Twin Metals is moving ahead to present a mine plan by 2019. Regaining mineral leases that the Obama administration denied renewal of in December 2016 needs to come first.

“Twin Metals is very confident in our legal position related to the rights to renewal of our federal leases,” said Bob McFarlin, Twin Metals Minnesota spokesman.

In December 2016, the year-end directive by the Obama administration rescinded Twin Metals’ mineral leases and also proposed a 234,000-acre land withdrawal from future mining and exploration on national forest lands. This put the brakes on Twin Metals’ exploration and set in place a two-year study period. It also led to several lost jobs.

Without even having a mine plan, the U.S. Forest Service has determined that Twin Metals’ proposed mine near the Boundary Waters would possibly be too damaging to the Rainy River Watershed in the event there was a mine runoff. Twin Metals is years from presenting a mine plan, yet several listening sessions were held with people commenting on their support or opposition to a mine.

Twin Metals is hoping the Trump administration will reverse the previous administration’s decision that put the company’s project on hold. The company, as well as Minnesota legislators, have been lobbying the Trump administration to renew (Continued on Page Two)
Twin Metals Minnesota moving ahead

(Continued from Page One)

their leases and for the land withdrawal application to be denied. In fact, Minnesota Congressman Tom Emmer introduced the MINER Act which requires approval from elected Representatives in Congress for any federal proposal to withdraw land from mining, or establishment of national monuments in Minnesota. Additionally, this legislation would allow the renewal of mineral leases in the area and would ensure that future leases in the area remain valid and renewed, consistent with current law.

Bob McFarlin told the Duluth News Tribune that the company continues “to gather baseline environmental data and develop the engineering that will be part of the company’s formal mine project proposal expected to be put forth to state and federal agencies in late 2018 or early 2019.”

The Environmental Impact Statement will provide more information about the size and cost of the underground mine project. Protecting area waterways will also be addressed. Twin Metals has already spent over $400 million on the project south of Ely. It will take another $1.2 billion to develop the mine. It is projected the mine would employ 650 people.

“Conservation is the wise use of our resources”
— Gifford Pinchot, 1st Chief of USFS, 1907

CWCS mission statement: To educate the public in order to preserve reasonable access to and sensible, multiple-use recreation of public lands and waters (including motorized uses) in Northeastern Minnesota, especially the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW), with care for the environment.
Meetings and hearings. Comments and more comments. That’s what the summer consisted of for people living on the Iron Range.

In early June I spoke to about 70 people at the 710 Club meeting in Duluth. They all seemed pretty receptive to the issues of copper/nickel mining and learning about the School Trust Lands in the Boundary Waters.

One comment made was on the unfairness of the listening sessions, where all names – pro and con mining – are put into the same box. The woman said the March session was heavy with anti-mining comments and less names drawn for mining. I wrote to Forest Service Supervisor Connie Cummins about having two separate boxes for the names and alternate drawing names for speakers from each box.

In June I was also notified and asked to attend the Lake County Commissioners’ meeting. Chair Rich Sve informed me that the Save the Boundary Waters group would be requesting the board pass a resolution in support of the federal land withdrawal. Mine and timber sales, two allowable activities in the Superior National Forest, are the biggest contributors to the School Trust Fund. Fortunately, the commissioners did not pass a resolution in support of the federal land withdrawal. In fact, they had passed a resolutions months before in opposition.

In July, two listening sessions were scheduled on the Obama land withdrawal of over 400,000 acres in the Superior National Forest from future mining. The session in St. Paul was boycotted by all of northern Minnesota. The Virginia session was attended by over a thousand supporters of copper/nickel mining and by about one hundred anti-mining people. Before the hearing there was a rally at The Field of Dreams with most of those one thousand supporters. We all walking to the high school behind the huge ‘We Support Mining sign’. There were so many great speakers in support of copper/nickel mining, who opposed the land withdrawal and mining ban, and who want the established process followed.

Interesting to note, even though pro-mining people out-numbered the anti-mining people 10 to 1, of the fifty speakers drawn, only thirty-seven were pro-mining. That’s only four times more pro mining than against mining. How could so many anti-mining speakers be drawn out of a pool of a thousand? The answer may be that the boxes of names were taken into another room and not drawn in public. The comment made at my speaking at the 710 Club was duly noted.

CWCS had another successful showing at the Blueberry Arts Festival and the Harvest Moon Festival in Ely. Member ships and raffle tickets kept us busy. We are so thankful for all the support we get at these events.

This year’s winners of the CWCS boat raffle are:
- Boat package goes to Rick Jewett, Brooklyn Center
- Grand Fishing package goes to O’Neil Westling, Duluth
- Framed BWCA print goes to Misty Merhar, Ely

Congratulations winners, and thank you for supporting CWCS!

Message from the President

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Nancy McReady
CWCS President

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Christmas, birthday or graduation?
How about a CWCS membership,
CWCS hat or t-shirt? Check out the framed ‘Boundary Waters Camp’ print at: www.cwcs.org
Rom, Carron are at it again,

by Tom Coombe, reprinted from Oct. 21, 2017 Ely Echo

Political fallout crossed party lines and reverberated across Minnesota last week over comments made by two of the leading opponents of proposed copper-nickel mining projects.

Democrats and Republicans and those on both sides of the ongoing mining dispute found common ground Oct. 13 in condemning remarks made by Ely area resident Becky Rom, who chairs the national Save the Boundary Waters Campaign, and her husband, Reid Carron.


Carron is quoted as saying “Resentment is the primary driver of the pro-mining crowd here. They are resentful that other people have come here and been successful while they were sitting around waiting for a big mining company. They want somebody to just give them a job so they can all drink beer with their buddies and go four-wheeling and snowmobiling with their buddies, not have to think about anything except punching a clock.”

Rom, who earlier this year, was quoted as saying anti-mining forces would gain an advantage “one funeral at a time,” told reporter Reid Forgrave that Ely council member and mining advocate Dan Forsman “drives to the mine in his truck, comes home and watches TV, and he doesn’t know this world exists,” referring to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

The article appeared in Sunday’s New York Times but was posted online Oct. 12.

Rom and Carron both issued public apologies within hours, calling their own remarks “inaccurate and untrue,” but by then a firestorm had erupted.

Elected officials and labor leaders offered blistering rebukes, and even mining opponents distanced themselves from statements that went viral, fueled in part by social media.

Jason George, political and special projects director for the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 49, said “it disgusts me. There is no other way to put it.

“In my opinion, and in my experience sitting through public hearing after public hearing listening to environmental activists dismiss and belittle construction jobs, the sentiments expressed by Rom and Carron very accurately reflect the way most anti-mining, anti-pipeline, and anti-development groups really feel about the hardworking people of northern Minnesota,” said George. “Minnesota’s blue-collar workers, the men and women I am proud to fight for, deserve better.”

Ely Mayor Chuck Novak said the remarks “didn’t come as any surprise to me.”

“I think, as anyone involved in this issue can relate, I and other supporter would say ‘this is their feeling,’” said Novak. “They expressed their true feelings Every once in awhile we let our guard down and get too comfortable and say something we really didn’t intend to get out in the public.”

Of the subsequent apology by Rom and Carron, Novak said “there just appears to be a total lack of sincerity - it was a damage control piece.”

Kelsey Johnson, president of the Iron Mining Association called “the mischaracterization of Minnesota iron miners, industry supporters, and students pursuing mining-related degrees egregious.

“These are dedicated, responsible, innovative people who certainly ‘know the world exists’ and work every day – including in their spare time – to make our world a better place,” said Johnson, pointing out recent fundraising and relief efforts by iron miners and others who work in the industry to aid those affected by recent hurricanes.

U.S. Rep. Tom Emmer (R), who visited Ely this summer and has introduced legislation aimed at jumpstarting the Twin Metals Minnesota copper-nickel mining project near Ely said “this nation was built on the backs of the American worker, and Minnesota was built on the backs of Minnesota miners. For some Minnesota families, mining is in their blood going back to the beginning of Minnesota’s statehood. These men and women are responsible for keeping our towns, our state, and our country alive. They are the ones we have to thank for providing the precious metals needed for our cell phones, computers, vehicles and wind turbines.

Apparentely, Save the Boundary Waters’ leaders think rather differently.

“All Americans, and all Minnesotans, have the right to say or believe what they will, but that is not the Minnesota Nice we are known for, and I am embarrassed to hear fellow Minnesotans speak so disparagingly about our neighbors. The next time Save the Boundary Waters leaders voice their opposition, I hope they take a minute to realize all they have thanks to the mining industry and the incredible workers who provided it to them.”

U.S. Rep. Rick Nolan also criticized the remarks, adding, “we are extremely proud of our miners and our heritage up on the Iron Range. They have made important contributions to our country, our communities, and our way of life.”

Nolan indicated his office had received an apology from Rom and Carron.

While copper-nickel mining advocates weren’t shy about expressing their outrage, the furore extended beyond the traditional battle lines in the ongoing dispute over copper-nickel mining.

The Save the Boundary Waters Campaign issued its own statement of apology while another anti-mining group - Conservation Minnesota - distanced itself.

“Reid Carron’s description of people who support copper-nickel mining is nothing short of disgusting,” said Paul Austin, executive director of Converson Minnesota. “This is an important conversation that requires each of us to work to understand each other’s perspectives on the issue so we can reach a positive resolution. There is no place for demeaning fellow Minnesotans.”

Ken Martin, chairman of the Minnesota DFL Party, also issued a statement as the party looks to maintain a fragile coalition on the Iron Range.

Amid an intraparty battle between pro-mining union members and environmental interests that have stepped up opposition to copper-nickel projects, Martin said “These judgmental comments wrongfully disparage thousands of hard-working Minnesotans. There’s no question that the issue of mining in northern Minnesota is a contentious one. But there’s no room in the debate for sharp-tongued attacks on Minnesotans who work hard every day to provide for their families and support our state’s economy.

“Here in Minnesota, we value civility. We treat each other with respect. We must keep this debate healthy, productive, and focused on the issue at hand. Because at the end of the day, we all want the same thing: a better life for our family and a brighter future for our state.”

In an apology released to a Duluth television station and later sent to the Echo, Rom and Carron wrote that Carron’s was “disrespectful and untrue.”

“First and most important, the statement is untrue with respect to the thousands of people across northeastern Minnesota who work hard every day and who believe that developing copper mines will provide worthwhile economic opportunities for
denigrating mining employees

them, for people they care about, and for our communities,” they wrote. “We respect people who get up at 4:30 am to drive to work in Minnesota’s taconite mines. Second, the statement is untrue because it does not reflect what we think. Living in the Ely community, we depend on people all the time who we know hold a different view than we do on whether copper mining would be a good thing. When we do business with them, they are helpful and generous, and we treat each other with mutual respect.

“For Reid to say that people like that are sitting around waiting for a big mining company to give them a job or Becky to question if Dan Forsman has been into the Boundary Waters is disrespectful. We apologize for these statements.”

Novak said he was happy with the content and context of the piece, which compared and contrasted the battle over copper-nickel mining projects and disputes over whether Ely should pursue mining jobs or focus on an “amenities-based economy.”

The Ely Echo’s Tom Coome is quoted in the article, noting the vast differences in perspective between the competing interests.

Novak said he found the article to be more fair than many that have been written about the dispute.

“I’m disappointed the focus is primarily on those two statements, when this is the first time I think that there was a fair article that gave sufficient ink to the pro-mining side,” said Novak.

An apology that doesn’t hold water

Extreme preservation leaders Becky Rom and Reid Carron with Northeastern Minnesotans for Wilderness’ campaign Save the Boundary Waters have not had a good time of it lately. Their comments about Iron Rangers have drawn fire from even their ardent political supporters trying to distance themselves from such comments.

Two recent articles, one by Sally Franson for The Progressive - http://progressive.org/magazine/BattleforBoundaryWaters/ stated Rom confided that those of her side plans to win the argument “one funeral at a time.” In the other article in the New York Times by Reid Forgrave - www.nytimes.com/2017/10/12/magazine/in-northern-minnesota-two-economies-square-off-mining-vs-wilderness.html both Rom and Carron pretty much looked down on the hardworking people of the Iron Range. In the aftermath of both articles Rom and Carron said the statements quoted were untrue.

Many supporters of the proposed copper/nickel projects say the projects will move forward “one election at a time” as more legislators, from both parties, are putting their support behind PolyMet and Twin Metals.

In a recent reply from St. Louis County Commissioner Tom Rukavina who was also quoted in the New York Times article saying, “I don’t want to be anybody’s Sherpa”, Rukavina got this one right. It was no insult to call tourist-related workers Sherpas. That is what people are called in other parts of the world who do the heavy lifting.

It is long overdue for preservation groups to come to the table and work together with the mining companies to assure copper/nickel mining is done right. We need to work together to preserve the health of our communities on the Iron Range, including Duluth.

The Power of Social Media

CWCS has found there is power in social media on Facebook and on Twitter. Minnesota Miners, another grassroots volunteer group, has been instrumental in reaching out to other groups all across the West in support of mining.

Here in Minnesota the main objective is supporting Twin Metals and PolyMet’s quest to start copper/nickel mining in NE Minnesota. We also support the federal government returning control of public lands back to local government entities and the people who live here.

Sharing information on Facebook between various pages – CWCS, We Support Minnesota Mining, Minnesota Miners, Up North Jobs, Better in Our Backyard, Jobs for Minnesotans, and several pages out West has been very helpful to our cause. Washington D.C. has been taking notice! We are making a difference!

The major tool used to get our message out to the people who have influence over the current situation here in the Superior National Forest, or somewhere in the West, is Twitter. As President Trump has demonstrated, since he first decided to run for president, it can be a very effective tool when done in the right way.

On occasions, direct email to legislators is used to get our message out when the issue can’t be done justice in only characters on Twitter, or if the person or organization we are trying to contact doesn’t have Twitter. We have used email several times over the last few months with excellent success.

Lastly, letters to editor of area newspapers is a way to convey our message to a wider area and base of people.

Our goal of pooling our resources, sharing information and assisting each other in any way we can has been an invaluable way of working together, presenting a unified front in support of mining not only in Minnesota but in all of America.

People ask “What can I do?” The answer is simple. Join a pro-mining group or organization such as CWCS and support them financially and by volunteering. Participate in listening sessions and submit comments during any open comment period concerning mining. Write letters to the editor to let your voice be heard. Join CWCS, Minnesota Miners and Up North Jobs on Facebook and Twitter.

It is going to take all of us to win this fight for our way of life for mining in NE Minnesota, and for mining out West. Healthy communities depend on a healthy economy.
Five compelling reasons for copper-nickel mining in MN

From www.betterinourbackyard.com

Copper-nickel mining in Minnesota is an issue often met with intense debate. Is copper-nickel mining right for Minnesota? Can it be done safely? Will our watersheds be safe? Will the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness be impacted?

These are valid questions, and it is important that they are asked (and answered) publicly. The copper-nickel mining industry doesn’t seek to hide in the shadows but rather to provide the public with answers to all these questions and concerns and more within the process of opening a mine.

There are five important reasons that the current copper-nickel mining project proposed by PolyMet is a smart choice for Minnesota.

1. Human Safety

There is no safer place to operate a copper-nickel mine than right here in the United States of America, where protecting human health is a top priority. Before a mine can open, mining operations in the U.S. undergo very rigorous human health risk assessments to be sure any potential risks are mitigated. This protects workers and citizens alike and pays close attention to high-risk groups, like kids or the elderly.

The Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) sets health and safety standards to protect workers with exposure limits to air pollutants and water quality issues – and mining operations are required to maintain ongoing compliance for the duration of operations. Regulators aren’t going to simply hand over the keys and say “See you when you’re done!” after permits are issued.

2. Environmental Safety

The U.S. mining industry is highly regulated – and for good reason. Exhaustive environmental review processes ensure that a mine can operate within all federal, state, and local regulations before any mining activity commences. That means tailings basins will be stable. Water quality will meet or exceed federal standards. Effective long-term water treatment plans are in place. Culturally significant lands and wetlands will always be protected. Recreational opportunities won’t be impeded by a mine.

We understand that the American people are very protective of their land. The people who will operate copper-nickel mining facilities are Americans too. They also care that northern Minnesota stays the incredible, beautiful place it is today.

3. Local Jobs

The Iron Range was founded on mining. Iron ore built the region, state and nation. Without the mining industry, cities like Ely, Virginia, Hibbing, Biwabik, and more wouldn’t exist as we know them today. The landscape of the Twin Ports would be vastly different. We’re proud of our history in mining and the jobs it created.

Today, we believe we are ready for the next generation of mining. Copper-nickel mining at PolyMet’s NorthMet project site is the smart next step for Minnesota. This project will provide more than 5,100 people with good-paying jobs and contribute over $419 million in annual earning in our state. That’s not money we can shy away from.

Our friends and neighbors are counting on the jobs this mine will create. Jobs at the NorthMet mine will make it possible for many Minnesotans to support their families. We need mining jobs in order for the Iron Range to survive.

4. Economic Stability

This is a “don’t put all your eggs in one basket” type of thing. A diverse economy is a strong economy. A complex mix of thriving industries like manufacturing, shipping, finance, legal, healthcare, real estate, retail, tourism, and more all contribute to a stable economy. That means more job opportunities, more income, and more stability for everyday citizens.

The mining industry has long been a contributor to northern Minnesota’s economy. Studies have shown that while the tourism industry helps make an area an attractive place to build a home, the mining industry makes it possible for workers to afford a comfortable lifestyle. It all plays together.

5. Global Demand

We know the current state of renewable energy infrastructure is not strong enough to support increased demand. As we move toward a more sustainable future, we must invest in infrastructure. We can’t have wind energy without both on and offshore wind turbine infrastructure. We can’t harness energy from the sun without adequate solar panel technology. And when we need to store the green energy we create, we’re going to need more batteries. Infrastructure for these renewable energy resources requires large amounts of copper and other metals found on the Iron Range.

To achieve a more sustainable future through the smart use of our natural resources, we cannot afford to ignore the very metals we need to build the appropriate infrastructure. That means we must open PolyMet’s copper-nickel mine, and where better than right here? We have the metals. We have the workforce. We have the infrastructure. We have the care and respect for our environment and workforce. Let’s put it to work for all of us.

USFS fact check needed

The Forest Service needs to update the facts for their Boundary Waters permits. The permit continues to put out false information stating, “Remember, you are one of 250,000 annual visitors to the Boundary Waters.” Forest Service records show that permit numbers haven’t exceeded 114,000 since 2009.

Also, the Fall Lake and Beyond motor permit only states the permit’s use for Newton and motor portions of Basswood. Why is the motor portion of Fall Lake in the Boundary Waters not mentioned?

“Everyone has a listening-point somewhere. It does not have to be in the north or close to the wilderness, but some place of quiet where the universe can be contemplated with awe.”

Passage from Listening Point by Sigurd Olson
Forest Service planning to drop BWCAW lottery system in 2018

The U.S. Forest Service plans to do away with a permit lottery system that has been in place for many years. After the 2018 season, lottery permits will become first come, first serve, creating a mad rush for BWCA users.

Lottery permits are only in place for the entry points with the highest demand. This includes the very popular day use motor entry permits at Fall Lake and Moose Lake to get to Basswood Lake. A lottery system is also used for overnight paddle and motor permits through Fall Lake and Moose Lake. The five entry points are listed as D, F, G, 24 and 25.

“People were submitting several applications for the same date to be sure they got one,” said Forest Supervisor Connie Cummins. “This way without the lottery you can make a reservation on a given date and if it’s not available you’ll know it right then rather than trying to get one through the lottery.”

This decision will create a logjam of people trying to get permits at the exact second they become available, whether it’s 10 a.m. or midnight some day likely in January.

Individuals and outfitters will again be lining up friends and family members on computers to hit the enter button as soon as the permits come on line.

“At least all the permits will have users with one permit who can go in and you apply for the date you want,” said Cummins. “There’s no foolproof system but permits will be used by people who are really out there.”

Area fishermen and outfitters are bound to be frustrated with the change.

“I don’t think this is going to solve the problem and I think they’re going to have more problems,” was the initial reaction from Ely outfitter Bob LaTourrell.

At one point all BWCA overnight paddle and all motor permits were done through a lottery. The Forest Service changed that for the 2012 season and has made little changes since.

The other change going in to effect in 2018 is a fee of $4 when applying for a lottery permit. The Forest Service was being charged a fee from the company that handles the permits for every application submitted. That cost is now being passed on to the user, whether they get a permit or not.

“This is to discourage people to put in 10 applications for the same day,” said Cummins.

This year the Forest Service has already implemented an increase in reservation fees from $6 to $10.

In a letter sent out on Sept. 15, the Forest Service stated, “Eliminating the lottery will create a reservation system that is less complicated, consistent, fair and remove the need for a separate process for submitting lottery applications at the start of a season. This reservation model will also better serve those who want to make a reservation.”

Sulfate Wild Rice a non-issue

It appears we don’t have a wild rice problem. The issue with the proposed MPCA Sulfate rule is it is based on faulty research that will bankrupt cities and destroy the mining industry in Minnesota.

Politicians, Democrat and Republican: Is it worth creating a solution for a problem which doesn’t appear to exist? This flowage is below the Dunka and Northshore mines which head directly into the Boundary Waters. Dunka Pit has been monitored by the MPCA since 1977 without any impact to Birch Lake or the Boundary Waters. The studies at a minimum should be scientifically sound before jumping off of that financial cliff. It certainly does not appear to be the case now.
Please check your mailing label! This is your last newsletter if dues not up to date!

If you have paid your membership, there will be a PD 2017 amount above your name.

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