

Laurentian Vision Partnership

Meeting XXXV Report

"Planning and Project Implementation 2007"



Tuesday, May 15, 2007
Mineland Reclamation Classroom
Chisholm, Minnesota



Laurentian Vision Partnership Meeting XXXV

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“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 Groups on major new and ongoing implementation initiatives underway for 2007 and special topics presentations.*

Meeting Summary

Laurentian Partnership Debriefing

- Participant introductions and expectations
- Opening comments
- Review of Meeting XXXIV results and next steps (January, 2007)
- Overview of meeting objectives and agenda

Presentation:

Minorca East Range Charrette Results, Feedback and Next Steps

Unfortunately, neither Chris Carlson nor John Koepke, Charrette project leaders were able to attend today’s meeting and asked that Dan Jordan provide an update. A brief Charrette Summary Report, prepared by Chris Carlson was distributed and reviewed by Dan. The project represents the third design charrette held at Giants Ridge from April 22-26, 2007. The Charrette focused on how to shape the new Minorca mine pit for post mining use in about 20 years. The project resulted in two land design scenarios following three days of intensive discussion. Public review and input sessions were well attended and will be followed by another public presentation in June or July at which more refined graphics and a more detailed project report will be presented with the goal of coming up with an implementation approach. A team of nine (9) landscape architects, planners and mine engineers developed the two land design scenarios which included the Minorca East Reserve area and was expanded to include the lands within the City of Biwabik. The two scenarios call first for a Regional Recreation and Natural Area System and the second design approach emphasizes a Sustainable Community with a strong emphasis on development features to support the economic needs of residents and amenities to attract visitors. Dan pointed out that both scenarios emphasize the area’s physical and historic resources and its strong connections to larger scale regional resources such as trails, lakes, rivers, Giants Ridge and other year round recreation amenities. The outcome will be the maximization of developable land and lakeshore and to enhance Biwabik’s role as a regional destination and place of choice to live. A number of LVP members were very involved in financial support as well as the planning and provision of technical support and information required to have a successful event. Dan thanked all of the participants and those LVP members that attended the public parts of the event. More information will be provided in July when available.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brochure (final draft) 2. Handbook 3. Web Site 4. Sub-regional Group Meetings 	<p>Tim Pastika, <i>Convener</i> Doug Learmont John Koepke, <i>Handbook</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The brochure was approved by the partnership. It was suggested that it be printed on heavier paper stock and spell checked. • Members liked the back page design, highlighting the four sub-regional groups • Revisions were made for use at the East Range Charrette • It is evolving into a checklist format...more useful • We will keep the detailed version we have, but change it for broader use • A new version...will be released after June, expect in 3rd quarter of the year • An update on production status will be provided in July • Expect the product for final review in October • More information will be available on its status by July 1st • Domain name has been acquired • The site is being developed along with IRR's new site • Members asked that the Regional sub-groups be contacted and dates set for presentations. • The West Range will set a date at their June 14th meeting • CIRI will have a special meeting this afternoon and will set the date today. • Dan will contact the Quad Cities and East Range to set dates • Meeting format and content has already been planned by the Communication Group and will be implemented. LVP members will be contacted to participate as appropriate.
Action Areas	Work Group Priorities	Work Group Members	Next Steps
Deliver Tools and Resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mine Map Dissemination 2. Underground Mine Mapping – Future Study Expansion to Minntac 	<p>Marty Vadis, Convener Tim Pastika Dennis Hendricks Pete VanDelinder Doug Learmont Tom Gardner</p> <p>Tim Pastika</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mine planning information is changing which requires us to update as new information becomes available in the field • This work is funded internally by MDNR • Could we leverage additional funding? Is it necessary? • We will probably <u>never have</u> the ultimate delineation of all of the mining areas. Not practical to expect to have that defined • This work is important and our challenge is to tie it into local land use plans and ordinance implementation • Discussion was started by MinnTac • More immediate need for safety reasons • Expect the CIRI project will be the catalyst for expansion eastward to MinnTac and Mittal • Tie to LVP workplan 2007-2010 • Timing issue – need to include in the next legislative session • Funding request will be made to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – LCMR – Other? • Tim will talk to Marty about this need

	3. Iron Range GIS Collaborative Phase III Update	John Chell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USGS funding match required - \$50,000 Working to secure match – total project cost is \$125,000 Six communities will be selected as Pilot communities and a community GIS model will be developed. There will be access to a lot of current information. We will be selecting communities throughout the region with an emphasis on Itasca and St Louis Counties. <p>NEXT STEPS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Community determination Define mapping Set-up relationship with community GIS Build platforms Provide technical assistance <p>NEXT LVP MEETING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have communities defined Report back on funding and startup
	4. Wetland Banking Policy Update	John Chell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal is a mitigation regional bank in northeastern Minnesota Think of it as “an industrial park for wetlands” Need public dollars invested in this concept \$150,000 appropriated in northeastern Minnesota areas for wetland restoration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping BOWSER – would be the fund manager for this activity if approved this legislative session Pending request: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$225,000 for inventory of potential wetland site \$125,000 wetland banking potential assessment <p>NEXT STEPS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present more information on status in July
	5. Large Scale Projects Map	Tim Pastika	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tim and others are updating Will be on LVP Web site
Action Areas	Work Group Priorities	Work Group Members	Next Steps
Target Priority Projects	1. Keewatin Taconite Area Charrette	David Lotti/Doug Learmont/Dan Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three factors have delayed action thus far: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mine manager is new – has been briefed Minnesota Steel permit and project status – environmental review is in process Level of community interest and support is there but not a major priority as yet. Community leaders were invited to the Biwabik Charrette
	2. Innovative Grant Program	David Lotti/Doug Learmont/Dan Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Switch grass project is starting this spring Mesabi Mountain wind project is funded and starting Pit Lake Proto-type – still working out the details with IRR and will be considered for funding Reclamation Projects application and review process for this year (FY 07-08) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19 project proposals were received in April Sent out to regional groups to scoring They will meet before June 7th to prioritize Recommend to IRR Board in June for action

Sub-Regional Group Updates

Representatives of the Central Iron Range Initiative (Doug Hildenbrand) and Western Mesabi Planning Board (Doug Learmont) reported on recent sub-regional group activities.

Sub-Regional Group	Current Projects
CIRI - Doug Hildenbrand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received \$8.5 million from the State and have requested \$12 million in federal funding for sewer district construction implementation (total project cost is \$20 million) • We will be updating our project priority list for the coming year at today's special meeting
Western Mesabi Planning Board – Doug Learmont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canisteo outflow project is moving forward – funding received this session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – We still need to determine who will lead this locally – Total project funding is still unsure – Federal dollars are being pursued under the Water Resources Development Act. We are seeking authorization (not appropriated yet) – Expect construction next year • Community Comprehensive Planning still in process or just completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mining needs are being recognized and included in the plans – Expect the County to approve its countywide plan at the end of June

Other Business

2006 Accomplishments Summary – Dan Jordan provided copies for members and it was suggested that the summary be used at the upcoming sub-regional meeting.

2007-2010 LVP Work Plan – The Facilitator outlined a process to formulate a new/updated work plan for LVP. It is proposed that the Coordinating Committee play a lead role in developing a draft for review and discussion at the July quarterly meeting. It was suggested that Work Group chairs convene their groups and develop input for the upcoming Coordinating Committee meeting in June. A draft will be presented for discussion and approval in July.

Coordinating Committee Meeting

The next Coordinating Committee will be held on **Tuesday, June 19th from 9:00 A.M. to Noon at the Mineland Reclamation Classroom**, at Ironworld Discovery Center in Chisholm. They will address:

- 2007-2010 Draft Work Plan
- Set the July meeting agenda

LVP Quarterly Meeting

The next Laurentian Vision Partnership meeting will be held **Tuesday, July 17th from 9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. at the Mineland Reclamation Classroom** at Ironworld Discovery Center in Chisholm. Agenda items to consider include:

- LVP Work Plan 2007 – 2010 (draft)
- Iron Mining Association of Minnesota – Craig Pagel will be invited to present
- Hwy 53 Corridor Project in Quad Cities
 - Request a brief overview in July
 - Ask Dave Salene, project consultant to present the project and findings at the October LVP quarterly meeting
- If available have an overview of the Iron Range Resources F.Y. 2008 Strategic Plan (Brian Hiti)
- Request that a MnDot representative be asked to give a presentation on land subsidence – Kevin Adolph was identified as a possible presenter



Laurentian Vision Partnership
Transforming pits and piles into lakes and landscapes

Meeting XXXV

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Objective

*Hear progress reports from Work Groups and Regional Groups
on major new and ongoing implementation initiatives
underway for 2007 and special topics presentations.*

AGENDA

- 9:00 Laurentian Partnership Debriefing** *Randy Lasky*
- Participant introductions and expectations
 - Opening comments
 - Review of Meeting XXXIV results and next steps (January, 2007)
 - Overview of the meeting objective and agenda
- 9:15 Presentation: Minorca East Range Charrette Results, Feedback and Next Steps** *John Koepke/Dan Jordan*
- 9:45 Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress Reports**
- Work Group Updates
 - 1) Facilitating REGIONAL VISIONING
 - Brochure Final Approval *Dan Jordan/John Koepke*
 - Charrette Planning Handbook Status and Timing *Dan Jordan/John Koepke*
 - Web Site Completion Process, Timing, Review and Roll-out *Dan Jordan*
 - Set Dates for the Regional Sub-Group Informational Meetings *Dan Jordan*
- 10:00 Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress Reports – continued**
- 2) Delivering TOOLS and RESOURCES
 - Mine Map Update – current and future mining footprints *Tim Pastika*
 - Underground Mine Mapping - Future Study Expansion to MinnTac *Tim Pastika*
 - Iron Range GIS Collaborative Phase III Update (Pilot Project) – Staffing and Funding Development *John Chell*
 - Wetland Banking Policy Update – State and Federal *John Chell*
 - Large Scale Projects Map – Presentation of Updated Map Version for Quarterly Input on Changes *Tim Pastika*

10:30 Break

10:45 Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress Reports – continued

- 3) Targeting PRIORITY PROJECTS
 - Keewatin Taconite Area Charrette Update

 - 2006 Innovative Grant Program Projects Status
 - Biomass Switchgrass/UTAC
 - Mesabi Mountain Wind Coalition/MIEDA
 - Pit Lake Proto-type Update/Chisholm

*David Lotti/
Doug Learmont
Dan Jordan*

11:00 Partnership Priorities: Regional Group Action Progress Reports

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

*Doug Hildenbrand
Tiffany Anderson
Doug Learmont
Curt Anttila*

11:30 Other Business and Discussion Topics

- 2006 Draft Accomplishments - Finalize
- LVP 2007-2010 Work Plan - Planning Process and Schedule
 - 2003-2005 Strategy
 - 2005-2006 Strategy
 - Work Group Meetings
 - Coordinating Committee Meeting
 - By July LVP Meeting - Draft Work Plan with One Year Action Plan 2007-2010
- Future Topics?
 - Iron Mining Association Presentation in July – Chris Pagel, President
 - Highway 53 Corridor Study/Quad Cities – Dave Salene
 - Mining Engineer Training Funding Update
 - Major Large Scale Projects Status
 - Sub-Regional Meetings – Report on Results
 - Web Site Viewing
 - Other?

*Dan Jordan
Dan Jordan/Randy Lasky*

Randy Lasky

12:15 What's Next?

- Next meeting date and agenda
 - **Coordinating Group** – June _____ 2007?
 - Representative from each Work Group and each Sub-Regional Group
 - **Laurentian Vision Partnership** – July 17, 2007?
- Wrap up announcements and conclusions

Randy Lasky

12:30 ADJOURN



Meeting Participants
Laurentian Vision Partnership
Meeting XXXV

Tuesday, May 15, 2007 – 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

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