

MINING IMPACT COMMITTEE MINUTES
JULY 23, 2014

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

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

Motion by Pinardi, seconded by Hanson to approve minutes of June 26, 2014 as presented. All aye. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on the cost of a regional impact analysis. With only Iron County involved the cost would be about \$145,000 with between \$60,000 and \$70,000 already committed to project. Northwest Regional Planning Commission is trying to get more municipalities involved, a regional approach, for a bigger comprehensive plan which would then cost more money.

Joe Vairus, Forestry Administrator and Charlie Zinsmaster, Wisconsin DNR gave their views on what reclamation of county land could look like after project is complete. County won't have much say on what reclamation of private land will look like. Top soil from original pit will be saved for covering stock piles and will help the growing of plant materials during reclamation. Top soil depths range from 6" to 4' in most places up to 70'-80' deep in a few spots.

Public comment will be solicited for the October meeting aimed at gaining ideas for reclamation of county lands from the public. Ideas should be forwarded to County Clerk at least 10 days before the October 23rd meeting. Clerk will advertise the idea in both local newspapers and on county web site.

Bill Williams, GTAC handed out a summary of activity at the mine site during the last month. Williams told committee that between 500-600 samples came back from the lab and a report will be forwarded to the DNR and then everyone will have report at the same time.

An informational meeting was held in the Town of Morse Hall with a lot of questions coming from the audience to 2 employees of the Department of Revenue. Many questions were not answered because full state mining board is not yet seated. State of Wisconsin has \$205,000 in discretionary funds with another \$225,000 coming from GTAC for local governments to use to offset some costs of the municipalities getting ready for the mining project.

A joint mining impact committee meeting was held with Jeff Ehrhardt elected to the chairman position. Committee agreed that an impact analysis is a good idea as long a funding can be found to pay for it.

Motion by Walesewicz, seconded by Pinardi to move into closed session per 19.85 (1) e, Wisconsin Statutes for the purpose of preparing strategy for upcoming local agreement with Gogebic Taconite. Roll call. All aye. Motion carried.

CLOSED SESSION HELD:

Motion by Klein, seconded by Erickson to return to open session. Roll call. All aye. Motion carried.

Next meeting date: September 24th at 5 PM (Erickson/football practice begins). October 23rd 5 PM. Committee will solicit public comment for ideas on reclamation of county lands. Next Joint mining meeting will be October 21st at 6PM.

Motion by Pinardi, seconded by Walesewicz to adjourn at 6:05 PM. All aye. Motion carried.

Michael Saari
Iron County Clerk