

**Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Oklahoma Mining Commission  
10:00 A.M., Thursday, August 21, 2025  
Choctaw Casino & Resort, Durant, Oklahoma and  
Zoom Videoconference**

**Commission Members Present**

Tommy Caldwell  
Dave Donoley  
Chad Hefty

Mark Helm, Secretary  
James Kemp  
Kurt Klutts, Chairman

**Others Present:**

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

Ginna Harmon, ODM  
Mike Lewis, ODM  
Marysue Martin, ODM  
Matt Moss, ODM  
Troy Young, ODM  
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 10:00 a.m. by Commissioner Kurt Klutts, Chairman of the Commission.

**Meeting Place:** Choctaw Casino & Resort, Durant, Oklahoma, and Zoom Videoconference. Roll call was made and a quorum was declared with six (6) members present. Commissioners Brakefield, Curtis, and Krukowski were absent.

**Safety Moment:** Mine Inspector Matt Moss gave a brief presentation on safe driving practices, especially when using the two-way left turn or middle turn lane. He indicated this lane is often referred to as the “suicide lane” due to the number of accidents that occur because of misuse. Mr. Moss also discussed proposed law changes for renewing driver’s licenses to citizens aged 70 and above. The proposed changes include requiring vision and reactionary tests, cognitive screenings, road tests, and medical clearances based on age. Mr. Moss explained the step changes are not intended to revoke licenses or lessen anyone’s independence, but to ensure safety for all drivers.

**Motion 1, June 12, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made by Commissioner Caldwell and seconded by Commissioner Kemp that the minutes of the June 12, 2025, meeting be approved. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with six (6) aye votes.

**Caldwell: Aye  
Donoley: Aye  
Hefty: Aye  
Helm: Aye  
Kemp: Aye  
Klutts: Aye**

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

Funding Update

- New funding for the addition of a hydrologist has been budgeted for FY2026 which began July 1. Preparation of the job description is almost complete, and the job notice will be posted soon.

- ODM chiefs will meet to outline the priorities of the updated website database and mapping. OMES has several service contracts which the agency will review to determine if outside consultants are needed instead.

#### Modernizing Efforts

- ODM is continuing to contract with the Department of Corrections for digitization services. Approximately 85% of the active files have been digitized. This project needs to be completed for the website mapping addition. ODM staff attended the State Suppliers Expo on August 5 but were unable to connect with potential vendors for this project.

#### Bi-annual Audit

- ODM has received the State Auditor and Inspector's (SAI) report for its review of the agency's processes for the period January 1, 2021-June 30, 2024. The report included a minor finding regarding documentation of reconciliations. Although ODM disagrees with the auditor's findings, Mrs. Rodesney indicated she and her staff will implement additional reviews and signatures to ensure accuracy and accountability.

#### Reclamation Projects

- ODM has set a goal of six projects for the fiscal year. Two should be completed by the end of August and staff are working on plans for approximately four more sites in the next few months.

#### Non-Mining Blasting Activity

- Mrs. Rodesney and Chief of Minerals Operations Travis Shore attended the blast of the Jim Norick Arena at the State Fairgrounds. Blasting company Controlled Demolition had a challenge with buildings so close to the blast site, air traffic patterns, and the nearby interstate. The following day, the company conducted a blast to take down a damaged wind turbine near Calumet. Videos of both blasts were shared. Mrs. Rodesney indicated the company was complimentary of ODM's assistance in getting the required documentation and authorizations completed timely.

#### Other Meetings and Activities of Interest

- Mrs. Rodesney met with the Commissioners of the Land Office and an undisclosed mining operator via Teams about the possibility of opening a copper mine in the future. The operator was contacting various state agencies to review permitting requirements as it determined the cost effectiveness of this venture. Mrs. Rodesney explained the last copper mining occurred in Oklahoma in 1974.

**Update on Investigation of June 15, 2025, Fatality:** Chief of Minerals Operations Travis Shore explained a fatal accident occurred on June 15 (also Father's Day this year) at P & K Stone in Atoka County. The victim was fatally injured when a telehandler fell onto him. The victim had gone to the permit site to check a water pump, and it is unknown why he had taken the telehandler down into the pit. Due to recent rains, the company was pumping water out of the pit over the weekend, in preparation for a production blast on Monday. Workers had gone twice on Saturday to check the water pump, and the victim himself had checked it Sunday morning. Mr. Shore indicated the Gehl telehandler was parked perpendicular with its boom extended at a 45° angle when the victim exited the equipment and it tipped onto him. The victim was alone at the time of the accident as his wife who had accompanied him to the site was in their personal vehicle parked near the office. There have been issues, Mr. Shore noted, with workers going out alone at this location. ODM is continuing its investigation and will hopefully have the final report ready soon.

**Financial Report:** Chief Financial Officer Benita Jose-Mathew reported the agency has expended approximately \$183,000 or 6% of its overall budget thus far in FY2026 and is 8% (1 month) through the fiscal year. ODM is managing its expenses and trending below budget. The agency had \$65,540 in its revolving fund as of July 31 and the balance in the clearing account eligible for transfer is shown on page 2. The third page shows that agency collections are steady at 10% with 15% of the budgeted non-coal production fees collected. Expenditures are shown on the fourth page, broken down by major cost categories. The rent of space category shows an overage because June and July's rent were paid in the month of July. Ms. Jose-Mathew explained this will even out as the year progresses. Page 5 is ODM's financial history page and page 6 shows the recent billing statement from Eastern Oklahoma State College (EOSC) for OMTI expenses.

**Motion 2, Review and Approval of Executive Director's June 2025 P-card Statement:** Chief Financial Officer Jose-Mathew presented Director Rodesney's P-card statement for purchases totaling \$267 made during June 2025. A motion was made by Secretary Helm and seconded by Commissioner Caldwell to approve the Director's P-card statement for June 2025. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with six (6) aye votes.

Caldwell: Aye  
Donoley: Aye  
Hefty: Aye  
Helm: Aye  
Kemp: Aye  
Klutts: Aye

**OMTI Report:** Chairman Klutts explained OMTI Director Michael Reed is not in attendance as the OMTI Health and Safety Conference is still taking place. However, Mr. Reed submitted the FY2025 Training Report for October 2024 –July 2025 to the Commission and the report was included in the meeting packets.

**Motion 3, Vote for Executive Session authorized by the Open Meetings Act, 25 O.S., Section 307 (B.4) Review of Litigation Involving ODM:** A motion was made by Commissioner Hefty and seconded by Secretary Helm to enter Executive Session. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with six (6) aye votes.

Caldwell: Aye  
Donoley: Aye  
Hefty: Aye  
Helm: Aye  
Kemp: Aye  
Klutts: 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 4, Vote to Return to Regular Session:** A motion was made by Commissioner Donoley and seconded by Commissioner Caldwell to return to regular session. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with six (6) aye votes.

**Caldwell: Aye**  
**Donoley: Aye**  
**Hefty: Aye**  
**Helm: Aye**  
**Kemp: Aye**  
**Klutts: Aye**

There was no action taken by the Commission in response to the Executive Session discussion.

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

**Motion 5, Adjournment:** A motion was made by Commissioner Caldwell and seconded by Commissioner Hefty to adjourn the meeting. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with six (6) aye votes.

**Caldwell: Aye**  
**Donoley: Aye**  
**Hefty: Aye**  
**Helm: Aye**  
**Kemp: Aye**  
**Klutts: Aye**

The meeting was adjourned until the next scheduled meeting date of September 18, 2025, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

**APPROVED:**



Jenna Bedwell, Executive Assistant  
Oklahoma Department of Mines



Mark Helm, Secretary  
Oklahoma Mining Commission



Date