

Minnesota Minerals Education Workshop

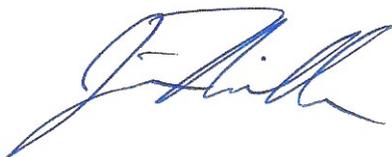
Executive Summary

A total of 86 participants registered for the 18th annual Minnesota Minerals Education Workshop (MMEW) held June 16-18, 2015 at University of Minnesota, Duluth (UMD) in Duluth, MN. This is the second highest number of attendees, exceeding the average MMEW attendance of 68. Attendees were largely K-12 earth science teachers from throughout Minnesota, but also included college educators, retired teachers, and approximately 10 non-teachers. The workshop involved 22 instructors and volunteers from various academic institutions, K-12 schools, state agencies, and mining, exploration, and geo-engineering companies.

The first day of the workshop was devoted to participants attending four out of 16 short course offerings on a variety of geologic and mineral resource topics. All participants attended a noon-hour talk by La Tisha Gietzen, Polymet Vice President of Public, Government, and Environmental Affairs. She presented a talk titled, "Diversify the Economy AND Protect the Environment." After the short courses, teachers were presented with educational resources which included gifts of bedrock geology wall maps, hand lenses, magnets, rock samples, Minnesota Agate book, geological posters, a jump drive loaded with a variety of teacher resources, an MMEW logo tote bag and an MMEW logo water bottle. Most registrants attended a picnic dinner at Lester River Park and bus tour of flood damaged areas led by Chris Kleist, Storm Water Coordinator for the City of Duluth.

The second and third days of the workshop were devoted to field trips highlighting the geology and mineral resources near Minnesota's North Shore and near Tamarack, MN. The teachers split into two busloads and alternated routes on Wednesday and Thursday. One of the day trips went to Tamarack and viewed Rio Tinto's NI-CU-PGE Exploration office. Then they had lunch at Jay Cook State Park and stopped at many Duluth area geologic highlights. The other day trip Toured Cliffs North Shore Taconite Plant and Tailings Basin in Silver Bay. After a lunch stop at Split Rock Lighthouse overlook the group learned about North Shore geology and made multiple stops on the return trip.

Financially, the 2015 MMEW was a success. Total expenses for the workshop were \$13,667 which was about \$5,972 under budget. The reason for this large savings was that most of the instructors were local and did not need travel or lodging reimbursement. Scholarships totaling \$1650 were provided by the Iron Mining Association of MN, Mining Minnesota, and Aggregate Ready Mix of MN to 49 participants for discounted lodging at UMD dormitories. Feedback received in surveys (Appendix C) completed by most participants was again largely favorable and contained many helpful comments and suggestions for improving future workshops.



Jim Miller
2015 MMEW Co-Chair



Hannah Friedrich
2015 MMEW Co-Chair