MEMBERSHIP MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, May 20, 2026 (9:30 AM – 12:00 PM)

1003 Discovery Drive | Chisholm, MN 55719

And via Teams: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/2773552492904?p=ZHUmB4fg2S0gmOasXA

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, and
- Providing resources and education

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

1. Optimizing Organization & Communications
2. Investing in Mineland Communities
3. Enhancing Stakeholder Partnerships
4. Educating Partners & the Public

Check out the updated website: www.mvpmn.org

MEETING SUMMARY

- Welcome & Logistics
- Presentation: Demystifying Data Centers, Rachel Johnson, APEX
- Presentation: Hello Future! Eduardo Duffles, Vale S.A. Future Use
- Presentation: School Trust Lands Update, Aaron VandeLinde, Director, Minnesota Office of School Trust Lands
- Adjourn

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome & Introductions, Miriam Kero, Facilitator

MVP Facilitator Miriam Kero welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM. As an ice breaker, Pete Kero announced the grand opening of the Redhead Mountain Bike Park pump track, skills course, and additional trail

miles, occurring Friday, May 28, noon at Redhead. Miriam Kero covered logistics (restrooms, cell phone, refreshments) and briefly reviewed the MVP vision, mission, and meeting agenda.

PRESENTATION

Demystifying Data Centers

Rachel Johnson, President and CEO of APEX, Arik Forsman, Manager of Strategic Accounts at Minnesota Power, and Lucas Mistelske, Chief Experience Officer at Giant Voices discussed the growing role of data centers in Northeast Minnesota and Northwest Wisconsin, with a focus on education, regional advocacy, and economic opportunity.

Mistelske provided an overview of the three primary types of data centers: hyperscale, colo/edge, and enterprise. He explained the operational needs of these facilities, including secure server storage, cooling systems, water use, and energy demands. Mistelske noted public concerns often center on the size of facilities, water consumption, and electricity usage, but newer cooling technologies, such as direct liquid cooling, closed-loop systems, immersion cooling, and geothermal transfer are becoming more efficient and sustainable. Miestelske highlighted the economic development data centers could bring to the region. He shared that a 263-acre site without a data center might generate roughly $43,000 in taxes annually, while the same property with a data center could generate over $2.5 million. He described data centers as large-scale investments that can create jobs, increase local tax revenue, and help spread utility system costs over more customers, potentially saving ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars over time.

Forsman noted that data centers vary in size, and they all look different. He explained that the region's strong transmission infrastructure and carbon-free energy goals make the area competitive for attracting major technology companies such as Google, and he emphasized that large energy users are generally required to pay for infrastructure upgrades rather than passing costs to residential customers. Community benefits discussed included job training opportunities, school support, district energy systems, and potential heating applications using excess heat generated by data centers.

Participants raised questions about environmental impacts, power demand, site selection, and long-term energy planning. The speakers acknowledged that data centers do have environmental impacts but stressed that facilities are typically located near existing electrical infrastructure, railways, and industrial corridors rather than remote natural areas. Throughout the conversation, presenters encouraged continued public dialogue, transparency, and community engagement as regional leaders evaluate future data center opportunities. Johnson noted that she, Lucas and Arik are happy to have folks reach out to them directly with questions and would consider other opportunities to have further discussion on data centers and other emerging industry and economic development trends.

PRESENTATION

Hello Future! Vale Future Use

Eduardo Duffles, Vale Future Use, Brazil, presented remotely on the transformation of MAC (Mina de Águas Claras), a former mining site, into a long-term community-centered redevelopment and environmental restoration project. Duffles outlined the site's evolution from active mining operations between 1973–2002, through Vale's post-mining transition efforts beginning in 2006, to formal mine closure planning in 2010 and future redevelopment initiatives beginning in 2020.

The project emphasizes balancing biodiversity, preservation, historical significance, and sustainable future land use. Significant portions of the site are being dedicated to ecological restoration, including 48% within the Atlantic

rainforest biome and 22% within the Cerrado biome, while only a small percentage remains for pits, existing structures, and future development. The redevelopment approach focuses on "Knowing, Designing, Enabling, and Implementing," with strong stakeholder engagement and co-creation guiding environmental, physical, and legal planning throughout the process.

Through high-quality videos, Duffles showed how they are creating a people-centered destination that reconnects the community with the former mine site. Organizers highlighted innovative public engagement strategies, including the use of Minecraft as an interactive planning tool, testing events for gradual site openings, and building new partnerships to activate the space over time. Development plans include urban green space across 1,750 hectares, housing for up to 16,000 residents by 2024, and phased growth across multiple sectors over the next 15 years. Planned amenities and activities include conservation areas, urban farming through the Be Green Garden project, bike parks, trails, multi-use event spaces, and global sporting events such as the Xterra triathlon sponsored by Red Bull, along with diving and outdoor recreation opportunities. The overall vision positions MAC as a model for adaptive reuse, environmental stewardship, recreation, and community-driven redevelopment.

PRESENTATION

School Trust Lands Updates

Aaron VindeLinde, Director of Minnesota Office of School Trust Lands provided an update on Minnesota's Permanent School Fund (PSF), recreational use studies on school trust lands, and ongoing work by the PSF Distribution Task Force. The Permanent School Fund currently holds approximately $2.3 billion, growing significantly from $675 million in 2010 through strong investment performance averaging 8.71% annually. Task force members, including VandeLinde, are evaluating historical returns, endowment policies, and future distribution strategies to ensure the fund continues supporting Minnesota schools while preserving long-term growth for future generations. Current recommendations would distribute 4.5% of the fund's three-year average market value while retaining capital gains and investment growth within the endowment. School districts currently receive payments twice yearly, in September and March. VandeLinde showed how proposed changes could increase distributions to districts such as Chisholm and Rochester by approximately 40% without raising taxes. Because the constitutional language governing the fund has not been updated since 1871, a statewide constitutional amendment would be required to allow expanded distribution of capital gains, with voter approval needing a simple majority and implementation proposed for July 1, 2027.

VandeLinde covered recreation and asset management on school trust lands, highlighting the growing public use and economic importance of these areas. Recreation studies showed millions of annual hunting, fishing, boating, ATV, and park recreation visits occurring on or connected to school trust lands, including strong usage in places like Gilbert's OHV Park. VandeLinde discussed the need to better assess and manage recreational impacts while balancing conservation, public access, and revenue generation from natural resources such as timber and minerals. GIS-based data tools are being used to map and analyze trust land assets, with color-coded systems identifying timber and mineral resources.

Paul Peltier, RAMS, discussed future communication efforts surrounding the constitutional amendment campaign and public education about the Permanent School Fund's long-term benefits for Minnesota schools and communities. More information from Peltier will be shared via MVP.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM. The next MVP meeting will be Wednesday, October 21.

Mineland Vision Partnership thanks its financial contributors!