoning in play. Expect final adoption very soon by the County Board. This has been a long process but we have made good progress in addressing mining land use issues.</li> </ul>

**Other Business**

**1. Iron Range Resources 2008 Strategic Plan Outcomes**

Brian Hiti, Deputy Commissioner briefly highlighted outcomes of the agency strategic planning process and actions taken to include resources to support LVP activities. He commented on the following:

- IRR will continue to make LVP part of our core mineland reclamation focus and funding.
- New approved budget supports mineland reclamation and other related needs.
- Within that budget we plan to add a half- time coordinator for LVP activities.

**2. Future Topics to Consider**

- Finalize LVP strategic action plan
- Highway 53 Corridor Study/Quad Cities (sometime in the future when timing is appropriate)
- Major Large Scale Projects – Coordinated Regional Response Team – Roy Smith and Randy Lasky
- Sub-Regional Meetings – Report on Results
- LVP Web Site Viewing

**Coordinating Committee Meeting**

The next Coordinating Committee will be held on **Tuesday, October 16<sup>th</sup> 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 **Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. at the Mining and Reclamation Classroom** at Ironworld Discovery Center in Chisholm.



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**Meeting XXXVI**

Tuesday, August 21, 2007– 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM  
Mining and Reclamation Classroom  
Chisholm, Minnesota

**“Planning and Project Implementation 2007”**

**Objective**

Hear progress reports from Work Groups and Regional Sub-Groups on major new and ongoing implementation initiatives underway for 2007, review and finalize the 2007-2011 Strategic Action Plan and hear special topics presentations.

**AGENDA**

- 9:00 Laurentian Partnership Debriefing** *Randy Lasky*
- Participant introductions and expectations
  - Opening comments
  - Review of Meeting XXXV results and next steps (May, 07)
  - Overview of the meeting objective and agenda
- 9:15 Presentation: Land Subsidence Issues and Concerns on the Iron Range** *Gary Person, MNDOT Engineer, Maplewood*
- 9:30 Presentation: Iron Mining Association** *Craig Pagel, President*
- 9:50 LVP Strategic Action Plan 2007-2011** *Randy Lasky*
- Coordinating Committee process and draft plan review
  - Finalize and share with key stakeholders
- 10:50 Break**
- 11:00 Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress Reports**
- Work Group Updates
    - 1) Facilitating REGIONAL VISIONING
      - Brochure status for use at Sub-Regional meetings *Dan Jordan/John Koepke*
      - Charrette Planning Handbook status and timing *Dan Jordan/John Koepke*
      - Review schedule for Sub-Regional Group Informational Meetings *Dan Jordan*
      - Web site completion process, timing, review and roll-out *Brian Hiti*

- 11:20 Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress Reports**  
– continued
- 2) Delivering TOOLS and RESOURCES
    - Range-wide aerial photography update *Tim Pastika*
    - Underground mine mapping – future study expansion – next phase *Pete Clevensstine*
    - Iron Range GIS Collaborative Phase III Update (Pilot Project) *John Chell*
      - Update on funding development and pilot community selection
    - State wetland banking policy update *John Chell*
    - Mesabi Iron Range Large Scale Projects Map – General update and tie to web site *Tim Pastika*
    - Minorca East Range Pit Charrette (Mittal Steel) – Report on June 26<sup>th</sup> community event and implementation strategy *John Koepke*
    - LVP training for engineers – funding status and next steps *Pete Clevensstine*
- 11:50 Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress Reports**  
– continued
- 3) Targeting PRIORITY PROJECTS
    - 2007 Innovation Grant Program – Update on the priority process and IRR Board final awards *Dan Jordan*
- 12:00 Partnership Priorities: Regional Group Action Progress Reports**
- Regional Group Updates
    - 1) Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) *Doug Hildenbrand*
    - 2) Quad Cities *Tiffany Anderson/John Tourville*
    - 3) Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board *Doug Learmont*
    - 4) East Range Community Readiness *Curt Anttila*
- 12:10 IRR FY 2008 Strategic Plan Overview** *Brian Hiti*
- 12:20 Other Business and Discussion Topics**
- Future Topics? *Randy Lasky*
    - Highway 53 Corridor Study/Quad Cities – Dave Salene
    - Major Large Scale Projects – Coordinated Regional Response Team – Roy Smith and Randy Lasky
    - Sub-Regional Meetings – Report on Results
    - Web Site Viewing
    - Other?
- 12:25 What's Next?**
- Next meeting date and agenda *Randy Lasky*
    - **Coordinating Group** – September \_\_\_\_\_ 2007?
      - Representative from each Work Group and each Sub-Regional Group
    - **Laurentian Vision Partnership** – October 16, 2007
  - Wrap up announcements and conclusions
- 12:30 ADJOURN**



**Meeting Participants**  
**Laurentian Vision Partnership**  
**Meeting XXXVI**

Tuesday, August 21, 2007 – 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

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