

**MEETING OF THE
NORTH CAROLINA MINING COMMISSION
April 8,2025
512 N. SALISBURY ST
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**

Chairman Tom Freeman, in the City of Raleigh, NC on April 8, 2025, called a meeting of the North Carolina Mining Commission to order at 1:02 P.M. The following persons were in attendance in person or via webinar for all or part of the meeting, with the following Commission members being present for the entire meeting:

COMMISSION MEMBERS PPRESENT

Mr. Tom Freeman (Chair)
Mr. Samuel Bratton (Vice-Chair)
Mr. Dwain Veach
Dr. Luis Chia
Mr. Brandon Jones
Mr. Brian North

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

Ms. Elizabeth Young

DEMLR STAFF MEMBERS

Mr. Toby Vinson, Inter-Director, DEMLR
Mr. Adam Parr, State Mining Engineer, DEMLR
Ms. Kelly Jonas, Assistant State Mining Engineer, DEMLR
Mr. Corey Clayton, Assistant State Mining Engineer, DEMLR
Ms. Brenda Harris, Administrative Assistant, DEMLR
Ms. Sam Chan, Director of Public Information, Office Public Affairs
Ms. Kat Russell, Public Information Officer, Office Public Affairs

IN PERSON ATTENDEES

Dr. Jean Spooner
Ms. Natalie Lew
Mr. Jay Stem
Ms. Gladys Chia

REMOTE ATTENDEES

Mr. Tracy Davis
Mr. Jim Joyce
Ms. Ely Young

Chairman Freeman read the conflict-of-interest statement. There was no conflict-of-interest among the Commission Members.

Charman Freeman recognized those attending and the Commission Members stated their names.

SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Luis chia and Mr. Dwain Veach were sworn in as new members to the Commission.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME INFORMATION

Mr. Parr provided general information to the commission regarding the makeup of the Commission and responsibilities of the Commission to readopt and draft rules. Mr. Parr also introduced DEMLR staff. Mr. Parr provided an update on the rules readoption process.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF November 18, 2024

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Bratton and seconded by Mr. Jones. Motion passed

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Elly Young clarified that the reading of the conflict of interest statement for Dr. Chia and Mr. Veach was intentionally skipped on the agenda because both Dr. Chia and Mr. Veach are non-voting members.

Review and update on the Periodic Rule Review.

Since Mr. Parr gave an update on the Rules readoption timeline during the Welcome Member information section the only additional information was to reiterate the required deadline.

Mr. Jones asked for clarification from the stakeholder group meetings regarding the rule on significant public interest. Mr. Parr explained the process of the stakeholder group and that it was not comprised of members of the Commission, but rather individuals that represented different sectors including environmental interest, mining industry representatives, commerce, local government, etc.. He mention that the group held biweekly meetings and that the intention of the Stakeholder group was to develop a pre-draft of version of the rules that the Rules Committee would start with.

Discussion of DRAFT Bylaws

Mr. North asked if there were any previous versions of the Bylaws that existed but never saw a copy of previous versions. He had no issue with the current version.

Motion to adopt the bylaws was made by Mr. North and seconded by Mr. Jones. All Commissioners approved, motion pass and the bylaws were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Commission Vote to nominate a member of the Mining Commission to sit on the Sediment Commission

Chairman Freeman asked if there was a volunteer from the Mining Commission to sit as a representative on the Sediment Commission. Mr. North stated that he had previous experience and would like to volunteer.

Mr. Bratton made a motion to nominate Mr. North to the Sediment Commission.

Mr. Jones asked for a brief explanation of what Mr. North's experience was with the Department. Mr. North stated that he worked with NCDEQ in the Ashville and Morrisville Regional office as an Environmental Technician and assistant to the regional engineer. Mr. Jones seconded the motion.

All members voted in the affirmative. Motion passed to nominate Mr. North to the Sediment Commission

Fiscal Analysis and Regulatory Impact Analysis Update

Mr. Parr explained that work on the Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) and potential fiscal note were in the process of being completed. He went on to explain the purpose of the RIA and Fiscal Note. He explained that the RIA and Rules need to both be approved by the Commission before going out to public comment.

Ms. Young went into further detail on the purpose of the RIA. She explained that the RIA is a document that is put together by DEQ Staff to explain what the costs increases or decreases will be for the changes in the rules. The RIA is sent to the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) to review and provide approval/concurrence on the impacts of the rule changes.

If the impact is over \$1,000,000 the Fiscal note needs to be developed to provide a detailed breakdown of the fiscal costs.

Further details of the Rules Readoption process to be provided by staff at the next meeting.

CONCLUSION

Comments by DEMLR Director

No remarks

Comments of the Commission

Mr. North recommended that once per year the commission conducts a site visit.

Chairperson Freeman and Mr. Parr agreed to work on some of the details to plan a site visit.

Comments of the Chair

Mr. Freeman recommended evaluating an educational committee that could provide information to the public on how mining and minerals impact their daily lives.

Mr. Freeman also recommended that the Commission implement a reclamation award. Dr. Chia stated that the Minerals research Laboratory used to create mineral kits.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Natalie Lew provided comments stating that there are concerns that members of Wake Stone are sitting on the Mining Commission given the active litigation between Wake Stone and the Umstead coalition. She stated that the land for the proposed operation is deeded to the public and that there should be better representation for public interest when considering development of rules.

No other comments.

With no other comments, Chair Freeman asked if there was a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. North seconded by Mr. Bratton.

The Commission adjourned at 1:35 pm.