

**MINUTES**  
**MINING AND RECLAMATION ADVISORY BOARD (BOARD)**  
**July 20, 2017**

**VOTING MEMBERS OR ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

David Osikowicz (Chairperson - Member)  
John St. Clair (CAC – Member)  
Duane Feagley (PA Anthracite Council) (Alternate) (on Web-Ex)  
Joanne Manganello (Alternate) (on Web-Ex)  
Rachael Gleason (PCA)(Alternate) (on Web-Ex)

**OTHER ATTENDEES**

Bill Allen (DEP – Mining Programs)  
Thomas Callaghan (DEP – Director, Mining Programs)  
Bruce Carl (DEP – Mining Programs)  
Chris Yeakle (DEP – Knox DMO)  
Paul Pocavich (DEP – Mining Programs) (on Web-Ex)  
Daniel E. Snowden, D.Ed. (DEP Mining Programs/Board Liaison)

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. Board members and DEP personnel introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The necessary quorum of members required for the approval of the minutes was not met.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence was received by the Board since its last meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The subcommittee responsible for the MRAB annual reports met to review pending reports from previous years. The subcommittee plans to make corrections as needed, and present reports to the full Board for approval.

**JULY FIELD TRIP: KNOX DMO**

The Board expressed their gratitude towards those who worked towards making the July field trip a success.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Coal Mining Program Updates**

Mr. Allen provided updates to the Board regarding the coal mining program:

- Non-Regulatory Agenda: Several documents are nearing the end of the revision process, and will be published once approved.

- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permitting: The EPA has continued to express interest in permits, and communicates regularly with updates concerning the anticipated checklist process.
  - Historical Application Progress and the Permit Decision Guarantee (PDG): Mr. Allen provided updates on the following:
    - Number of coal-related permit applications disposed, along with those remaining for action and their specific District Mining Office locations.
    - On-time percentages under the PDG program for District Mining Offices.
  - Trust Agreements/Bond Status: Mr. Allen provided details on a variety of items regarding this topic:
    - Number of total agreements (between December 2015 and June 2017), total (i.e., bonds, fully-funded trusts, partially-funded trusts (including Alternative Bond System (ABS) sites).
    - Values of these aforementioned agreements (between December 2015 and June 2017)
  - Land Reclamation Financial Guarantees (LRFG): Mr. Allen provided details on the increase of LRFG permits and amount underwritten since the time of last report.
- Reclamation Fee Operations and Maintenance (O & M) Trust Accounts: The board was shown the current information of the Reclamation Fee Account status, including a transfer of \$500,000 from the Civil Penalty account, discussed in depth in prior meetings.
- Regulatory Agenda: Mr. Allen mentioned developments with the following items:
    - OSM Program Consistency Committee
    - Water Supply Replacement Regulations (25 PA Code, Chapters 87 and 88)
    - Blasting and Explosives Regulations (25 PA Code, Chapters 210 and 211) – this regulatory package has been routed for final EQB approval.
  - Application Fee Revenues: Mr. Allen revenue figures for the Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) and Clean Water Fund (CWF) for the fiscal years between 2012 to 2017.

## **Bond Rate Guidelines**

Mr. Carl reported on reclamation bond rate guidelines, in terms of the 2017 calendar year costs for grading, revegetation, seed bed preparation and seed.

- Grading (2017):
  - 2 reclamation project covering 606,800 total cubic yards for grading, with costs ranging between \$0.65/cubic yard and \$1.00/cubic yard.
  - The low-bid average grading costs ranged between \$0.75/cubic yard and \$0.81/cubic yard, with a weighted average cost of \$0.77/cubic yard.
  - The overall weighted average grading cost between 2015 and 2017 was \$0.96/cubic yard (projects at 500 feet or less).
  
- Revegetation (2017)
  - 2 revegetation reclamation projects covering 60.5 acres.
  - The cost per acre of the 3 lowest bids ranged from \$1,506.13 to \$2,702.32.
  - The weighted average of the three lowest bids was \$2,011.07.
  
- Mulch, Seed Bed Preparation and Seed (2017):
  - Mulch Costs: \$880/acre.
  - Seed Bed Preparation Costs: \$141.67/acre.
  - Seed Costs: \$329.13/acre.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

### **Adjournment/Next Meeting**

The Board adjourned its meeting at approximately 10:00 a.m. The Board will meet again on October 19, 2017 in Conference Room 105 of the Rachael Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St, Harrisburg PA, 17105.