

Laurentian Vision Partnership

Meeting XXXVII Report

"Planning and Project Implementation 2007"



Tuesday, November 13, 2007
Mining and Reclamation Classroom
Chisholm, Minnesota



Laurentian Vision Partnership Meeting XXXVII

Tuesday, November 13, 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 or planned for 2008, provide feedback on the LVP beta web site, clarify the operating status of several sub-regional groups, and review and finalize the 2007-2011 Strategic Action Plan.*

Meeting Summary

Laurentian Partnership Debriefing

- Participant introductions and expectations including an introduction of Jim Plummer, new LVP Coordinator
- Opening comments
- Review of Meeting XXXVI results and next steps (August, 2007)
- Overview of meeting objective and agenda

LVP Strategic Action Plan 2007 - 2011

Discussion on the Strategic Plan began with concerns about the status of several of the sub-regional groups and what the implications are for local interaction on LVP needs and issues. We need strong sub-regional groups working collaboratively on land use and economic and community development issues. The Coordinating Committee asked Lory Fedo, CIRI Representative and Hibbing Chamber Exec to share some of her thoughts on what is happening with CIRI and what steps they are taking to reverse a trend on the Central Range. She explained that they have approached the Blandin Foundation for support of a planned strategic retreat to address the status of CIRI and its need to rekindle its participation and multi-community support. Their experience is related to a lack of staff, volunteers being stretched way too thin and a host of issues coming at the area related to the large scale projects being proposed or now moving ahead such as Minnesota Steel. She hopes that leadership will step up and a focused agenda developed in the near future. Those same concerns are being felt in the Quad Cities with the loss of a key staff person, Tiffany Anderson. Things are going on in the communities but the cohesion and collaboration on sub-regional needs is lacking focus and commitment. Communities are becoming more competitive with one another to take advantage of perceived opportunities for housing and other economic growth or are having issues trying to deal with change and its implications. LVP members expressed their concern for this trend and want to find ways to support the sub-regional groups and their key roles in addressing a multitude of issues and needs. This will continue to be a topic of concern and discussion. With the addition of Jim Plummer, there may be a way to help support some of the work of these groups as well as the work of the Range Readiness Initiative as more resources and support are provided to communities dealing with these issues. More dialogue and assessment is needed in the coming months.

The group went on to discuss the strategic recommendations of the Coordinating Committee and what steps they intend to take next in the process. They made the following decision and next action steps:

- Focus on sharing information on the 50 year mine plan information – land use decisions locally (when to use/buffer needs), mine overlay concept
- Expand and complete underground mine mapping
- Convey charrette information as land use decisions are leveraged by potential growth

ACTION:

- Tools and Resources Team will meet and determine how to quickly disseminate Mine Plan and Charrette information (Tim Pastika will convene)
- Hold off on formalizing the five year plan and keep working on implementing the existing strategic agenda
- Monitor sub-regional groups as the regional readiness process unfolds.

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
Facilitate Regional Visioning	1. Web Site –	Tim Pastika, <i>Convener</i> Doug Learnmont John Koepke, <i>Handbook</i>	The beta LVP Web Site was presented by Dan Jordan and comments provided as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Scale Projects map update online quarterly • North Shore Mining – how do we add? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Label existing mining operations – add basic information • Take off Coordinating Committee meeting notes • Update Partners Pages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Create link with each partner on the Partners Page – “Links and Resources” – label change • “Design Workshops” label change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Define Charrette • Add Franconia & Duluth Metals to Project Map <p>Action: Dan will be taking this input and revising the site for final review and launch in early 2008.</p>
Action Areas	Work Group Priorities	Work Group Members	Next Steps
Deliver Tools and Resources	1. Underground Mine Mapping – Future Study Expansion to Minntac	Marty Vadis, Convener Tim Pastika Dennis Hendricks Pete VanDelinder Doug Learnmont Tom Gardner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add non-ferrous mining areas to mine map <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tweak the format – Add non-ferrous – Provide as a PDF on LVP Web Site?
	2. Iron Range GIS Collaborative Phase III Update	John Chell Andy Hubley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilot Communities have been determined as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Nashwauk, Keewatin, Chisholm, Mountain Iron, Babbitt and Eveleth • Currently addressing software licensing issues • Developing final server configuration at ARDC • Fiber optic needs are being defined • Governor’s Council on GIS is looking at local community GIS needs on a statewide basis. • November – community workshops will be held on data set development
	3. State Wetland Banking Policy Update	John Chell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment consultant will be NRRI & CHM2 Hill - \$375,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Possible sites identified – Banking opportunity for private operators identified • Two year study process • Water Resources Act/federal is still a significant issue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Wetland definition is of particular concern • We don’t expect any State level policy action for at least two years.
	4. Minorca East Range Pit Charrette (Mittal Steel) Update	John Koepke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction drawings are being developed – incorporating Charrette design concept • “Name the Pit” contest is also underway • New City Councilor Jim Sweninger wants a meeting to bridge the mine with nearby Giants Ridge opportunities

	5. Keewatin/Taconite Charrette Update	Doug Learmont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More discussion is occurring • More time needed – not ready yet to commit • Mining/tourism issues continue to raise compatibility issues
	6. LVP Training for Engineers Update	John Koepke Dan Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract has been finalized with the State • We are trying to do this work in Spring 2008 • A land use design template funding request is being made by U of M for an IRR Innovation Grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Intend to use/test at a workshop and then fine tune after that – May have global market potential
Action Areas	Work Group Priorities	Work Group Members	Next Steps
Targeting Priority Projects	1. 2007 Innovation Grant Program Update	Dan Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dan outlined the process to engage LVP in the application review process. He proposed that we set the next Coordinating Committee date and tie the application submittal deadline one week in advance to provide for Committee member review. • LVP members agreed that we would try this approach and report back. • Dan encouraged members to share the guidelines and solicitation announcement.

Sub-Regional Group Updates

One Sub-Regional group provided and update on their major activities related to LVP.

Sub-Regional Group	Current Projects
Western Mesaba Mine Planning Board – Doug Learmont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mine overlay provisions are at the County now. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – In the ordinance – Proposed changes are being considered and are getting a lot of interest • There has been some discussion about a Minnesota Steel Charrette...if it happens. That meeting will be held after Essar takes over – next 1-2 months • Excelsior EIS out for public hearing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – November 27th Taconite – November 28th Hoyt Lakes • Canisteo Pit water issue – bonding request is pending • WRDA 2007 (Falenal) contains authorization for flood damage control from the pit and Trout Lake, and southward

Other Business/Discussion Topics

- A. Highway 53 Corridor – Eveleth/Quad Cities**
- This will be an agenda item and presentation as soon as the study is completed and information is available for the group.
- B. Advocacy for mine development in response to environmental groups?**
- What needs to be done?
 - Who needs to do it? (i.e. misinformation on copper/nickel mining process/technologies)
 - Role of LVP?
 - Our work is a positive statement on environmental protection and value-added opportunity through land use planning and reclamation
 - It is Iron Mining Association’s job to respond to these actions (and Mining Minnesota)
 - Ask Craig Pagel and Frank Ongaro to update in future – quarterly

C. “Green Communities” Initiative

- LVP interested in sponsoring?
- Greater Minnesota Housing Fund (GMHF) is the lead and is looking for regional partners
- John Chell will obtain more information to share with the group and discuss at the next meeting

D. Invite Don Fosnacht from NRRI for a Future Meeting

- He would be an excellent resource to comment on the status and next steps related to the Mesothelioma issue and university research relationship
- He could clarify Poly Met’s advanced processing technology, ore body composition and how this project is different from some of the perceptions of copper/nickel operations out west and in other locations nationally.

E. Range Readiness Initiative (RRI) Update

- We will have Randy Lasky and Roy Smith provide a regular update on the status and work of the Range Readiness Initiative and how LVP members may be of assistance in the future.

Coordinating Committee Meeting

The next Coordinating Committee will be held on **Wednesday, January 23rd 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, February 5th 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

Tuesday, November 13, 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.

AGENDA

9:00 Laurentian Partnership Debriefing

- Participant introductions and expectations
- Opening comments
- Review of Meeting XXXVI results and next steps (August, 07)
- Overview of the meeting objective and agenda

Randy Lasky

9:15 LVP Strategic Action Plan 2007-2011

- Accomplishments Review
- Sub-Regional Work Groups Status and Concerns
- Range Readiness Initiative
- Work Group Reports and Recommendations
- Western Mesabi Planning Board Input

*Randy Lasky, Dan Jordan &
Group Chairs*

10:15 Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress Reports

- Work Group Updates
 - 1) Facilitating REGIONAL VISIONING
 - Web site beta version presentation
 - Brochure Changes and Additions Update
 - Charrette Planning Handbook status and timing
 - Discuss Status of Sub-Regional Group Informational Meetings

*Dan Jordan
Dan Jordan/John Koepke
Dan Jordan/John Koepke
Dan Jordan*

10:45 Break

11:00 Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress Reports – cont.

- 2) Delivering TOOLS and RESOURCES
 - Mine Map – Non-ferrous Addition
 - Iron Range GIS Collaborative Phase III Update (Pilot Project)
 - State Wetland Banking Assessment Update

*Tim Pastika
John Chell and Andy Hubley*

John Chell



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- Mesabi Iron Range Large Scale Projects Map – General Update and Tie to Web Site
- Minorca East Range Pit Charrette (Mittal Steel) – Implementation Update
- Keewatin/Taconite Charrette Update
- LVP Training for Engineers Update on Work Team, Computer Design Templates and Timing

Tim Pastika

John Koepke

Doug Learmont

John Koepke and Dan Jordan

11:50 Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress Reports – cont.

- 3) Targeting PRIORITY PROJECTS
2007 Innovation Grant Program – Update on the Guidelines, Process and New Web Access

Dan Jordan

Noon Partnership Priorities: Regional Group Action Progress Reports

- Regional Group Updates
 - 1) Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI)
 - 2) Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board
 - 3) East Range Community Readiness
 - 4) Quad Cities

Lori Fedo

Doug Learmont

Curt Anttila

John Tourville

12:20 Other Business and Discussion Topics

- Future Topics?
 - Hwy 53 Corridor Study/Quad Cities when Study is Completed
 - Other?

Randy Lasky

12:25 What's Next?

- Next meeting date and agenda
 - **Coordinating Group** – December _____ 2007?
 - Representative from each Work Group and each Sub-Regional Group
 - **Laurentian Vision Partnership** – January ____, 2008?
- Wrap up announcements and conclusions

Randy Lasky

12:30 ADJOURN

Meeting Participants
Laurentian Vision Partnership
Meeting XXXVII

Tuesday, November 13, 2007 – 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

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