MEMBERSHIP MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, October 21, 2026 (9:30 AM – 12:00 PM)

1003 Discovery Drive | Chisholm, MN 55719

And via Teams: https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/226113958991803?p=EdFVp8LMx3q0N2cVlg

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
- Minnesota Power – IRP & Large Load Customer Update
- NewRange Copper Nickel - Project Update
- NRRI - Regional Update
- U.S. Steel - Update
- The Case for Geomorphic Design
- On the Ballot: Permanent School Trust Fund Constitutional Amendment
- Adjourn

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome & Introductions, Miriam Kero, Facilitator

Miriam Kero, MVP facilitator, welcomed participants in person and online, reviewed the partnership's vision, mission and strategic directions, and thanked MVP sponsors, including regional mining companies and Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation.

PRESENTATION

Minnesota Power – IRP & Large Load Customer Update

Arik Forsman, Strategic Accounts Manager, shared an update on Minnesota Power's energy supply, resource planning and regional electricity demand. Minnesota Power has increased its renewable energy supply and is planning for Minnesota's clean energy requirements while maintaining reliable service for its industrial customers.

The Public Utilities Commission approved refueling Boswell Unit 3 with natural gas. The future of Unit 4 and the amount of additional natural gas capacity remain under review. The utility was also directed to pursue additional battery storage, wind and demand-response capacity.

Forsman discussed a planned rate case and said that changes in industrial electricity use affect how system costs are shared. He described the proposed Google data center in Hermantown and the potential for a large new customer to spread costs across the system. Minnesota Power is modernizing its direct-current transmission terminal near Hermantown.

PRESENTATION

NewRange Copper Nickel - Project Update

Johnny Eloranta, Community Relations Advisor, described proposed design changes and the project's permitting status. The redesigned project proposes a closed-loop water system, which could reduce water discharge by up to 75%, and tailings storage in acquired former iron mine pits rather than on the legacy LTV tailings basin. A proposed covered, ~eight-mile overland conveyor would transport ore from the mine to the plant, with wildlife crossings incorporated. The proposed throughput would increase from 32,000 tons per day over 20 years to 40,000 tons per day over 16 years.

NewRange is pursuing voluntary compliance with the Global Industry Standard on Tailings Management for the legacy facility. Eloranta reported that the Minnesota DNR determined a supplemental environmental impact statement is needed for project changes; federal environmental review is also underway. Additional public comment opportunities are expected.

PRESENTATION

NRRI - Regional Update

Dr. Rolf Weberg, Director of NRRI, described research partnerships and emerging opportunities for minerals, energy and industrial innovation. NRRI is establishing a joint research alliance with the National Laboratory of the Rockies, combining laboratory modeling and energy-system capabilities with NRRI's applied research and demonstration facilities. Research topics include mineral processing, recovery of valuable materials from byproducts, water treatment, industrial energy use, and approaches to iron and steel production. Weberg emphasized moving promising technologies toward demonstration at practical scale. NRRI is helping frame an industrial transformation roadmap for Minnesota and working with partners, including industry and public agencies, on technologies and regional opportunities.

PRESENTATION

U.S. Steel - Update

Chrissy Bartovich, Senior Director of Environmental, discussed long-term mine planning, plant investment and environmental compliance at Minntac and Keetac. At Keetac, the Phase II basin project would expand use of the historic basin footprint and change the tailings construction method. Environmental review was completed in April, and permitting is underway. At Minntac, exploration drilling is planned to evaluate the quality and viability of potential future ore reserves. Bartovich stated that the company is not planning to close Minntac in 2044.

Bartovich discussed investments in downstream steel facilities and a planned direct-reduced iron facility in Arkansas that would use Keetac pellets. Minntac recovery projects seek to recover more iron during processing. Water treatment and sulfate compliance remain major priorities. At Keetac, a robotic inspection device is being used in areas that are difficult or unsafe for employees to access during operation.

PRESENTATION

The Case for Geomorphic Design

Pete Kero and Scott LaBerge of Barr Engineering, with Matt Bairda of VAST, presented an approach to designing reclaimed mine landforms that reflects natural drainage and landscape patterns. Geomorphic design uses landform modeling and designed drainage networks to improve stability, reduce erosion and support vegetation and future land use. Design choices can involve trade-offs in space, elevation and construction.

Bairda shared a side-by-side test at an iron mine in northern Sweden which compared geomorphic and conventional landforms. He reported approximately 80% less soil movement on the geomorphic site over two years and stronger early vegetation establishment. Monitoring will continue.

Pete Kero reported that a local mining company is interested in geomorphic design on a potential Iron Range test site and that partners are developing a grant application. Any local project would need to work with regulators and meet applicable requirements or obtain appropriate approvals.

PRESENTATION

On the Ballot: Permanent School Trust Fund Constitutional Amendment

Paul Peltier, RAMS Executive Director, discussed the proposed constitutional amendment on the November 3, 2026 ballot and encouraged participants to learn about it and vote on the question. Peltier explained that the permanent school fund supports public schools statewide and that revenue from school trust lands, including mining activity, contributes to the fund. He advocated for the proposed change to the distribution calculation. Peltier stated that leaving the constitutional amendment question blank would have the same effect as a no vote, and he invited attendees to the RAMS annual dinner on December 3.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM. Kero thanked participants and concluded the meeting. Kero noted the 2027 MVP meeting dates had not yet been finalized and will be distributed once confirmed. Meeting summaries and presentations approved for sharing are available on the MVP website.

Mineland Vision Partnership thanks its financial contributors!