

MINUTES
MINING AND RECLAMATION ADVISORY BOARD (MRAB)
July 24, 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)
Bobby Burns (Keystone Anthracite – Member)
Henry Zielinski (Northampton Generating Co./Panther Creek Power Operating Co.– Member)
Rachel Gleason (PA Coal Alliance (PCA) – Alternate)
Grace Berlew (PA House of Representatives -- Alternate)
Glendon King (PA House of Representatives -- Alternate)
Emily Eyster (PA Senate – Alternate)
Jacob Gery (PA Senate – Alternate)
Duane Feagley (PA Anthracite Council (PAC)-- Alternate)
Kenneth King (State Industries, Inc. – Alternate)
Ian Irvin – (CAC Executive Director – Alternate)

OTHER ATTENDEES

Nathan Houtz (DEP – Active and Abandoned Mine Operations (AAMO))
Amy Berrios (DEP – AAMO)
Jennifer McLuckie (DEP – AAMO)
Joseph Sassaman (DEP – Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR))
Patrick Webb (DEP – BAMR)
Kevin Bogdan (DEP – BAMR)
Gregory Greenfield (DEP – Mining Programs)
Sharon Hill (DEP – Mining Programs)
Laura Mensch (DEP – Mining Programs)
Keith Previc (DEP – Mining Programs)
Rachel Colyer (DEP – Mining Programs)
Bradley Rhodes (DEP – Mining Programs)
Christopher Stewart (DEP – Mining Programs)
Jolie Mangan (DEP – Mining Programs)
Alexandra Eberly (DEP – Mining Programs)
Emily Fisher (DEP – Mining Programs)
Marissa Kovach (DEP – Mining Programs)
Randy Shustack (DEP – Bureau of District Mining Operations (BDMO))
Laura Campbell (DEP – Policy Office)
Jack Palumbo (DEP – Policy Office)
Jeffery Painter (PA Game Commission (PGC) – Guest)
Megan Dennis (PA Aggregates and Concrete Association (PACA) – Guest)
Jeffery Iavicoli (PA Senate – Guest)
Nicholas Troutman (PA Senate – Guest)
Nathan Eachus (Unknown – Guest)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m. by Chair David Osikowicz. The member and alternate attendees present for this hybrid meeting, both in-person and virtually, were accounted for by roll call, and Rachel Colyer determined that there was a quorum established.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the January 23, 2025 and April 24, 2025 meetings were approved by the Board unanimously, without objection or comment.

CORRESPONDENCE

It was reported that Jack Chamberlin's reappointment had been approved, and the David Osikowicz reappointment was still working its way through the process.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no requests to make any public comment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports for this meeting.

DELIVERABLES

Gregory Greenfield reported that he had one item for deliverables, which arose from the last meeting. The request was to report on how many program amendments Pennsylvania has pending before the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation Enforcement (OSMRE). There are currently eight program amendments still pending.

For context, Pennsylvania did have four amendments approved since 2024; historically, BMP has been waiting a while for the twelve, and there had a lot of movement in the last two years on those. Three were approved in 2024 and one was approved in June of 2025. With the changes at OSMRE, those program amendments have slowed down, but BMP is hopeful that OSMRE is still working on them and, that more of these program amendments will get approved.

PRESENTATIONS

Coal Mining Program Updates

Laura Mensch and Sharon Hill provided the Board with the 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 real changes since the last meeting.

- Trust Agreements: Ms. Mensch indicated that there had been minimal changes since the last quarter in this area, and that the Alternative Bonding System (ABS) sites are now both considered fully funded.
- Land Reclamation Financial Guarantees (LRFG): Again, there were very minimal changes here from the last quarter. Ms. Mensch did note that the operators at the \$3 million limit for the LRFG are Atlantic, Blaschak and RES and, that Reading is no longer on the LRFG list.
- Reclamation Fee Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Account: The numbers for these tables are for the last fiscal year, which just ended on June 30, 2025.
- Clean Water Fund (CWF) and the PA Surface Mining Conservation and Reclamation Act (PA SMCRA) Fund revenues were also reviewed, these are through the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2025.
- Bond Rate Guidelines: Ms. Mensch shared that so far nine BAMR reclamation projects, four additional since the last meeting, have been posted. These projects span January to June 2025 and are all in the bituminous region. At this point, draft bond rate numbers are still being worked on, and the plans are to share a preliminary draft of numbers to discuss for the next meeting.
- Permit application numbers were reviewed by Sharon Hill, who shared the in/out and in-process tables. She noted that the updated information represented in the tables was for the year, up to June 30, 2025. Ms. Hill also mentioned that the bottom row in the table tracks the pending application older than November 11, 2023, when PAYback.pa.gov was instituted.
- Ms. Hill noted that there are no pending regulations, and that the water supply replacement Technical Guidance Documents (TGDs) were currently still being worked on for the non-regulatory agenda. She stated that they are aiming for the Fall of 2025 to have a draft, and that since these are a dual Advisory Board issue, both will be involved with that.
- Ms. Hill also announced that the new Permits and Tech Chief is Jolie Mangan, who took over for Greg Schuler, who retired.
- There were TGDs which are being rescinded, and the announcement will be in the PA Bulletin. These TGDs were either no longer needed or are being made into Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for internal use.
- Ms. Hill's final item was regarding the work that she and Ms. Mensch have been doing for the process for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit terminations. Due to the implementation of Electronic Discharge Monitoring Reports (eDMRs) and reporting to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), it causes a problem if those NPDES permits are not closed out in EPA's database. Previously, people had been using the Clean Water form, but it does not really match the process, so the new form, just for mining, will simplify it.

Updates from BAMR

The BAMR status report was presented by Assistant Director Joe Sassaman, noting its completed, active, and future projects.

Funding Status:

- Projects Completed: In 2024, there were 145 projects completed, reclaiming 132 acres, at a cost of just over \$29 million. For 2025, there have been 34 projects completed, reclaiming 90 acres, at a cost exceeding \$10.6 million.

- Projects Currently in Construction: There are 37 projects to reclaim 895 acres, at a cost exceeding \$105 million.
- Status of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Monies: In 2023 and 2024, the full 30% of the BIL funding monies were taken out and put into the STREAM Act. BAMR did just recently receive the notice of funding opportunity for the 2025 funding, and is working on the application for \$244.7 million, with the anticipated period of performance beginning January 2026. BAMR will take the full 30% out of the next round of BIL monies for the STREAM Act again, for future mine subsidence, mine fires and acid mine drainage (AMD) treatment.
- Emergency Projects: Currently, there is one non-emergency construction contract being advertised at close to \$1 million. There are two emergency construction contracts totaling \$130,000. In 2025, there have been 59 emergency projects so far, at an estimated cost near \$2.5 million. As the average number of emergency projects per year is 80, this year is on par to be close to that average.
- Abandoned Mine Lands (AML)/AMD Subaward Program: For the combined funding sources for AML/AMD grant program, also known as our Subaward program: currently, 71 grant awards, have been issued, totaling \$224 million. In round one for 2025 (which closed April 25) there were 11 Subawards, and these are currently under review and being processed. Round two for this funding will be open from September 2 to October 25.
- DES-22 Request for Proposals (RFPs): There are now 48 task agreements in place, totaling just over \$13.4 million.
- Staffing: To date, BAMR has filled 62 of 71 vacant positions; the Bureau has 26 vacancies.

Updates from the Bureau District Mining Offices (BDMO)

Randy Shustack reported that Troy Williams is now the District Mine Manager for the California DMO. Also, since Dave Thomas retired as District Mine Manager for the Cambria DMO, they have held interviews and selected a candidate; an announcement should be made within the next week or so.

Mr. Shustack also reported that the two Watershed Managers, Dan Koury in Pottsville, and Scott Hammond, in Moshannon, have also retired and, that interviews to fill those positions would take place next week.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board Chair welcomed Nate Houtz, who indicated there was no new business for this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned its meeting at approximately 10:22 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

The Board will meet again at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 23, 2025, in Conference Room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building in Harrisburg.