

Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board

Key Activities and Issues Report for February 3, 2021 Mineland Vision Partnership Meeting

The Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board has been active while maintaining conformance with state rules related to the health pandemic situation. Significant activities included:

1. Studies and planning to address the issue of rapidly rising waters in the Canisteo and Arcturus-Hill Annex open pit mine complexes, where uncontrolled outflow is predicted by DNR to occur as early as two years from now, including seeking legislative funding for the projects. Substantial funding has now been provided to DNR for this purpose and a report is due to the legislature in February; additional funding will be needed and is being sought for construction.
2. Attention to developments related to three significant mining projects in the western Mesabi area: Prairie River Minerals, Mesabi Metallics, and re-start of Keetac. Prairie River Minerals provided the Board a project update.
3. Seeking to confirm certain arrangements and understandings regarding the future of the Hill Annex Mine State Park and funding for completion of the Cross Range Expressway.
4. Planning to decide WMMPB's priority activities for 2021.