

JUNE 24, 2020 | 930 – 1130AM

**MINELAND
VISION
PARTNERSHIP**

Laurentian Vision Partnership
Transforming pits and piles into lakes and landscapes

Planning & Project Implementation 2020

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

Meeting was via Zoom Meeting

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MEETING OBJECTIVE

The Mineland Vision Partnership (MVP) is a regional collaboration that invests in our diverse community by developing opportunities for changing or dynamic minescapes, preserving lands to sustain current and future mining, and providing resources and education. It recognizes the rich history of mining on Minnesota's Iron Range and opportunities to engage with a changing environment. Since its formal organization in 2000, MVP has promoted collaboration between mining companies and communities to plan and design future landscapes that can benefit both interests. It builds on extensive past efforts to return minelands to community use, preserve them for future mining uses, shares these best practices, and publicizes their successes to drive further interest. It spreads information to the group and actively engages partners, builds connections with education to generate fresh ideas, engages the media to showcase the value of work completed by MVP, and explores new and existing modes of communication and incorporates them within a plan to disseminate a consistent message for the group.

This meeting seeks to provide an overview of MVP's new strategic plan and a series of legislative updates relevant to our work. Steve Giorgi of the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools will give an overview of legislative developments involving local communities. We will share with the group an overview of the strategic process that took place over the past several months, a process that led to the group's new name and a new strategic plan. Congressman, Pete Stauber, IMA President, Kelsey Johnson and Mining Minnesota, Frank Ongaro will provide an update on the state of our industry. All presentations will focus on recent legislative outcomes. Next, we will host a legislative discussion featuring IRRR and state legislators to update us on recent developments in St. Paul.

MEETING SUMMARY

- Welcome & Introductions
- Presentation: State of Our Communities
- Presentation: 2020-2025 Strategic Process & Plan
- Presentation: IRRR Agency Update
- Presentation: State of Our Industry
- Presentation: Legislative Update

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome & Introductions

Linda Johnson
Mining & Property Development,
Dept. IRRR

Elissa Hansen,
President & CEO, Northspan

Linda Johnson from IRRR welcomed the group and new participants to the meeting. She provided a brief overview of the former LVP, its purpose and objectives. Linda introduced Elissa Hansen from Northspan and provided the group with a quick recap of the strategic planning process facilitated by Elissa Hansen. Linda also announced Elissa Hansen would be leading facilitation of the partnership going forward. Elissa Hansen thanked Linda for the introduction and gave a brief overview of Zoom best practices and the agenda.

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

State of Our Communities

Steve Giorgi
President, Range Association of
Municipalities and Schools

Steve shared an update on the impacts of the state budget not being completed; highlighting the number of communities who do not have funding for special projects or projects that need to be done. There is a significant amount of money that has been set aside for local government and education that has not yet been allocated. Steve updated the group with the activities going on in the City of Virginia, and the progress at the school. The demolition on football field, track, and spectator seating area is complete, this area will be home to new ice arena and convention center. Work is currently going on at the new Eveleth rock ridge site for the new learning academy, focus will be on the elementary site. City of Gilbert after the 4th of July weekend will be doing a portion of

the main street overhaul, and the wastewater treatment facility is 96% complete. The City of Biwabik main street is torn up and major construction is happening.

RAMS has been working hard on rural broadband expansion and community engagement, crowd sourcing and speed tests are happening in St. Louis County, they are also engaging with Koochiching county. Currently working with Iron Range communities defined by school boundaries with Blandin, IRRRB, and Broadband Community Grant Program to begin surveys in these communities, so far there has been good feedback.

Finally, Steve advocated that the governor should consider regional factors when making considerations of opening the State; several of the counties in Iron Range area have experienced little effects from COVID with very few cases and no deaths.

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

Jim Plummer,
MVP Coordinator & Grants, Dept. IRRR

2020-2025 Strategic Process & Plan

Linda Johnson,
Mining & Property Development,
Dept. IRRR

Elissa Hansen,
President & CEO, Northspan

Linda from IRRR provided an introduction of the 5-year strategic plan and highlighted its importance to our community and economy. Jim from IRRR gave a brief overview of some of the projects created through MVP, highlighting the Redhead Mountain Bike Park and thanked the contributors; MN Power, US Steel, IRRRB, Cleveland Cliffs, ArcelorMittal. Jim also provided a brief history on MVP and its 20+ years existence, explaining how the group has transformed over the years. He highlighted the group's intent was to look larger than a regional perspective and focus on how minelands could be used post mining and how some could potentially be re-used in the future. Since 2006 IRRR has invested over 5 million dollars in mineland reclamation grants.

The 5-year strategic planning started in January with in-person planning sessions and moved virtually in April due to COVID, the planning also consisted of individual surveys to stakeholders throughout the process. Linda and Jim introduced President & CEO of Northspan Elissa Hansen as the new MVP/MVP meeting facilitator and facilitator of the strategic plan.

Elissa provided a review of the strategic plan process for the group and acknowledge how the group worked hard to create a new vision and mission. Elissa highlighted the strategic plan process, and how they considered the history, stakeholders, and past projects as part of the new plan. Through the process the group also decided it was important to change the name of the partnership to be more reflective of the new mission/vision. The new name would help people recognize the group across the region and was more focused on what the group is and how they work together. Through the naming process the group brainstormed and worked together to rename Laurentian Vision Partnership to Mineland Vision Partnership. The new name and strategic plan embrace the goal of the group and their strategic direction. The PowerPoint from the presentation is available at the end of this document.

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

IRRR Agency Update

Mark Phillips,
Commissioner, Dept. IRRR

Mark Phillips commissioner of the IRRR provided a timely update on current circumstances and projects. Currently the agency has climbed out of the 6-year trough and is doing ok but has learned from the past; reserving funds and not increasing the next year's budget, while trying to keep the programs valid and providing money. Mark expressed his concerns over Keetac's uncertain future which could create a long-term issues for IRRR. Mark shared some exciting news from the board meeting – a loan and grant program has been set up with funding for 7M that is available to area businesses and communities that have been impacted by COVID. The loans and grants are available to those in the TAA region, opening July 1st. The meeting also addressed issues regarding quality of life and childcare.

Recently IRRR did infrastructure work to invest in Aurora with the hope to get a grocery store back in the town. Also, Veterans on The Lake in Silver Bay is facing hardship in finding employees, which could be due to the lack of childcare availability. A new center in Silver Bay should alleviate some of the childcare issues offering around 50-60 slots. Also, IRRR is helping Biwabik and Aurora with street projects and infrastructure, and assisting with Miners memorial project infrastructure, broadband projects and trail investment in walking trails, bog walks. In closing, Mark mentioned the potential of a movie being filmed in the Iron Range with \$350,000 film incentives.

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

Pete Stauber

Minnesota's 8th District Congressman

State of Our Industry

Kelsey Johnson

President, Iron Mining Association

Frank Ongaro

President, Mining Minnesota

Minnesota's 8th District Congressman Pete Stauber joined the meeting to update attendees on the state of our industry. Congressman Stauber discussed the ongoing roadblocks for Twin metals permitting, he hopes to be re-elected to continue the battle, and would like to get on the conservation committee to fight against this. He also discussed how the COVID pandemic has brought to light many issues/concerns in the US supply chain. One of the concerns is US steel making is a national security interest; Congressman Stauber crafted a bill called the Critical Minerals Supply Chain Act that would end reliance on other countries for the critical minerals produced domestically and incentivizes manufacturers to purchase domestically. Congressman Stauber also introduced another bill to end US reliance on foreign pharmaceuticals. MN is the 3rd largest producer of devices and tools we have the workforce, capability, technology and safety to mine the places of MN with our natural resources. Congressman Stauber pointed out how the Iron range is going to play an important role to the ramp of the economy due mining and the critical minerals. Congressman Stauber also thanked Steve Giorgi for the help he has been providing, it is not going unnoticed.

President of the Iron Mining Association Kelsey Johnson provided a timely update on the latest at the mines and the effects from the pandemic. One of the most recent issues the mining industry is dealing with is the fight regarding the Clean Energy First bill. The issue is not the clean energy portion of the bill, but the 5% reduction large consumers are currently receiving is set to expire. The increase in our energy costs has been about 65%, each time there is an increase it affects the ability to be globally competitive. Kelsey pointed out parties concerned are all for clean energy but do not want it the cost to keep rising, especially if they are being priced out of the market.

Kelsey also discussed the work that has been done to complete the economic impact study with the Iron Mining Assoc. and other collaborations. The mines are going to be key to the economic recovery and are the largest private employers in NE MN. Kelsey provided an industry insight on the effects of COVID moving forward. She explained businesses are being very diligent on the practices they have taken, there are many processes in place to ensure the safety of all employees and vendors. They have implemented every practice recommended by government and CDC and doing everything they possibly can to ensure health of the facilities and communities as well.

Frank Ongaro president of Mining MN discussed how over 1,600 mining operations around the world have been impacted by COVID with a decrease in production and revenue. Mining is essential in keeping the economy going, focus has been on the supply chain and currently we depend on China for these critical minerals, now we have the opportunity to move to be domestically dependent and take care of our economy. Metals can also be part of the solution in help killing the coronavirus, but there is still no shortage of anti-mining bills. Frank also points out there are also positive things happening in the mining industry. All 4 negotiated leases made it to the executive council and were approved by the executive committee. PolyMet litigation is ongoing, two separate appeals have been taken up by Supreme Court – Permit to mine, and a dam safety and air permit. There will still be many months ahead on these two Supreme Court cases, others like the wetlands that have not even started yet. Twin metals project is also moving forward it has been proposed at the State and Federal level, unfortunately neither are exempt from potential litigation.

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

Mark Phillips,

Commissioner, Dept. IRRR

Rob Ecklund

District 3A Representative

Legislative Update

Dave Lislegard

District 6B Representative

Dave Tomassoni

Minnesota's 6th District Senator

Julie Sandstede

District 6A Representative, Unable to attend last minute

District 3A Representative Rob Ecklund provided attendees a brief overview of what has been happening during the legislative session. Recently the governor signed a bill regarding SBA language that will address the terms for payback of funds. Also working hard with Senator Westrom on a broadband bill that didn't go through this session but will continue working hard with providers and advocates to re-introduce at the next special session.

District 6B Representative Dave Lislegard provided a brief updated on his continued focus to educate people on mining; everyone will not always agree, but still need to tell the story and push back when necessary. Rep Lislegard expressed his disappointment with the results of special session but believes we will preserve; we are not done, and we will fight. We want to continue to work on other issues collectively in today's world, it is not a time to be divided it is a time to unite. The whole delegation has worked well together and will accomplish things even with the bumpy road.

District 6 Senator David Tomassoni provided an updated on recent bills signed into law throughout the special session. He also shared work plan modifications for unemployment. There are options to support the business and employees for companies having to layoff due to COVID. To keep people working, companies have the option to reduce employee wages and unemployment compensation will pay for the difference. This will allow all employees to continue working under a more manageable employee wage budget. Senator Tomassoni is also working hard to automatically extend to steel workers and related industries. As of now it sounds like the governor is going to issue the money based on how the legislature passed it, he is hoping to go back into special session to get compromise on policing and bonding bill on projects that would benefit the Iron Range. Senator Tomassoni mentioned this would be the biggest bonding bill passed while he has been in office.

Department of IRRR Commissioner Mark Phillips thanked the legislative presenters for their updates and did not have any updates to add in this section of the agenda.

There were several questions raised by attendees regarding this portion of the presentation. Included are the takeaways;

- Potential for a film in the Iron Range area would be a positive impact to the area's economic development. More than the movie being produced in the area, the film would bring a large crew and potential need to hire locals as well. Also, the crew, cast, and others will be visiting local businesses, lodging in the area, eating at restaurants, and purchasing materials/supplies for the film. The ROI is invested back into the Iron Range local economy.
- The dates of the special session were unknown at the time of this meeting. We do know the governors COVID-19 Peacetime Emergency authority ends July 13, 2020, if he wants to extend the emergency order, he will have to have call a special session, this could also serve to settle outstanding agreements on the bonding bills.
- Northern MN elected members have done their best to explain to the governor the concerns over how the media has made the special session and the governors attention look very metro focused. Due to the influx of cases of COVID and protests happening it has been hard to focus on other regions.
- Unfortunately, due to the COVID outbreak and the generalized protocols and guidelines rural MN has suffered greatly. It is important to consider efforts to diversity and how we can attract business from metro to our region. With the many employees having the ability to work from home now, those looking to live in a less dense area could relocate north but still work for organizations in the metro area.

A d j o u r n e d

- Meeting was adjourned at 11:06 am.

A t t e n d a n c e

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------|--|
| 1. | 218-749-7364 | US Steel Keetac |
| 2. | Aaron Vande Linde | MN Office of School Trust Lands |
| 3. | Alex Peritz | MnDOT North Regional Project Management Lead |
| 4. | Allyz Kramer | SEHinc. (Duluth Office) |
| 5. | Andrew Reed | Minnesota DNR |
| 6. | Barrett Ziemer | Chisholm-Hibbing Airport Authority, Range Regional Airport |
| 7. | Beth Pierce | Iron Range Tourism |
| 8. | Betsy Olivanti | Northeast SBDC |
| 9. | Bob Meier | Minnesota DNR |
| 10. | Brian Hanson | APEX |
| 11. | Brian Hiti | Citizen |
| 12. | Chrissy Bartovich | US Steel |
| 13. | Dan Jordan | Citizen |

14. Dave Lislegard MN State Representative
15. Dean DeBelz Twin Metals MN
16. Derek Fredrickson MnDOT Project Management Lead
17. Derek Harbin St. Louis County Mine Inspector
18. Don Elsenheimer Minnesota DNR
19. Doug Learmont WMMPB
20. Ed LaTendresse Hibbing Taconite
21. Elissa Hansen Northspan
22. Eric DottBarr Engineering Co.
23. Frank Ongaro President, Mining Minnesota
24. Isaac Schultz Congressman Stauber's Office
25. Jeff Borling Great River Energy
26. Jeffrey Hanson Clearwater Biologic, Babbitt
27. Jennifer Tarnowski ArcelorMittal
28. Jesse Dunsmoor Cleveland Cliffs
29. Jim Paulsen City of Gilbert
30. Jim Plummer IRRR
31. Joe Henderson Minnesota DNR
32. John Fedo Ely EDA
33. Julie Marinucci St. Louis County
34. Karl Schuettler Northspan consultant, representing East Range Joint Powers Board
35. Katie Larson Minnesota DNR
36. Kelsey Johnson Iron Mining Association
37. Keven Egan Mayor of Lake Shore, Region Five Commissioner
38. Latisha Gietzen PolyMet Mining
39. Laura Nilsen Northspan
40. Linda Johnson IRRR
41. Lisa Weidemann Teck
42. Loren Solberg Loren Solberg Consulting, LLC
43. Lucinda Johnson UMD - NRRRI
44. Margaret Gornick City of Chisholm
45. Mark Phillips IRRR Commissioner
46. Mark Weber St. Louis County
47. Mike Burton BLAEDC
48. Molly MacGregor DNR NE Regional Planner
49. Nancy Norr Minnesota Power and Jobs for Minnesotans
50. Patty Thielen Minnesota DNR - NE Regional Director
51. Pete Clevestine Minnesota DNR
52. Pete Stauber Minnesota Congressman
53. Rob Ecklund MN State Representative
54. Rob Pecchia MN Dept. of Revenue
55. Robb Peterson ArcelorMittal - Minorca
56. Rolf Weberg UMD - NRRRI
57. Rory Oberhelman PolyMet Mining
58. Sandy Karnowski Cleveland Cliffs
59. Shelly Sallee IRRR
60. Spencer Igo Congressman Stauber's Office
61. Steve Giorgi RAMS
62. Ted Anderson Minnesota DNR
63. Thomas Lee Minnesota DNR
64. Tim Pastika Minnesota DNR
65. Todd (?)
66. Tom Hillstrom Xcel Energy
67. Vance Fiegel Atlantic BioVentures and MossNaturally
68. Whitney Ridlon IRRR

Regional Group Action Progress Reports

The following Regional Groups were present and provided an update on their major activities related to MVP. Copies of the handouts are available on the MVP website at www.LVPmn.org.

REGIONAL GROUP	CURRENT PROJECTS
Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board (WMMPB) Doug Learmont, Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A written update summary report was given and will be available. · The current government restrictions have limited activities of the group. Discussed the 3 legislative priorities that have been affected by state-level impacts which include; funding for the state DNR to do study and do work to address the Canisteo and Arcuturus-Hill Annex open pit mine complexes, the future of the Hill Annex Mine State Park and completing the study for the Cross Range Expressway.
East Range Joint Powers Board (ERJPB) Karl Schuettler, Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A written update summary report was given and will be available. · ERJPB has repurposed some dormant storefront funds to be used as a loan fund to provide business assistance and disaster relief grants and loans. So far there have been 8 approved to local businesses. · Blandin Broadband joined a Steering committee and participated in its second Strut Your Stuff Tour event. The steering committee has approved 15 applications for community projects. · Blandin also extended the ER grant through end of 2020, allowing six more months for wrap up. · The child care group continues and met in April, Northspan shared results from the survey on child care in the area which received 84 responses.
Quad Cities Erik Holmstrom, Laurentian Chamber President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No report available.
Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) John Fedo, Rick Crum, & Pete Kero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No report available
Cuyuna Range Area Michael Burton & Kevin Egan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A written update summary report was given and will be available. · Highlighted the City of Crosby is thriving and benefits from the mountain bike area and recent legislative action will allow the trail to double in length. The city's commercial expansion is also moving forward. · The City of Emily has attracted attention of international interest because of the manganese deposits. The agreements will hopefully advance the mining operations in Emily.

Mineland Vision Partnership thanks its financial contributors



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