

Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board

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

Significant recent activities for the Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board included:

1. Continue seeking legislative support for three priority areas: (a) 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 despite the exctereme 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Identification of and planning for WMMPB priority activities for 2022.