

Laurentian Vision Partnership

Meeting XXXIV Report

"Planning and Project Implementation 2007"



Tuesday, January 30, 2007
Mineland Reclamation Classroom
Chisholm, Minnesota



Laurentian Vision Partnership Meeting XXXIV

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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
- Opening comments
- Review of Meeting XXXIII results and next steps (November 2006)
- Overview of meeting objectives and agenda

Presentation: Non-Ferrous Mining Project and Issues Overview

Mr. Frank Ongaro, newly hired Executive Director of MiningMinnesota, part of the Exploration Association of Minnesota provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Association and its new MiningMinnesota Initiative. Frank explained that the twenty-five member association of companies, fee owners, suppliers etc. which are working collaboratively to advance non-ferrous (anything non-iron) exploration and mining in Minnesota has developed a new campaign to inform Minnesotans about non-ferrous mining and specific efforts underway in the state. The group is committed to sustainable and environmentally responsible non-ferrous mining development. Frank explained the size of the ore deposits in the region, highlighted the technological changes in metallurgical processes and how the global markets and demand are changing. He also went on to highlight and explain key environmental issues related to the level of sulfides in the Duluth Complex ore body and other impacts that are not totally understood by the general public. He shared information on the two most advanced projects – Polymet and Franconia and discussed the economics related to job creation, application of Net Proceeds and Occupation taxes vs. property taxes and made comparisons with taconite mining from a value and reserve ore deposits standpoint. In terms of local opposition to these projects, he highlighted the efforts of the Minnesota Environmental Partnership a coalition of environmental groups that are pursuing legislative policy similar to the State of Wisconsin that would essentially ban non-ferrous mining in Minnesota. The MiningMinnesota Initiative is designed to provide accurate information and to support a new mining industry that is sustainable and environmentally responsible for the region. A copy of Frank’s PowerPoint is available by request, contact Shelly.Perkovich@IronRangeResources.org

Presentation: Wildlife Corridor Impacts

Mr. Jeff Hines, MnDNR Wildlife Specialist, followed up his introductory presentation from our last quarterly meeting with more detail on the 115 mile corridor along the Iron Range formation and future implications of mining and land use changes that could affect the movement of larger and some smaller mammals north and south along the formation. Jeff described how food cycles encourage and require animals to move in travel patterns that can range from 50 to 100 miles and highlighted several of the obvious corridors today that will change as mine

plans and other land use developments are implemented into the future. The “mining terrain” with deep walled pits and other landscape challenges along the formation makes travel difficult for these animals. The whole issue was raised during the EIS process with the need to retain corridor access areas highlighted by the state. Preliminary corridor areas have been identified along the formation but will need more data and research to document in the future. The challenge is to identify and retain/create corridors that are sustainable and can balance the needs for mining and other development. What is currently lacking is more research on animal movement patterns...we need to define the limitations and the needs. Some concerns were expressed by LVP members that we are raising this issue with little information at this time. It was suggested that maybe we use current project planning efforts such as the Pit Lake Prototype process to include discussion of this access question. Jeff emphasized that this was not just a mining issue...but relates to all land use development patterns along the corridor. Members also asked if similar issues are evident in the Twin Cities area where new growth and access has changed habit and movement patterns in that metro area. Members asked further questions on how these movements would be studied and how these corridors would be valued and dedicated for such a purpose. It was obvious that we have more questions than answers at this time and that MnDNR will be looking into this issue going forward. A copy of Jeff Hines PowerPoint is available by request, contact Shelly.Perkovich@IronRangeResources.org

**Presentation:
Underground Mine Map 3D Project Overview**

MnDNR, Lands and Minerals staff, Dale Cartwright and Julie Oreskovich explained their work on a Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) area project to develop a map of underground mines using Geographic Information System (GIS) tools and 3D mapping capabilities. This will be important for future design and development of the district sewer system and other future land use development in the area. The project which has been underway for about six months will not be complete until June of 2008. The researchers are going through historic mining maps and records at Ironworld and making contacts for other records through public and private sources to define where these underground mines operated. They are also looking at the location of former mine shafts that were entrances or exits or used for other purposes in underground mining activities as clues to other unknown underground activities. They have obvious limitations to overcome in trying to record and define the entire system that exists. They showed preliminary 3D maps of mine shafts in the Chisholm area and Albany to Thorne mines. They suspect a number of the drifts and shafts are currently flooded and could be affected with the de-watering of pits in the area. This could lead to the increased potential for subsidence which could effect both existing and future development. The team still has a lot of work to do and will be invited back to share more detailed information as the project moves toward completion. Funding was provided to CIRI by the State Legislature to support this work.

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. Brochure	Tim Pastika, <i>Convener</i> Doug Learmont John Koepke, <i>Handbook</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modify to embrace non-ferrous mining and non-magnetic natural ore • Printing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Will be done in house to meet sub-regional meting needs first and then determine larger print production needs.
	2. Handbook		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft completed by Chris Carlson - March 2007 • Members review and revise for next Charrette in six weeks (April) • New outline will be prepared by Chris for review by group • Comments back to Dan Jordan and Chris • Use final at April Charrette

	3. Web Site		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web site development is tied to the work and timing for Iron Range Resources new Web site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expect to have done in Spring 2007 Dan Jordan is tracking this work internally
	4. Sub-regional Group meetings		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two hour meeting with each sub-regional group Agenda has been developed previously Schedule four meetings before end of April Dan will lead/coordinate with sub-regional representatives Need a P.R. piece to highlight event – Dan will follow-up
Action Areas	Work Group Priorities	Work Group Members	Next Steps
Deliver Tools and Resources	1. Mine Map Dissemination	Marty Vadis, Convener Tim Pastika Dennis Hendricks Pete VanDelinder Doug Learmont Tom Gardner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lacking on West Range the mag TAC and non-mag TAC/natural ore will need to be added Develop a sustainable non-ferrous map
	2. Large Scale Projects Map	Tim Pastika	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New version of the large-scale projects map was provided to members (handout) Comments and changes requested by Tim Reminder;: This map will be updated quarterly by the LVP membership Comments back to Dan Jordan or Tim Pastika within two weeks
Action Areas	Work Group Priorities	Work Group Members	Next Steps
Target Priority Projects	1. Minorca East Range Pit Charrette	Terry Lowell/Dan Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder meeting and site review was held in Summer 2005 Finalized scope of work in December 2006 In Phase I - plan of action now formulated Key resources and information meetings are to be held in late January 2007 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goals Issues/concerns Scenarios Research needs Next step <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compose the team for Design Workshop Chris Carlson will compose the Team and work with stakeholders to prepare background packets Dates for the Charrette: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 23rd – Noon to April 26th – Noon Budget is defined Looking for LVP participation Will make sure to invite others from the surrounding Quad Cities and East Range areas to participate
	2. Keewatin Taconite Area Charrette Update	David Lotti/Doug Learmont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain contact on this possible Charrette New key players involved Continue to pursue as interest grows
	3. Innovative Grant Program	Dan Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Still moving ahead Board action is necessary to trigger projects

Sub-Regional Group Updates

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

Sub-Regional Group	Current Projects
CIRI - Doug Hildenbrand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewer District - \$8 million in play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Research underway – 2' contour mapping being completed – \$12 million gap in funding to implement the district – Meeting scheduled with Congressman on funding through federal sources • Pit Lake project approval is pending with IRR Board <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Land use plan Chisholm-Buhl will be an outcome • New CIRI Web Site is up
Quad Cities – Tiffany Anderson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hwy 53 Corridor Planning discussion underway • Bonding projects being discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Trail development • Iron Range Economic Alliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Beulah, North Dakota large scale projects planning trip – growth impacts planning – Major coal gasification plant that significantly changed the landscape.... 20 years later, what are the lessons learned? – DVD available on the area - trip • Quad Cities representatives will be involved with regional meetings – re-educate and re-energize on LVP related needs
Western Mesabi Planning Board – Doug Learmont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canisteo outflow project is moving ahead • \$3.4 legislative request for construction – pre-permitting phase • Itasca County has adopted mining overlay district with sub-districts – December 2006 • City of Grand Rapids looking at adjoining Township annexation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mining lands/handling land use implications is a challenge • Superfund grant request has been made to clean-up existing mining lands in western area
East Range Readiness Committee – Curt Anttila	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mesabi Nugget Project revived <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Four to five weeks to finalize funding • Polymet in EIS development stage

Other Business

- Work Plan Development 2007-2010 – agreed that we need a process that begins with the existing work groups looking at current activities and new issues and opportunities for further discussion and action. We will ask the work groups to convene individually and prepare their recommendations. Members of the LVP that are not currently on a work group and would like to become involved should sign up before they leave the meeting today. Dan Jordan and Randy Lasky will provide more direction on this process and this will be a topic at the next Coordinating Committee meeting in March.
- SME Presentation
 - Ask coordinating work group to address as part of the 2010 Strategic Work Plan
- LVP Training for Engineers
 - Proposal being developed
 - If funded, training in 2008 – 2009
 - Budget request of \$85,000
 - Reclamation policy development input...outcome? Possible.

Future Topics

- LCMR Studies/CIRI

Coordinating Committee Meeting

The next Coordinating Committee will be held on **Tuesday, March 27th from 9:00 A.M. to Noon at the Mineland Reclamation Classroom**, at Ironworld Discovery Center in Chisholm.

LVP Quarterly Meeting

The next Laurentian Vision Partnership meeting will be held **Tuesday, May 15th from 9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. at the Mineland Reclamation Classroom** at Ironworld Discovery Center in Chisholm.

Laurentian Vision Partnership Meeting XXXIV



Tuesday, January 30, 2007– 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM
Mineland Reclamation Classroom
Chisholm, Minnesota

“Planning and Project Implementation 2007”

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

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|--------------|--|---|
| 9:00 | Laurentian Partnership Debriefing | <i>Randy Lasky</i> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant introductions and expectations • Opening comments • Review of Meeting XXXIII results and next steps (November 2006) • Overview of the meeting objective and agenda | |
| 9:15 | Presentation: Non-Ferrous Mining Project and Issues Overview | <i>Frank Ongaro</i> |
| 9:35 | Presentation: Wildlife Corridor Impacts | <i>Jeff Hines, MDNR</i> |
| 10:05 | Presentation: Underground Mine Map 3D Project Overview | <i>Dale Cartwright and
Julie Oreskovich</i> |
| 10:25 | Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress Reports | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Group Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Facilitating REGIONAL VISIONING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brochure Final Review, Approval and Printing <i>Dan Jordan/Chris Carlson</i> ○ Handbook Update and Completion Timing with East Range Charrette <i>Dan Jordan/Chris Carlson</i> ○ Review Timing and Process to Complete the Web Site and Plan the Regional Group Meetings in First Quarter '07 as Part of the Communications Strategy Implementation <i>Dan Jordan and Tim Pastika</i> | |
| 10:45 | Break | |
| 11:00 | Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress Reports – continued | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Delivering TOOLS and RESOURCES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mine Map Update – current and future mining footprints <i>Tim Pastika</i> ○ Iron Range GIS Collaborative Phase III Update <i>John Chell</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Staffing and Funding Development ○ Large Scale Projects Map – Presentation of Updated Map Version <i>Tim Pastika</i> | |

- 11:15 Partnership Priorities:** Work Group Action Progress Reports – continued
- 3) Targeting PRIORITY PROJECTS
 - East Range Charrette (Mittal Steel Charrette) Phase I Update and Plan/Timing Review and Input *Terry Lowell/Chris Carlson*
 - Keewatin Taconite Area Charrette Update *David Lotti/
Doug Learmont
Dan Jordan*
 - Innovative Grant Program Update and Projects Review
 - Biomass Switchgrass/UTAC
 - Mesabi Mountain Wind Coalition/MIEDA
 - Pit Lake Proto-type Update/Chisholm
- 11:45 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*
- 12:15 Other Business and Discussion Topics**
- Tourism Development Tie to LVP Mission – Sub-Committee Organization *Dan Jordan/Randy Lasky*
 - LVP 2007-2010 Work Plan Planning Process *Randy Lasky*
 - LVP Booth at SME Conference in April *Dan Jordan*
 - LVP Training for Mining Engineers *Jim Swearingen/
Chris Carlson*
 - Future Topics?
- 12:25 What's Next?**
- Next meeting date and agenda *Randy Lasky*
 - **Coordinating Group** – March _____ 2007?
 - Representative from each Work Group and each Regional Group
 - **Laurentian Vision Partnership** – April ____, 2007?
 - Wrap up announcements and conclusions
- 12:30 ADJOURN**



Meeting Participants Laurentian Vision Partnership Meeting XXXIV

Tuesday, January 30, 2007 – 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

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