

MINUTES
MINING AND RECLAMATION ADVISORY BOARD (MRAB)
April 23, 2026

VOTING MEMBERS OR ALTERNATES PRESENT:

David Osikowicz (Original Fuels, Inc – Member)
Robert Burns (Burns Coal Co., Inc. – Member)
Jack Chamberlin (Chamberlin Surveying & Consulting – Member)
John St. Clair (Rosebud Mining Co./Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) – Member)
Robert Hughes (Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR) – Member)
Henry Zielinski (Northampton Generating Co./Panther Creek Power Operating Co.– Member)
Katie Hethrington-Cunfer (SiteLog IQ – Member)
Rachel Gleason (PA Coal Alliance (PCA) – Alternate)
Duane Feagley (PA Anthracite Council (PAC) – Alternate)
Kenneth King (State Industries, Inc. – Alternate)
Glendon King (PA House of Representatives – Alternate)
Jacob Gery (PA Senate – Alternate)
Ian Irvin (Executive Director CAC – 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)
Amy Berrios (DEP – AAMO)
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)
Bradley Rhodes (DEP – Mining Programs)
Christopher Stewart (DEP – Mining Programs)
Alexandra Eberly (DEP – Mining Programs)
Marissa Kovach (DEP – Mining Programs)
Jolie Mangan (DEP – Mining Programs)
Emily Fisher (DEP – Mining Programs)
Randy Shustack (DEP – Bureau of District Mining Operations (BDMO))
Jack Palumbo (DEP – Policy Office)
Jeffery I civic (PA Senate – Guest)
Trent Machamer (PA Senate – Guest)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

The hybrid meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. by Chair David Osikowicz. The members and alternates present at this meeting, with attendees both in person and virtually, were accounted for by roll call from Daniel Snowden to determine that there was a quorum established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the January 22, 2026 meeting were approved by the Board unanimously, without objection or comment.

CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. Snowden reported that the reappointment paperwork is being processed for Robert Burns and Henry Zielinski, which will be completed very soon. Additionally, it has come to the Board's attention that Mark Snyder and Kenneth King have opted to not be reappointed to the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests to make any public comment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports to be shared with the Board.

DELIVERABLES

Gregory Greenfield reported that there had been a question raised at the Board's last Regulation, Legislation and Technical (RLT) Committee meeting, requesting information on the state wage minimum difference between the eastern and western parts of the Commonwealth. Research was done by looking into the PA Department of Labor and Industry's prevailing wage web page, using Schuylkill and Luzerne Counties to represent the anthracite region, and Allegheny, Westmoreland and Somerset Counties for the bituminous region. For the various tasks associated with prevailing wage rates, the numbers were actually very close to one another, with a less than \$2.00 difference for the anthracite region being slightly higher than those western counties, \$64.50 versus \$62.63.

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 no change in the O&M bond status between last quarter and this quarter.
- Trust Agreements: Ms. Mensch then moved to the second table of the handout, showing a very slight increase since the January meeting, in terms of the fully funded and partially funded amounts.
- Land Reclamation Financial Guarantees (LRFG): Ms. Mensch noted that there was not much change from the last quarter. She did wish to note that the four operators at the \$3 million limit are Blashak, Farragut Anthracite, Hazleton Shaft, and RES Blashak.
- Reclamation Fee Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Account: The numbers for these tables are the LRFG premiums and interest for the last three months. The year-to-date amounts are

listed at the bottom for the fiscal year, July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026, with the balance and actual expenditures through March 31, 2026.

- Clean Water Fund (CWF) and the PA Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act (PA SMCRA) Fund: The fiscal year-to-date totals were also reviewed by Ms. Mensch.
- Permit application numbers: Sharon Hill shared the in/out application numbers for each District Mining Office and, the in-process table for January 1 through March 27, 2026. Ms. Hill noted that Pottsville has the greatest number of applications disposed in large part due to the renewal of GP-104 registrations.
- GP104 renewals: Ms. Hill noted there were 145 GP-104 coverage renewals processed, mostly by the Pottsville office, with a considerably number for noncoal, which the table does not include. Currently, there are 690 applications in process as of March 27, 2026. Ms. Hill reminded the board that the GP104 permit expired March 27, 2026, but almost all operators had complied and renewed coverage as needed, according to the DMO reporting. There were only a few who had not, and the offices were instructed to take compliance action on those.

Updates from BAMR

The BAMR status report was presented by Assistant Director Joe Sassaman.

- The program summary for the 2024 completions showed that 167 projects covering 367 acres were completed, for just over \$43 million.
- In 2025, completions were 160 projects, covering a little over 2,000 acres, for just over \$18 million.
- For future completions in BAMR's active projects, the data at the end of January 2026 showed that 39 projects are actively in construction, covering 905 acres, and just over \$119 million.
- Future projects in design: 173 projects covering 4,256 acres, for over \$489 million.
- There were 8 Emergency projects, at an estimated cost of just over \$458,000.
- There have been significant changes in emergency projects so far this year: for 2026, there is a total of 29 emergency projects so far; there is a substantial refuse fire in Mount Carmel Township, Northumberland County, and anticipate that project alone is going to be \$3 million plus.
- The sub awards are currently at 79, with a total estimated cost of \$232 million, and Office of Surface Mining's (OSM) Department of Enterprise Services (DES) (Consultant Designs) agreements are up to 64, just over \$17 million.
- The last item Mr. Sassaman covered was staffing: the total complement is 244 staff, with approximately 30 vacancies in the program at this time.

Updates from the Bureau District Mining Operations (BDMO)

Randy Shustack reported that there were significant hurdles to overcome on the GP104 front, but they're seeing a slowdown. He estimated there had been about 420 total permit applications between coal and noncoal, and they've been successful in getting most of these permits renewed,

with violations issued for the remaining. Mr. Shustack also indicated there are no vacancies, so they are at their complement.

The subject of the OSM cutting funding to the Title V program was brought up by the Board, and that for the fifth year in a row we asked for \$15 million, but the anticipated award will probably be only \$11.8 million. This does mean there will be some cutbacks, and if this continues, staffing will need to be carefully assessed, and this will ultimately affect permit times. A discussion about Pennsylvania's federal funding versus that of other states; the existence of federal parkland in other states that can be mined; and the timeline of the OSM grants and awards was held among the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to come before the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned its meeting at approximately 10:27 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The Board will meet again at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 23, 2026, in Conference Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg and via Microsoft Teams.