

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

**Commission Members Present**

Jim Brakefield, Chairman  
Tommy Caldwell  
Chad Hefty  
John Curtis

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  
Ginna Harmon, ODM  
Mike Lewis, ODM

Marysue Martin, ODM  
Claire McCubbin, ODM  
Brad Montgomery, ODM  
Robert Thomas, ODM  
Fred Woodrow, ODM  
Troy Young, ODM  
Michael Reed, OMTI  
Michelle Wynn, Secretary of Energy & Environment  
Devery Youngblood, OKAA  
Polly Curtis

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 eight (8) members present. Commissioner Donoley was absent.

**Safety Moment:** Commissioner Chad Hefty gave a brief presentation on fire safety in relation to powerlines and reviewed ways to safeguard residences and property. Some of the methods he shared were keeping ground vegetation short, pruning or removing tall trees, maintaining a thirty-foot gravel area around the perimeter of buildings, and notifying utilities if any loose hardware or damaged poles or crossarms are observed. Commissioner Hefty emphasized being prepared and alert especially on high wind days.

**Motion 1, February 26, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes:** Commissioner Caldwell made a motion that the minutes of the February 26, 2026, meeting be approved. Vice Chairman Kemp seconded the motion. Roll call was made and the motion passed with (7) aye votes and one (1) abstention.

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

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

#### Modernizing Efforts

- The MTX website mapping and database project is complete! Mrs. Rodesney thanked the ODM staff and MTX team who worked on the project. Chief of Minerals Permitting and Executive Assistant Jenna Bedwell shared the permit mapping portal with the group demonstrating what information or files can be searched and obtained.

#### Permitting Efficiency

- In 2024 Governor Stitt issued Executive Orders related to permitting and licensing. At that time ODM submitted information about processing times for the issuance of life expectancy permits and transfers of mining permits. In 2024, ODM reported 99 days to issue a life expectancy permit. The average time in 2025 was 75 days. In 2024, ODM reported 125 days to issue a transfer of a mining permit. The average time in 2025 was 78 days. Mrs. Rodesney thanked the permitting team for streamlining processes and keeping up with all the elements necessary for a permit to get issued.

#### Legislation

- ODM continues to monitor legislative bills related to the agency, Commission, and industry. Upcoming deadlines include today, March 26, for the third reading and final passage of bills by the chamber of origin and April 9 for Senate bills to report out of policy committees and appropriations subcommittees. 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 bill is dead.
  - House Bill 2166 by Representative Pfeiffer establishes additional standards and duties on newspapers dealing with public notice. This carryover bill has had no movement this year.
  - House Bill 3310 by Representative Eaves updates state purchasing rules and procedures. This bill has passed the House floor and been received in the Senate.
  - House Bill 4264 by Representative Johns requires contract miners to be identified within the mining permits. This bill is dead.
  - Senate Bill 169 by Senator Hall increases state employee longevity payments. This bill has passed the Senate floor and been received in the House.
  - Senate Bill 1196 by Senator Bullard modifies various provisions of the Mining Lands Reclamation Act to require formal hearings during required processes. This bill is dead.
  - Senate Bill 1316 by Senator Bergstrom states beginning February 1, 2027, and every four years thereafter, ODM rules will sunset. The agency will have to submit permanent rules to the Legislature for review. This bill has passed the Senate floor and been received in the House. A copy of this bill was included in the meeting packet.
  - 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 is dead.

#### Recent and Upcoming Events

- ODM recently hired Claire McCubbin as administrative assistant for the Minerals program. Mrs. Rodesney introduced Ms. McCubbin and welcomed her to the ODM family.

- Mrs. Rodesney will attend the South Central Joint Mine Health and Safety Conference in Durant in April and the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) meeting in French Lick, Indiana in May. IMCC member states will select a new Executive Director during the May meeting.

**Motion 2, Renewal of Recertification Training Accreditation for Clarence Stanley, Wolf Creek Training:** Director Rodesney presented Clarence Stanley's request to renew his recertification training accreditation with the Commission. His request packet and OMTI Director Michael Reed's recommendation letter were provided to the Commission for review. Commissioner Curtis made a motion to approve Clarence Stanley's request for recertification training accreditation for another year. 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**

**Financial Report:** Chief Financial Officer Benita Jose-Mathew reported the agency has expended approximately \$1,734,894 or 58% of its overall budget thus far in FY2026 and is 67% (8 months) through the fiscal year. The agency had \$29,464 in its revolving fund as of February 28. Ms. Jose-Mathew noted there is a strong balance in the clearing account that will be transferred into the revolving fund soon. Agency collections, shown on page 3, are at 61%. ODM's FY2026 production collections are estimated to be 84 million tons with approximately 64.1 million tons reported to date. Expenditures are shown on the fourth page, broken down by major cost categories. Some categories such as repairs to agency field vehicles and rented meeting room space for legal proceedings have overages, but overall ODM remains under budget at 58% expended. Page 5 is ODM's financial history page followed by the most recent billing statement from Eastern Oklahoma State College (EOSC) for OMTI expenses.

**OMTI Report:** OMTI Director Michael Reed submitted the FY2026 Training Report for October 2025 – February 2026 to the Commission and reviewed February numbers. Public classes were held in Poteau, Tulsa, Wilburton, and via Zoom and private classes were held in Broken Bow, Idabel, Muskogee, and Paris, TX. A total of 539 certificates were issued in February, which is 84 certificates less than last year. The second quarter is still averaging higher as January 2026 certificates were up by 200. Mr. Reed reported President Harp has moved OMTI from under Trisha White to John Spradling who is the Vice President of Academic Affairs. President Harp has indicated OMTI will be better served in terms of curriculum and equipment with this arrangement, and the college will benefit as well. Mr. Reed has not yet met Vice President Spradling and will keep the Commission and ODM apprised. Meetings are underway to prepare for OMTI's annual health and safety conference to be held at Grand Casino in Shawnee in August. On March 7, Mr. Reed attended EOSC's Sapphire Ball to accept the community outreach award on behalf of OMTI. There have been 5 fatalities nationwide in 2026, with 3 occurring in March. Mr. Reed briefly reviewed these fatal accidents.

**Motion 3, 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. 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**

Chairman Brakefield asked 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:** Commissioner Klutts 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 5, Adjournment:** Vice Chairman Kemp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 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**

The meeting was adjourned until the next scheduled meeting date of April 30, 2026, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

**APPROVED:**



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Jenna Bedwell, Executive Assistant  
Oklahoma Department of Mines



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Mark Helm, Secretary  
Oklahoma Mining Commission

4/30/2026  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date