

**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Oklahoma Mining Commission  
10:30 A.M., Thursday, December 11, 2025  
Credit Union House, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and  
Zoom Videoconference**

**Commission Members Present**

Jim Brakefield	Mark Helm, Secretary
Tommy Caldwell	James Kemp
John Curtis, Vice Chairman	Kurt Klutts, Chairman
Chad Hefty	Stan Krukowski

**Others Present:**

Suzen Rodesney, ODM	Loney Gregory, ODM
Jenna Bedwell, ODM	Ginna Harmon, ODM
Clayton Eubanks, ODM	Mike Lewis, ODM
Benita Jose-Mathew, ODM	Marysue Martin, ODM
Travis Shore, ODM	Robert Thomas, ODM
Rawles Roberts, III, ODM	Troy Young, ODM
Andrea Adams, ODM	Michael Reed, OMTI
Bob Butler, ODM	Michelle Wynn, Secretary of Energy & Environment
Mike Darneal, ODM	

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:** Credit Union House, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Zoom Videoconference. Roll call was made and a quorum was declared with eight (8) members present. Commissioner Donoley was absent.

**Safety Moment:** Lead Inspector Troy Young gave a brief presentation on Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) procedures which included the definition and relevant photographs. Mr. Young indicated ODM has written seven violations in the last couple of months for LOTO issues. Every operator indicated they knew the law, and some thought the equipment had been properly locked and tagged, but it wasn't. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), 120 worker fatalities and 50,000 injuries are prevented in the United States each year by proper use of lockout/tagout procedures. Mr. Young indicated ODM field inspectors continue to emphasize LOTO procedures. ODM's November safety gram covered this topic.

**Motion 1, September 18, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes:** Secretary Helm made a motion that the minutes of the September 18, 2025, meeting be approved. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with eight (8) aye votes.

**Brakefield: Aye  
Caldwell: Aye  
Curtis: Aye  
Hefty: Aye  
Helm: Aye  
Kemp: Aye  
Klutts: Aye  
Krukowski: Aye**

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

#### Funding Update

- The FY2027 Budget Request was submitted October 1, 2025. Additional funding for agency staff salary adjustments and additional enhancements for the agency's IT and website was requested. ODM will have its House of Representatives budget performance meeting on December 16, and Mrs. Rodesney will meet with Senate Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Senator Thompson on December 17. During these meetings ODM will discuss last year's accomplishments and plans for the coming fiscal year.
- ODM has conducted five interviews for the hydrologist position. Funding for this position was approved for FY2026. Mrs. Rodesney confirmed the proposed salary and benefits and discussed the type of employee the agency hopes to attract.

#### Modernizing Efforts

- The first phase of the digitization project is complete. 100% of the active files have been scanned. ODM can now move forward with vendor MTX Group, Inc. on the website mapping addition.
- ODM has signed the contract with MTX Group, Inc. for website and technology enhancements. The agency is under budget for this phase at \$99,760, which includes a year of maintenance support following the Go-Live. The eight-week implementation is planned to begin in January after the holidays.

#### Reclamation Projects

- ODM has set a goal of six projects for the fiscal year. Four have been completed to date. Continued progress on other sites planned is moving forward.

#### Legislation

- Several legislative bills are being tracked and monitored. There are eight (8) carryover shell bills related to mining reform, modernization, and efficiency. Some of these were authored by Speaker Hilbert. Other bills of interest are as follows:
  - House Bill 1146 by Representative Humphrey allows counties, after being authorized by a special election, to levy a tax on mined materials sold within the county. This is a carryover bill.
  - House Bill 2166 by Representative Pfeiffer establishes additional standards and duties on newspapers dealing with public notice. This is a carryover bill.
  - Senate Bill 1196 by Senator Bullard modifies various provisions of the Mining Lands Reclamation Act to require formal hearings during required processes. This is a newly filed bill for the upcoming session.

#### Recent Events

- Mrs. Rodesney and her administrative staff met with various legislators regarding a pending expansion application for Covia Solutions, LLC. The representatives wanted to discuss how the existing moratorium affects the pending application and suggested possible changes to the law may be considered. In another meeting with different legislators, lawmakers wanted to discuss a new permit application for Ada Aggregates and how ODM can help their constituents with the permitting process.

- ODM staff, including Mrs. Rodesney, have attended the Oka' Water Sustainability Conference in Ada, the Oklahoma Aggregates Association's Annual Meeting and Infrastructure Summit in Norman, and the Governor's Water Conference also in Norman. Mrs. Rodesney herself represented Oklahoma at the Interstate Mining Compact Commission in Washington, DC.
- Mrs. Rodesney met with Eastern Oklahoma State College President Randy Harp to discuss the OMTI program and possible salary increases to OMTI staff. Mrs. Rodesney indicated President Harp was very supportive of the increase and extremely complementary of OMTI Director Michael Reed and the program.

**Minesite Fatality Investigation Report:** Chief of Minerals Operations Travis Shore presented the investigation report regarding the fatal accident that occurred at P & K Stone, LLC on June 15, 2025. Mr. Shore thanked Lead Inspector Troy Young and Mine Inspector Mike Darneal for their time and effort with the investigation and briefly summarized the accident that occurred at P & K Stone, LLC. The victim, John Blake Bird, was fatally injured when a 2025 Gehl telehandler tipped over and pinned him between the equipment and the ground. Mr. Bird was working alone at the time of the accident having gone to the permit to check a water pump. Mr. Bird's wife had accompanied him to the site, but she did not accompany him down into the pit. Mrs. Bird remained in the couple's personal vehicle parked up top near the office.

Mr. Shore reviewed the violations cited and discussed ODM's recommendations to the company. These recommendations included ensuring employees do not work alone when they cannot be seen, heard, or communicate with others, enforcing rules that prohibit workers from being outside equipment when it's in operation, regular safety inspections of equipment, and targeted safety training for use of personal protection and equipment. Mr. Shore confirmed that the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) has not published its report.

The full report was submitted under separate cover to the Commission and is available by request.

**Financial Report:** Chief Financial Officer Benita Jose-Mathew reported the agency has expended approximately \$1,060,492 or 35% of its overall budget thus far in FY2026 and is 42% (5 months) through the fiscal year. The agency had \$185,541 in its revolving fund as of November 30. ODM has a strong account balance for this time of year, and Ms. Jose-Mathew confirmed this is partially due to the agency managing expenses well. In addition, ODM has budgeted funds for the website enhancement technology project and the hydrologist position, but no outlay of those expenses has occurred yet. Agency collections, shown on page 3, are at 48%. Forty-four million tons have been reported to date, which is about three percent (3%) higher than last year at this time. Expenditures are shown on the fourth page, broken down by major cost categories. Although some of the categories such as travel expenses and rented meeting room space for legal proceedings indicate overages, ODM remains under budget overall. Page 5 is ODM's financial history page followed by the most recent billing statement from Eastern Oklahoma State College (EOSC) for OMTI expenses.

**Motion 2, Approval of Executive Director's P-card Statement for October-November 2025:** Chief Financial Officer Benita Jose-Mathew presented Director Rodesney's P-card statements for the months of October and November. Expenses were related to Mrs. Rodesney's attendance at the Interstate Mining Compact Commission meeting in Washington D.C. Mrs. Rodesney noted an additional overnight stay was required due to a cancelled flight and unexpected layover due to weather. She confirmed the meeting and delay occurred during the recent federal government shutdown. Commissioner Caldwell made a motion that the Director P-card statements for both October and November 2025 be approved. Vice Chairman

Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with eight (8) aye votes.

**Brakefield: Aye**  
**Caldwell: Aye**  
**Curtis: Aye**  
**Hefty: Aye**  
**Helm: Aye**  
**Kemp: Aye**  
**Klutts: Aye**  
**Krukowski: Aye**

**Motion 3, Approval of amendment to FY2026 OMTI Budget for salaries:** Chief Financial Officer Benita Jose-Mathew presented the proposed revision to the FY2026 OMTI budget to increase staff salaries which totals \$21,369. Director Rodesney and Ms. Jose-Mathew reported OMTI staff members will each receive close to a ten percent (10%) raise in salaries with the proposed increase. Mrs. Rodesney explained funding for the OMTI program comes through ODM, not the college and Ms. Jose-Mathew showed the group where on ODM's financial report OMTI's funding sources are reflected. Next fiscal year, ODM, EOSC, and OMTI will revisit the annual contract to possibly adjust OMTI employee salaries further. As the current proposed increase is above five percent, a Commission vote is required. Commissioner Kemp made a motion that the proposed increases to the FY2026 OMTI budget for salaries be approved. Secretary Helm seconded the motion. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with eight (8) aye votes.

**Brakefield: Aye**  
**Caldwell: Aye**  
**Curtis: Aye**  
**Hefty: Aye**  
**Helm: Aye**  
**Kemp: Aye**  
**Klutts: Aye**  
**Krukowski: Aye**

**Motion 4, Approval of amendment to FY2026 OMTI Budget for fringe benefits:** As fringe benefits for employees will also increase above five percent, a separate Commission vote is needed, Chief Financial Officer Benita Jose-Mathew explained. She presented the \$11,493 proposed revision to the FY2026 OMTI budget for fringe expenses. Commissioner Caldwell made a motion that the proposed increase to fringe benefits in the FY2026 OMTI budget be approved. Commissioner Hefty seconded the motion. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with eight (8) aye votes.

**Brakefield: Aye**  
**Caldwell: Aye**  
**Curtis: Aye**  
**Hefty: Aye**  
**Helm: Aye**  
**Kemp: Aye**

**Klutts: Aye**  
**Krukowski: Aye**

**OMTI Report:** OMTI Director Michael Reed submitted the FY2025 Training Report for October 2024 – September 2025 to the Commission and briefly reviewed year end totals. During the fourth quarter of 2025 (July-September), OMTI issued 1,183 certificates. In January 2025, 1,184 certificates were issued during that one month alone. Overall, FY2025's total certificate count was 6,393 compared to 5,457 in FY2024. This is a seventeen percent (17%) increase. Mr. Reed indicated other notables for last year include an 11% increase in contract training and 246 people in total attendance at the annual health and safety conference in August 2025. This is a record high for OMTI since Mr. Reed and his team took over the program. Next, Mr. Reed submitted the FY2026 Training Report for October-November 2025 and reviewed training numbers and locations for both private and public classes. He also reported having met with EOSC President Harp about micro credentialing opportunities for OMTI training courses to count as credit hours for a training badge. This could benefit both OMTI and the college. Mr. Reed indicated work is also being done to put up new signage near the highway in front of the college and by Baker Hall to better direct students and promote OMTI. Similar to ODM sending inspection staff for training, Mr. Reed indicated he is looking for an MSHA annual refresher course through another reputable institution to send his trainers to for continuing education. There have been 29 fatalities nationwide in 2025 and Mr. Reed briefly discussed the last eight fatal accidents.

**Motion 5, Approval of the 2026 Regular Meeting Schedule of the Mining Commission:** Chairman Klutts indicated the proposed 2026 meeting schedule was included in the packets noting several meetings had been moved to the last Thursday of the month. Director Rodesney confirmed the proposed dates do not conflict with any known industry conferences, Commission member schedules, or holidays.

1. Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.
2. Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.
3. Thursday, April 30, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.
4. Thursday, June 11, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.
5. Thursday, September 24, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.
6. Thursday, December 10, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

Commissioner Brakefield made a motion that the proposed 2026 Mining Commission regular meeting schedule be approved. Secretary Helm seconded the motion. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with eight (8) aye votes.

**Brakefield: Aye**  
**Caldwell: Aye**  
**Curtis: Aye**  
**Hefty: Aye**  
**Helm: Aye**  
**Kemp: Aye**  
**Klutts: Aye**  
**Krukowski: Aye**

**Motion 6, Election of Mining Commission Chairman for 2026:** Chairman Klutts indicated he was going to step down as Chairman in 2026 and remove his name from possible nominees for the position. Chairman Klutts nominated Commissioner Jim Brakefield be elected as the 2026 Mining Commission Chairman. Vice Chairman Curtis seconded the motion. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with eight (8) aye votes.

**Brakefield: Aye**  
**Caldwell: Aye**  
**Curtis: Aye**  
**Hefty: Aye**  
**Helm: Aye**  
**Kemp: Aye**  
**Klutts: Aye**  
**Krukowski: Aye**

**Motion 7, Election of Mining Commission Vice Chairman for 2026:** Chairman Klutts called for nominees for the 2026 Vice Chairman position. Vice Chairman Curtis nominated Commissioner James Kemp be elected as the 2026 Mining Commission Vice Chairman. Commissioner Caldwell seconded the motion. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with eight (8) aye votes.

**Brakefield: Aye**  
**Caldwell: Aye**  
**Curtis: Aye**  
**Hefty: Aye**  
**Helm: Aye**  
**Kemp: Aye**  
**Klutts: Aye**  
**Krukowski: Aye**

**Motion 8, Election of Mining Commission Secretary for 2026:** Chairman Klutts called for nominees for the 2026 Secretary position. Commissioner Caldwell nominated Commissioner Mark Helm to be elected again to serve as the 2026 Mining Commission Secretary. Vice Chairman Curtis Caldwell seconded the motion. Roll call was made and the motion passed with seven (7) aye votes and one (1) abstention.

**Brakefield: Aye**  
**Caldwell: Aye**  
**Curtis: Aye**  
**Hefty: Aye**  
**Helm: Abstain**  
**Kemp: Aye**  
**Klutts: Aye**  
**Krukowski: Aye**

**Motion 9, Vote for Executive Session authorized by the Open Meetings Act, 25 O.S., Section 307 (B.4) Review of Litigation Involving ODM:** Secretary Helm made a motion that the Mining Commission enter Executive Session. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with eight (8) aye votes.

**Brakefield: Aye**  
**Caldwell: Aye**  
**Curtis: Aye**  
**Hefty: Aye**  
**Helm: Aye**  
**Kemp: Aye**  
**Klutts: Aye**  
**Krukowski: Aye**

Chairman Klutts asked Director Suzen Rodesney, 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)).

**Motion 10, Vote to Return to Regular Session:** Vice Chairman Curtis made a motion that the Mining Commission return to Regular Session. Secretary Helm seconded the motion. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with eight (8) aye votes.

**Brakefield: Aye**  
**Caldwell: Aye**  
**Curtis: Aye**  
**Hefty: Aye**  
**Helm: Aye**  
**Kemp: Aye**  
**Klutts: Aye**  
**Krukowski: Aye**

There was no vote needed for items discussed during Executive Session.

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

**Motion 11, Adjournment:** Commissioner Caldwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Kemp seconded the motion. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with eight (8) aye votes.

**Brakefield: Aye**  
**Caldwell: Aye**  
**Curtis: Aye**  
**Hefty: Aye**  
**Helm: Aye**

**Kemp: Aye**  
**Klutts: Aye**  
**Krukowski: Aye**

The meeting was adjourned until the next scheduled meeting date of February 26, 2026, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

**APPROVED:**

  
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Jenna Bedwell, Executive Assistant  
Oklahoma Department of Mines

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Helm, Secretary  
Oklahoma Mining Commission

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date