



**MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Thursday, June 23, 2022**

**9:00AM – 11:00AM**

Meeting was via Zoom Meeting

# MINELAND VISION PARTNERSHIP

Membership Meeting  
Thursday, June 23, 2022  
9:00AM – 11:00AM  
Meeting was via Zoom Meeting

## MEETING OBJECTIVE

**VISION | Shaping evolving landscapes for future generations.**

**MISSION | A regional collaboration that invests in our diverse community by:**

- Developing opportunities for dynamic minescapes
- Preserving lands to sustain current and future mining
  - Providing resources and education

### STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1. Optimizing Organization & Communications
2. Investing in Mineland Communities
3. Enhancing Stakeholder Partnerships
4. Educating Partners & the Public

## MEETING SUMMARY

- Welcome & Introductions
- Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation (IRRR) Agency Update
- Non-Ferrous Update
- Presentation: MN Iron Ore and Minerals & the Green Economy Takeaways
- Presentation: The Work of The Interstate Mining Compact Commission
- Presentation: American Society of Reclamation Sciences Conference Update
- Presentation: Bruce Headframe Project Update

## WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

### Welcome & Introductions

**Elissa Hanser**  
President & CEO, Northspa

Elissa Hansen, MVP Facilitator, gave attendees a few minutes to join online and began the meeting at 9:05 AM.

## PRESENTATION

### Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation (IRRR) Agency Update

**Mark Phillips**  
Commissioner, IRRR

To begin the presentations, Elissa introduced Mark Phillips, Commissioner at Iron Ranger Resources & Rehabilitation (IRRR). Commissioner Phillips began with sharing the geography served by the agency, how the agency is funded and how funds are reallocated back to the communities. In general, IRRR does not participate in the state's general fund budget, rather the budget is based on mining taxation. Therefore, the budget is directly impacted by downturns and idling in the mining industry. More information about mining taxes can be found here: [https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2021-09/2021\\_mining\\_guide.pdf](https://www.revenue.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2021-09/2021_mining_guide.pdf)

The Commissioner discussed some of the quality of place improvements IRRR has funded in recent years, such as development of motorized and non-motorized trails, and mountain biking amenities. These types of projects are often developed with mineland reclamation in mind. Other examples of mineland reclamation into recreation include golf courses, campgrounds, and disc golf courses. Mark thanked the partners on the call for their support throughout the years.

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

### Non-Ferrous Update

**LaTisha Gietzen**

Director of Public or Community Affairs, PolyMet Mining

LaTisha began with an update on the status of current litigation. Earlier this week, on June 21, 2022, the MN Court of Appeals dismissed the challenges to the air permit. This ruling ends a long string of litigation, including cases argued in front of the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Three additional permits remain held up in legal or regulatory action. The first, the NPDES (water permit) case with the MPCA. This case is working through *Maui* determination, which assesses discharges to groundwater. PolyMet is working with the MPCA to go through the determination.

Next, LaTisha updated the group on the 401a2 hearing related to the wetlands permit with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). A hearing was held May 3-5, 2022, with testimony from PolyMet, Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe, and EPA. This hearing was the first of its kind to occur and has three potential outcomes: the Army Corps of Engineers can reissue the permit as is, they can reissue the permit with modifications, or revoke the permit entirely. If the permit is reinstated construction could begin, but likely will see federal court challenges well into operations, as was the case with Eagle Mine in Michigan. The EPA recommended the USACE **not reinstate** the wetland permit based on uncertainties associated with project discharges. Fond du Lac Band argues the project would violate their water quality standards.

The final permit in litigation is the permit to mine. This is a contested case focused on a narrow bentonite topic and also orders the DNR to add a permit term (deadline), which is as simple as addition an expiration date on the permit.

There were no questions for LaTisha after her presentation.

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

**Julie Marinucci**

Saint Louis County

### MN Iron Ore AND Minerals & the Green Economy Takeaways

**Jason Janisch**

Jasper Engineering

Jason Janisch began by sharing high level trends and takeaways from the Minnesota Iron Ore forum held in March 2022 and the Minnesota Minerals & the Green Economy forum held in May 2022. These events were held in partnership with the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) and MVP. The group wanted to be sure to cover the impacts of how global and national trends towards green energy within the mining industry are impacting northeastern Minnesota.

March's forum focused on the role of greenhouse gas emission reductions on iron ore mining and processing. This conference was hosted virtually and had 180+ attendees, as well as speakers from across the country. Julie walked through agenda from the event and shared how the event showed how national steel trends are impacting the Northland.

May's Non-Ferrous Minerals & the Green Economy forum was also held virtually. This event hosted 160+ attendees. There was a plethora of positive feedback for the online format, with many noting the virtual space allowed for different speakers and broader attendance.

The planning group is now looking to move forward to address the questions: *How do we work together as a region to leverage the wealth of minerals and available resources? How do we educate people more broadly? Which types of legislation or policy changes may be needed?*

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

### The Work of The Interstate Mining Compact Commission

**Tom Clarke**

Executive Director, Interstate Mining Compact Commission

Next, Tom Clarke, Executive Director, Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) joined the group from Herndon, Virginia to share a presentation on the work of the commission and a reclamation project from West Virginia.

The IMCC is a group of 24 mining states that was established in 1971. It is recommendatory in nature and does not have regulatory powers. The governor of each member state serves as an IMCC Commissioner and can appoint representatives to serve on committees. Examples of committee topics include abandoned mine lands, coal focus, non-coal, education, reclamation, and more. IMCC also advises and educates various federal and state governmental agencies and departments.

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Tom discussed recently passed federal legislation that allocated funding to coal and other abandoned minelands, as well as supporting other regulatory and safety programs. He discussed pending legislation and other rulemaking and policy issues that IMCC is either following or advising on.

After recapping legislation, Tom shared his background in mining engineering and law with a focus on coal production; he also served two decades with the State of West Virginia's EPA. Noting northeast Minnesota's interest and success in trail reclamation projects, Tom highlighted the Hatfield – McCoy Trail systems in West Virginia. The state wanted to encourage large, private landholders to open their lands for recreational use, and by-passing legislation to release property owners from liability, the trail system was developed. There are around 1,500 miles of trails organized in 10 sections. Based on the mountainous geography of the area, there are not many opportunities for economic diversity. The Hatfield-McCoy trails offer opportunities for both economic and recreational diversity. During FY21, permit sales revenue topped \$3.9 million. Of the 94,000 permits sold last year, 78,000 were to out of state visitors - 25% of those spend \$500 or more per trip. More information about the Hatfield-McCoy trails can be found on their website: <https://trailsheaven.com/>

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

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### American Society of Reclamation Sciences Conference Update

**Megan Blair**  
Conference Chair, BARR Engineering

Megan Blair, Conference Chair for the American Society of Reclamation Sciences, shared information about their recent conference held in Duluth June 12-16, 2022. There were 180 attendees at the conference from around the US and Canada. This is the first time the conference has been in Duluth since 1992. The program included field tours of throughout region, regional reclamation and estuary restoration education, a reclamation film festival, student presentations and many networking and educational opportunities. A key focus was also facilitating connections between groups across the US – such as how projects in West Virginia may be applicable to projects in Minnesota. Tours of the region focused on taconite (Iron Range), peat harvesting (Aitkin/Cromwell area) and stream restoration (Duluth).

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

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### Bruce Headframe Project Update

**Eleanor Brandt**  
Landscape Architect, Architectural Resources, Inc.

For the last presentation of the day, Elissa welcomed Eleanor Brandt, Landscape Architect, Architectural Resources, Inc. to share an updated on the Bruce Headframe Project, which is nearing completion.

The Bruce Mine Park project began in Chisholm, MN in 2013. The project aims to preserve the history of the area as an active mine with educational signage and features, while also providing a space for recreation adjacent to the Mesabi Trail. The mine operated from 1926-1938 but was closed as costs of ore treatments and processing increased. Eleanor shared pictures of items found during excavation and construction. The largest visible progress includes the addition of the rail track and rail cars. They are hopeful the project will be fully completed by the end of the year with a ribbon cutting during Fall 2022.

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## A d j o u r n e d

- The next meeting date is October 19, 2022. The meeting is scheduled to be virtual from 9-11 AM, with the potential for an in-person option.
- Meeting was adjourned at 10:46 AM.

## 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](http://www.LVPmn.org).

REGIONAL GROUP	CURRENT PROJECTS
<b>Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board (WMMPB)</b> Doug Learmont, Director	Significant recent areas of focus for the Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue seeking support for three priority areas: (a) state funding to support DNR planning and construction to address the problem 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 as waters continue to rise with no current natural outlet for either pit area; (b) federal and state funding and schedule certainty for completion of the cross-range expressway; and (c) ensuring policy stability for continued operation and maintenance of the Hill Annex Mine State Park until such time as active mining resumes there.</li> <li>2. Attention to developments related to mining projects in the western Mesabi area, including MagIron, the future course for the Mesabi Metallics project and site, and others.</li> <li>3. Continued efforts to protect the mineral resources of the western Mesabi area so they are available for future mining development, pursuit of a greater role for local government members in issues having to do with leasing, permitting, operation, and post mining land use and, more broadly, development and use of the mineral resources of northeastern Minnesota including critical and strategic minerals. This includes review of the Itasca County Iron Mining Overlay District and its administration.</li> </ol>
<b>East Range Joint Powers Board (ERJPB)</b> Karl Schuettler, Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northspan welcomes Miriam Kero, who has joined the team as a Consultant. She will be providing added capacity to ERJPB efforts going forward.</li> <li>• ERJPB is wrapping up a trails project funded by an IRRR grant. In coordination with Barr Engineering, we completed extensive mapping work, which is available both in a digital format on the ERJPB website and in a paper format available across the area. Signs are also being installed along identified routes.</li> <li>• We have enjoyed renewed discussions about potential broadband projects in conjunction with CTC Communications. Connect with us if you'd like to contact a CTC representative.</li> <li>• ERJPB was asked to serve as a fiscal agent for a grant request to the Blandin Foundation to support a business transition and modernization effort for the East Range Shopper.</li> <li>• We continue to hold discussions with area partners about child care and housing and will seek to line up relevant funding opportunities.</li> </ul>
<b>Cuyuna Range Area</b> Michael Burton & Kevin Egan	<p>Minnesota DNR is holding an open house on June 15th celebrating the opening of the Sagamore Unit at the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area. The Sagamore Unit features 15.1 miles of mountain bike trails including 7.4 miles of adaptive trails for hand-bike and other assistive bikes and a 1.4 mile accessible walking trail. From mining, to biking to economic development. Crosby, Ironton, Deerwood area continues to move forward with the opening of a new expanded Super One grocery/ liquor store and main street is bustling with new businesses. The MVP mission is being demonstrated on the Cuyuna.</p> <p>In addition, we have compiled a report of documents from the May 2022 issue of Mining and Engineering to highlight the Annual Review of 20221 mining to point out the U.S. Net Import Reliance to share with local entities the importance of mining and critical need to follow the facts in regard to appropriate mining in MN.</p>
<b>Quad Cities</b> Teresa Appelwick, Laurentian Chamber President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are currently seeking high-level members to re-establish our Business Development Committee – folks with a vested interest in development and how the Chamber can help our members and create a business-friendly community in the interest of our members.</li> <li>• We have plans for a leadership program for this side of the Iron Range but need some go-getters and up-and-comers in their careers/fields to help lead this endeavor.</li> <li>• We recently welcomed the Biwabik Area Civic Association to our Chamber, making Biwabik a part of the Laurentian Chamber market now, officially. We like to think of them as our tourism city, and we look forward to helping them continue to grow with their new strategic plan.</li> <li>• We have a great speaker coming up for our annual dinner on October 7th. Once we start our official planning, we look forward to announcing this speaker opportunity for our community to come together and consider our vision and reputation together.</li> <li>• Just finished up a successful golf event at The Wilderness at Fortune Bay. Looking forward to showcasing Giants Ridge in 2023.</li> <li>• In the planning stages of a housing summit in the fall with the Hibbing Chamber, IRRR, and RAMS – stay tuned for more information</li> <li>• I still have many introductions to make here on the Iron Range and in our partner communities. Please reach out if we have not had the chance to meet. <a href="mailto:president@laurentianchamber.org">president@laurentianchamber.org</a></li> </ul>

## Attendance

### Members

1	Aaron Vande Linde	MN Office of School Trust Lands
2	Adam Marks	US Steel
3	Andrew Reed	Minnesota DNR
4	Becky Lammi	City of Hoyt Lakes
5	Beth Pierce	Iron Range Tourism
6	Billie Isham	IRRR
7	Bob Wagstrom	Mn Dept. of Revenue
8	Cam Trembath	PolyMet Mining
9	Claire Peterlin	Minnesota Power
10	Don Elsenheimer	Minnesota DNR
11	Doug Learmont	WMMPB
12	Dwight Lewis	Bruce Headframe Project
13	Ed Waters	Bruce Headframe Project
14	Eleanor Brandt	Architectural Resources Inc (ARI)
15	Eric Dott	Barr Engineering Co.
16	George Hudak	
17	Heather Arends	MnDNR
18	Ida Rukavina	RAMS
19	Jackie Monahan-Junek	City of Eveleth
20	Jason Janisch	Jasper Engineering
21	Jason Metsa	IRRR Deputy Commissioner
22	Jason Ritter	
23	Jeff Borling	Great River Energy
24	Jim Plummer	IRRR
25	Joe Henderson	MnDNR
26	Joe Rokala	MnDNR
27	Julie Marinucci	St. Louis County
28	Karl Schuettler	East Range Joint Powers Board Consultant

29	Kate Paul	Global Minerals Engineering
30	Kathryn Katie Larson	MN DNR Reclamation Supervisor
31	Kyle Erickson	Blandin Foundation
32	Latisha Gietzen	PolyMet Mining
33	Linda Johnson	IRRR
34	Mark Phillips	IRRR Commissioner
35	Meghan Blair	Barr Engineering
36	Micah Hovet	
37	Michael Kalnbach	MnDOT District 1 Duluth
38	Mike Burton	BLAEDC
39	Nick Wogum	DNR
40	Pete Kero	Barr Engineering
41	Rob Hunt	Bruce Headframe Project
42	Rachel Loeffler-Kemp	Senator Klobuchar's Office
43	Rick Crum	NTS
44	Roger Johnson	Bruce Mine Project
45	Roger Skraba	City of Ely (Mayor)
46	Rolf Weberg	UMD - NRRI
47	Rory Oberhelman	PolyMet Mining
48	Sandy Karnowski	Cleveland Cliffs
49	Sarah Carling	CEDA
50	Shelly Sallee	IRRR
51	Stephanie Skraba	City of Chisholm
52	Teresa Appelwick	Laurentian Chamber of Commerce
53	Tiana Litke	Barr Engineering
54	Tim Pastika	Barr Engineering
55	William Boucher	

### Consultants

56	Elissa Hansen	Northspan
57	Amanda Vuicich	Northspan

## Thank You to Our Financial Contributors



Please visit our website at <https://www.lvpmn.org/>