

**Mining Methods, Environment, and Reclamation Subcommittee  
Minutes  
March 24, 2021**

The meeting began at 1:04 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Jim Kochevar – present

Hal Fitch – present

Evelyn Ravindran – absent

Adam Wygant – absent

Steve Kesler – present

Peter Rose – present

~~Ania-Anna~~ Ediger - present

**Others**

Doug Needham

Aaron, Michigan Building and Infrastructure magazine

Mel Humphrey

Kirk Lapham

A motion was made by Steve to approve the February 15, 2021, minutes. The motion was seconded by Hal Fitch. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

Jim – We have an outline of the report. ~~Ania-Anna~~, take us through the report.

~~Ania-Anna~~ – I had the outline from Peter and Hal. Doug provided feedback from aggregate mining. WE had background from the ~~Laurencian-Laurentian~~ Partnership. Some information was removed on specific projects. Post mining land uses regarding aggregate mining. There are regulations of aggregate mining being at the local level from Peter and Hal.

Sections 3 and 4 were combined into one section on disposal and use of land waste. I added the NEPA definition. This is a question that has been discussed.

Steve – In the first section, mining today and providing designing is written as if nonferrous will open and close and reopen where nonferrous is not.

Doug – I made comments and changes. Limestone quarries are different than sand and gravel. Limestone are open for a long time and sand and gravel are not.

Steve – Are there periods of inactivity?

Doug – yes.

Steve – Deposit is defined by property boundaries. If they change, you would have more deposits.

Doug – yes.

Peter – I don't know if that's what we are saying. There are no lower grade materials they will go back to.

Doug – This is the reclamation. We can focus on once we have a subdivision or golf course, but we don't have anyone else going back.

Steve – Reclamation is possible; mineral deposits are not completely mined. This is our opportunity to educate people who don't think about mining.

Doug – We had operations that we thought were done and have gone back in with newer equipment. It depends on the market demand to try to get the product out.

Adam – Reclamation is to make sure land is usable afterwards. We need to educate people. Even though it's reclaimed, each area is different. I am making the point that reclamation considers both secondary land use and what's left behind.

Jim – We could make the statement in front of the agenda. Here are nuances prior to closure. It could be a generation of closure.

Adam – Closures are different between mining industries.

Hal – One gravel mine to another can be a big difference in how you want to reclaim it. It needs to be flexible whether alternative use or mining.

Jim – Aggregates are regulated from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. This is a bigger conversation. [Ania-Anna](#) and I will recraft that.

Adam – We could have a couple of categories like reclamation such as mine waste and disposal. I will help [tailer-tailor](#) this. Full value of mining we can flush out.

Hal – Best management practices we need to focus on. We can't mandate if you need to coordinate with a regional authority.

Adam – My mind goes there. Tailings and waste sites we can educate the public on. Manganese was tossed to the side. There are opportunities for tailings. Beyond

compliance, critical minerals can be in the tails. Right to elevate the concept of full mining.

Jim – Do we have sufficient information to reference best industry of the best management practices?

Adam – It comes back to the question to minimize waste. We don't fully know what can be utilized. The full value of mining could be a best practice. There are a whole host of practices that could be encouraged. One mine is different than another.

Steve – I like that term. We can use it in the introduction to this section. We can include the time concept of value. There are lots of different things in deposits. Reclamation and post mine activity is part of it. The public thinks you dig a hole and don't come back.

Adam – in the interim before you come back to the mine, the public wonders what value the mine holds. Land could be useful to someone.

Jim – We saw some in the Minnesota presentation. It is not final reclaimed if it is proven to be valuable. We will incorporate these comments. We still have input from the last meeting and today to incorporate. The next iteration will be a narrative. Let's have one more meeting to fine tune things. The subcommittee output will go to the full committee.

The next meeting will be April 28, 2021, from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Jim – Any new business? Any public comments?

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m.