



STATE OF NEVADA  
 COMMISSION ON MINERAL RESOURCES  
**DIVISION OF MINERALS**  
 400 W. King Street, Suite 106  
 Carson City, Nevada 89703  
 (775) 684-7040 • Fax (775) 684-7052  
<http://minerals.nv.gov/>



**STEVE SISOLAK**  
 Governor

**Las Vegas Office:** 2030 E. Flamingo Rd. #220, Las Vegas, NV 89119  
 Phone: (702) 486-4343; Fax: (702) 486-4345

**RICHARD PERRY**  
 Administrator

Thursday, August 15, 2019

1:00 P.M.

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

1:00 pm by Dennis Bryan

**ROLL CALL**

Commission	Staff	Public
Richard DeLong (absent)	Richard Perry	Rachel Micander
Dennis Bryan	Mike Visher	Jim Faulds
Nigel Bain	Bryan Stockton	
Mary Korpi	Sherrie Nuckolls	
Bob Felder	Courtney Brailo	
John Snow	Garrett Wake	
Art Henderson	Lowell Price	

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Dennis Bryan

**COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

There were no comments by the public.

**I. AGENDA**

A. Approval of the Agenda

**Motion to approve the agenda made by:** Nigel Bain

**Seconded by:** Mary Korpi

**Unanimously approved**

**II. MINUTES**

A. Approval of the May 9, 2019 meeting minutes

**Motion to approve the minutes made by:** Bob Felder

**Seconded by:** John Snow

**Unanimously approved**

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Biennium contract with the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology**

Mike Visher provided a copy of the Contract Summary approved by the Board of Examiners on July 9, 2019. It included the scope of work between the Division and the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology that was approved by the Commission and includes \$90,000 per Fiscal Year for the projects as listed. There was one additional project the Commission wanted to see funded at the February 7, 2019 meeting. The contract is at UNR for signatures, the scope of

work was developed and approved by both agencies, once the contract comes back it will then be submitted to the Clerk of the Board for approval and funding will be approved through a work program to be submitted shortly.

## **B. Mineral Resource Database Project (MRDP)**

Rachel Micander, with the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, presented a PowerPoint presentation with an update of the project's progress and gave a live tour of the website through a Beta Application demonstration.

**John Snow:** What is the gravity data?

**Rachel Micander:** It's from the USGS.

**Dennis Bryan:** What's the overlap with Lucia as the NDOM webmaster?

**Rachel Micander:** We're pulling a lot of the data from what Lucia has and putting it all into this one application so users don't have to go to different locations, when Lucia updates something it will go into this application.

**Rich Perry:** What we've heard in the last couple of years when we've attended PDAC is some provinces in Canada and some states have pretty detailed databases where you can look up a lot of this information. All of the data from project reports that in Nevada often times end up in container cargo boxes or destroyed or stored in peoples garages. I think this will open up some opportunities for a lot of people who are looking for this information in one spot. The intent was to build something that had a framework that was easily usable by the public and was housed in NBMG, where it should be, and the work that Lucia has been doing on mining claims links in with this. What you just saw was the beta site which can't be logged into yet. The next step is to pull in experts that do this kind of work and have them go through and see what we've done.

**Rachel Micander:** We're shooting for November for that meeting to get feedback from the experts and see what needs to be added or changed, and what they think. Our goal is to have this ready at the GSN Symposium in May of 2020.

**Rich Perry:** Yes, in May of 2020 at one of their workshops that could be attended early on.

**Dennis Bryan:** The Bureau is going through past files they've been collecting and they're scanning them, all of that will end up in this database at some point in time?

**Rachel Micander:** A fair amount, yes.

**Dennis Bryan:** The ultimate goal then would be if a brand new exploration entity would come to Nevada that doesn't know anything about Nevada, it's a one stop service to go to the Bureau and they would be able to get everything including everything at NDOM is included with your information, it would be a one stop shop?

**Rachel Micander:** Yes, the point of this web application was to create a one stop shop for people to digitally be able to come and look to see what we have available. If they require additional information they can always contact NDOM or NVMG; however, we anticipate the majority of the information they will need will be included in this web application and can be downloaded.

**Dennis Bryan:** Excellent, I think it's fantastic.

**Bob Felder:** I think this is a great thing, but it's somewhat limited to large regional data sets and USGS generated data, NBMG generated data, etc. There's a huge amount of data generated by companies that never gets shared. I think when companies come into Nevada they can get started with a regional data set but it's really the project drill data that's going to be important someday. I think we should think of this as a long term project and how do we change the rules in Nevada to require companies to share data once a project is wrapped up, I know there's challenges with that but I think we should think about a long term way to get all the project data, drill hole data, because when someone comes in and stakes claims and has a new project they can find out that there's 25 holes in their project but they can't find anything about those holes except maybe what was permitted and if they're lucky they can find somebody who knows something about it but it's a major shortcoming so we as explorationists re-invent the wheel over and over again and often times it's a fatal flaw because we have a target that we love but there's those darn 6 Newmont holes that we can't get our hands on it and could kill our target if only we knew. I don't know how to approach it but at the level of the Minerals Commission let's think about it over the long term, how we can make that happen someday for Nevada.

**Rich Perry:** I'll add it to the agenda for the next meeting.

## **C. 2019 Northern and Southern Nevada Teacher Workshops**

Garrett Wake and Courtney Brailo presented a PowerPoint presentation explaining the benefits the workshops provides to teachers, shared examples of the different classes taught, tours, attendance and surveys showing the positive feedback received.

**Dennis Bryan:** How many years have the workshops been going on?

**Courtney Brailo:** People who have been on the Education committee have been doing this for over 30 years.

**Dennis Bryan:** 30 years ago, I was intimately involved and at that time I put together a program on making concrete, do you still do that?

**Garrett Wake:** We have so many activities, I have a book in my office that has approximately 50 activities, it's probably in there, and we haven't done it in a while.

**Dennis Bryan:** Even intelligent people still do not know the difference between cement and concrete and back then every teacher that went through the course, when they came out they knew the difference.

**Garrett Wake:** I bet we could get sponsorship.

**Courtney Brailo:** We keep records on all the activities we've done and we do try to rotate, maybe it's time to bring that back in again.

**Dennis Bryan:** That's great, thank you very much.

**Rich Perry:** I remember two years ago that activity was still taking place because Sam Macaluso was teaching it. A lot of the activities have been upgraded and brought into the next generation science standards which is a requirement for teachers to take into their classrooms, I think all of the NDOM employees and Rachel Micander who have been working on this have really designed and brought these new programs they can hand to teachers because that's the goal.

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **A. Legislatively-Approved 2020-2021 NDOM Budget**

Rich Perry presented a PowerPoint presentation of the final step of the budget including the budget approval path, a detailed synopsis of the Legislatively-approved budget, performance measures for Division of Minerals and the priorities and core functions.

**John Snow:** The number for BLM and Forest Services \$8,397, it looks odd, all four amounts are the same.

**Rich Perry:** I'll have to go back and look, I took this off of the NEBS website and I did not populate those numbers but I'll have to go back and check. Mike can you recall?

**Mike Visher:** Yes, as I recall what was in the budget, was \$50K a year from the BLM and for the Forest Service it was the remaining amount that we had on the assistance agreement divided by 2 and that's how we have that split equal in those two years.

**Rich Perry:** Thanks Mike, I'll send everyone a corrected version.

##### **B. Fluid Minerals Activity Update and FY2019 Production**

Lowell Price went over a handout which included permit and drilling activity, summaries of 2018 and 2019 dissolved mineral resource exploration activity, summary of geothermal and oil well inspections for Fiscal Year 2019, sundry notice activity and BLM lease sales. Lowell accessed NDOM's website and went over the oil and gas production in Nevada, geothermal power production graphs, and dissolved mineral resource exploration reports and forms.

**Dennis Bryan:** I noticed that dissolved minerals activity isn't very stellar, what's happening with mining claims for lithium nowadays?

**Rich Perry:** There is far more interest in the lode exploration for lithium clays. On the open data site there was 11,000 or 12,000 brine claims we assumed were lithium brine claims and those will need to file their notice of intent to hold in August and we'll see how many stay. That's a huge amount of claims but if there's no activity and there's no drilling for the brine then it will be a big question. There could be a big drop in mining claims because I don't know why the owners of the claims would continue to hold them if they're not going to do any long term exploration if there's not much activity out there. The lode claims, on the other hand, have increased.

**Dennis Bryan:** All of these are placers?

**Rich Perry:** Yes, these all are placers. We didn't have a lot of placer claims in the state before the lithium brine staking boom, also known as inferred lithium claims.

**John Snow:** Last month the two operators that had the conflict over the water rights in Clayton Valley settled, so activity could and should pick up there since they came to an agreement.

**C. Courtney Brailo graduated from the TOPCORP Energy Training for Regulators**

Courtney Brailo gave an update with a PowerPoint presentation showing Nevada's participation, topics covered in training and moving forward with TOPCORP. In 2019, Nevada ranked 26/31 crude oil, 33/34 natural gas production and is second in the United States for geothermal production; and growing every year.

**Dennis Bryan:** That was great; it sounds like you enjoyed the opportunity to participate.

**Courtney Brailo:** Yes, the classes were just as important as the networking with the other states.

**Dennis Bryan:** Courtney brought up one thing she talked about the geothermal is second to California, when and if are we going to surpass California in geothermal production?

**John Snow:** If you saw that graph Lowell had in 2007 where it ramped up. In 2007, is when the BLM changed its geothermal leasing procedure and made public lands available, then in 2009 that's when our Legislature created the renewable energy portfolio standard for the 20%. This year with SB38 and the last Legislature moved it to 50%, that curve could maybe replicate itself and this lease sale that's upcoming with the 389,000 acres is an indication we're going to have a big uptick and there's a lot of plant efficiencies that Lowell eluded to between moving water around to make some of the older binary plants more efficient and the new modern Ormat machines are quite efficient.

**Dennis Bryan:** What's California's production?

**John Snow:** I can't tell you that.

**Dennis Bryan:** Can we surpass them at some point?

**John Snow:** Absolutely

**Dennis Bryan:** That would be a great opportunity to get some publicity for the State of Nevada and NDOM.

**Rich Perry:** I will look that up and have an answer by dinner tonight but I think they're double to our numbers or significantly more but all is done or much earlier. There wasn't a lot of drilling activity because it's very difficult to permit things in California and there's a different permitting system that involves the state, county and the BLM. Then there's CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) that enters into that and it's the equivalent of NEPA of non-federal lands. We do not have an equivalent of that in Nevada, although it has at times been proposed by certain entities in the Legislature and would be a real detriment, I think, to development if we ever had anything like that, that's something we've got to watch.

**D. Update on NAC 534A, NAC 517 and NAC 519A regulation changes**

Rich Perry presented an update with a PowerPoint presentation regarding Geothermal Resources and Pooling of Reclamation Bonds with two Hearings at the November CMR meeting, and Mining Claims with an expected Hearing at the February 2020 CMR meeting.

**COMMISSION BUSINESS**

**A. Determination of time and place of next CMR meetings**

November 21, 2019 in Carson City with two separate Hearings and may be an all-day event.

**COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

Jim Faulds with the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology gave an update on their geothermal and mineral activities. Garret Wake with NDOM talked about Nevada's role in the NAAML (National Association of Abandoned Mine Lands Program) conference in 2020. NDOM also won the Hard Rock Reclamation Award for its AML closure work at Gold Butte National Monument.

Rich Perry with NDOM talked about the 2020 Nevada Reclamation Awards nomination flyer that included the 2019 winners.

**ADJOURNMENT**

3:55 pm