

Laurentian Vision Partnership

Meeting XXXIII Report

"Planning and Project Implementation 2006"



Laurentian Vision Partnership
Transforming pits and piles into lakes and landscapes

Wednesday, November 1, 2006
Mineland Reclamation Classroom
Chisholm, Minnesota



**Laurentian Vision Partnership
Meeting XXXIII**

Wednesday, November 1, 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 and special topics presentations.*

Meeting Summary

Laurentian Partnership Debriefing

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

Presentation

GIS Mining/Wetlands Mitigation Mapping

John Chell of ARDC presented a PowerPoint overview of the Northeast Minnesota Wetlands Strategy. The main issue is how we change state and federal wetland policy to better balance wetland mitigation requirements based on the characteristics of a given area of the state. Northeast Minnesota has 18% of the state’s wetlands. John went through the issues and findings of a group of public and private stakeholders that have been addressing inequities and inflexible policy that has been impacting development activities and mitigation costs in the region. The group has drafted a proposed policy document to suggest changes that provide more flexibility while respecting the need to restore wetlands. Discussion was lively about what LVP could do. It was suggested that we could build wetland mitigation needs into the Charrett process; try to change the punitive ratio and look at other ways to use public lands for restoration such as a new public or private wetland banking system. This is expected to be a legislative issue in 2007 and 2008. A copy of the PowerPoint will be emailed to LVP members.

Presentation

Iron Mining Association (IMA) Overview of Current Issues

Frank Ongaro was originally planning to make a presentation but has changed jobs and we agreed not to go ahead with the presentation at this time.

Presentation

Intro to Wildlife Corridor Designation along the Mesabi Range

Jeff Hines of MDNR gave a brief overview of a new topic that he will be providing a more detailed presentation at the January LVP meeting. Jeff explained during the recent mining EIS scoping processes, the discussion of north/south animal/big mammal migration corridor barriers was addressed as part of the cumulative effects assessment. Concern is that the migration corridors will be cut off as broader mining occurs and pits extend and connect with one another along this 115 mile east/west corridor. Members expressed an interest in the subject and

Jeff will be prepared to present more detail. The group plans to discuss how LVP could address this matter in its planning and information communication role.

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. Logo/Tagline Graphics	Dan Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need a final decision • Like the font <p>Action: We will accept the recommendation presented.</p>
	2. Primer/Brochure	Tim Pastika, <i>Convener</i> Doug Learmont John Koepke, <i>Primer/Handbook</i> Joe Scipioni	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First draft handed out members • LVP read/review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Audience? – What do we want them to do after they read it? – Role of four sub-groups? <p>Action: Email out to LVP membership. Comments back to Dan. Email out next Tuesday, Nov. 7th – 10 day turnaround.</p>
	3. Develop and Implement an LVP Communications Strategy		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web site in process waiting on brochure (JPG) • Need brochure for regional meetings • Chris Carlson can turnaround relatively quickly <p>Action: Have produced for use by end of December.</p>
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"> • Ongoing process • Ready to go to regional groups and the Web site
	2. Underground Mine Impacts	Mary Vadis Tim Pastika	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In process • Handout of traced inventory • Completion end 2007 • November 17th – meeting on an interest area East of Chisholm. Key stakeholders convene to scope/address questions. Iron Range Resources to facilitate. • Geographic coverage – entire CIRI area • Taking paper copies of old information and mapping • Need to overlay existing and future mining & unbuildable underground areas to show what is available for development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Awareness – Obtain information in one central location
	3. Iron Range GIS Collaborative	Dan Jordan/John Chell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff departure delays • ARDC remains committed to the project...high priority • Drafted legislation for a state regional planning grant of which \$75,000 would be dedicated to this. • Proposed USDA grant required 1:1 match – not submitted, in October need match • Need \$150,000 to do the next phase – Pilot Project
	4. Range Wide Elevation Data Mapping - Collaborative	Marty Vadis/Tim Pastika	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding cycle timing was not good for Spring 2007 • Can pursue 2008 and beyond on a collaborative basis • Bring in vendors and discuss how and estimate the cost savings • Get stakeholders back together in Summer '07 – MDNR will convene and follow-up

	5. Large Scale MDNR Projects Map	Tim Pastika	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on an ongoing basis • Access to projects and information through map/links • Update quarterly at LVP meetings • Take off or leave completed projects? Yes – take off and archive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Color code – Timeframe sensitive – Archive list maintained for access • How about showing what land is impacted by each project? • What are we trying to show and why depict? • Star Tribune – four day story beginning Nov. 5th using the map • Twin Cities Business – Dec. issue will also include reference to map
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Action Areas	Work Group Priorities	Work Group Members	Next Steps
Target Priority Projects	1. East Range Charrette	Terry Lowell/Dan Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIS out – decision December 4th • Spring for Charrette • Seeking a coordinator for project • Chris Carlson – interested in helping coordinate, will support the local coordinator • Budget – estimate \$60,000 - \$80,000 • Phase the funding development to get going now <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – City of Biwabik will open an account • Planning Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tom Gardner – Terry Lowell – John Koepke – Dan Jordan – Mittal representative (TBD) • Broaden stakeholders – Quad area and part of East Range (regional issue)
	2. Keewatin Taconite Area Charrette Update	David Lotti/Doug Learmont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not ready to push this forward yet • Dan Jordan and Lori Fedo will make the contact with new Supintendent
	3. Innovative Grant Program	Dan Jordan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind – Mesabi Mt Coalition (handout on project) \$256,000 project budget – 14-16 windmills • Biomass – United Taconite (handout) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Use of switch grass and bio-solids – Two burners in southern Iowa – Five burners going in Minnesota – 380 to 400 acres could be used for biomass production – pilot 26 acres – Budget is \$53,000 over three years • Switchgrass \$21-\$40.00 ton • Proximity to end use is important • Heavy metal draw by switchgrass? Not an issue in tailings basin unless Ph level is too low. • Could be a tie to the Central Range Sanitary District (make contact) – bio-solids • Approvals have been obtained from regulators

Feedback on Projects

Innovative – creative
Share information on these

Sub-Regional Group Updates

Representatives of the Central Iron Range Initiative (Doug Hildenbrand), and Western Mesabi Planning Board (Doug Learmont) reported on recent sub-regional group activities.

Sub-Regional Group	Current Projects
CIRI - Doug Hildenbrand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitary Sewer project design underway • Projecting pit water levels • Two foot contour maps • Underground mapping • Wind energy sites being identified. Hope to tie with pump storage. • Sports fishery study in process. • Pit Lake proto-type stalled. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Meeting in November on how to move forward.
Western Mesabi Planning Board Doug Learmont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of major projects in play • Communication occurring on these • County zoning – defining mining overlay zones as part of the update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Expect it will include a core mining overlay – end of November – Need to integrate zoning ordinances as a next step

Future Topics

- Tourism development tie to LVP Mission
- Ironworld Corp.
- Work Plan 2007 - 2008

Coordinating Committee Meeting

The next Coordinating Committee will be held on **Tuesday, December 19th 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, January 30th from 9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. at the Mineland Reclamation Classroom** at Ironworld Discovery Center in Chisholm.

2007 LVP Meeting Dates (3rd Tuesdays)

The group set a regular meeting schedule for its quarterly meetings in 2007 as follows:

- January 30th
- April 17th
- July 17th
- October 16th

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Meeting XXXIII**

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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 special topics presentations.

AGENDA

- 9:00 Laurentian Partnership Debriefing**
- Participant introductions and expectations *Randy Lasky*
 - Opening comments
 - Review of Meeting XXXII results and next steps (July 2006)
 - Overview of the meeting objective and agenda
- 9:15 Presentation: GIS Mining/Wetlands Mitigation Mapping** *John Chell*
- 9:45 Presentation: Iron Mining Association (IMA) Overview of Current Issues** *Frank Ongaro*
- 10:15 Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress Reports**
- Work Group Updates
 - 1) Facilitating REGIONAL VISIONING
 - Logo/Tagline Graphics –Decision on Final Design *Dan Jordan*
 - Review Process and Responsibilities to Complete Brochure *Dan Jordan/Chris Carlson*
 - Review Timing and Process to Complete the Web Site and Conduct the Regional Group Meeting in Last Quarter '06 as Part of the Communications Strategy Implementation *Dan Jordan and Tim Pastika*
- 10:30 Break**
- 10:45**
- 2) Delivering TOOLS and RESOURCES
 - Mine Map Dissemination Update *Tim Pastika*
 - Underground Mine Impacts Mapping for CIRI Update *Tim Pastika*
 - Iron Range GIS Collaborative Phase III Update *Dan Jordan/John Chell*
 - Funding Development
 - Staff Support Changes and Next Steps
 - Elevation Data Mapping – LVP Coordination Update *Marty Vadis/Tim Pastika*
 - Interest and Timing Information from Stakeholders
 - LVP Coordinating Role
 - MDNR Technical Support Role
 - Large Scale MDNR Projects Map - New Additions Needed/Changes Tie to Web Site in January *Tim Pastika*

11:15 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

 - Innovative Grant Program Update and Projects Review
 - Fall '06 Project Applications and Process Overview
 - LVP Comments on Applications

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

11:45 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*

12:15 Other Business and Discussion Topics

- Wildlife Corridor Designation Along the Mesabi Range
- Future Topics?

Jeff Hines

12:25 What's Next?

- Next meeting date and agenda
 - **Coordinating Group** – December _____?
 - Representative from each Work Group and each Regional Group
 - **Laurentian Vision Partnership** – January ____, 2007?
- Wrap up announcements and conclusions

Randy Lasky

12:30 ADJOURN



Meeting Participants
Laurentian Vision Partnership
Meeting XXXIII

Wednesday, November 1, 2006 – 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

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