

MEETING MINUTES

Iron County Citizens Mining Advisory Committee

DATE OF MEETING: June 21, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Church, Mike Fauerbach, Jack Giovanoni, Joe Karius, Richard Kauppila, Kelly Klein, Paul Mullard, Vic Ouimette, Patti Paige, Paul Sturgul, Peter Sturgul, C. J. Sukanen, Nick Zuvich.

There were approximately 55 members of the audience, seated and standing in the County Board Room of the Iron County Courthouse.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Paul Sturgul called the meeting to order and introduced new committee members Dick Thiede, town of Oma, and Leslie Kolesar, town of Saxon. Also introduced were Michelle Wheeler, executive director of the Bad River Water Association, and Jeff Erhardt, representing the Ashland County advisory committee.

OLD BUSINESS: Mike Fauerbach summarized the joint meeting between Ashland and Iron County committees held on June 6 with Sen. Jauch and Rep. Bewley. Fauerbach said there was considerable concern expressed over lack of transparency and information regarding any proposed legislation on mining regulation changes.

There was lengthy discussion among committee members and the audience regarding this issue. Again, there was sentiment expressed that while many supported the GTAC project the public needed to know more and have more of a say into sweeping changes that will affect the area and its residents. During this discussion, it was noted that there was no GTAC representative at this meeting.

On a related issue, in response to a question from Chairman Sturgul, Iron County Board Chairman Dennis DeRosso said the board had authorized a letter to the governor asking him to re-instate the Wisconsin Investment and Local Impact Mining Board.

NEW BUSINESS: Chairman Sturgul asked for committee input on the possibility of having an executive director for the two committees. He pointed out it took a lot of time to gather information and disseminate it to committee members. There was little response, with one suggestion that

until more is known about any proposed legislation, such a position would be premature.

Discussion returned to the issue of how the committee could get better information in order to fulfill its mission of providing information to the public at large.

Kelly Klein moved and Paul Mullard seconded a motion to invite a Rusk County representative meet with our committee to share its mining information. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** It also was moved to invite Tom Peters of Marquette County for the same purpose. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Fauerbach then moved and Zuvich seconded that the committee contact the governor and all legislative members, urging them to make any new mining bill public as soon as possible; to permit local involvement and input and hold a public hearing in Ashland or Iron County, and to have the state fund local impact committees that can help deal with major impacts of any bill, **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

NEXT MEETING: The committee expects to meet in July, but will await setting a date, dependent on availability of Rusk and Marquette County representatives.

(Minutes submitted by committee secretary Joe Karius)