

MINING IMPACT COMMITTEE MINUTES
MAY 22, 2014

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Kolesar at 4:02 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Clerk Mike Saari certified that the meeting was properly called and posted.

Roll call taken, Present: Kolesar, Pinardi, Erickson, Youngs, Klein, Peterson, Hanson and Koski. Absent: Walesewicz, excused. Also present: Supervisors Nasi, Matson, Roberts, Mullard and Ouimette. A quorum of county board was present at meeting.

Motion by Pinardi, seconded by Youngs to approve minutes of March 20, 2014 as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON:

Youngs nominated Kolesar for chairperson. Kolesar called for nominations 3 times. Motion by Pinardi, seconded by Peterson to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot for Kolesar. All aye. Motion carried.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN:

Youngs nominated Scott Erickson for Vice-chairman: Kolesar called for nominations 3 times. Motion by Pinardi, seconded by Peterson to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot for Erickson. All aye. Motion carried.

Chairperson Kolesar introduced Scott Erickson, Oma and Pat Hanson, Upson as the two new members of the Mining Impact Committee. She also told committee that Kelly Klein and Joe Pinardi are Iron County's two members on the Northwoods Railroad Commission.

Larry Lynch, Wisconsin DNR gave a presentation on what Gogebic Taconite is looking at as it prepares for operation of an active mine and the reclamation process that will follow. Reclamation plan must be in place as part of the application process and G-Tac's hope is that it must only move reclamation materials once. Existing buildings may be left after the mine is closed but a plan for use of the buildings must be in place, State of Wisconsin will not let buildings just sit empty without a specific purpose. Discussion of a lake being developed at the end of the mining project was discussed with DNR hoping to have a productive lake if developed. Lynch told committee that Gogebic Taconite is responsible for reclamation not the owner of the lands, RGGGS Land & Minerals Ltd.

Tim Meyers, Gogebic Taconite gave a presentation on what G-Tac needs to do to return the land into something Iron County agrees will be acceptable in the future after reclamation is completed. Tim had a slide presentation on reclaimed mine sites, lakes, fields, etc. Meyers told committee stock piles will be a 2 to 1 slope, soil covered and then replanted. Stock piles will cover approximately 1000 acres and be up to 200 feet high.

Discussion took place on SME Conference held in Duluth with many engineers and city planners in attendance. Discussion on Monday was geared towards reclamation of existing mines in Northern Minnesota with lots of good information shared. Next SME Conference will be held in Duluth on April 13th- 15th, 2015 with a tour of the Hibbing Mine included.

Discussion was held on Joint Mining Impact Committee meeting held in Town of Morse. Bill Stutz, Larry Youngs and George Nasi are Iron County's representatives on the Committee. Well issues were discussed at last meeting with next meeting to be held on July 9th.

Discussion was held on the State Mining Impact Board which held its' first meeting to organize. Conference call was held for northern members since meeting was in Madison. Department of Revenue hosted first meeting and will hold sessions in the north in the future. Two levels of funding will be available to local communities, old monies already in fund and new monies from Gogebic Taconite with a high level of documentation required to receive funds from the State Impact Board. Chairman of Impact Board is the Secretary of Department of Revenue.

Next Iron County Impact meeting will be on June 26th with Jason Laumann, NWRPC in attendance to discuss possible economic study of impact on area if mine is opened.

Next Joint Impact meeting will be held on July 9th.

Motion by Kelly, seconded by Youngs to adjourn at 5:17 PM. All aye. Motion carried.

Michael Saari
Iron County Clerk