

Laurentian Vision Partnership

Meeting XXXI Report

"Planning and Project Implementation 2006"



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

Tuesday, April 18, 2006
Mineland Reclamation Classroom
Chisholm, Minnesota



**Laurentian Vision Partnership
Meeting XXXI**

Tuesday, April 18, 2006

“Planning and Project Implementation 2006”

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 2006.*

Meeting Summary

Laurentian Partnership Debriefing

- Participant introductions
- Opening comments
- Review of Meeting XXX results and next steps
- Overview of meeting objectives and agenda. It was emphasized that we have a full agenda and will have to move quickly through the material today.

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
<i>Facilitate Regional Visioning</i>	1. Charette Handbook	Tim Pastika, <i>Convener</i> Doug Learmont John Koepke, <i>Primer/Handbook</i> Joe Scipioni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ray Svatos will email the draft Handbook to all LVP members and request comments back by May 1st • He will then forward all comments to Chris and request the final product for review at the July LVP meeting <p>Action: Final Handbook for July LVP meeting</p>
	2. Develop and Implement an Iron Range Communication Strategy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get information – maps, etc. to sub-regional groups • Sign-up sheet today to assist with the strategy • Schedule two meetings to complete the draft strategy – Randy to facilitate • IRR marketing staff and professional marketing consultant assistance will be used as appropriate <p>Action: Draft strategy for July LVP meeting.</p>

Action Areas	Work Group Priorities	Work Group Members	Next Steps
Deliver Tools and Resources	1. Update mineland map	Marty Vadis, <i>Convener</i> Tim Pastika Dennis Hendricks Pete VanDelinder Doug Learmont Tom Gardner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2000 map update • Tie to communications strategy • Get this out to stakeholders • LVP product only • PDF/CD format only given size of files • Sub-groups will share in their areas • LVP “brand” on this product
	2. Underground Mapping		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Process to start soon/continued • Two-three years to complete • NRRI to play a supporting role
	3. Iron Range GIS Collaborative	Dan Jordan, <i>Convener</i> Dave Yappel John Chell Ray Svatos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met January/March with community representatives • Concept developed – centralized data server • Next: Proof of concept development • Determine feasibility • Tool for variety of applications (wetlands, elevation data, land use planning, etc.) <p>Need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – \$50,000 - \$60,000 in funding for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Pilot communities to be selected for proof of concept/technical assistance demonstration – Proof of concept data portal developed – Data gathering – Training sessions for communities – Source of funds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Federal EDA Technical Assistance grant – Apply within the next 4-6 weeks <p>Action: Will report back in July</p>
	4. Area Wide LVP Map	Marty Vadis, <i>Convener</i> Tim Pastika Dennis Hendricks Pete VanDelinder Doug Learmont Tom Gardner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample presented by MDNR for the CIRI area • Overlaid vision & mineland map data • Implementation projects to be defined – land use implications highlighted • Timeframes depicted • Helpful visualization • Develop sub-regionally and build out Range-wide • What format, vehicle or technology do we use? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Met Council A model will be investigated • PowerPoint/time sequences <p>Action: Communications Committee will discuss and make recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Focus sub-regionally – LVP role is regional integrator
	5. MDNR Natural Ore Deposits		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need MDNR and other related information • More West Range focus • Identify & define the resources available • Two year MDNR project
	6. MDNR Pit Wall Remediation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on those areas not in the mining process today • Pit shaping options for slope stability...reuse • There are ways to do this besides just during the mining operations • Means/options/incentives? • Who pays? Cost/benefit? • LVP role? • Long-range focus – natural ore pits • Alternative lakeshore development – site selective approach • Looked at 4-5 years ago

Action Areas	Work Group Priorities	Work Group Members	Next Steps
	<p>7. Range-Wide Elevation Data Mapping</p> <p>8. East Range Charrette (Mittal Steel)</p> <p>9. Keewatin/Taconite Area Charrette</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easily resurrect this work and continue • Tie to future reclamation projects <p>Action: Tools & Resources Committee talk about this – come back with some next steps/costs/funding sources in July.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS Collaborative ties • Two foot contours • Timing is next year (2007 or 2008) • Driving for economy of scale • Multiple users – share costs • Cost share/stakeholders/users to be determined <p>Action: Tools & Resources Committee come back with recommendations to LVP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Terry working on getting a coordinator hired • Mining EIS process moved back: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Completed by end of 2006 or January 2007 • Bill Bonds has left for another assignment • Charrette postponed to first quarter of 2007 • Almost 100% of funding sources are committed for the charrette • Commitments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mittal Steel – Iron Range Resources – MDNR – Minnesota Power – St. Louis County – Tom Gardner/fee owners – University of Minnesota (in kind) – City of Biwabik <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is interest to pursue a charrette • Visuals helpful in the past • Councils, residents & mining company representatives were in attendance • Keewatin Council taking some action...Tom is driving this effort • LVP role: limited now • They need to decide if/when to pursue the charrette <p>Action: Ray will provide a copy of the handbook to the communities</p>

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<p>Target Priority Projects</p>	<p>1. Innovation Grant Program</p> <p>2. Mineland Reclamation Grants</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No applications received • New program this year...some confusion • Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Turnaround time is tight – Have project interest • Carry funds forward for 2007 • Legislatively driven initiative “challenge grant” – concept developed quickly • Awareness now • Will work on this for next year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2.6 million in project requests • Some meet LVP, others safety or historical preservation • Projects from Cuyuna to Vermilion Range • Budget being determined by Iron Range Resources • LVP role? Input on use of these dollars. More focus on economic development & regional group priorities. (Don't forget about safety concerns.) • IRR will meet with each applicant

Action Areas	Work Group Priorities	Work Group Members	Next Steps
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vermilion Range lacks a sub-regional group Cuyuna has a committee IRR will talk about this process and how to better tie in the regional groups – role defined.

Sub-Regional Group Updates

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

Sub-Regional Group	Current Projects
CIRI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bonding request pending \$3 million (Sanitary Sewer District) Town Meeting held last week to share and celebrate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Showcased the MDNR hydrology study and other objectives Pit Lake prototype project application submitted for IRR funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phased effort
Quad Cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mineland reclamation meeting No notification from United Taconite on the Hwy 53 relocation project – ready to move on this The two grant programs help keep the focus on LVP and Quad Cities collaboration Large scale maps are helpful tool – Communications Committee take this into account
Western Mesabi Planning Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major RFP on water issue in next few months (Canisto Pit) Itasca County Comprehensive Plan in process...affect Charrette processes All 14 government units jointly submitted an application through the sub-regional group Minnesota Steel & Excelsior moving ahead with public meetings and information sharing Keewatin/Taconite: Charrette discussion in process, timing still uncertain Expect action in next couple of months with broader groups in area
East Range Readiness Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Range School district voters approved a referendum for a new school – sent a very positive message about the optimism in the area. Work is continuing to address the needs of Mesabi Nugget and Polymet as they complete their funding development and environmental review processes.

Other

Current Projects	Lead	
Large Scale Range-Wide Projects Map	Dan Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LVP product? Dissemination? IRR internal use now Covered projects going through environmental review Would like to see updated Could be the start of a region-wide map Have value? How to do it? Concern – cumulative effect/visual impact Limit to environmentally reviewed projects? Be flexible Work in progress – will vary MDNR willing to construct and update the map LVP endorsed – to be defined <p>Action: Tools & Resources Committee will discuss further based on input received today. Will come back to LVP.</p>

Current Projects	Lead	
GIS – Mapping/Wetland Mitigation Mapping	John Chell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining sub-committee initiative • Public policy issue • Wetland mitigation has to occur on private land • Proposing (LVP input?) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Entity to speak on wetland inconsistencies federal & state <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Corps of Engineers/Federal o Bowser – Minnesota – Inventory Iron Mining Wetland Mitigation sites • “Wetland Mitigation Service District” defined • Tie to public land management for forestry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – In-lieu payments • Next: Funding development to do the inventory work. <p>Action: John would like to bring this back as it progresses</p>

Coordinating Committee Meeting

The next Coordinating Committee will be held on Tuesday, June 13th 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, July 25th from 9:00 A.M. to Noon at the Mineland Reclamation Classroom** at Ironworld Discovery Center in Chisholm.

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Meeting XXXI**



Tuesday, April 18, 2006 – 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM
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 XXX 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 Handbook and Primer *Ray Svatos/John Koepke*
 - LVP Communications Strategy Development *Tim Pastika*
 - 2) Delivering TOOLS and RESOURCES
 - Review and Compare new Mine Map Update with 2000 version *Marty Vadis/Tim Pastika*
 - Underground Mine Impacts Mapping for CIRI update *Marty Vadis/Tim Pastika*
 - Iron Range GIS Collaborative Phase II update *Dan Jordan/Dave Yapel*
 - Area-wide LVP sample map highlighting land use, visioning ideas and projects as they are identified *Tim Pastika/Doug Hildenbrand*
 - New Information: MDNR Natural Ore Deposits within LVP area *Marty Vadis/Tim Pastika*
 - Extend LVP area of focus past Highway 38?
 - New Information: MDNR Pit Wall Remediation...pit shaping for the future *Marty Vadis/Tim Pastika*
- 10:30 Break**
- 10:45 Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress Reports – continued**
- 3) Targeting PRIORITY PROJECTS
 - East Range Charrette (Mittal Steel Charrette) Phase I Update *Terry Lowell/Ray Svatos*
 - Timing change

- Project Coordinator
- Mittal lead staff changes
- University of Minnesota role
- Funding development status

- Keewatin Taconite Area Charrette public officials meeting report
- Innovative Grant Program (mining companies) project list review

- Mineland Reclamation Grants Applications project list review

*Ray Svatos, Doug Hildenbrand
Doug Learmont Jerry Dombeck
Dan Jordan*

Ray Svatos

11:15 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*

11:45 Large Scale MDNR Projects Maps Review

- LVP endorsed with logo
- Distribution

Tim Pastika

11:55 GIS – Mining/Wetland Mitigation Mapping Project

New Discussion: LVP support for development of a GIS based private lands sites map

John Chell

12:15 What's Next?

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

12:30 ADJOURN



Meeting Participants
Laurentian Vision Partnership
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Tuesday, April 18, 2006 – 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Arrowhead Regional Development Commission	John Chell
Arrowhead Regional Development Commission	Dave Yapel
City of Biwabik	Terry Lowell
City of Eveleth – EDA	Tiffany Anderson
East Range Joint Powers Board	Curt Anttila
Hibbing Taconite Co.	Terry Filippi
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
Minnesota Power	Jennifer Hawkins
Mittal Steel	John Arola
MNDNR – Lands & Minerals	Tim Pastika
Northspan Group, Inc.	Randy Lasky
NRRI	Mike Lalich
RENDRAG	Mary Holliday
RENDRAG	Rachel Gardner
St. Louis County	Barry Lesar
WMMPB	Doug Learmont
	Tom Sampson