

**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Oklahoma Mining Commission  
10:30 A.M., Thursday, September 18, 2025  
Cameron Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and  
Zoom Videoconference**

**Commission Members Present**

Jim Brakefield  
John Curtis, Vice Chairman  
James Kemp

Kurt Klutts, Chairman  
Stan Krukowski

**Others Present:**

Suzen Rodesney, ODM  
Jenna Bedwell, ODM  
Clayton Eubanks, ODM  
Benita Jose-Mathew, ODM  
Travis Shore, ODM  
Rawles Roberts, III, ODM  
Mike Lewis, ODM  
Andrea Adams, ODM

Bob Butler, ODM  
Ginna Harmon, ODM  
Marysue Martin, ODM  
Robert Thomas, ODM  
Troy Young, ODM  
Michael Reed, OMTI  
Michelle Wynn, Secretary of Energy & Environment

The scheduled regular meeting of the Oklahoma Mining Commission was called to order in accordance with the Open Meeting Laws at 10:30 a.m. by Commissioner Kurt Klutts, Chairman of the Commission.

**Meeting Place:** Cameron Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Zoom Videoconference. Roll call was made and a quorum was declared with five (5) members present. Commissioners Caldwell, Donoley, Hefty and Helm were absent.

**Safety Moment:** Reclamation Project Manager Mike Lewis gave a brief presentation on Lyme disease which is transmitted by blacklegged ticks such as deer ticks. Mr. Lewis reviewed the symptoms of Lyme disease and advised people to notify their doctors of tick bites as it may take a while for symptoms to appear. Mr. Lewis also reviewed ways to protect oneself from tick bites and how to safely remove a tick. The group discussed the benefits of using permethrin or sulfur water on clothing for protection against ticks.

**Motion 1, August 21, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made by Commissioner Kemp and seconded by Commissioner Krukowski that the minutes of the August 21, 2025, meeting be approved. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with five (5) aye votes.

**Brakefield: Aye  
Curtis: Aye  
Kemp: Aye  
Klutts: Aye  
Krukowski: Aye**

**Director's Report:** Director Rodesney greeted everyone and reported the following:

Funding Update

- The FY2027 Budget Request is due October 1, 2025. ODM will request additional funding for salary adjustments for agency staff and another \$100,000 for additional enhancements for the agency's IT and website.
- FY2026 funding provided for the addition of a hydrologist. The job notice will be posted soon.

- ODM received notice that the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) grant for FY2025 (October 2024-September 2025) has been approved in the amount of \$187,963. The MSHA grant helps fund the Oklahoma Miner Training Institute (OMTI) program. ODM also received approval for a no-cost extension.

#### Modernizing Efforts

- ODM is continuing to contract with the Department of Corrections for digitization services. Approximately 90% of the active files have been digitized. This project needs to be completed for the website mapping addition.
- Agency administration met with registered vendor MTX to discuss possible website and technology enhancements. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled to further discuss a project roadmap and incremental pricing options.

#### Reclamation Projects

- ODM has set a goal of six projects for the fiscal year. A delay with the landowner prevented completion of one scheduled project, but an alternative plan is being proposed. Continued progress is being made on other projects.

#### Year-in-Review

- Mrs. Rodesney presented a brief Year-in-Review of the agency's successes and advancements for her second year as ODM's Director.
- All accomplishments have been reported previously in other meetings but were compiled now into topical bullet points for easy review.
- Mrs. Rodesney highlighted the budget increases ODM has received in the last two years. She indicated her one-on-one meetings with various legislators were beneficial in obtaining additional funding. Other noteworthy highlights included meeting with MSHA for a demonstration of their inspection reporting software and implementation of "blitz" inspections for mine sites that needed additional attention.
- Director Rodesney concluded her report with a look to the future including partnering with OMTI and Eastern Oklahoma State College for better working relationships and program enhancements, technological advancements to make permitting and mapping information more readily accessible to the public and inspection staff in the field and continued unscheduled amplified mine site inspections to improve the safety of Oklahoma's mines.

**Financial Report:** Chief Financial Officer Benita Jose-Mathew reported the agency has expended approximately \$406,600 or 14% of its overall budget thus far in FY2026 and is 17% (2 months) through the fiscal year. ODM is managing its expenses and staying below budget. The agency had \$5,800 in its revolving fund as of August 31. While this appears low, Ms. Jose-Mathew noted, there are funds in the clearing account eligible for transfer. The revolving fund and the clearing account balances are shown on page 2. The third page shows that agency collections are steady through 14% of the fiscal year with 19% of the budgeted non-coal production fees collected. FY2025 ended with 83 million tons reported. ODM estimates FY2026 will see 84 million tons reported. Expenditures are shown on the fourth page, broken down by major cost categories. The rent of space category shows an overage due to two months' rent being paid in July. This will even out as the fiscal year progresses. ODM also rented meeting room space for legal proceedings such as formal hearings on permit applications. Page 5 is ODM's financial history page. The most recent billing statement from Eastern Oklahoma State College (EOSC) for OMTI expenses was shared

with the Commission in August. No new billing has been received. At the end of her report Ms. Jose-Mathew offered to answer questions. One question asked was how ODM estimates production for the annual budget. Ms. Jose-Mathew indicated she uses a two-year average and Director Rodesney added administration also visit with inspection staff about changes they are seeing in the field. Another question related to civil penalties and Mrs. Rodesney explained the only civil penalties collected now are for non-mining blasting violations and mining without a permit fines. There used to be a lot of civil penalties collected from coal program violations. Ms. Jose-Mathew also explained ODM currently has about \$1.2 million in the special account for forfeited bonds. These funds will be used to reclaim forfeited mine sites.

**OMTI Report:** OMTI Director Michael Reed submitted the FY2025 Training Report for October 2024 – August 2025 to the Commission. Since he did not attend last month's meeting, Mr. Reed explained he would provide updates for June, July, and August. The third quarter ended in June with 1,070 certificates being issued, which was 9.4% over last year. Overall, June and July were not busy training months, but this allowed OMTI's staff extra time to prepare for the annual safety conference. In August 669 certificates were issued compared to last August with only 488 certificates. Mr. Reed reported there were five private classes held during the month resulting in 190 certificates being issued. This year's safety conference was a success with 246 people in attendance. Mr. Reed noted ODM Inspector Troy Young was instrumental in helping organize speakers for the conference and the conference received a lot of positive feedback. Randy Harp, the new President of Eastern Oklahoma State College, attended the conference banquet along with Trisha White, Vice President of Business Affairs. Mr. Reed indicated he has had several meetings with President Harp who has asked Mr. Reed to serve on a leadership team at the college. There have been 23 fatalities nationwide in 2025 and Mr. Reed noted one of them occurred in Oklahoma. Over the last three years, three Oklahoma miners have died in mine related fatal accidents. Mr. Reed shared photographs of the fallen miners reminding the group of the significance of what ODM and OMTI do for Oklahoma.

**Motion 2, Vote for Executive Session authorized by the Open Meetings Act, 25 O.S., Section 307 (B.4) Review of Litigation Involving ODM and 25 O.S., Section 307 (B.1) Discussion of Director's Compensation:** A motion was made by Commissioner Brakefield and seconded by Vice Chairman Curtis to enter Executive Session. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with five (5) aye votes.

**Brakefield: Aye**

**Curtis: Aye**

**Kemp: Aye**

**Klutts: Aye**

**Krukowski: Aye**

Chairman Klutts asked Chief Financial Officer Benita Jose-Mathew, Chief Counsel Clayton Eubanks, and Recording Secretary Jenna Bedwell to attend the Executive Session.

**Executive Session:** Chief Counsel Clayton Eubanks reviewed litigation involving the agency with the Commission. (25 O.S., Section 307 (B.4). Chairman Klutts led discussion regarding the Director's compensation. (25 O.S., Section 307 (B.1).

**Motion 3, Vote to Return to Regular Session:** A motion was made by Vice Chairman Curtis and seconded by Commissioner Kemp to return to regular session. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with five (5) aye votes.

**Brakefield: Aye**  
**Curtis: Aye**  
**Kemp: Aye**  
**Klutts: Aye**  
**Krukowski: Aye**

**Motion 4, Vote on Executive Session item (Discussion of Director's Compensation):** Chairman Klutts indicated the Commission had compared Director Rodesney's salary to other agency heads and her salary is still below average for the agency's assigned compensation tier. A motion was made by Commissioner Kemp and seconded by Commissioner Krukowski to increase the Director's salary by \$15,000, which is an annual increase of twelve percent. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with five (5) aye votes.

**Brakefield: Aye**  
**Curtis: Aye**  
**Kemp: Aye**  
**Klutts: Aye**  
**Krukowski: Aye**

**New Business:** There was no new business.

**Motion 5, Adjournment:** A motion was made by Commissioner Kemp and seconded by Vice Chairman Curtis to adjourn the meeting. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with five (5) aye votes.

**Brakefield: Aye**  
**Curtis: Aye**  
**Kemp: Aye**  
**Klutts: Aye**  
**Krukowski: Aye**

The meeting was adjourned until the next scheduled meeting date of December 11, 2025, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

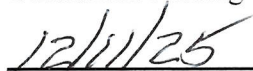
**APPROVED:**



Jenna Bedwell, Executive Assistant  
Oklahoma Department of Mines



Mark Helm, Secretary  
Oklahoma Mining Commission



Date