

**MINUTES**  
**MINING AND RECLAMATION ADVISORY BOARD (MRAB)**  
**October 23, 2025**

**VOTING MEMBERS OR ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

David Osikowicz (Original Fuels, Inc – Member)  
Jack Chamberlin (Chamberlin Surveying & Consulting – Member)  
John St. Clair (Rosebud Mining Co./Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) – Member)  
Katie Hetherington-Cunfer (SiteLog IQ/CAC – Member)  
Henry Zielinski (Northampton Generating Co./Panther Creek Power Operating Co.– Member)  
Rep. James Haddock (PA House of Representatives – Member)  
Glendon King (PA House of Representatives – Alternate)  
Rachel Gleason (PA Coal Alliance (PCA) – Alternate)  
Jarret Gibbons (Appalachian Regional Independent Power Producers Association (ARIPPA) – Alternate)  
Emily Eyster (PA Senate – Alternate)  
Jacob Gery (PA Senate – Alternate)  
Duane Feagley (PA Anthracite Council (PAC)-- Alternate)  
Ian Irvin – (CAC Executive Director – Alternate)

**OTHER ATTENDEES**

Nathan Houtz (DEP – Active and Abandoned Mine Operations (AAMO))  
Joseph Sassaman (DEP – Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR))  
Patrick Webb (DEP – BAMR)  
Gregory Greenfield (DEP – Mining Programs)  
Sharon Hill (DEP – Mining Programs)  
Laura Mensch (DEP – Mining Programs)  
Daniel E. Snowden, D.Ed. (DEP – Mining Programs/Board Liaison)  
Rachel Colyer (DEP – Mining Programs)  
Brad Rhodes (DEP – Mining Programs)  
Christopher Stewart (DEP – Mining Programs)  
Alexandra Eberly (DEP – Mining Programs)  
Emily Fisher (DEP – Mining Programs)  
Jennifer McLuckie (DEP – AAMO)  
Randy Shustack (DEP – Bureau of District Mining Operations (BDMO))  
Michael Bodnar (DEP – BDMO (Cambria DMO))  
Kimberly Yeakle (DEP – Northwest Regional Office (NWRO))  
Laura Campbell (DEP – Policy Office)  
Jack Palumbo (DEP – Policy Office)  
Richard Marcil (DEP – Regulatory Council)  
Megan Dennis (PA Aggregates and Concrete Association (PACA) – Guest)  
Eric Ross (Milliron Goodman Government Relations – Guest)  
Trent Machamer (PA Senate – Guest)  
Andrew McMenamin (PA House of Representatives – Guest)

## **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:05 a.m. by Chair David Osikowicz. The member and alternate attendees present for this remote meeting with members virtually, were accounted for by roll call for and Daniel E. Snowden to determine that there was a quorum established.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes from the July 24, 2025 meeting were approved by the Board unanimously, without objection or comment.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

It was reported that the Citizens Advisory Council has recently appointed Robert Barkanic to the MRAB.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no requests to make any public comment.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

It was reported that there were no committee reports for this meeting.

## **DELIVERABLES**

Gregory Greenfield reported that he had no deliverables for this meeting.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Coal Mining Program Updates**

Laura Mensch and Sharon Hill provided the Board with customary status reports involving financial summaries, revenues, permitting and technical items:

- Post-Mining Discharge Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Bonds: Ms. Mensch indicated that there had been a decrease in the total bond number and amount since the last meeting, primarily due to Consol pulling funding from bonds as the money is transferred into their global trust.
- Trust agreements: Ms. Mensch then moved to the second table of the handout, showing the increase in trust amounts both fully and partially funded, which reflects the change from the adjustment.
- Land Reclamation Financial Guarantees (LRFG): again, there was not much change from the last quarter. Ms. Mensch did note that the operators at the \$3 million limit are Blashock, Junior Coal and RES.
- Reclamation Fee Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Account: The numbers for these tables are for the current fiscal year, July 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025; the LRFG premiums and

interest for the last three months are shown on table five. Table six has the numbers covering the O&M costs from the Rec Fee and O&M account for the Alternative Bonding System (ABS) sites, the balance with actual expenditures from July 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025. Ms. Mensch also noted the funding diagram for the ABS account, with the revenue from the coal application fees year-to-date.

- Clean Water Fund (CWF) and the PA Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act (PA SMCRA) Fund revenues were also reviewed; these include non-coal, covering the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Chapter 105 and wetlands encroachment fees.
- Bond Rate Guidelines: Ms. Mensch shared draft numbers at this meeting, reminding the Board that they were still likely to be updated. She also noted there will be a Reclamation Committee meeting on January 13, 2026, where the numbers will be discussed in more detail. Ms. Mensch reminded the board that the 2025 revegetation rate had to be kept at the 2024 amount due to an issue with the PA Bulletin notice. She also noted that the Number 57 Stone went up, but there were no projects for two years. Ms. Mensch indicated that 12 BAMR projects were used for the draft numbers. She stated that there are four projects which just got posted, and those numbers have not been incorporated yet; in comparison, 13 projects were used in total last year, so there will be more projects this year than last. The Board did request that further information on the projects be provided in advance of the January 13, 2026 meeting for their review and preparation for the meeting at that time, and did have questions about some of the numbers, which Ms. Mensch indicated would be covered in much more detail at that January meeting, once all the numbers can be incorporated for that newer information.
- Permit application numbers were presented by Sharon Hill, who shared the in/out and in-process tables, showing each of the offices' workload. Updated information through September 18, 2025 was represented on the table. Ms. Hill also highlighted that the bottom row in the table tracks the pending application older than November 11, 2023 when Payback was instituted, and which are still in process.
- The next item discussed by Ms. Hill was the GP104 reissuance, applicable to many of the anthracite coal operations. This permit will expire on March 27, 2026. Operators can renew under the reissued permit that will be published in the upcoming PA Bulletin. This reissued permit will then be in effect from March 28, 2026 for another five years. A mass mailing will be undertaken from BMP to supply the forms and permit document for all operators registered under the existing GP104. She noted that she had emailed some consultants who regularly interact with the DMOs to give them a heads-up about the notice.
- Next, TGD #562-2000-703 Changes to Licenses Bonds and Permits required very minor changes and updates, such as Bureau name and form numbers. The minor revisions announcement will appear in the PA Bulletin in the next few weeks.
- Ms. Hill then shared that the water supply replacement Technical Guidance Documents (TGDs) are currently still in process. She stated that the draft will be made available to the Board before it goes to public comment, and that since these are a dual Advisory Board issue, both will be involved with that review.

## Updates from BAMR

The BAMR status report was presented by Assistant Director Joe Sassaman, noting its complete, active, and future projects being summarized and presented in a slightly different format, per previous request from the Board.

#### Funding Status:

- Projects Completed: In 2024, there were 160 projects completed, reclaiming 2000 acres, at a cost of just over \$35 million. For 2025, there have been 61 projects completed, reclaiming 147 acres, at a cost exceeding \$13.6 million.
- Projects Currently in Construction: There are 35 projects to reclaim 768 acres, at a cost exceeding \$109 million.
- Future Projects: these are projects in design, are at 167, totaling over 5200 acres, at an estimated cost exceeding \$534 million.
- Emergency Projects: There are currently 62 emergency projects for 2025, at a cost of just over \$2.5 million. This is on track for an average year, as we usually see 70 to 80 emergency projects a year, with roughly 90% being subsidence related.
- Abandoned Mine Lands (AML)/AMD Subaward Program: For the combined funding sources for AML/AMD grant program, also known as our Subaward program: currently there are 71 grant awards, that have been issued, totaling \$224 million. In 2025, round two closes tomorrow, and the program will receive notice of the applications to begin scoring for design engineering services agreements. Currently, there are 48 projects at a total cost exceeding \$13.4 million.
- Status of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Monies: the notice of funding opportunity for the 2025 grant, and the application is currently being finalized to be submitted to the federal Office of Surface Mining (OSM) for review shortly; the award would be implemented in January of 2026.
- Staffing: To date, the Bureau has 26 vacancies.

#### **Updates from the Bureau District Mining Offices (BDMO)**

Randy Shustack reported that he did not have any current updates for District Mining Offices for the meeting but was open for any questions. The Board did not have any.

#### **Reclamation Fee Operations and Maintenance (O & M) Trust Account Report**

- Mr. Greenfield reported that the notice for the draft fiscal year report for the reclamation fee was published in the PA Bulletin. A 30-day comment period ran from September 20 to October 20, 2025. There were no comments received, but per prior years, Mr. Greenfield wanted to give Board members the opportunity to make comments or provide feedback on any questions at today's meeting. The Board had none.
- Mr. Greenfield shared that per the draft report, the reclamation fee for 2026 will remain at \$0.00 and then the draft report will be finalized and posted on the department's website as final.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Board Chair reviewed the meetings for 2026 as follows:

- January 22

- April 23
- July 23
- October 22

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board adjourned its meeting at approximately 10:35 a.m.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The Board will meet again at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, January 22, 2026, in Conference Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg and via Microsoft Teams.