

# **Laurentian Vision Partnership**

## **Meeting XXXII Report**

### ***"Planning and Project Implementation 2006"***



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

Tuesday, July 25, 2006  
Mineland Reclamation Classroom  
Chisholm, Minnesota



**Laurentian Vision Partnership  
Meeting XXXII**

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***“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 and a special presentation on the proposed Pit Lake Prototype Project.*

**Meeting Summary**

**Laurentian Partnership Debriefing**

- Participant introductions and expectations
- Opening comments
- Review of Meeting XXXI results and next steps (April 2006)
- Overview of meeting objectives and agenda.

**Presentation**

**Pit Lake Prototype Project – CIRI Representatives**

Doug Hildenbrand and John Fedo provided a special presentation with maps and story board graphics on a proposed land use/reclamation planning project that has long range implications for the Central Iron Range area. Following an overview of CIRI and its pending Sewer District, Underground Mine Assessment and the Wind Energy and Pump Storage projects, they described the Pit Lake Prototype Project. CIRI is requesting \$662,000 from IRR to look at how a pit area east of Chisholm could be planned for its eventual use as a lake front development area. They want to plan to utilize what will eventually become three large lakes stretching across the Mesabi Range. They would look at this pilot area to address land use controls, fisheries development, bank stabilization and watershed management needs, and other environmental impact issues. The area in question is under transformation now with no clear development plan in place to guide the mining and reclamation process. They presented information on what is described as the Chisholm Park Point Addition concepts plan for residential and campground/recreational development. The City of Chisholm and other stakeholders are interested and support a more comprehensive planning process evidenced by the attendance of several representatives today. The group hopes to plan to set the stage for private investment and development, reclaim mining properties with a purpose and to address the need for a variety of housing options and cost levels including the high valued, new lakeshore development that can occur as these new pit lakes are created over time. They touted the work at Giants Ridge as an example of this type of master planning

LVP members asked questions about the timing and tie with other project studies like the Underground Mine Mapping Assessment, and whether or not the project could be phased instead of completed as one large project to provide more funding/timing flexibility. Members felt the project had a lot of merit and should be further reviewed. It was proposed that a sub-group of key stakeholders be organized to further look at the project with IRR staff that could include the City of Chisholm, other surrounding and impacted land owners, mining companies and other interests as appropriate. A follow-up report was requested for a future LVP meeting when the timing is appropriate.



Action Areas	Work Group Priorities	Work Group Members	Next Steps
	4. Range Wide Elevation Data Mapping - Collaborative		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why – a lot of need, economy of scale can be achieved.</li> <li>• Last compiled in 1998 - varying snapshots in time</li> <li>• Goal – one snapshot, now at 2' contours</li> <li>• Communicate so we can get the project in stakeholders budgets</li> <li>• How do we move this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Stakeholder meeting...mining company engineers invited &amp; USFS and non-ferrous reps?</li> <li>– MDNR, ARDC &amp; IRR coordinator work on this</li> <li>– Civil engineering company reps also invited</li> <li>– Vendor presentation – Lidar Technology</li> <li>– Conveners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dave Yapel</li> <li>▪ Tim Pastika</li> <li>▪ Dan Jordan</li> </ul> </li> <li>– Meet around Labor Day</li> <li>– Timing to be determined</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	5. Area Wide LVP Map	Marty Vadis, Convener Tim Pastika	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Range-wide focus</li> <li>• Sub-regional site specific</li> <li>• Approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Email out current map, list and criteria (Dan Jordan to coordinate with Tim Pastika)</li> <li>– Web tie being developed</li> <li>– Review with sub-regional groups and seek input</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	6. East Range Charrette	John Arola, Mittal Steel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EIS comment period – end of October/approved</li> <li>• Then – haul road to be built <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Power line extension</li> <li>– Pre-stripping initiated</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Spring Charrette – timing good. Biwabik to serve as fiscal agent for contributions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
	7. Keewatin/Taconite Charrette	Doug Learmont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concept out there 6-8 months</li> <li>• No major advance</li> <li>• Expect more emphasis soon</li> <li>• Expect more to happen in the next two months</li> <li>• Joe Scipioni has left and was a major advocate</li> <li>• Keewatin and Nashwauk have expressed interest</li> <li>• Doug Learmont will monitor</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

Action Areas	Work Group Priorities	Work Group Members	Next Steps
<b>Target Priority Projects</b>	1..Mineland Reclamation	Dan Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handout</li> <li>• Projects list</li> <li>• LVP - \$398,500 budget this year</li> <li>• See list of projects from Dan Jordan</li> </ul>
	2.Innovation Grant Program	Dan Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidelines changed to include both mining companies and stakeholder groups as eligible applicants</li> <li>• To be reviewed with sub-regional groups</li> </ul>

Action Areas	Work Group Priorities	Work Group Members	Next Steps
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$558,000 – F.Y. 2007 available</li> <li>• \$139,000 allocated – Mesabi Mt. Wind Energy Project</li> <li>• Application deadline is September 30th</li> <li>• Could be used for elevation mapping but other sources in IRR may be more appropriate</li> </ul>

**Sub-Regional Group Updates**

Representatives of the Central Iron Range Initiative (John Fedo), Quad Cities (Tiffany Anderson) and Western Mesabi Planning Board (Doug Learmont) reported on recent sub-regional group activities.

Sub-Regional Group	Current Projects
<b>CIRI - John Fedo</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bonding request pending \$3 million (Sanitary Sewer District)</li> <li>• Town Meeting held last week to share and celebrate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Showcased the MDNR hydrology study and other objectives</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Pit Lake prototype project application submitted for IRR funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Phased effort</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Web site will be done within the next month</li> <li>• \$2.5 million bonding sanitary sewer</li> <li>• \$5.7 million taconite tax</li> <li>• \$17 million already invested by communities</li> <li>• Gap - \$10 - \$12 million – seeking now from federal sources</li> <li>• 4 wheeler trail – Side Lake in the development/planning stage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Quad Cities - Tiffany Anderson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LVP Web site will be helpful</li> <li>• Educate our area</li> <li>• Focus on the Chamber</li> <li>• Partnerships are working</li> <li>• Working together on grant requests</li> <li>• Will work with us on holding the sub-regional group meeting this Fall.</li> </ul>
<b>Western Mesabi Planning Board Doug Learmont</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minnesota Steel &amp; Excelsior are moving forward – priority</li> <li>• Water level in Canesto Pit a priority – wetland/hydro engineer being hired <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Fall/October completion</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Itasca County Comprehensive Plan – zoning update still in process</li> <li>• New mining overlay zone being proposed/designed</li> <li>• NRRI data being used in the update process</li> <li>• Doug will assist in setting up a Fall regional sub-group meeting – special meeting</li> </ul>

**Discussion Topics**

<b>Wind Coalition Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dan Jordan will disseminate facts on the project.</li> </ul>
<b>Non-Ferrous Minerals Industry Involvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public affairs campaign in process</li> <li>• Invite a couple of representatives (i.e. Warren Hudelson)</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> Presentation in October (intro) and again in January (expansive) by Ernie Lehman.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reach out and include going forward</li> <li>• Interest in region is expanding</li> <li>• Ties with ferrous mining impacts/needs</li> </ul>
<b>IMA Presentation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frank Ongaro</li> <li>• What’s happening</li> <li>• Invite for October <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Wetlands</li> <li>– Minnesota Exploration Association (MEXA)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### **Coordinating Committee Meeting**

The next Coordinating Committee will be held on **Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 A.M. to Noon at the Mineland Reclamation Classroom**, at Ironworld Discovery Center in Chisholm.

### **LVP Quarterly Meeting**

#### **UPDATE**

**Due to a scheduling conflict, the meeting originally scheduled for October 31, 2006 needs to be rescheduled.**

**Laurentian Vision Partnership  
Meeting XXXII**



Tuesday, July 25, 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  
and a special presentation on the proposed Pit Lake Proto-type Project.

**AGENDA**

**9:00 Laurentian Partnership Debriefing**

- Participant introductions and expectations
- Opening comments
- Review of Meeting XXXI results and next steps (April 2006)
- Overview of the meeting objective and agenda

**9:15 Presentation: Pit Lake Prototype Project – CIRI Representatives**

*Doug Hildenbrand/John Fedo*

**9:45 Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress Reports**

- Work Group Updates
  - 1) Facilitating REGIONAL VISIONING
    - Review Final Handbook
    - Review Process and Responsibilities to Complete Primer
    - Review Draft LVP Communications Strategy as Prepared by the Communications Committee
  - 2) Delivering TOOLS and RESOURCES
    - Mine Map Dissemination Update
    - Underground Mine Impacts Mapping for CIRI Update
    - Iron Range GIS Collaborative Phase III Update
    - Elevation Data Mapping – New Collaborative Effort
      - Review Need and Significance of Project
      - LVP Coordinating Role
      - MDNR Technical Support Role
      - Geographic Scope and Key Stakeholders Clarified
      - Fiscal Agent?
    - Large Scale MDNR Projects Map - New Additions Needed
    - GIS – Mining/Wetland Mitigation Mapping Project
      - Scope and Expected Outcomes
      - LVP Involvement?
      - How Should We Proceed?

*Dan Jordan*

*Dan Jordan*

*Tim Pastika*

*Marty Vadis/Tim Pastika*

*Marty Vadis/Tim Pastika*

*Dan Jordan/Dave Yapel*

*Marty Vadis/Tim Pastika*

*Marty Vadis/Tim Pastika*

*John Chell*

**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
- Keewatin Taconite Area Charrette Update
- Mineland Reclamation Grants Projects Update
- Innovative Grant Program Update

*Terry Lowell/Dan Jordan*

*Dan Jordan/David Lotti/  
Doug Learmont  
Dan Jordan  
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*

**11:40 Other Business and Discussion Topics**

- Update on past Charrette Implementation Activities
  - CIRI
  - Quad Cities
- Wind Coalition Project – Future Topic?
- Precious Minerals Company Involvement on LVP?
- IMA Future Presentation

*Doug Hildenbrand  
Tiffany Anderson*

**12:10 What's Next?**

- Next meeting date and agenda
  - **Coordinating Group** – September \_\_\_\_\_?
    - Representative from each Work Group and each Regional Group
  - **Laurentian Vision Partnership** – October \_\_\_\_, 2006?
- Wrap up announcements and conclusions

**12:20 ADJOURN**



**Meeting Participants**  
**Laurentian Vision Partnership**  
**Meeting XXXI**

Tuesday, July 25, 2006 – 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

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