



# Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board

P.O. Box 166  
Bovey, MN 55709



## Key Activities and Issues Report for October 16, 2019 Laurentian Vision Partners Meeting

### Mining Industry Developments:

WMMPB is watching Western Mesabi mining industry developments, which greatly impact the Keewatin to Cohasset area and the broader region. This includes Prairie River Minerals and others that appear interested. Unfortunately, the former Magnetation Plant 2 is being disassembled and sold, eliminating possible return of that facility to use by others. WMMPB passed a resolution stating its desire to have more information about and involvement in key decisions being made regarding these and other large projects.

### State-level involvement:

WMMPB major priorities include needed resolution by the state of increasing concerns about rising pit water in the Canisteo and Hill Annex open pit mine complexes, with a recent DNR projection of uncontrolled release of water from the Canisteo group in 2-3 years. Other priorities include the life of the unique and important Hill Annex Mine State Park and improvements to Highway 169, an important transportation link that does not seem to be included in MN DOT's draft freight plan.

### Strategic and Critical Minerals:

WMMPB continues to pursue its resolution recommending designation of northeastern Minnesota as a strategic and critical minerals district, to include iron ore as a strategic and critical mineral.

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 from encumbrances and conflicting development so they are available for future production.

### Public education:

WMMPB is expressing interest in developing presentations to better educate the general public and government entities about a range of mining-related subjects.

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