

## **Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board**

### **Key Activities and Issues Report for October 24, 2018 Laurentian Vision Partners Meeting**

#### **State-level developments:**

WMMPB established working groups and is developing information and documents related to its priorities for the 2019 legislative session: rising pit water concerns in the Canisteo and Hill annex open pit mine groups, extending the life of the Hill Annex Mine State Park, improvements to Highway 169, conservation easement taxation issues, and others.

#### **Continue mining tours:**

WMMPB conducted a field trip this fall to educate local government officials and employees, as well as the general public, about the importance of the mining industry and other significant activities, especially those that are mining related, in the local economy.

#### **Industry Developments:**

People are carefully watching Western Mesabi mining industry developments, which greatly impact the Keewatin to Cohasset area and the broader region, especially with regard to reactivation or other activities involving the former Magnetation facilities and new developments on and near the former Butler site.

#### **Strategic and Critical Minerals:**

WMMPB passed and distributed a resolution recommending establishment of northeastern Minnesota as a district to protect and better make available for mining its strategic and critical minerals.

**Land Use Planning involvement:** WMMPB continues involvement in comprehensive planning by local government units, tax forfeit land classification, use of mine lands when not being actively mined, and other actions in the western Mesabi corridor, especially from the perspective of protecting mineral resources so they are available for future production.