

Laurentian Vision Partnership

Meeting XXX Report

"Planning and Project Implementation 2006"



"Transforming pits and piles to living lakes and landscapes...our legacy for the future."

Wednesday, January 11, 2006
Mineland Reclamation Classroom
Chisholm, Minnesota



**Laurentian Vision Partnership
Meeting XXX**

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“Planning and Project Implementation 2006”

Meeting Objectives

The Facilitator reviewed the past meeting results and next steps, highlighted the meeting objective and went over the agenda for today’s meeting. He also reviewed a summary of the Member Survey responses addressing member roles, responsibilities and expectations.

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 2006.*

Meeting Summary

Laurentian Partnership Debriefing

- Participant introductions and expectations
- Opening comments
- Review of Meeting XXIX results and next steps
- Overview of meeting objectives and agenda
- Member Survey Responses

The meeting opened with a welcome to new and former participants around the table and everybody introduced themselves and commented on their expectations for the meeting. There were several new local-regional group representatives in attendance. See Appendix B for the list of attendees.

The Facilitator highlighted major work activities from the September LVP meeting and commented on the general progress being made. Reference was made to the first meeting of the LVP Coordinating Committee held in early November. The Coordinating Committee went over the September action items, brought up other new topics for LVP discussion and set the agenda for today’s LVP meeting. Several new topics were included on the agenda related to the need for an area-wide LVP map and determining a role for sub-regional groups in reclamation project funding.

The agenda and meeting objective were reviewed with no changes or additions.

Discussion turned to the “LVP Member Role and Responsibilities Assessment” completed in November/December 2005 by email. At the urging of Iron Range Resources Commissioner Layman, LVP members were asked to address three questions regarding their role and expectations for LVP. Approximately one third of the members responded and staff prepared a composite summary that was handed out and reviewed. Individual member responses were aggregated and major themes highlighted without reference to any one individual. A copy of the composite results is available in email form. The following are the “Outcome Expectations for 2006” highlighted by the respondents.

- Complete the next Charrett process and implement initial recommendations
- Stay focused...prioritize and fund LV work honoring the mission and goals of this partnership
- Accomplish specifics with a real purpose, not convene long meetings and talk about it

- Deploy new information to communities and stakeholders...maps, data, etc.
- Update future mineland data
- Conduct planning toward a future Charrett on the West Range
- Complete the Primer
- Complete the priorities we have established and are focused on each meeting
- Form a consensus around a shared vision
- Through a Charrett process at multiple Iron Range locations, continue to engage and inspire communities, mining companies and others to work together to make good land use decisions and implement the recommendations
- Fund more regional projects that fit LVP goals
- Continue to work on building relationships and communicating the importance of the LVP mission
- Develop a new vision for the east Biwabik expansion by Mittal
- Break down barriers and work cooperatively on regional opportunities
- There have been a lot of meetings and discussions, I'd like to see specific progress on the initiatives identified to date
- Work closely with the regional "do" groups to take advantage of opportunities and projects benefiting regional planning, economic development and reclamation efforts
- Secure more federal and state support/funding for the LVP process and major implementation initiatives

Partnership Priorities: Work Groups and Sub-Regional Group Reports

Work Group Action Update 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. Develop and Implement an Iron Range Communication Strategy	Marlene Pospeck, <i>Convener</i> Tim Pastika Doug Learmont Joe Scipioni John Koepke, <i>Primer/Handbook</i> (Marlene was not able to attend today. Work on the Communications Strategy was postponed until the next meeting)	<u>Primer Update</u> 1. Draft shared (web focused) 2. Status of development (Chris) – Draft ready February/early March 3. Need from LVP – Feedback on partners and new initiatives <u>Charrett Handbook</u> is in draft form, not seen yet Action (Members): Provide comments on draft Primer. Staff will email out to members – response in the next two weeks. Action - Communications Strategy –: Staff will have a sign up sheet for additional members to sign up and assist Marlene Pospeck with preparation of a draft Communications Strategy for the next meeting. Please sign up today and she will be organizing a meeting shortly.

Action Areas	Work Group Priorities	Work Group Members	Next Steps
<p>Deliver Tools and Resources</p>	<p>1. Update mineland map</p> <p>2. Underground Mapping</p> <p>3. Iron Range GIS Collaborative</p> <p>4. Area Wide LVP Map</p> <p>5. East Range Charrett (Mittal Steel)</p> <p>6. Keewatin/Taconite Area Charrett</p>	<p>Marty Vadis, <i>Convener</i> Tim Pastika Dennis Hendricks Pete VanDelinder Doug Learmont Tom Gardner</p> <p>Dan Jordan, <i>Convener</i> Dave Yappel John Chell Ray Svatos</p>	<p>1. Mine mapping – results by April meeting. In progress, well underway. Will share with LVP at that time.</p> <p>2. Underground mapping – CIRI Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Funding to be released shortly – When done will be included in the Atlas by sub-region over time – MDNR ready to move this project – How will “unstable” areas be identified? More a focus of a next phase – more detailed. Will not be covered by this work. <p>3. GIS Workshops were held in September/October 2005</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Well attended, agreement to move ahead – three meetings planned for Phase II. – Phase II underway – first of three meetings held <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – “Business Needs for GIS” was the focus – February 22nd next work session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The focus will be on “ Functional Applications of GIS” – Phase III – future implementation of the defined system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Funding needed...several sources being considered – Detailed modeling will be completed – Data use agreements established – Training provided – System developed and integrated – See a close tie to future LVP Charrett’s – Web site/web based GIS system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Data portal – ESRI committed to support this initiative (Dan Falbo) – Funding sources are being identified – Technology is much advanced and more affordable – Could possible use GIS on East Range Charrett as pilot depending on timing – Communicate/use results <p>Action: Members expressed a continued interest in this collaborative and how it can support LVP initiatives. Progress reports and needs will be shared with the group going forward.</p> <p>4. Area-wide LVP Map – New Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Big picture vision of Range? – Range-wide Charrett? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Engage broad interests – Originally that was the idea for LV...changed to sub-regional focus to complete in pieces – Wait until we get the four/five regional Charrett’s done, then do the Range-wide – Direct tie to GIS – Will this leverage other funding? Support? Use? – Doable/cost effective (map of the area) <p>Action: MDNR will create sample map of CIRI and Quad Cities overlay and review the map at the next meeting.</p> <p>5. East Range Charrett (Mittal Steel)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Met in December with area stakeholders – Discussed what needs to happen & when...(2nd planning meeting later today) – Decisions and Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fall Charrett to be held – University of Minnesota involvement...not sure yet? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Design/coordinate process – Lead the Event – Ability/Staffing remains an issue <p>Action: Need to assess further and finalize University role and commitment with Chris Carlson and John Koepke.</p> <p>6. Keewatin/Taconite Area Charrett</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Meeting being planned – 2nd/4th Wednesday of the month – Council meeting <p>Action: Ray Svatos will set-up for January 25th.</p>

Action Areas	Work Group Priorities	Work Group Members	Next Steps
Target Priority Projects	1. Innovation Grant Program		1. Innovation Grant Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operating taconite companies are eligible - Draft guidelines were passed out and reviewed with LVP members. Clarified goals, selection criteria, funding available, cost share, review and approval process - Timeline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application due – 3/31 - Review complete – 5/15 - Projected started by 11/15 <p>Action: Dan Jordan will submit the draft guidelines to LVP for review and comments. (respond in next 2 weeks by January 20th). Shelly will email out to everyone this week.</p>

Coordinating Group

The Coordinating Group will meet on March 23rd (fourth Thursday) or March 30th (fifth Thursday) at 9:00 A.M. at the Mineland Reclamation Classroom, Chisholm. Facilitator will finalize the date by email and send out an agenda.

Sub-Regional Group Updates

Representatives of the Central Iron Range Initiative (Lori Fedo for Doug Hildenbrand), Quad Cities (Tiffany Anderson) Western Mesabi Planning Board (Doug Learmont) and East Range Readiness Committee (Curt Antilla) reported on recent sub-regional group activities.

Sub-Regional Group	Current Projects
CIRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bonding request for 2006 in process • Web site being developed • Central Sanitary Sewer District is the major focus of the group at this time. • Startup of previously funded projects/studies (i.e. underground mine mapping, etc.) is still in process • Hibbing – Maxfield Housing Assessment update is in process
Quad Cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct mail – four page piece on LVP was sent out to area • Presentation with local legislators on bonding request 2006 was conducted (Fall) • Communication improving and our group is more focused • Held off on community forum until United Taconite is clear on their plans to go public with their needs. • EIS for Hwy 53 rerouting – bonding required (\$500,000)
Western Mesabi Planning Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LVP update shared with the group • Charrett - Canisteo Pit in discussion, moving slowly • Excelsior & MN Steel are a top priority • Coordinating with Itasca County on these projects and comprehensive plan/zoning update that is underway.
East Range Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesabi Nugget announcement on partial funding by Cleveland Cliffs...good news • Most meetings focus on project updates • Land use/zoning issues have come up (i.e. Babbitt)

Regionally Focused Reclamation Project Funding/Planning Discussion and Input to IRR
• Currently four sub-regional groups on the East, West and Central Range
• Cuyuna and Vermilion Ranges would need consideration as well...need to determine how to do this.
• Last year \$480,000 was budgeted – of this \$100,000 was set-aside for LVP related activities.

Comments by Members
• Provide long-term focused projects
• Email out list of last year's projects – give us a better idea
• Needs to be consistent with Innovation Grant Program goals
• Need more city representative's comments...not here today
• Communities are well represented on the sub-regional groups
• <u>Must not</u> lose sight of mine safety needs. This will be addressed with special set-aside by Iron Range Resources.
• Worth more discussion at the Sub-regional Committee level with feedback directly to Iron Range Resources.
• More internal Iron Range Resources discussion after today.
• <u>Action/Timing:</u> Answers and direction needed by February 15 th . More follow-up will occur and a report provided at the April LVP meeting.

Next Partnership Meeting

The next Laurentian Vision Partnership meeting will be held **Tuesday, April 18th from 9:00 A.M. to Noon at the Mineland Reclamation Classroom** at Iron World Discovery Center in Chisholm.

Laurentian Vision Partnership Meeting XXX

Wednesday, January 11, 2006 – 9:00 AM - Noon
Mineland Reclamation Classroom
Chisholm, Minnesota

"Planning and Project Implementation 2006"

Objective

Hear progress reports from Work Groups and Regional Groups on major new and ongoing implementation initiatives underway for 2006.

Agenda

- 9:00 Laurentian Partnership Debriefing:**
- Participant introductions and expectations
 - Opening comments
 - Review of Meeting XXIX results and next steps
 - Overview of the meeting objectives and agenda
- 9:15 Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress Reports**
- Work Group Updates
 - 1) Facilitating REGIONAL VISIONING
 - Review draft LVP Communications Strategy Marlene Pospeck
 - Primer and Handbook Completion Update Ray Svatos/John Koepke
 - 2) Delivering TOOLS and RESOURCES
 - Mine Mapping Update Marty Vadis/Tim Pastika
 - Underground Mine Impacts Mapping for CIRI Update Marty Vadis/Tim Pastika
 - Iron Range GIS Collaborative Phase I and II updates and discussion: LVP role and commitment to this project? Dan Jordan/Dave Yapel
 - New Discussion: Should Laurentian Vision Partnership play a supporting role in preparing an area-wide LVP map highlighting land use, visioning ideas and projects as they are identified? Doug Hildenbrand
 - 3) Targeting PRIORITY PROJECTS
 - Mittal Steel Charrette (East Range Charrette Phase I) Terry Lowell/Ray Svatos
 - Funding development changes and update
 - University of Minnesota role and continued commitment
 - Timing
 - Name change of initiative
 - Keewatin Taconite Area Charrette Ray Svatos/David Lotti

presentation status

10:30 Break

10:45 Partnership Priorities: Regional Group Action Progress Reports

- Regional Group Updates
 - 1) Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) Doug Hildenbrand
 - 2) Quad Cities Tiffany Anderson
 - 3) Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board Doug Learmont
 - 4) East Range Community Readiness Curt Anttila/Marlene Pospeck

11:15 Innovation Grant Program

Dan Jordan

- Update and Guideline review
- Next Steps

11:30 Future Reclamation Project Funding

New Discussion: Role of regional groups in future cooperative reclamation activities with mining companies.

- Two guiding principles to consider:
 - 1) Focus and emphasize economic development
 - 2) Regionally focused and developed collaboratively in each area of the Iron Range

What's Next?

- Next meeting date and agenda
 - Coordinating Group – March _____?
Representative from each Work Group and each Regional Group
 - Laurentian Vision Partnership – April ____, 2006?
- Wrap up announcements and conclusions

12:00 Adjourn

Meeting Participants

Arrowhead Regional Development Commission	John Chell
Arrowhead Regional Development Commission	Dave Yapel
CCI	Julie Varichak
City of Chisholm	David Carlstrom
City of Eveleth - EDA	Tiffany Anderson
City of Keewatin	Tom Sampson
East Range Joint Powers Board	Curt Anttila
Hibbing Chamber/CIRI	Lory Fedo
Iron Range Resources	Brian Hiti
Iron Range Resources	Dan Jordan
Iron Range Resources	Sandy Layman
Iron Range Resources	Matt Sjoberg
Iron Range Resources	Ray Svatos
Itasca County	Garrett Ous
Mittal Steel	Bill Bond
MNDNR	Tim Pastika
Northspan Group, Inc.	Randy Lasky
RENDRAG	Tom Gardner
RENDRAG	Mary Holliday
RENDRAG	Rachel Gardner
St. Louis County	Connie Christenson
U.S. Steel	Jerry Dombek
University of Minnesota Landscape Architecture	John Keopke
WMMPB	Doug Learmont
	Barry Lesar