

Laurentian Vision Partnership

Meeting LX Report

"Planning and Project Implementation 2015"



Tuesday, June 2, 2015
Mining and Reclamation Classroom | Chisholm, Minnesota

Laurentian Vision Partnership

Meeting LX

June 2, 2015

“Planning and Project Implementation 2015”

MEETING OBJECTIVE

The Facilitator reviewed the past meeting results and next steps, highlighted meeting objectives and went over the agenda for today’s meeting.

Minnesota’s Iron Range mining and community landscapes are always changing. From the advent of new processes to reclaim iron units to the development of non-ferrous and potential iron making facilities, mining’s link with the land and communities continues to evolve. As existing mining operations expand physical footprints and new facilities are constructed, the relationship between mining and community growth is of increased importance to mining operations, cities, and citizens. LVP, through a collaboration of stakeholders, addresses the challenges of community expansion, resource protection, land retention, reclamation, environmental permitting, local revenue generation, and reuse.

The focus of this meeting is on several topics including an update and overview of two highway relocation projects in the Quad Cities and Chisholm; County, State and Federal legislative updates related to mining, natural resource, and other pertinent needs and challenges impacting the Iron Range; and a shared perspective on sustainable mining planning and its legacy implications by Environmental Resources Management. We will review and provide brief updates on several Innovation Grant projects that are pending or in process and the 2016 funding for grants. Finally, we will hear progress reports from regional groups and work groups including information on new mine maps being released and funding development for the southern boundary core drilling assessment work.

MEETING SUMMARY

Laurentian Partnership Debriefing

- Participant introductions and expectations
- Opening comments
- Review of Meeting LVIX results and next steps (January 2015)
- Overview of meeting objective and agenda

PRESENTATION

Highway Relocation Projects Overview and Updates

Melissa Schultz
Bridge Designer, MnDOT

David Larson
Landscape Architect
MnDOT

John Powers
Applied Insights North

Bob Bruce
Carduss LLC

Brian Boder
St. Louis County Assistant
Hwy Engineer

This panel discussion focused on two major highway relocation projects in the Quad Cities and Chisholm. LVP has had past updates on the TH 53 Relocation Project, routes and alternatives, environmental considerations and costs but no details on visual development considerations for the final alternative(s) being considered. In addition, the City of Chisholm and St. Louis County became involved in relocation considerations for both TH 169 and County Highway 5 as part of the comprehensive planning by the city. This conversation has led to a focus on County Highway 5 and relocation options being considered to meet future mining needs. Both projects will be addressed by the panel.

Melissa Schultz shared a PowerPoint presentation on Visual Design Considerations for the TH 53 project and the work of a local Visual Quality Review Committee with 15 local members providing input. The committee has met five times to talk about the proposed route and bridge development. Up to 11% of the bridge costs can be used for aesthetic purposes. The main focus has been on the Highway 135 bridge which will be the most visible but will also address the Pit Bridge, city entrance changes, rock cut area, and new location for the mine overlook to replace Mine in the Sky. Images and information were shared on the direction the landscaping and designs are taking under the direction of the committee. Melissa commented and shared details on the challenges, safety considerations, re-routing of the multi-use Mesabi trail, pedestrian access and public art, bridge lighting and how the Mine View site might unfold. The local visual quality committee is finalizing the Quality Guidelines that will soon be used in the preliminary and final design of the project.

John Powers, Bob Bruce and Brian Boder shared their work on County Highway 5 relocation needs and considerations. John led the discussion and shared a PowerPoint presentation. John introduced the project team involved and explained that this work was funded by IRRRB through its Mining Impacts Planning Program. As part of the City of Chisholm's comprehensive planning process and emphasis on addressing mining land use needs, the mining needs of Cliffs Natural Resources were balanced with other needs of the city and corridor transportation access in this part of the Central Iron Range. Both Highways 169 and 5 were looked at because of the high probability of being affected by mining. This effort served as a new model for preplanning for regional mine impacts and how these needs can be approached. Cliffs initiated an abandonment action request for Highway 5 by 2017. This has accelerated the need to look at options similar to the TH 53 Relocation in Virginia. The panel/team shared area maps showing five rerouting options being considered and highlighted the pros and cons and preferred option. Bob Bruce went over the Iron Man intersection design and the rationale behind this scoping. A second intersection was also highlighted. Brian outlined the next steps involving engagement with MnDOT, survey work completion, further design work with construction planned for 2016. Highway 169 is not being considered at this time. It was suggested that Hibbing and Chisholm connect on this project and also future implications for TH 169 impacts and timing.

The panel presentations, perspectives and level of detail were well received by members, and the presenters were thanked. Copies of the PowerPoint slide presentations are available on the LVP website at www.lvpmn.org.

P R E S E N T A T I O N

2015 Minnesota Legislative Session and Congressional Federal Update

Craig Pagel

President, Iron Mining Assoc.

John Ongaro

St. Louis County Lobbyist

Loren Solberg

Itasca County Lobbyist

Jeff Anderson

Congressman Nolan's Rep.

Four active lobbyists and representatives shared an update on the results of the recent legislative session and what might be in store for the 2016 session related to jobs, trade, mining, energy, taxes, bioindustrial and environmental issues. Both state and federal updates were shared. No PowerPoint was provided but several handouts shared.

Craig Pagel described the overall tone of the session, effective work of the Range Delegation and discussed several specific bill highlights and outcomes related to the Jobs and Energy bill (more competitive energy rates for large industrial users in Minnesota Power's service area and other eligible parts of the state); Ag and Environmental bill addressed wild rice water quality standards, wetland in-lieu fees and non-ferrous mining was not affected; and, no Omnibus Tax bill was addressed and none expected this year even with a Special Session pending. Overall a positive session for our area.

John Ongaro shared a handout and highlighted St. Louis County's legislative priorities and current status. Seventeen priorities were individually reviewed and the outcomes highlighted. A number of the priorities related to Tax Committee items were not resolved this session. Others were related to transportation and Omnibus Environment Funding bill which will probably be addressed in a Special Session.

Loren Solberg commented on a couple of the items addressed by Craig and John and then highlighted several issues and challenges that were of priority to Itasca County. Commented specifically on incentives to support bio-industrial projects as a major win; fiscal disparities changes that are pending; captive railroad issues; pipelines and tax implications; peer review of MPCA standards and cost to do this work; and, the limitations of the transportation bill were all mentioned.

Jeff Anderson shared the federal legislative perspective and commented on several items of priority to the Congressman. Commented on Congresswoman Betty McCollum's anti-mining legislation; Trans Pacific Trade Partnership and the negative implications for the Iron Range; foreign steel dumping and efforts to enforce domestic fair trade laws; positive federal agency support for PolyMet; railroad infrastructure challenges in the region; possible Transportation Bill approval later this fall; and the \$10 million Tiger Grant awarded for Duluth/Superior Port improvements. He mentioned the Congressman's web site and newsletter for more information.

Panel members summarized a lot of important and timely information and they encouraged LVP members to reach out for more information directly as needed. LVP Members commented on the great work of our lobbyists, congressional staff and our elected officials at all levels. Panelists were thanked for joining the meeting and providing these timely updates as they have in past years.

P R E S E N T A T I O N

Sustainable Mine Planning: Creating a Positive Legacy

Erik Carlson

Senior Project Manager, Environmental Resources Management

Erik Carlson provided an overview of his background and past regulatory role at the State level and now as a member of a global company that is a leading provider of environmental, health, safety, risk, social consulting services and sustainability related services. He described Northeast Minnesota and the Iron Range as a very complex area with a number of natural resource issues and challenges evident by some of the discussion today. Trends that are global and here in Minnesota relate to distrust, public concern over mining, increased stakeholder influence, cost and work and litigation risk and delays. These trends are going in the wrong direction and are having impacts. Based on ERM research for 169 mining, oil and gas projects globally projects were evaluated to assess the level and causes of delays. He described the sources of information and major findings. They found that 46% of the mining projects are delayed due to social opposition and environmental stakeholder influence with engineering not the problem. Non-technical social issues have resulted in delays of 13+ months or greater. PolyMet was used as an example of time commitment and stakeholder impact with non-technical issues in play. Erik shared several suggestions on how to address these trends and provided a matrix outlining a framework to approach these sustainable needs at various stages in a project. Members discussed how IRRRB and LVP might play a key role in this type of process and other case studies such as the Eagle Mine Project in Upper Michigan were cited.

Erik's presentation was well received by members; a copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available on the LVP website at www.lvpmn.org.

P A R T N E R S H I P P R I O R I T I E S

Regional Group Action Progress Reports

The following Regional Groups were present and provided an update on their major activities related to LVP.

REGIONAL GROUP	CURRENT PROJECTS
Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board (WMMPB) – Doug Learmont	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Doug highlighted the following items as areas of interest and engagement by the WMMPB. · Mesabi deep drilling · Hill Annex Mine changes · Legacy underground mapping · Fiscal Disparities · Distribution of Production Tax revenues · Rail transportation issues · Highway 169 – retention of existing rail crossing between Taconite and Marble · MPUC review of the Great Northern Transmission Line Project corridor option · Fugitive dust issues · Mining Innovation Grant for Magnetation
East Range Joint Powers Board (ERJPB) – Curt Anttila	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Active on key legislative issues throughout the session · Mesabi Nugget has affected younger families compared to LTV when it closed in 2001. We are trying to deal with the impacts of this layoff and timing of PolyMet and now other layoffs which impact East Range residents/workers
Quad Cities – Marnie Maki, Laurentian Chamber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Highway 53 Relocation Project is the number one focus right now with our full support of the preferred route by MnDOT. Design is underway. · Remain supportive and focused on PolyMet Mining and getting this project approved
Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) – Pete Kero and John Fedo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · We have concluded Phase I of the Brownfield Project and are moving ahead with a formal funding request for Phase II involving 19 communities across the Iron Range. We just learned that a \$600,000 request was denied last week and we are in the process of following up with EPA and will prepare for the next cycle in Fall 2015. · Past work is continuing and other resources are being engaged on projects. We will resubmit a revised grant request. IRRRB is assisting with the grant writing costs and is much appreciated.

PARTNERSHIP PRIORITIES

Work Group Action Progress Reports

Individual work group representatives provided the following reports and next steps.

Action Areas	Work Group Priorities	Work Group Representative(s)	Update/Next Steps
TARGETING PRIORITY PROJECTS	1. LVP Innovation Grant Projects Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Beach Recreation Area – Silver Bay • Mining Resources, Tailings and Reclamation • United Taconite – two projects (spruce stockpile, truck embankment) • Sulfate Reducing Bio-Reactor • Hibbing Taconite Stockpile 	Jim Plummer, IRRRB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jim shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting all of the recent and current Innovation Grant Projects describing their status, funding involved and leveraged, outcomes or expected outcomes and how they have contributed to the mission of LVP.
	2. Innovation Grant Budget 2016		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The grant program has remaining funds for FY 2015 of \$15,000 and pending FY 2016 budget request of \$200,000 to be considered by the Commissioner and Board this summer.
DELIVERING TOOLS AND RESOURCES	1. Mine Mapping Project Update and Soft Release on LVP Website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maps (base and blowup capabilities) • Online demonstration • PowerPoint Presentation shared 	Dan Jordan, IRRRB / Tim Pastika, MnDNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlighted the two meetings held in 2014 to seek input from LVP members and other stakeholders to assist in updating the Mine Maps as planned. Given data proprietary constraints, only public data was used. • Shared the work completed in an online demo and explained how these tools and their details have now evolved. Dan and Tim asked for members to review and let them know if there are any additions or changes that should be made. Highlighted the sets of maps and where to access. • Maps will be online at LVP web site for easy access. If special needs exist for this information, please contact MDNR for assistance.
	2. Quarterly Update – large scale projects map	Dan Jordan, IRRRB / Tim Pastika, MnDNR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current map is being changed and tweaked to reflect current information and will be posted on the LVP web site for feedback.
	3. Southern Boundary Core Drilling Assessment – funding status	Dan Jordan, IRRRB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MCC planned to meet but the June 12th meeting was cancelled. NRRI is positioned to do this work. Stay tuned.

OTHER BUSINESS UPDATES and FUTURE TOPICS

Future Topics/Presentation Recommendations of LVP Coordinating Committee (September 2015)

The group discussed a number of possible discussion topics highlighted on the agenda by the Coordinating Committee. The following topics were highlighted as priorities for the September/October 2015 meeting, with others continuing on our list for future consideration in 2016:

- PolyMet Update and Next Steps
- Mining situation update (status) – economic impacts discussion [Tony Barrett; or national rep AISI or other?]
- Environmental regulations updates – multiple topics to consider
- Future minerals mining
- Reclamation planning/projects updates (multiple Innovation Grant projects)
- SME Presentation on Social License to Mine

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Coordinating Committee will be held on **Wednesday August 26, 2015 from 9:00 A.M. to Noon at the Mining and Reclamation Classroom**, at Minnesota Discovery Center in Chisholm. Work Group and Regional Group representatives will be asked to assist in developing the October 2015 membership meeting agenda.

LVP QUARTERLY MEETING

The next Laurentian Vision Partnership meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 14, 2015** from 9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. in the Mining and Reclamation Classroom at Minnesota Discovery Center in Chisholm.

Partnership Meeting LX

Tuesday, June 2, 2015 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Mining & Reclamation Classroom Chisholm

MEETING OBJECTIVE

Minnesota’s Iron Range mining and community landscapes are always changing. From the advent of new processes to reclaim iron units to the development of non-ferrous and potential iron making facilities, mining’s link with the land and communities continues to evolve. As existing mining operations expand physical footprints and new facilities are constructed, the relationship between mining and community growth is of increased importance to mining operations, cities, and citizens. LVP, through a collaboration of stakeholders, addresses the challenges of community expansion, resource protection, land retention, reclamation, environmental permitting, local revenue generation, and reuse.

The focus of this meeting is on several topics including an update and overview of two highway relocation projects in the Quad Cities and Chisholm; County, State and Federal legislative updates related to mining, natural resource, and other pertinent needs and challenges impacting the Iron Range; and a shared perspective on sustainable mining planning and its legacy implications by Environmental Resources Management. We will review and provide brief updates on several Innovation Grant projects that are pending or in process and the 2016 funding for grants. Finally, we will hear progress reports from regional groups and work groups including information on new mine maps being released and funding development for the southern boundary core drilling assessment work.

PROPOSED AGENDA

9:00	Laurentian Partnership Debriefing	Randy Lasky , Facilitator
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant introductions and expectations • Opening comments • Review of Meeting LVIX results and next steps (Jan 2015) • Overview of the meeting objective and agenda 	
9:15	Presentation: Highway Relocation Projects Overview and Updates	Melissa Schultz , Bridge Designer, MnDOT David Larson , Landscape Architect, MnDOT John Powers , Applied Insights North Bob Bruce , Carduss LLC Brian Boder , St. Louis County Assistant Highway Engineer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quad Cities Highway 53 relocation visual outcomes initiative MnDOT • Chisholm area Highway 5 relocation 	
9:55	Presentation: 2015 MN Legislative Session and Congressional Federal Update	Craig Pagel , President, Iron Mining Association John Ongaro , St Louis County Lobbyist Loren Solberg , Itasca County Lobbyist Jeff Anderson , Congressman Nolan’s Rep.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining and natural resources related laws and bills • St. Louis County priorities and outcomes • Itasca County priorities and outcomes • Federal issues and priorities 	
10:45	Presentation: Sustainable Mine Planning: Creating a Positive Legacy	Erik Carlson Senior Project Manager Environmental Resources Management
11:15	Break	
11:25	Partnership Priorities: Regional Group Action Progress Reports	Doug Learmont Curt Anttila Charlie Baribeau and Bernie Collins Pete Kero
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What’s happening in regional areas across the Iron Range? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board (WMPMPB) ○ East Range Joint Powers Board (ERJPB) ○ Quad Cities ○ Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) 	
11:45	Partnership Priorities: Work Group Action Progress Reports Targeting PRIORITY PROJECTS	

- Innovation Grants Projects Update
 - Black Beach Recreation Area– Silver Bay
 - Mining Resources, Tailings Reclamation
 - United Taconite
 - Two projects (spruce stockpile, truck embankment)
 - Sulfate Reducing Bio-Reactor
 - Hibbing Taconite Stockpile
- Innovation Grant Budget 2016

Jim Plummer,
IRRRB

12:00 Delivering TOOLS and RESOURCES

- Mine Mapping Project Update and Soft Release on LVP Website
 - Maps (Base and Blowup capabilities)
 - Demonstrate online
- Quarterly Update – large scale projects map
- Southern Boundary Core Drilling Assessment – funding status

Tim Pastika , MnDNR

Dan Jordan, IRRRB / Tim Pastika, MnDNR

Dan Jordan, IRRRB

12:15 Other Business Updates and Future Topics

Randy Lasky, Facilitator

- **Future Topics/Presentation Recommendations of LVP Coordinating Committee (September 2015)**
 - PolyMet Update and Next Steps
 - Mining situation update (status) – economic impacts discussion [Tony Barrett; or national rep AISI or other?]
 - Environmental regulations updates – multiple topics to consider
 - Future minerals mining
 - Reclamation planning/projects updates (multiple Innovation Grant projects)
- **Future Topics/Presentations (Spring 2015 and beyond)**
 - Iron Range Regional Planning – A regional approach to balancing immediate and long-term mining land retention needs and sustainability expectations with community growth and development needs
 - Regional environmental issues
 - Discharge Water Sulfate Concentrations and Impacts Study (MPCA Wild Rice Study)
 - EPA Federal Haze Rules and Regulations and Federal Land Exchange
 - Proposed carbon rules and regulations
 - Mercury air emissions study
 - Iron ore price projections for the next 25-50 years
 - Quad Cities T.H. 53 relocation/alignment study update
 - Reclamation needs for changing stockpiles – How will reclamation needs and economic development opportunities be addressed as stockpiles are moved and reused across the Iron Range?
 - Future underground mining?
 - Alternative iron-making evolution
 - Titanium mining development – new technology
 - Cooperative Mineral Resources, an overview of a new Manganiferrous Iron Ore Mining Project
 - Future Charrettes for Quad Cities/Highway 53, KeeTac, and PolyMet/East Range areas
 - New Innovation Grant project proposals and existing projects
 - Mesabi Nugget project update
 - Create liaison with political representatives
 - Recognize role as forum (strategy on this); state, federal, and county levels
 - Expand the scope of our mineral focus beyond iron

12:25 What's Next?

Facilitator

- Meeting Schedule (October 2015)
- Next meeting date and agenda
 - **Coordinating Committee** – Sept. 2015 Representative from each work group and each sub-regional group
 - **Laurentian Vision Partnership** – Oct. 2015
- Wrap up announcements and conclusions

12:30 Adjourn

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Laurentian Vision Partnership Meeting - Chisholm, Minnesota

June 2, 2015

Name (Please Print Clearly)	Representing	Complete Email Address	Phone Number
1. Pat Schoff	NRRI	pschoff@d.um.edu	218-720-4368
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3. GEORGE HUDAK	NRRI	ghudak@d.uma.edu	218-720-4393
4. Randy Lasky	Northspan	rlasky@northspan.org	218-529-7561
5. JOHN R SKALKO	GILBERT		218-741-7236
6. KEVIN EGAN	BLAEDC	KEGAN@FOLEY.COM	218-820-1531
7. George Lah	North Eng.	glah@northeng.net	218 393-8045
8. DOUG LEARMON	WMMPB	dlearnon@zz.net	
9. Bob Bruce	Carduus	carduus@charter.net	218.340-0775
10. STEVE MANNING	St. Louis County	manning.s@stlouiscountymn.gov	218-722-9840
11. Sarah Ciocchetto	JPS Eng	sciocchetto@jpseng.com	218 969 0054
12. Andrew Reed	DNR (LAM)	Andrew.T.Reed@dnr.mn.us	218-730-3255
13. Dave Rian	BARR Group	driane@barr.com	218-262-8605
14. Bob Wagstrom	MN Dept of Revenue	bob.wagstrom@state.mn.us	218 735 3150
15. Rick Cum	NTS	rcum@nettechnical.com	742-1027
16. Cathy Racek	SLC	RacekC@StLouisCountyMn.gov	726-2681
17. Marnie Maki	Laurentian Chamber	adm@laurentianchamber.com	741-2717
18. JOHN FEDO	ELY ECON. DEV. AUTH.	john.fedo@northstar.com	218-969-5192
19. MAT WALTZ	HIBBING TACONITE	Matthew.Waltz@CliffsInc.com	218-295-2631

Name (Please Print Clearly)	Representing	Complete Email Address	Phone Number
18. Rick Cannata	City of Hibbing	rcannata@linagrec.com	218-841-2380
19. Julie Marinucci	SEH	jmarinucci@sehinc.com	218-969-4785
20. Latisha Gietzen	PolyMet		
21. Melissa Schulte	MNDOT	Melissa.Schulte@state.mn.us	651-306-4465
22. Lucinda Johnson	UMD-NRRI	LJohnson@umd.umt.edu	218-720-4251
23. Dean DeBeer	TMM	ddeber@twin-metals.com	651-357-3865
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30. Mary Summ's	IRRRB		
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33. CRAIG TAGEL	IDA		
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Name (Please Print Clearly)	Representing	Complete Email Address	Phone Number
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46. BRIAN Hiti	IRRRB	brian.hiti@state.mn.us	218.735.3017
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48. John Ongato	St. L. Co.	Ongato.j@stlouiscounty.mn.gov	218-343-1161
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51.			