



MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, June 17th, 2021

9:00AM – 11:00AM

Meeting was via Zoom Meeting

MINELAND VISION PARTNERSHIP

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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
- Introduction: IRRR New Team Member
- Presentation: Royalty Revenue to the Taxing Districts & the Trust Funds
- Presentation: Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board
- Presentation: SME Virtual Conference Update
- Presentation: Mining Industry Views on Investing in Minnesota and Scandinavia
- Presentation: PolyMet
- Presentation: Vermillion Gold
- Presentation: Redhead Update
- Written Regional Group Updates

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. Elissa provided a quick recap of zoom meeting essentials and introduced the agenda. Elissa shared an agenda update, noting the scheduled presentation from Range Association of Municipalities and Schools (RAMS) would be shared as a written update. Participants were then invited to introduce themselves to the group.

INTRODUCTION

Introduction: IRRR New Team Member

Linda Johnson
Mining Reclamation Director, IRRR

Linda Johnson introduced a new Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation staff, Billie Isham. Billie joins the agency as the new Tribal Liaison. She is the facilitator between the IRRR and the four tribal nations within the agency's service area. She introduced herself, provided an overview of her role, and shared her background which includes working for the Bois Forte reservation for the past 22 years.

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

Royalty Revenue to the Taxing Districts & the Trust Funds

Pete Clevestine
Assistant Director Minerals, Minnesota DNR

Next, Elissa introduced Pete Clevestine from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to give an overview of royalty revenue to the taxing districts and the trust funds. He began by explaining the first taconite lease was issued in 1890 and has generated \$815 million in its 130-year history. Revenue comes from many commodities although most comes from iron ore. The Permanent School Fund, managed by the MN DNR, receives income from economic activities on lands identified as School Trust Lands. There are 4 million acres of School Trust Land in the state. Minnesota K-12 schools received \$260 million in support over the past 10 years; that translates to approximately \$45.20 per student into each classroom across Minnesota. Benefits also support universities, with \$63 million deposited in the Permanent University Fund over the last 10 years. The endowment covers the Mineral Research Account, the Endowed Scholarship account, as well as other various scholarships.

Another category supporting the School Fund is Tax Forfeit, although this generates less income. This fund supports local communities, counties, and schools, and has collected \$40 million in the last 10 years. Pete thanked Cleveland Cliffs and United Steel as they own and operate Minnesota's six mining operations and contribute extensively to these funding sources.

Pete then expressed a concern regarding the sustainability of this income and provided information about climate change, greenhouse gas emissions, and the impact of both on the iron ore mining industry. The United States emits about two tons of greenhouse gasses for every ton of hot iron produced from blast furnaces. Minnesota's companies are creating a path to reduce emissions and create a green economy. Since addressing climate change and the need for Green Industries, iron ore consumption in Minnesota has dropped from 80 million tons to 40 million tons over the last 30 years and greenhouse gas emissions fell from over 100 million tons to less than 50 million tons. Cleveland Cliffs plans to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions 25% by 2030, while United Steel has a goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Both companies agree public and private collaboration is essential to achieve their goal of becoming Green Industries.

Pete addressed participant questions throughout and after his presentation.

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

Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board

Doug Learmont,
Coordinator, Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board

Doug Learmont introduced himself and began his presentation with a background on the Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board (WMMPB). WMMPB is a Minnesota Joint Powers board that has been in existence for 30 years, making it the longest running joint powers board in Northeast Minnesota. The WMMPB's purpose is to formulate plans for environmental protections in Mesabi Range, protect lands from uncontrolled development and pollution, identify areas of high mining potential, preserve those lands for mining in the future, and share responsibility with local cities and townships with land use control and jurisdiction.

WMMPB is very interested in reclamation of land that can be reused for mining production or recreational uses. Even when used recreationally, the land should be available for mining reuse in the future if needed. Keewatin Taconite has partnered on multiple projects in which they have worked collaboratively to accomplish these land use goals. The board would like to participate more with the state of Minnesota for the use of these lands.

Doug addressed participant questions after his presentation.

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

SME Virtual Conference Updates

Corie Eckholm,
Chair, MN Section of SME

Elissa then introduced Corie Eckholm from the Minnesota Section of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy, and Exploration (SME). The goal of SME is to educate members and communities while promoting mining. One of their most popular educational events is an annual conference held in Duluth.

During the pandemic, SME held a virtual conference to continue education on mining. Corie explained the conference focused on artificial intelligence for the mining industry in the future, the challenging pandemic year for the iron ore industry,

professional development, and ethical training. In addition, there were educational videos, networking, and Q&A sessions. She noted there were 173 attendees for the virtual conference.

Now that large gatherings are allowed again, SME will be holding future conferences in person in order provide better opportunities for networking.

Corie addressed participant questions after her presentation.

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

Mining Industry Views on Investing in Minnesota and Scandinavia

Don Elsenheimer
Research Scientist 3, MN DNR

Next, Elissa introduced Don Elsenheimer who provided an overview of the Fraser Survey results for the Minnesota mining industry. Don highlighted the industry in Minnesota, noting a 130-year history of iron ore mining and competition on a global level. The Fraser Institute’s annual survey provides a ranking for mining companies and the regions in which they operate. Rankings are based on an average score for raw mineral potential and local policies. Some important factors for scores on this survey are sovereign risk, the cost of doing business, land access, and operational support.

The results of the survey showed that Minnesota ranked 64th in mineral potential, 30th in policy, 55th overall. The scores were based on responses of 5-9 mining professionals in the state. This is a small respondent size that greatly impacts the results, and it was questioned whether Minnesota was given fair rankings.

The next part of Don’s presentation focused on comparison between Minnesota and Scandinavia. This data showed that public policy was scored better in Minnesota than in Scandinavia. It was determined, however, that Scandinavia’s mining is Green and progressing toward a carbon neutral economy. In conclusion, Minnesota’s scores have a lot of room for improvement within their public policies and better enacted Green policies and procedures.

Don addressed participant questions after his presentation.

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

Polymet

LaTisha Gietzen,
Director of Public and Community Affairs, Polymet Mining

Elissa then introduced LaTisha Gietzen, Director of Public and Community Affairs at PolyMet Mining, who provided an update on the company’s current litigation and permitting process. A vast majority of permits were received in 2018-2019 and have been in litigation both at the federal and state level since. There were six Federal suits, four of which were dismissed, and two of which were appealed.

The two federal outstanding litigation cases relate to appeals on cases brought forward by Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and the Friends of the Boundary Waters as related to the US Army Corps of Engineers permit for waters downstream of the mine. This case has been slated for additional appeal and PolyMet is the first in the country to go through the 401(A)(2) process related to the USACE ROD and 404 wetland permits. On the state side, there are still three appeals in progress relating to the Permit to Mine & Dam Safety, NPDES (water) permit, and air permits.

LaTisha addressed participant questions after her presentation.

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

Vermillion Gold

Kate Lehmann,
President and CFO, Vermillion Gold

Bill Rowell
Chief Exploration Geologist, Vermillion Gold

Elissa thanked LaTisha for her presentation and introduced Kate Lehman and Bill Rowell to provide an overview of the Vermillion Gold project. Bill began by explaining that Orogenic gold deposits are available in the greenstone belts in the Superior Province. The exploration and development strategy of Vermillion Gold has identified three exploration target areas: Linden Grove, Lost Lake, and Virginia Horn. Currently, Virginia Horn is the primary exploration project with a focus on gold mineralization. This

summer there are plans for mapping and drilling. He further elaborated on the process of identifying target areas, challenges in target areas, and the analysis process of different minerals.

Vermillion Gold acquired mineral leases in the mid-2000s and has been drilling and sampling around the area. During the past winter, Vermillion Gold completed drilling in 2 locations and sent off core samples for geochemical analysis.

Bill addressed participant questions at the end of his presentation.

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

Redhead Update

Donna Johnson,
Executive Director, Minnesota Discovery Center

Jordan Metsa,
Marketing Coordinator, Minnesota Discovery Center

For the final presentation, Elissa introduced Donna Johnson and Jordan Metsa from the Minnesota Discovery Center. They began by sharing a video about the Minnesota Discovery Center located in Chisholm, MN. Donna provided an overview of the MDC, as well as updates on their expansion, noting revitalization in educational, recreational and food service projects. Highlights include restaurant, amphitheater, the Redhead Mountain Bike Trail, kayaking, canoeing, and swimming.

The Redhead Mountain Bike Trail will celebrate its grand opening on June 26th. The new vision is to build out Redhead into a world class recreational destination, with an emphasis on mountain biking. The MN Discovery Center has Partnered with Giants Ridge, Cuyuna, and Tioga to accomplish their vision for the center. More than 20,000 visitors from around the country have already enjoyed this new park. Jordan ended the presentation by sharing plans for the Campus Rebuild Model that the center hopes to build with various partnerships in the state.

Jordan and Donna addressed participant questions after their presentation.

These are the two video links that were played:

1st: [RECLAIMED \(vimeo.com\)](#)

2nd: [REDHEAD- GENERAL PROMO - FINAL \(vimeo.com\)](#)

A d j o u r n e d

- The next meeting date is November 3, 2021. Currently, the meeting is scheduled to be virtual from 9-11 AM.
- Meeting was adjourned at 11:08 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>The Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board has been active, while maintaining conformance with rules related to the health pandemic situation. Significant activities included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seeking legislative support for three priority areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) funding to support DNR planning and construction to remedy 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. (b) funding and time certainty for completion of the cross range expressway; and (c) creation of the means to ensure 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 most-recently-named Mesabi Metallics project. 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 and permitting, and, more broadly, development and use of the mineral resources of northeastern Minnesota.
<p>East Range Joint Powers Board (ERJPB) Karl Schuettler, Consultant</p>	<p>Strategic Plan Dashboard Fiscal Year 2021-2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → SD1. Identify and utilize resources to attain fiscal stability → SD2. Promote the East Range to attract and retain businesses and residents → SD3. Provide wide range of housing options to meet diverse community needs → SD4. Expand highest speed internet to all → SD5. Create community accountability processes to inform residents → SD6. Create welcoming community packets to encourage civic engagement → Completed or scheduled for completion (Green) → Underway and progressing (Yellow) → Not yet started or not progressing (Red) <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERJPB staff met internally to develop a timeline for all the actions supporting each strategic direction in the action plan. This plan will guide the ERJPB's work for the next two years, and this new report format reflects its efforts to document progress on the six strategic objectives listed on the dashboard above. • Barr is updating initial draft maps for a trail mapping project following feedback from the Ranger Snowmobile & ATV Club. This project, funded by a grant from IRRR, will establish maps on the East Range for various user groups. Maps will exist both in paper and app-based formats. • Two loans have been approved through the ERJPB's Disaster Relief Loan Program. There is currently one loan application under review and three additional businesses are working closely with ERJPB staff to submit full applications for timely review and board approval. • In coordination with the Laurentian, Tower, and East Range region's broadband consultant and IRRR, ERJPB staff are actively communicating with potential

	<p>broadband providers who could serve the East Range. We are also staying apprised of potential new funding sources emerging from federal stimulus funds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERJPB staff is engaged in the Blandin Foundation-spearheaded Arrowhead Intelligent Region (AIR) effort and serving on a committee that met to review applications for funding.
<p>Quad Cities Erik Holmstrom, Laurentian Chamber President</p>	<p>On October 1 the Laurentian Chamber of Commerce will host the inaugural event in the new Miners Event and Convention Center. The 2021 Annual Gala will bring together 500 business leaders from the area and feature a keynote address by Lourenco Goncalves. The event will celebrate the growth in the area with downtown redevelopment, the MECC and the Rock Ridge schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 23rd the Laurentian Chamber is hosting Business After Hours at the new Rock Ridge School site. Attendees will get a tour of the site and get to learn more about the construction and academy model. • August 2nd the Laurentian Chamber will move into new office space in the Plaza 53 Center. • Grand Opening for the MECC is the week of September 20th. Watch for updates on this week. • Ice bumper cars are coming to the MECC. They will be something no one else in the area has as an attraction. • First Thursdays QC is off and running. This event brings back the art crawl to the Quad Cities. • The Virginia Food Truck Festival is coming this summer with three separate events! • July 3rd will see the Gilbert Parade and Community Celebration and fireworks in Eveleth. • The Summer Concert Series is back this year in Olcott Park.
<p>Cuyuna Range Area Michael Burton & Kevin Egan</p>	<p>No new news on manganese in Emily but the process is still alive as far as we know. The great news is the continued development in Crosby, Ironton and Deerwood with new retail, housing, and population. Amazing transformation for the area.</p>

A t t e n d a n c e

Members

1	Alex Peritz	MnDOT
2	Ali Crofts	MN DNR
3	Allyz Kramer	SEHinc. (Duluth Office)
4	Ashley Luna	Northspan
5	Andrew Reed	Minnesota DNR
6	Ashley Luna	Northspan
7	Baggenstossj	
8	Becky Lammi	City of Hoyt Lakes
9	Beth Pierce	Iron Range Tourism
10	Betsy Olivanti	Northeast SBDC
11	Bill Rowell	Vermillion Gold
12	Billie Isham	IRRR
13	Bob Wagstrom	Mn Dept. of Revenue
14	Brad Gustafson	St. Louis County
15	Cam Trembath	PolyMet Mining
16	Corie Eckholm	Chair MN Section of SME
17	Dan Jordan	Community Member
18	Darin Jablonsky	St. Louis County
19	Dave Dahl	MnDNR
20	Derek Harbin	St. Louis County Mine Inspector
21	Don Elsenheimer	Minnesota DNR
22	Donna Johnson	Minnesota Discovery Center
23	Doug Learmont	WMMPB
24	Frank Ongaro	President, Mining Minnesota
25	Gabe Johnson	Cleveland Cliffs
26	Heather Arends	MnDNR
27	Jamie Johnson	Minorca Mines
28	Jason Richter	MNDOT
29	Jason Ritter	
30	Jeff Borling	Great River Energy
31	Jeffrey Hanson	Clearwater Biologic, Babbitt
32	Jenna Benson	MN DNR intern
33	Jesse Dunsmoor	Cleveland Cliffs

34	Jim Plummer	IRRR
35	Joe Rokala	MnDNR
36	John Fedo	Ely EDA
37	Jordan Metsa	Minnesota Discovery Center
38	Julianne Paulsen	City of Virginia
39	Julie Marinucci	St. Louis County
40	Karl Schuettler	East Range Joint Powers Board Consultant
41	Kate Lehmann	Vermillion Gold
42	Kate Paul	Global Minerals Engineering
43	Kathryn Katie Larson	MN DNR Reclamation Supervisor
44	Kelly Johnson	St. Louis County
45	Kelsey Johnson	Iron Mining Association
46	Latisha Gietzen	PolyMet Mining
47	Linda Johnson	IRRR
48	Loren Solberg	Loren Solberg Consulting, LLC
49	Maren Webb	MNDOT District 1 Duluth
50	Mark Phillips	IRRR Commissioner
51	Mary Eppen	City of Emily
52	Matt Johnson	St. Louis County
53	Nancy Norr	Minnesota Power
54	Patty Thielen	Minnesota DNR
55	Pete Clevenstine	MnDNR
56	Rick Crum	NTS
57	Robb Peterson	ArcelorMittal
58	Rory Oberhelman	PolyMet Mining
59	Ryan Sistad	Better in Our Backyard
60	Sandy Karnowski	Cleveland Cliffs
61	Shelly Sallee	IRRR
62	Stefanie Dickinson	City of Aurora
63	Stephanie Skraba	City of Chisholm
64	Tom Hillstrom	Xcel Energy
65	Vicki Hagberg	Northland SBDC
66	Whitney Ridlon	IRRR

Consultants

67	Elissa Hansen	Northspan
68	Amanda Vuicich	Northspan

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