

October 28, 2020 | 900 – 1100AM

**MINELAND
VISION
PARTNERSHIP**

Laurentian Vision Partnership
Transforming pits and piles into lakes and landscapes

Partnership Meeting

Wednesday, October 28, 2020
Meeting was via Zoom Meeting

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MEETING OBJECTIVE

The Mineland Vision Partnership (MVP) is a regional collaboration that is invested in our diverse community by developing opportunities for changing or dynamic minescapes, preserving lands to sustain current and future mining, and providing resources and education. It recognizes the rich history of mining on Minnesota's Iron Range and opportunities to engage with a changing environment. Since its formal organization in 2000, MVP has promoted collaboration between mining companies and communities to plan and design future landscapes that can benefit both interests. It builds on extensive past efforts to return minelands to community use, preserve them for future mining uses, shares these best practices, and publicizes their successes to drive further interest. It spreads information to the group and actively engages partners, builds connections with education to generate fresh ideas, engages the media to showcase the value of work completed by MVP, and explores new and existing modes of communication and incorporates them within a plan to disseminate a consistent message for the group.

This meeting provided an overview of updates from key regional partners including ferrous and non-ferrous as well as updates from the DNR, UMD-NRRI, and the Bruce Mine Park project in Chisholm.

MEETING SUMMARY

- Welcome & Introductions
- Presentation: State of Taconite
- Presentation: Projects Updates
- Presentation: DNR Update
- Presentation: NRRI Update
- Presentation: Project Update

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome & Introductions

Elissa Hansen,
President & CEO, Northspan

Elissa Hansen, MVP Facilitator, gave folks a few minutes to join online and welcomed everyone. The meeting began at 9:04AM. Elissa provided a quick recap of zoom meeting essentials and introduced the meeting agenda.

PRESENTATION

State of Taconite

Kelsey Johnson
President, Iron Mining Association

President of the Iron Mining Association Kelsey Johnson shared an update regarding coal fire facilities in the state, noting 11 of 13 are shut down; one of the last remaining is Boswell Energy Center. The hope is to keep the facility turning out energy as a reliable source of energy. Kelsey congratulated MN Power on being 50% renewable, making them the 1st in MN and one of the 1st in the Nation. In other positive news steel mills are close to 70% capacity and growing each week as they recover from the COVID downturn. Kelsey also mentioned the completion of the economic impact study, thanking Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation for the financial support. Kelsey will be sending out the 1-pager highlighting the impact study.

PRESENTATION

Projects Updates

Jim Kochevar,
Vice President of Iron Ore Operations
Cleveland Cliffs

Jessica Johnson,
Community Outreach & Government Relations Manager
Talon Minerals

David Ulrich,
Communications Consultant
Twin Metals

Jim Kochevar, Vice President of Iron Ore Operations from Cleveland Cliffs provided a short update on safety precautions and procedures due to COVID. Due to the pandemic, the downstream effect on operations, the supply chain was felt in the steel industry causing Tilden and Northshore to be idle and took about 3 million tons out of the production plan. Currently economic activity is slowly growing stronger as both idle locations are back to production for the remainder of the year. Jim touched on the recent deal to acquire ArcelorMittal, which will in turn allow Cleveland Cliffs to be a 100% producer of their own supply chain. The impact of the potential acquisition will have a substantial impact as it will grow the company from about 2,500 employees to about 25,000; becoming a fully integrated steel supplier with immense opportunities going forward, especially in the auto industry. As well as the 2nd largest steel producer in the US for Nucor. Specific details cannot be discussed as the merger is not complete, as the closing occurs more information will be made available. Jim concluded mentioning a taskforce was created by the Michigan Government to explore ways to optimize mining opportunities and cited MVP as an important resource to learn and observe from.

Jessica Johnson, Community Outreach & Government Relations Manager for Talon Metals provided an update on COVID safety and recent drilling operations. Jessica discussed the big focus has been around COVID safety and how exploration can continue while incorporating stringent health and safety protocols. A key component was the addition of TD1 in August 2020. TD1 is a drill rig they can utilize on a rent to own basis, which allows Talon to cut costs and hire a local drill crew. This also allowed them to keep employees local and in field houses on site. They also have been working hard to provide separation between shifts and keep staff in smaller groups. With the success of the TD1 Talon will be adding a 2nd drill in November. Jessica in closing mentioned operations and drilling is changing due to the shallow depths of mineralization, currently they are drilling at depths of 240meters compared to the 500-600 meters before; increasing the tonnage of resource.

David Ulrich, Community Consultant with Twin Metals provided an organizational update and presentation about the plans for Eagle Mine. David announced a recent staff addition to their team, Chris Anderson Director of Legal Affairs. David gave a brief history of underground mining and a preview of the modernization mining techniques that will be implemented in the revitalization of Eagle Mine. He pointed out the benefits of underground mining noting a ramp system in lieu of the standard elevator, the reduced surface disruption and the ability to eliminate waste rock piles by reusing the resources. David discussed how some of the tailings can be reused to revegetate the area of the mine when complete. David pointed out the importance of current mining; in order to meet all the requirements to pivot and reduce the carbon footprint we need as much copper in the next 25 years as we mined in 5,000. David offered members the opportunity to view a longer version of the presentation by reaching out to him.

LaTisha Gietzen, Director of Public & Community Affairs with PolyMet Mining provided a quick recap of current approval permit status'. Currently there are 8 permits of the 26 not approved, two cases are being heard at the Supreme Court; permit to mine and dam safety and an air permit. The permit to mine and dam safety hearing was held in October with a decision expected in four to six months, the air permit case will be held on November 5th. What is so significant about these two cases is the Supreme Court only accepts about 10% of the cases it reviews, so this is an important milestone, PolyMet is looking forward to their decisions to continue moving forward with the project.

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

DNR Update

Mike Liljegren,
Assistant Director, MnDNR

Mike Liljegren, Assistant Director of the Minnesota DNR provided an update on the Canisteo & Hill Annex Projects. These two areas are legacy mine pits that are continually filling with water at an average of five to seven feet per year. The Canisteo project has been in the works for about 10 years and in a few years will begin to overflow. This year the DNR received bonding money to engineer and design the outlet with any extra funds to be used towards construction. The Canisteo project already has several ground water wells in the Bovey areas to alleviate wet basements, but it is time to make updates and create a potential outlet to the prairie river system. The goal is to go back to the legislature, hopefully, during the next session for the remaining construction money. The Hill Annex project has also received bonding dollars and grants through the IRRRB and will begin to move forward through a similar process as Canisteo. Installing wells and monitoring and modeling what elevation an outlet would be put in to make a route. Once an outlet is chosen, they will begin the engineering process and design and work to secure bonding dollars.

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

NRRI Update

Rolf T. Weberg,
Executive Director, UMD-NRRI

Rolf Weberg, Executive Director at UMD-NRRI provided a brief overview of NRRI's vision, goals and platforms. Rolf described the organization as an open door working with many different colleagues, industry and agency partners. NRRI delivers technology and information systems to keep things moving forward, with applied research to address forest and land mineral resources. The job is

to look forward ten to twenty years out with mineral processing and metallurgy and do analytical testing for data collection and delivery. Rolf also discussed the platform innovation goals, understanding the resources, diversifying the product portfolio, eliminating waste, and embracing life cycle thinking. Rolf also brought to attention to the bio economy and the benefits of biochar. Biochar is highly refined charcoal, that can be made and used in many products. NRRI has been performing biochar research and have a materials characterization lab. They are working with Army Corps and MNDOT to create soils to grow trees and vegetation on poor soils. Biochar is already being used in areas, the goal of the project is to promote purchasing locally instead of out state, as the metro does. Any questions regarding NRRI and their projects can be directed to Rolf.

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

Project Update

Eleanor Brandt,
Landscape Architect, Architectural Resources Inc.

Eleanor Brandt, Landscape Architect with Architectural Resources Inc. (ARI) provided a status update of the current Bruce Mine project in Chisholm, MN. ARI is working with the Chisholm Beautification Association (CBA) to preserve one of the last standing mining head frames constructed in 1926. In 2017 the CBA brought ARI on board when they received a grant from MVP to preserve and honor the history of mining and make the area accessible to visitors. In 2019 another grant was received from LCCMR for one million dollars to develop the park. In 2018-2019 Phase 1 of construction took place which included a master plan of the park and an access road to the site as well as brush clearing. Phase 2 of the project is currently in the works and includes finalizing construction and plan documents and hoping to go out for bid soon with the potential of being under construction summer of 2021.

A d j o u r n e d

- Meeting was adjourned at 10:59 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
Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board (WMMPB) Doug Learmont, Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A written update summary report was given and will be available. · The current government restrictions have limited activities of the group, but regular meetings have resumed. Discussed developments related to three mining projects; Prairie River Minerals, Mesabi Metallics, and re-start of Keetac. Received substantial funding to address the rising water issues at Canisteo and Arcturus-Hill Annex. Planning has started to decide WMMPB activities for 2021.
East Range Joint Powers Board (ERJPB) Karl Schuettler, Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A written update summary report was given and will be available. · ERJPB disaster relief program is now operational, and can disperse funds until June 30, 2021 once they revolve, they become the property of ERJPB. · East Range Steering committee has some community funds remaining, with 15 approved applications for community projects. · The childcare group is working with an interested provider on her business plan and site selection. A site has been selected and provider has been connected SBDC for project financial modeling. · Secured funding for recreation and trail development mapping and materials for off-road vehicle trails. Launching the bid process for the engineering portion of the contract.
Quad Cities Erik Holmstrom, Laurentian Chamber President	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Rock Ridge High School and Eveleth Elementary are under construction with completion scheduled for fall of 2021. The MECC arena completion will be fall of 2021. · Leadership program applications are due with a kickoff soon; applications are due November 21st. Participants will receive 20 hours of classroom training in a hybrid model and will incorporate a community volunteer effort. · Small business Saturday will be extended to a weeklong event, with a grand prize as an incentive to shop locally at participating businesses.
Central Iron Range Initiative (CIRI) John Fedo, Rick Crum, & Pete Kero	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · No report available
Cuyuna Range Area Michael Burton & Kevin Egan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · A written update summary report was given and will be available. · Redevelopment of Crosby is moving ahead, but slower than anticipated. Cuyuna trail has received funding to double the length of the trail system. · The City of Emily has attracted attention of international interest because of the manganese deposits, agreements were signed earlier this year, but nothing has occurred since then.

A t t e n d a n c e

Members

1	Brian Hanson	APEX
2	Jennifer Tarnowski	ArcelorMittal
3	Robb Peterson	ArcelorMittal
4	Eleanor Brandt	Architectural Resources Inc (ARI)
5	Pete Kero	Barr Engineering
6	Mike Burton	BLAEDC / Cuyuna Range Area
7	Brian Hiti	Citizen
8	Dan Jordan	Citizen
9	Becky Lammi	City of Aurora
10	Stephanie Skraba	City of Chisholm
11	Jim Paulsen	City of Gilbert
12	Chris Vreeland	City of Hoyt Lakes Mayor
13	Craig Wainio	City of Mountain Iron
14	Ania Ediger	Cleveland Cliffs
15	Gabe Johnson	Cleveland Cliffs
16	Jesse Dunsmoor	Cleveland Cliffs
17	Jim Kochevar	Cleveland Cliffs
18	Sandy Karnowski	Cleveland Cliffs
19	Karl Schuettler	East Range Joint Powers Board Consultant
20	Dave Meineke	Global Minerals Engineering
21	Jeff Borling	Great River Energy
22	Ed LaTendresse	Hibbing Taconite
23	Kelsey Johnson	Iron Mining Association
24	Jared Lubben	Iron Range Taconite
25	Beth Pierce	Iron Range Tourism
26	Jim Plummer	IRRR
27	Linda Johnson	IRRR
28	Shelly Sallee	IRRR
29	Mark Phillips	IRRR Commissioner
30	Jason Metsa	IRRR Deputy Commissioner
31	Sarah Ciochetto	JPJ Engineering
32	Erik Holmstrom	Laurentian Chamber of Commerce
33	Loren Solberg	Loren Solberg Consulting, LLC
34	Kirk Lapham	Michigan DNR
35	Peter Rose	Michigan DNR
36	Sharon Schafer	Michigan DNR
37	Adam Wygant	Michigan EGLE Oil, Gas, and Minerals Division
38	Mike Sweat	Michigan EGLE Oil, Gas, and Minerals Division
39	Tami Dedrick	Mineral Logic
40	Nancy Norr	Minnesota Power and Jobs for Minnesotans
41	Jamie Johnson	Minorca Mines
42	Bob Wagstrom	Mn Dept. of Revenue
43	Rob Pecchia	Mn Dept. of Revenue
44	Aaron Vande Linde	MN Office of School Trust Lands
45	Bob Meier	MnDNR
46	Dave Dahl	MnDNR
47	Heather Arends	MnDNR

48	Joe Henderson	MnDNR
49	Katie Larson	MnDNR
50	Mike Liljegren	MnDNR
51	Patty Thielen	MnDNR
52	Pete Clevestine	MnDNR
53	Ted Anderson	MnDNR
54	Thomas Lee	MnDNR
55	Tim Pastika	MnDNR
56	Molly MacGregor	MnDNR NE Regional Planner
57	Michael Kalnback	MnDOT District 1 Duluth
58	Alex Pertiz	MnDOT North Regional Project Management Lead
59	Derek Fredrickson	MnDOT Project Management Lead
60	Kurt Doran	NTS
61	Cam Trembath	PolyMet Mining
62	LaTisha Gietzen	PolyMet Mining
63	Rory Oberhelman	PolyMet Mining
64	Steve Giorgi	RAMS
65	Allyz Kramer	SEHinc. (Duluth Office)
66	Joel Asp	SEHinc. (Duluth Office)
67	Julie Marinucci	St. Louis County
68	Mark Weber	St. Louis County
69	Derek Harbin	St. Louis County Mine Inspector
70	Jessica Johnson	Talon Minerals
71	David Ulrich	Twin Metals
72	Rolf Weberg	UMD - NRRRI
73	Larry?	Unknown
74	Chrissy Bartovich	US Steel
75	Evan Shefik	US Steel
76	Preston Tripp	US Steel
77	Doug Learmont	WMMPB
78	Tom Hillstrom	Xcel Energy
79	Mary Holliday	Yawkey Minerals

Consultants

80	Elissa Hansen	Northspan
81	Laura Nilsen	Northspan

Mineland Vision Partnership thanks its financial contributors



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