



MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Wednesday, November 3rd, 2021
9:00AM – 11:00AM
Meeting was via Zoom Meeting

MINELAND VISION PARTNERSHIP

Membership Meeting
Wednesday, November 3rd, 2021
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
- Presentation: Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS) Update
- Presentation: Regional Bonding Projects Panel
- Presentation: Cleveland-Cliffs AND Future of Global Iron Ore
- Presentation: Xcel Project Update
- Presentation: DNR Permits

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome & Introductions

Elissa Hansen,
President & CEO, Northspan

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

PRESENTATION

Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS) Update

Ida Rukavina
Executive Director, RAMS

Next, Elissa introduced Ida Rukavina, Executive Director with the Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS). Ida began her new role on August 1, 2021, after Steve Giorgi's retirement. Additionally, a new administrative assistant was hired. Prior to her role with RAMS, Ida worked with Senator Klobuchar's Office. RAMS is made up of a 24-member board, covering the school districts within the Taconite Assistance Area. The board meets monthly, bringing in guest speakers to share timely updates. RAMS also hosts the Range Mayors Group meetings, which includes areas that may be outside of the official TAA. RAMS priorities are to support economic development, broadband, and school related initiatives. She detailed groups that she's been meeting with during her first three months, and how RAMS can be supportive in advocating for local issues.

PRESENTATION

Regional Bonding Projects Panel

Mike Liljegren,
Assistant Division Director, Minnesota DNR

Mike Liljegren, MN DNR began with a presentation on the Canisteo Legacy Mine Pit, a proposed bonding project. The pit is located north of Coleraine, Bovey and Taconite in Itasca County and was active through 1986. The pit is approximately 5 miles long, and half a mile wide. The necessary construction would build a gravity outflow system on the southwest corner of the pit to mitigate rising water levels. Local stakeholders, including impacted communities, have funding for this construction, lease, and O&M. Without construction of the outlet, flooding, wet basements, saturated soils and increased property and infrastructure damage is likely to occur if no action is taken.

Senator Tomassoni presented next, noting that both house and senate bonding committees are currently touring the state learning about regional projects. and have completed their tours in northeast Minnesota. He briefly covered the decennial redistricting occurring, noting the 2022 legislative session will be especially politically active. Representative Lislegard noted the importance of working across the aisle during a bonding year, highlighting that there are over \$5 billion in bonding requests. He gave a high-level overview of local projects that are seeking bonding dollars.

Jordan Metsa and Donna Johnson from the Minnesota Discovery Center presented next regarding their bonding capital requests - the first in MDC's history. They are seeking \$7.1 million to repair and replace critical infrastructure. Currently, they have \$6.2 million in deferred maintenance. The priority is a leaking roof in the archive storage section, requiring tarps and buckets to collect water. Other concerns are ADA compliance, energy efficiency, fire compliance, storage, and safety. Another project would include the construction of a new entrance, which would eliminate need to switch entrances seasonally. With a successful bonding effort, the project could leverage up to \$25 million in non-state funds to make further campus infrastructure upgrades.

Rounding out the panel, Sean Peyla and Linda Johnson described IRRR's bonding request for a water line replacement at Giants Ridge. Giants Ridge attracted over 133,000 visits in FY20 and has an average economic impact of \$55.4 million and supports 179 jobs in the recreation & lodging sector. Currently, the underground infrastructure that supports snowmaking, which was installed in the 1980s, have reached a crisis level of corrosion, damage, and deterioration. The project would replace 90% of the infrastructure, which includes 36,000 linear feet of pipe. Upgrades to the system would reduce water costs by 30% and would increase energy efficiency by 40%.

Panel members addressed questions throughout the presentation.

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

Cleveland-Cliffs AND Future of Global Iron Ore

Jim Kochevar,
Vice President, Iron Ore Operations

Elissa then introduced Jim Kochevar, Vice President, Iron Ore Operations at Cleveland-Cliffs, Inc. He began with a background on the company, noting they are the largest flat-roll steel producer in North America. They are a fully integrated steel corporation - from raw materials through stamping, tooling, and tubing. Cleveland-Cliffs is a leader in the automotive industry and have a focus on producing value added products. Other primary industries they serve include distributors & converters, infrastructure & manufacturing, and others. With climate change and the shift to electric vehicles, Cliffs finds themselves in a position where they have the ideal technical capabilities for the forthcoming EV expansion. Other markets that are emerging include plate steel for wind turbines, galvanized steel for solar arrays, and electrical steel for electric grid construction.

Next, Jim discussed the strategic shifts Cliffs has undergone from pellet manufacturing to a fully integrated steel company, seeking a value over volume approach. By acquiring more assets, such as AK Steel and Arcelor Mittal, they can develop a more collaborative and efficient steel supply chain.

To end the presentation, Jim gave an overview of shifts in how steel is produced. Blast furnaces were once 60% of steel production, compared to now where 71% of steel is made with electric arc furnaces. This leads to a higher demand for scrap iron, pig iron, and DRI/HBI. Addressing environmental concerns, he noted that on the greenhouse gas side, the domestic steel industry accounts for less than 1% of total US emissions. Globally, steel production accounts for 7% of greenhouse gas emissions. Cliffs has committed to a 25% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2030 and seeks to attain that through use of natural gas, clean energy and energy efficiency project, and carbon capture systems.

Jim addressed questions after his presentation.

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

Xcel Project Update

Thomas Hillstrom
Principal Agent, Xcel Energy

Next, Thomas Hillstrom, Principal Agent with Xcel Energy was invited to share an update on the current project relocating the HibTAC 500kV Line. This transmission line spans 472 miles from Winnipeg, Canada to Chisago County. The highlighted project will remove and replace 16 lattice towers along a 3-mile segment near Chisholm, MN.

In 2016, HibTAC requested the line move for pit expansion, requiring the lines shift. Due to the minerals under the line, Xcel had opted to lease the lands from the mining companies rather than pay for the value of minerals where the lines run. In preparation for the relocation, Xcel convened a working group to determine the best route. This resulted in keeping the line between the City of Chisholm and the existing pit but moving to the east of Highway 169 where the line presently runs west of the highway. Currently, the project schedule shows wire installation through December, removal of the old structures this winter, and restoration in spring 2022.

Tom addressed questions after his presentation.

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

DNR Permits

Mike Liljegren
Assistant Division Director, Minnesota DNR

Finally, Elissa welcomed Mike Liljegren back as a presenter to share permitting updates from the Minnesota DNR. He began with a quick overview of the Mineland Reclamation Act and how that affects the priorities and permitting process.

DNR permitting activities related to mining include issuing permits to mine, reviewing operating plans and annual reviews, reviewing plans for financial assurance, permit amendments, and deactivation plans. Within the permit to mine are the wetlands permitting. The DNR administers the wetland permits when they relate to mining projects. On the waters permitting program, the DNR manages those that are related to mining, and provides technical assistance and support.

Mike noted that through the pandemic, they have seen the largest amount of permit requests and amendments. They are hoping to hire additional staff in the coming months.

Mike addressed questions after his presentation.

A d j o u r n e d

- The next meeting date is February 23, 2022. The meeting is scheduled to be virtual from 9-11 AM.
- Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 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.

REGIONAL GROUP	CURRENT PROJECTS
<p>Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board (WMMPB) Doug Learmont, Director</p>	<p>Significant recent activities for the Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue seeking legislative support for three priority areas: (a) funding to support DNR planning and construction to address the problem of rapidly rising water 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 despite the extreme drought conditions earlier this year; (b) funding and schedule certainty for completion of the cross range expressway; and (c) ensuring stability for continued operation and maintenance of the Hill Annex Mine State Park until such time as active mining resumes there. • Attention to developments related to two significant mining projects in the western Mesabi area: Prairie River Minerals, and the future course for the Mesabi Metallics project and site. • Continued efforts to protect the mineral resources of the western Mesabi area so they are available for 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. • Identification of and planning for WMMPB priority activities for 2022.
<p>East Range Joint Powers Board (ERJPB) Karl Schuettler, Consultant</p>	<p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 regional partners submitted an application to the Federal EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge program to create the infrastructure for a regional digital economy. The East Range’s status as a coal community (due to the transition of the Laskin Energy Center away from coal) give us access to a specific pot of money within this program. We anticipate numerous projects in the area if successful. • The East Range held a housing workshop in September. Staff are now digitizing the maps created in that session, planning a survey, and hope to have more information at the November meeting. • Barr Engineering has completed a trail mapping exercise for snowmobile, OHV, non-motorized, and paved trails on the East Range. Staff is receiving bids for creating paper maps and consistent signage for the entire network. • The East Range Joint Powers Board has now closed four Disaster Relief Fund loans. Funding remains until December for the remaining \$21,000 in the fund. • Northeast Minnesota Child Care Summit Save the Date November 10, 2021 Virtually from 9:00 – 11:00 AM Register HERE

Cuyuna Range Area

Michael Burton & Kevin Egan

As was the case during our last meeting, activity in the Cuyuna Range continues to be slow. Two points of interest should be noted, however.

- Economic development in the Crosby area continues to move forward driven to a large degree by the ongoing success of the Cuyuna Country State Recreation Area. Mountain bike trails continue to be expanded in the recreation area, funded by major state expenditures. This expansion has driven something of an economic boom in Crosby.
- The development of the large manganese deposits in and around Emily continue to move very slowly. As noted in the past, holdings in this area are owned by Cooperative Minerals, a wholly-owned subsidiary of a local power cooperative, the Crow Wing Power Company. Cooperative Minerals has attempted, without success, to determine a manner that would effectively extract minerals from the site. That effort is ongoing.

Attendance

Members

1	Aaron Vande Linde	MN Office of School Trust Lands
2	Adam Marks	US Steel
3	Andrew Reed	Minnesota DNR
4	Arik Forsman	Minnesota Power
5	Ashley Luna	Northspan
6	Becky Lammi	City of Hoyt Lakes
7	Beth Pierce	Iron Range Tourism
8	Betsy Olivanti	Northeast SBDC
9	Billie Isham	IRRR
10	Bob Wagstrom	Mn Dept. of Revenue
11	Brian Hiti	Citizen
12	Bryan Anderson	MN DOT
13	Cam Trembath	PolyMet Mining
14	Corie Eckholm	Chair MN Section of SME
15	Dave Lislegard	MN State Representative
16	Dave Meineke	Global Minerals Engineering
17	David Tomassoni	MN State Senator
18	Dean DeBelz	Twin Metals MN
19	Derek Harbin	St. Louis County
20	Don Elsenheimer	Minnesota DNR
21	Donna Johnson	Minnesota Discovery Center
22	Doug Learmont	WMMPB
23	Eric Dott	Barr Engineering Co.
24	Erika Herr	MN DNR
25	Frank Ongaro	President, Mining Minnesota
26	Gabe Johnson	Cleveland Cliffs
27	Heather Arends	MnDNR
28	Ida Rukavina	RAMS
29	Jeff Borling	Great River Energy
30	Jeff Jacobson	City of Biwabik
31	Jeffrey Hanson	Clearwater Biologic, Babbitt
32	Jim Kochevar	Cleveland Cliffs
33	Jim Plummer	IRRR
34	Jim Weikum	City of Biwabik
35	Joe Henderson	MnDNR
36	John Fedo	Ely EDA

37	Jordan Metsa	Minnesota Discovery Center
38	Julie Marinucci	St. Louis County
39	Karl Schuettler	East Range Joint Powers Board Consultant
40	Kate Paul	Global Minerals Engineering
41	Kathryn Katie Larson	MN DNR Reclamation Supervisor
42	Kelly Johnson	St. Louis County
43	Kelsey Johnson	Iron Mining Association
44	Kevin Egan	Mayor of Lake Shore, Region Five Commissioner
45	Latisha Gietzen	PolyMet Mining
46	Linda Johnson	IRRR
47	Mary Eppen	City of Emily
48	Mary Holliday	Yawkey Minerals
49	Maureen Mishler	
50	Meghan Blair	Barr Engineering
51	Mike Burton	BLAEDC
52	Mike Liljegren	MnDNR
53	Molly MacGregor	MnDNR NE Regional Planner
54	Nick Wogum	DNR?
55	Pete Kero	Barr Engineering
56	Rachel Loeffler-Kemp	Senator Klobuchar's Office
57	Rick Crum	NTS
58	Rory Oberhelman	PolyMet Mining
59	Ryan Logan	St. Louis County
60	Ryan Sistad	Better in Our Backyard
61	Sean Peyla	IRRR
62	Sandy Karnowski	Cleveland Cliffs
63	Shelly Sallee	IRRR
64	Tamara Lowney	IEDC
65	Ted Anderson	MnDNR
66	Tiana Litke	Barr Engineering
67	Tim Pastika	MnDNR
68	Tom Hillstrom	Xcel Energy
69	Claire Peterlin	Minnesota Power
70	G. Hudak	

Consultants

71	Elissa Hansen	Northspan
72	Amanda Vuicich	Northspan

Thank You to Our Financial Contributors



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