

**MINING IMPACT COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 12, 2012**

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Leslie Kolesar at 4:00 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call taken, Present: Kolesar, Traczyk, Walesewicz, Klein, Youngs and Koski. Absent: None.

Motion by Youngs, seconded by Klein to approve minutes of October 30, 2012 as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

Appearance of Jason Laumann, NWRPC presented power point presentation on a mining impact analysis of the Penokee/Gogebic Range . Jason explained the scope of the analysis, cost estimates and possible funding sources that Jason has already contacted and received assurances that funding help will be available. Jason told committee that the best case scenario is all funding sources and no local county tax dollars.

Al Christianson, former City Manager of Ladysmith and mining impact member when Flambeau Mining Company had an open pit mine just south of Ladysmith. He said negotiations with the mining company took a year and half to complete and cooperation within the communities is essential. Al told committee to try to keep the tax revenues local and not let Madison take it all and give back what they wish. Al stressed that a local agreement structured through good planning with mining company will go a long way to help the local area.

Tom Bergman, Zoning Administrator was present to discuss zoning issues associated with the mining project. Tom told committee that Rusk County used a conditional use permit for Flambeau Mine or Iron County could create a mining ordinance for local mine.

Discussion was held on inviting in non-voting members to join committee. Committee members thought it might be better just to invite people with needed expertise to help committee as needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Steve Schurtter, Montreal told committee not to turn their back on a possible prison in area, good jobs. Steve also told committee that if a lake is formed from mining that fishing and a marina on the lake are possible.

Tom Tiffany, Senator-elect will be new Chairman of Senate Mining Committee. Tom told committee that mining bill will be taken up very early in January and hopes to have it passed in the first quarter in 2013. Tom also told committee he will not start over with new mining bill but will add amendments to AB 426 which was passed by Assembly in 2012.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson Kolesar told committee she had sent letter to Senator Cullen asking him for help in getting the Governor to reinstate the Mining Impact Fund Board so our mining impact committee could request funding for needed projects pertaining to mining in our area.

Next meeting will be January 3rd with Ann Kokely, Wisconsin DNR attending our meeting to discuss reclamation issues.

Joint Impact Committee will hold their first meeting on January 9th at 6PM in the Anderson Town Hall.

Frank Kempf, Ashland County Board told committee that Ashland County has set up a mining impact committee which he is a member of but have yet to meet.

Motion by Klein, seconded by Walesewicz to adjourn at 6:31 PM. All aye. Motion carried.

Michael Saari
Iron County Clerk