

*Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board*



*P.O. Box 166  
Bovey, MN 55709*



Update Presentation for  
Mineland Vision Partnership  
February 21, 2024

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Current members include:

Arbo Township

City of Bovey

City of Calumet

City of Cohasset

City of Coleraine

City of Grand Rapids

Greenway Township

Itasca County

City of Keewatin

City of LaPrairie

Lone Pine Township

City of Marble

City of Nashwauk

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- WMMPB is a Minnesota joint powers board
- Membership may include local government units in the Western Mesabi Corridor
- Members (the local government units) set their own meeting time (usually monthly), place, agenda
- Members contribute their own funds to cover expenses

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## **Purpose**

- **To formulate a management plan and develop strategies for environmental protection and orderly development of public and private lands**
- **To protect said lands from uncontrolled and unplanned development, pollution or degradation through the preparation and adoption of comprehensive local plans and ordinances**
- **To provide for the recreational use of said lands**
- **To identify areas of high future mining potential and to preserve these lands for future mining opportunities**

**This management responsibility is shared by the county, cities and townships through the exercise of land use control and jurisdiction over certain public and private lands within this corridor.**

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## **Examples of Past Progress and Success**

- **Developed a management plan and strategies for environmental protection and orderly development of public and private lands**
- **Developed mining-related objectives in the Itasca County Comprehensive Plan and an Iron Mining Overlay zone for the county**
- **Worked for and achieved completion of several sections of major improvement in the Highway 169 transportation route**
- **Major steps were taken and completed to identify issues arising due to uncontrolled increases in rising pit water and developing plans to address the issues**
- **More.....**

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## **More Examples of Progress and Success**

- **Conducts field trips to operating mines and project sites, and conducts mining-related educational presentations for members**
- **Provides opportunities for mining and other related projects to present news and discuss about their activities and projects**
- **Through various means has maintained most areas with substantial mineral resources and their ancillary areas available for mining projects, with numerous active mining projects through the past several decades**
- **Advocates for greater participation with state agencies with regard to mineral developments**
- **Interfaces and advocates with federal and state legislators on items of importance and conducts candidate forums**

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## **Update on Some Current Priorities**

- **Highway 169 major improvement - Continue steps toward realigning and constructing to provide a much improved four lane highway**
- **Rising Pit Water in Canisteo and Hill Annex-Arcturus pit complexes - Continue to monitor DNR progress to control water and stabilize the water in a manner that does not hinder or encumber future iron ore mining.**
- **Long Term Stability for Hill Annex Mine State Park - Ensure long term operation and maintenance of the state park until active mining resumes**
- **Zoning and Mining Overlay Review and Education Regarding Overlay and Zoning - Review the County zoning ordinance and its iron mining overlay district, review current application and identify possible changes, continue to coordinate and integrate the county overlay zone with municipal zoning, educate public officials and others**

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## **More Current Priorities**

- **Continue educational field trip and presentations**
- **Review state laws and rules to seek improvements to conservation of resources to support future production**
- **Identify temporary use of mine land for non-mining uses**
- **Seek changes to state and federal policy to reduce permitting time**
- **Increase Board participation in state mining/mineral decisions**
- **Continue participation with state and federal elected officials and candidates**
- **Continue to plan and take actions to preserve mineral resource areas for current and future mining development purposes**



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Thank you!