

MINING IMPACT COMMITTEE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 27, 2014

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call taken, Present: Kolesar, Pinardi, Koski, Klein, Youngs, Peterson and Walesewicz. Absent: None. Also present: Zoning Administrator Tom Bergman and County Supervisors Innes, Erickson, Nasi, Roberts, Mullard and Thomas. A quorum of county board was present.

Motion by Pinardi, seconded by Peterson to approve minutes of January 22, 2014 as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

Appearance of James Skurla, Director of Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Minnesota, Duluth to discuss economic impact of ferrous mining in Northeastern Minnesota. Jim explained about the number of jobs created by construction of mines, actual jobs in the mines once operating and the number of suppliers and spin off jobs related to mining activity. A reclaimed mine in Gilbert Minnesota has turned into a 600 foot deep lake that is great for local tourism. Jim told committee that even Douglas County, Wisconsin has been helped economically by the mining industry of Northern Minnesota.

Bill Williams, Gogebic Taconite gave an update on mining activities on the Penokee Range and then gave a presentation on job types and positions that will be available once mine is in operation. Bill said that future employees must be able to multi task for the company.

Walesewicz talked about how Kelly Klein, Economic Development Director needs to be talking with Gogebic Taconite now to get prepared for future economic opportunities for our area. Walesewicz also talked about how we need to look at this process as a regional idea, Iron and Ashland County working together to help the entire region not just Iron County and believes that a social economic study is needed to help the area move forward in the right direction.

Next meeting will be on March 20th with a closed session to talk about beginning local agreement negotiations with Gogebic Taconite. Chris Jaekels, county attorney will be present to discuss negotiation strategies with mining impact committee. The Joint Impact Committee will meet on April 9th at the town hall in Morse.

Motion by Klein, seconded by Koski to adjourn at 5:55 PM. All aye. Motion carried.

Michael Saari
Iron County Clerk