



**COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
of the  
Laurentian Vision Partnership**

**Meeting I  
Summary of Outcomes**

Wednesday, November 2, 2005 9:30 A.M.  
Iron Range Resources  
Mineland Reclamation Office, Chisholm, MN

**Objective**

To review the status of major activities and actions decided at the September 2005 – Laurentian Vision Partnership Meeting, and prepare the agenda for the January 11, 2006 Laurentian Vision Partnership Meeting.

**Status/Update Report Highlights and Actions**

**Please note: Actions items are highlighted in italic and will be implemented, reported on or addressed as a new topic at the January 11<sup>th</sup> LVP meeting.**

**Work Groups**

- Communications Strategy: *Regional Visioning Work Group will meet and prepare a draft Communications Strategy for review and discussion at the January LVP meeting. Major focus will be on a web site and electronic dissemination of information, and the Primer and Handbook.*
- Primer and Handbook Preparation: *Ray Svatos will contact John Koepke within one week to determine if the University of Minnesota intends to complete the work and commits to an immediate completion schedule. If they are not going to be able to complete in a timely manner, we will request that Chris and John provide the publication outline and any other supporting materials they had prepared and we will consider other alternatives to address. Tony Bauer was mentioned as a possible alternative.*
- Mine Mapping Update: *Tools and Resources Work Group reported that the work is in process and on schedule for completion this winter.*
- Underground Mine Impacts Mapping for CIRI: *MDNR has made staffing arrangements with NRRI and are ready to begin project work as soon as the State releases the bonding money to CIRI.*
- New Area wide LVP Map: *It was proposed that LVP consider playing a supporting role to facilitate the preparation of a Range-wide LVP map highlighting land use, visioning ideas and projects as they are identified. Currently we have areas within the LVP planning area that have no information available and need to be considered and included as part of a composite map. This effort would need to be driven by the Sub-regional groups. Such a reference map would show a composite of present and future initiatives and could be continuously updated as a planning and implementation tool. It could also tie in with an Iron Range Collaborative GIS system which could integrate a variety of information sources. The area wide LVP mapping idea will be on the January agenda for discussion.*

## Priority Projects/Sub-Regional Groups

- Keewatin Area Presentation: *The meeting with the Keewatin City Council and surrounding local government units will be scheduled for January by Ray Svatos. LVP members to be involved include Ray Svatos, Doug Hildenbrand, Terry Leoni, Doug Learmont and David Lotti.*
- Quad Cities Update: John Tourville reported that the Senate Bonding Committee met in Virginia and heard a presentation on LVP and a request for Highway 53 relocation funding. Did not feel that they were that supportive of the project. May need to re-think what we request, and may have to seek planning funding this session to design the project and seek construction dollars two years from now. Tiffany Anderson reported that the Quad Cities forum will be rescheduled given management changes going on at United Taconite and the timing of an EIS request by RGGGS. The Quad Cities does have an organized group that continues to meet on LVP master plan implementation.
- Biwabik/McKinley: Marlene Pospeck has invited Biwabik and McKinley to join the East Range Readiness Committee to include the Mittal Steel Charrette area. No response has been received to date. *Marlene will follow-up with Terry Lowell and find out their intentions.*

## Mittal Steel Charrett

- Funding Development: Surrounding communities have been approached for a \$5,000 contribution and are not supporting the project. Biwabik is taking the lead but the initiative is not being acknowledged as a sub-regional project of the East Range Readiness Committee or the Quad Cities. Needs more funding development and buy-in by key stakeholders. The group developed the following potential funding and key participant list:
  - Minnesota Power
  - Local banks
  - RGGGS
  - MDNR
  - Tom Gardner
  - Mittal Steel
  - St. Louis County
  - Biwabik
  - Biwabik Township
  - Embarrass
  - Go back to Aurora and possible other surrounding communities later

It was suggested that the initiative name be changed to the East Range Charrette and plan it in two phases. There was a question about the timing and access to the mine plan. We assume that Biwabik, through Terry Lowell, is the lead on this project. *Ray Svatos will meet with Terry Lowell in December to discuss the situation and next steps.*

University of Minnesota Role in Charrett: Representatives of the University of Minnesota met with Biwabik area representatives in July to plan the Mittal Steel Charrette process. The scope will probably need to be redefined and development funding pursued at this time. There is some question as to whether or not the University role and involvement will be the same as the last two Charrettes. Not sure of their commitment and will need to determine Chris's intentions. *Ray Svatos will meet with Terry Lowell in December to discuss the situation and next steps.*

## Iron Range GIS Collaborative Update

- Workshops Held/Support Demonstrated: Approximately 40 representatives of local units of government, community colleges and others attended two workshops in Chisholm and Eveleth to learn about GIS, its applications, current initiatives at the county, community and state levels and other national locations. Overall support was given and a commitment made to do more planning and discussion for the design of an Iron Range Collaborative model. USDA funding has been explored but timing of the grant cycle and preliminary status of where we are at this time precludes ARDC/IRR from pursuing a grant now.
- Phase Two: ARDC is seeking \$10,000 to initiate the next phase of the planning process. ESRI has offered its services at no cost to assist ARDC/IRR with Phase Two, which is expected to answer more questions and result in the design of a customized regional model.
- LVP Support: What role will LVP play in this project? It is considered another valuable tool and would tie into our other efforts for mapping and planning. Should we help to facilitate Phase Two? *ARDC/IRR will report on the workshops and Phase Two progress in January. LVP can discuss the role and commitment at that time.*

## Challenge Grant Status

- Mining Company/Community Response: IRR has not received any suggested projects from the mining companies to date, not sure why. It was suggested that some parameters be defined for what we are looking for and provided to the companies. Any suggested criteria or examples should be forwarded to Dan Jordan ASAP. *Next week, Dan Jordan will draft and review with the Commissioner, a letter to be sent to the general managers to remind/request projects. A report will be provided in January.*

## Funding for Future Reclamation Projects

- Commissioner Perspective: Commissioner Layman has expressed her desire to have future reclamation projects address two guiding principles. First, they should focus on and emphasize economic development and secondly, they should be regionally focused and developed collaboratively in each area of the Iron Range/LVP. We have functioning groups in four or five areas and these sub-regional groups should work with the mining companies to come up with priority projects. This would be a new approach and could build on the significant ground work we have already developed over the LVP collaborative process to date. *At the January LVP meeting the agenda will include a discussion of role of sub-regional groups in cooperative reclamation activities.*

**An agenda will be emailed out in advance of the January 11, 2006 meeting, highlighting the major items covered here and any other business of the LVP.**

Respectively submitted,

Randy Lasky  
LVP Facilitator