

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Oklahoma Mining Commission
10:30 A.M., Thursday, February 26, 2026
Cameron Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and
Zoom Videoconference**

Commission Members Present

Jim Brakefield, Chairman
Tommy Caldwell
Chad Hefty
Mark Helm, Secretary

James Kemp, Vice Chairman
Kurt Klutts
Stan Krukowski

Others Present:

Suzen Rodesney, ODM
Jenna Bedwell, ODM
Clayton Eubanks, ODM
Benita Jose-Mathew, ODM
Travis Shore, ODM
Rawles Roberts, III, ODM
Andrea Adams, ODM
Bob Butler, ODM
Natalie Carter, ODM
Loney Gregory, ODM

GINNA Harmon, ODM
Mike Lewis, ODM
Marysue Martin, ODM
Brad Montgomery, ODM
Robert Thomas, ODM
Fred Woodrow, ODM
Troy Young, ODM
Michael Reed, OMTI
Elizabeth Nichols

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 Jim Brakefield, Chairman of the Commission.

Meeting Place: Cameron Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Zoom Videoconference. Roll call was made and a quorum was declared with seven (7) members present. Commissioners Curtis and Donoley were absent.

Safety Moment: Chief of Minerals Operations Travis Shore shared the prepared March 2026 safety gram on communication and working alone with the group. Mr. Shore indicated the best option is for miners to work in pairs, but this is not always feasible. He highlighted the importance of having functioning two-way radios, CB radios, or cell phones to communicate with other workers. He emphasized supervisors must periodically check in with workers in isolated areas and the importance of having an emergency action plan in place for the mine. Mr. Shore indicated this topic stemmed from last year's fatality where the miner was working alone without communication when he was fatally injured. He explained one of the violations originally issued in the report had been vacated based on documentation provided by the company. Minor changes to clarify some language within the report have also been made. Mr. Shore offered to share the modified report with the Commissioners if requested.

Motion 1, December 11, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Caldwell made a motion that the minutes of the December 11, 2025, meeting be approved. Commissioner Hefty seconded the motion. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with seven (7) aye votes.

**Brakefield: Aye
Caldwell: Aye**

Hefty: Aye
Helm: Aye
Kemp: Aye
Klutts: Aye
Krukowski: Aye

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

Hydrologist Position

- Natalie Carter has been hired as the agency's hydrologist. She has attended new miner training and taken advantage of some site visits to familiarize herself with Oklahoma's mining industry. Mrs. Rodesney introduced Mrs. Carter, and the Commission warmly welcomed her.

Modernizing Efforts

- The MTX website mapping and database project is in full process with an expected Go-Live date of March 2. Chief of Minerals Permitting Jenna Bedwell, Chief of Minerals Operations Travis Shore, and Technical Bond Analyst and IT coordinator Rawles Roberts have had frequent meetings with MTX regarding development. The new database will be benefit both staff and the public with access to permitting information. Mrs. Rodesney indicated there had been some delays in coordinating access to the necessary Amazon Web Services through OMES, but ODM has resolved these issues.

Congratulations

- Commissioner Tommy Caldwell was reappointed by Governor Stitt to the Mining Commission for another 7 years. Senate confirmation dates have not been set yet. Mrs. Rodesney thanked him for his continued service.

Legislation

- Several legislative bills are being tracked and monitored. There are seven (7) carryover shell bills related to mining reform, modernization, and efficiency that were not heard by February 19. February 19 was a deadline for House bills to be reported out of policy committees and appropriations subcommittees. There is a House deadline of March 5 for oversight committee, full appropriations, and administrative rules; and the Senate deadline for bills to be reported from the committee of origin. Tracked 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, and no additional movement has occurred.
 - House Bill 2166 by Representative Pfeiffer establishes additional standards and duties on newspapers dealing with public notice. This is a carryover bill, and no additional movement has occurred.
 - House Bill 2440 by Representative Pfeiffer was a carryover shell bill that was clarified to be specific to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB). The bill allows OWRB to hire engineers and consultants and has no mining impact.
 - House Bill 4264 by Representative Johns requires contract miners to be identified within the mining permits. This bill was assigned to House Energy committee but hasn't been placed on a meeting agenda.

- Senate Bill 1196 by Senator Bullard modifies various provisions of the Mining Lands Reclamation Act to require formal hearings during required processes. This bill was assigned to the Senate Energy committee but hasn't been placed on a meeting agenda.
- Senate Bill 1979 by Senator Logan prohibits mining and blasting within 800 feet of homes and other specified structures. The bill also sets some signage requirements for public notification. This bill was assigned to the Senate Energy committee and is on a meeting agenda for today.

Recent and Upcoming Events

- Mrs. Rodesney has met with various legislators regarding ODM's FY2026 budget request and the new permit application for Ada Aggregates. She also attended Aggregates Day at the Capitol last week where she interacted with both legislators and industry leaders.
- OMTI conducted refresher training as well as some blasting training for ODM staff on February 3-4. The interactive classes were well received with lots of discussion amongst participants and trainers.
- In April Mrs. Rodesney will attend the South Central Joint Mine Health and Safety Conference in Durant, Oklahoma and in May she will attend the Interstate Mining Compact Commission meeting in French Lick, Indiana.

Financial Report: Chief Financial Officer Benita Jose-Mathew reported the agency has expended approximately \$1,499,000 or 50% of its overall budget thus far in FY2026 and is 58% (7 months) through the fiscal year. The agency had \$19,231 in its revolving fund as of January 31. Ms. Jose-Mathew noted the funds shown in the clearing account were not transferred until February because both she and Director Rodesney were out sick for a while in January. Agency collections, shown on page 3, are at 52%. ODM's FY2026 production collections should be about 84 million tons with approximately 53 million tons reported to date. FY2025 production ended with 83 million tons reported. Expenditures are shown on the fourth page, broken down by major cost categories. Some categories such as travel expenses and rented meeting room space for legal proceedings have overages, but overall ODM remains under budget for the year. Page 5 is ODM's financial history page followed by the most recent billing statement from Eastern Oklahoma State College (EOSC) for OMTI expenses. Ms. Jose-Mathew and Mrs. Rodesney confirmed ODM's goal of six reclamation projects for the fiscal year should be met very soon. The group discussed the rising costs of reclamation and Mrs. Rodesney confirmed any remaining funds from one reclamation project can be used towards another project.

Motion 2, Approval of Executive Director's P-card Statement for December 2025: Chief Financial Officer Benita Jose-Mathew presented Director Rodesney's P-card statement for the month of December totaling \$217. Vice Chairman Kemp made a motion that the Director P-card statement for December 2025 be approved. Secretary Helm seconded the motion. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with seven (7) aye votes.

Brakefield: Aye

Caldwell: Aye

Hefty: Aye

Helm: Aye

Kemp: Aye
Klutts: Aye
Krukowski: Aye

Motion 3, Approval of Executive Director’s P-card Statement for January 2026: Chief Financial Officer Benita Jose-Mathew presented Director Rodesney’s P-card statement for the month of January totaling \$269.05. Vice Chairman Kemp made a motion that the Director P-card statement for January 2026 be approved. Secretary Helm seconded the motion. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with seven (7) aye votes.

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

OMTI Report: OMTI Director Michael Reed submitted the FY2026 Training Report for October 2025 – January 2026 to the Commission and reviewed December and January numbers. December’s monthly numbers were higher than last year, but overall, the first quarter of FY2026 (October-December) was down slightly. The first quarter of FY2026 was 1,327 certificates issued compared to FY2025’s first quarter was 1,658. Mr. Reed shared the locations where OMTI conducted public and private classes during December and noted the college campus had been shut down for the holiday season. January, Mr. Reed reported, was extremely busy for OMTI trainers with 1,415 certificates issued during 300 classroom hours. Not only did January 2026 numbers exceed January 2025 issued certificates of 1,184, but in one month, OMTI issued more certificates than in the entire first quarter of the fiscal year. He shared the locations of the public and private classes held and reported they were able to work through January’s snow and ice storm. OMTI had the opportunity to use breakout sessions with multiple trainers during the training classes held at Kemp Stone in Pryor. Mr. Reed discussed the benefits of this type of training as it keeps everyone engaged. Changing trainers throughout the day helps brings new perspectives and training styles as well as different topics to each training group. Mr. Reed said OMTI staff enjoyed this type of team training and hopes for more chances to do so. Vice Chairman Kemp expressed his appreciation for the training and indicated his employees were very receptive to the training method. Mr. Reed explained Eastern Oklahoma State College (EOSC) is making some internal changes regarding to which vice president OMTI will report. He will receive further guidance later today and will keep the Commission and ODM updated. There were 33 fatalities nationwide in 2025. Thus far in 2026, there have been two, both of which occurred in January and Mr. Reed briefly discussed these fatal accidents.

Motion 4, Vote for Executive Session authorized by the Open Meetings Act, 25 O.S., Section 307 (B.4) Review of Litigation Involving ODM: Commissioner Klutts made a motion that the Mining Commission enter Executive Session. Vice Chairman Kemp seconded the motion. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with seven (7) aye votes.

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

Chairman Brakefield 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 5, Vote to Return to Regular Session: Vice Chairman Kemp made a motion that the Mining Commission return to Regular Session. Commissioner Caldwell seconded the motion. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with seven (7) aye votes.

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

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

New Business: Director Suzen Rodesney indicated OMTI Director Michael Reed sent her notification about the Sapphire Ball yesterday. The Sapphire Ball is an annual event at EOSC to raise funds for student scholarships, as well as honor the college's alumni, faculty, staff and community supporters. Mr. Reed and OMTI will receive the President's Community Spirit Award at this year's event being held on March 7, 2026. Mrs. Rodesney shared copies of the informational flyer with the Commission.

Motion 6, Adjournment: Commissioner Caldwell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Hefty seconded the motion. Roll call was made and the motion passed unanimously with seven (7) aye votes.

Brakefield: Aye
Caldwell: 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:



Jenna Bedwell, Executive Assistant
Oklahoma Department of Mines



Mark Helm, Secretary
Oklahoma Mining Commission



Date