

Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board

Key Activities and Issues Report for October 28, 2020 Mineland Vision Partnership Meeting

Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board activities since March 2020, especially full meetings of members, were somewhat restricted by state rules related to the health pandemic situation although regular meetings have resumed. Numerous issues have been identified and discussed, among key activities are:

1. Attention to developments related to three significant mining projects in the western Mesabi area: Prairie River Minerals, Mesabi Metallica, and re-start of Keetac.
2. Legislation was sought to support study, planning, and construction to address the issue of rapidly rising waters in the Canisteo and Arcturus-Hill Annex open pit mine complexes, where uncontrolled overflow is predicted to occur as early as two years from now. Substantial funding has now been provided to DNR for this purpose;
3. Legislative action to confirm certain arrangements and understandings regarding the future of the Hill Annex Mine State Park;
4. Planning to decide WMMPB's priority activities for 2021.