



**JOE LOMBARDO**  
Governor

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/>



**MICHAEL VISHER**  
Administrator

**Las Vegas Office:** 375 E. Warm Springs Rd. #205, Las Vegas, NV 89119  
Phone: (702) 486-4343; Fax: (702) 486-4345

Wednesday February 1, 2023

1:00 P.M.

**MINUTES**

Commissioners	Staff	Public
Josh Nordquist	Mike Visher	Robert Ernaut (via Zoom)
Mary Korpi	Rob Ghiglieri	Jim Faulds (NBMG)
Art Henderson	Jessie Dumas	
Bob Felder	Anthony Walsh, DAG	
Nigel Bain (via Zoom)	Garrett Wake	
Randy Griffin	Carol Shelton	
Stephanie Hallinan (via Zoom)	Sean Derby	

**CALL TO ORDER**

1:07 PM

**ROLL CALL**

All Commissioners present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

There were no public comments.

**I. AGENDA**

**A. Approval of the Agenda**

Administrator Mike Visher requested to move agenda item III D. into Old Business upon the arrival of Jim Faulds.

**Motion to approve with change made by Administrator Visher by:** Bob Felder

**Seconded by:** Mary Korpi

**Unanimously approved.**

**II. MINUTES**

**A. Approval of the November 30, 2022, meeting minutes**

**Motion to approve the November 30, 2022, minutes made by:** Randy Griffin

**Seconded by:** Stephanie Hallinan

**Unanimously approved.**

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Introduction to New Staff**

Administrator Visher introduced new staff member Carol Shelton, who joined December 27, 2022, as the new Field Specialist for the Las Vegas office. Carol Shelton introduced herself and provided a background of her career. Carol Shelton received her education in Biology and Health Physics. Having worked at Nevada Test Site with nuclear high explosives as well as at Round Mountain in gold mining and other various positions, safety is always on her mind.

**B. Review of Existing Regulations per Executive Order 2023-003**

Administrator Visher summarized Governor Lombardo's January 12, 2023, Executive Order 2023-003 (attached). Administrator Visher proposed a Special Meeting in April to go over the identified statutes to meet the May 1 deadline. Proposing to have a workshop with stakeholders impacted by the regulations.

**Bob Felder:** How big of a task is this for you and your staff?

**Mike Visher:** Biggest efforts will be in the workshop. 2019 Geothermal regulations were updated, not much to change. Ensuring that Open Meeting Law is followed for the Special Meeting with the Commission.

**Anthony Walsh:** Governor's order requires that workshops need to be in accordance with NRS 233B, which requires the notice to be 15 days in advance.

**Stephanie Hallinan:** By May 1<sup>st</sup>, you have to have submitted notable changes and what changes would be?

**Josh Nordquist:** To be clear, it is not all changes you want to make for the year, just the ones you want to remove?

**Mike Visher:** Regulations to remove in regard to streamlining regulations, who benefits and the impacts, with the intent of streamlining regulations. This is a requirement of agencies to do this task every 10 years.

**C. Review of Agency's Fiscal 2023 Revenue, Expenditures and Forecast**

Administrator Visher stated that generally by the end of January all payments of counties are received for the mining claim filings that occur in December or before. The updated number for December is \$2.4 million instead of \$2.27 which is an increase in revenue. The reserve balance was presented (attached). In the forecast Administrator Visher included what the Commission has approved in Special Projects and AML contracts. One exception is the most recent AML biological contract with West which was not included in the forecast. Under Category 01, personnel, the Governor has proposed an 8% cost-of-living increase for State employees, and proposing to eliminate inequity where employees in collective bargaining unit got a 3 percent increase. In FY24, everyone will get a 10% increase who was not a part of a collective bargaining agreement. Also be a \$2,000 a year bonus paid out quarterly beginning in March and June. These are not forecasted in the budget. There will be an agency budget hearing before the legislature to review requested enhancements which includes one additional employee. If approved NDOM will have 12 FTEs. That is for the GIS Analyst that was approved by the Governor's Office. The current reserve and forecast through FY25 is still well above the guidance amount.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Update on McCaw School of Mines Exhibit**

Garrett Wake provided an update for the McCaw School of Mines life-size projection exhibit (presentation attached). Asked for donation of video services with a high-resolution screen to showcase underground mining. Eleven minutes of footage was received, paring down to one 3-to-5-minute video with voice over geared. (Video played).

**Randy Griffin:** Can you obtain pictures of a blast?

**Garrett Wake:** We can do that.

**Josh Nordquist:** What's the completion date looking like?

**Garrett Wake:** We have everything needed to produce the video; all we need is the voice-over. Completion will be around 3 weeks.

**B. Update on "Stay Out, Stay Alive" Digital Marketing Campaign**

Sean Derby provided a presentation (attached) with updates from the Jimmy King media campaign.

**Josh Nordquist:** If I remember right, we kicked this off in late November?

**Sean Derby:** Yes, the program allotted \$50,000 just for software that drive this social media campaign. This campaign officially ended on December 28<sup>th</sup> and another TV campaign ended two weeks ago from local channels 4 and 11, with the 30 second version.

**Mike Visher:** What was the range of cost for each push to get momentum?

**Sean Derby:** Cost per ad was at \$4-\$5, but the cost per impression was 11 cents.

**Mike Visher:** Any feedback from their (contractor Modus Media) impressions of the ad?

**Sean Derby:** The media company was satisfied with the results, they stated we outperformed any other campaign they've had on a cost per click. Almost twice as good due to the engaging content. Impression given by ad campaign is that the cost could go down by focusing on targeted ads. The actor who did Jimmy is willing to volunteer his time.

**Rob Ghiglieri:** When I shared these videos in Grand Junction, I was asked if they can give us money to run these as they are so generic. We will attend the NAAMLPL annual business meeting in Wyoming and share the success. This could be an opportunity to collaborate and help.

**Art Henderson:** How much in the video says Nevada?

**Sean Derby:** Just the end where it reads NDOM.

**Art Henderson:** This could be easy to bring others in.

**Sean Derby:** I am planning on giving a presentation on this at the NAAMLPL Conference in Chicago this fall. Also going to back channel with people in Wyoming.

**Rob Ghiglieri:** They're at a good point to where we can collaborate.

**Nigel Bain:** Sounds like it's been a major success, congratulations on that.

**Josh Nordquist:** This has shown key results.

**Mike Visher:** Lessons learned?

**Sean Derby:** First, the State website not great for hosting this type of content, had to use a 3<sup>rd</sup> party page to draw people to the NDOM page. Other content including Lucia's work applies to future pushes and supply links. People traveling interested in other things. Unsure how much more we can tighten the geo-target, focus on not as many ads. The comedy approach engages with people.

**Mike Visher:** Will you be using this content for the Las Vegas billboard?

**Sean Derby:** Yes, we are having a billboard proof drawn up by a graphic designer. He is also coming up with ideas for rebranding imagery, pamphlets, and activity books.

**C. Update on Federal Funding for AML**

Deputy Administrator Rob Ghiglieri gave a verbal update on Federal funding of hardrock AML. He reviewed that in November 2022 CMR meeting in Las Vegas, that it was anticipated to receive additional funding from the federal government's Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC). Rob hoped that OEPC would receive funding of \$65 million annually for the nation. When the federal budget passed, they were funded at the previous year's \$5 million in fiscal year 2023. Rob held a meeting with OEPC and Interstate Mining Compact Commission regarding the plans and

funding for FY23. Rob asked Director Steven Tryon why the lack of funding, and everyone agreed that there was no representative at the DC level that was pushing for it. During meeting with OEPC, the funding opportunities for states will be the combination of the last 2 fiscal years funding.

**D. Review and Status of CMR-Approved NBMG Projects**

Jim Faulds, Director of Nevada Bureau Mines and Geology provided a presentation (attached). Jim gave an overview of the existing CMR-Approved NBMG Contracts and their current completion status. The Lithium Project is having problems with their USGS contact who was going to work on the project. The Soda Lake Project will start after fiscal year 2023.

**Art Henderson:** I am not in favor of this 8% overhead, NDOM gave money for specific projects. My opinion is to push back. We should try.

**Jim Faulds:** This is a requirement for all State agencies, we have a separate award from Governor's Office, the percent was required too.

**Art Henderson:** We've been generous with our support to you, if they were to have nothing, instead of taking 8%, that may be the way I vote in the future.

**Jim Faulds:** Funds don't go directly to the University they have to cycle through the Sponsored Projects Office. The standard is 46%, it's lower than that, fellow State agencies would also be charged.

**Art Henderson:** How would you fund your projects if we weren't to give the 8%, where are you getting it from?

**Jim Faulds:** We would not get that 8%, we'd have to lower the expectations of the project by that percent. It does cover the salary of certain people.

**Art Henderson:** We can send them a letter telling them we've been very generous and pay for salaries. I don't think we should pay that 8%.

**Randy Griffin:** 8% is going to a State Agency?

**Art Henderson:** No UNR overhead. What is that going into?

**Jim Faulds:** Most of it goes to the Vice President for research. The College of Science gets 7%. Bureau will get the 3.5% of the 8%.

**Art Henderson:** When did this start happening?

**Jim Faulds:** They implemented this about two years ago.

**Rob Ghiglieri:** There was an all-agency memo that said anything with Nevada System of Higher Education will require or authorize an 8% indirect cost.

**Jim Faulds:** Other State agencies they go to 10%.

**Josh Nordquist:** Request I hear is to send letter to reach out and ask for a better explanation of this? Sounds like we have a referenced memorandum.

**Nigel Bain:** Timing for discussion is right, with a new Governor.

**Art Henderson:** We need to investigate more at a later time.

Presentation Continued.

**Bob Felder:** If we give you a grant, starting now with the 8%, will the USGS take your overhead?

**Jim Faulds:** No. they don't.

Presentation Continued.

**Bob Felder:** What about the Soda Lake Project?

**Jim Faulds:** Has not started yet. Isn't slated to begin until July 2023.

**III. NEW BUSINESS (moved to end during agenda change at beginning of meeting.)**

**D. Request for Financial Assistance for Equipment at the GBSSRL**

Jim Faulds, Director of Nevada Bureau Mines and Geology provided a proposal for NDOM's support to purchase equipment for the NBMG Great Basin Science Sample and Records Library (GBSSRL) (presentation attached).

**Mary Korpi:** Since this is a match for equipment, will there be an 8% indirect cost rate?

**Jim Faulds:** Since it is for equipment, I do not believe there will be an 8% indirect cost rate.

**Art Henderson:** Just to confirm, you are requesting the full \$61,679.00.

**Jim Faulds:** Yes, we are requesting the full \$61,679.00 but any money would help, and we would then prioritize the equipment at that point.

**Stephanie Hallinan:** Will this funding for storage be able to meet all NBMG's space needs?

**Jim Faulds:** No, but it will be able to buy a couple years.

**Stephanie Hallinan:** Will that storage portion be completed in FY23?

**Jim Faulds:** No, we anticipate it to be completed in calendar 2023, but in FY24.

**Motion to approve the NBMG request for \$61,679.00 for the matching funds, made by:** Art Henderson

**Seconded by:** Bob Felder

**Randy Griffin amended the motion to state that the Commission approves the NBMG request of \$61,679.00 matching funds so long as none of the funds are allocated to the fiscal and administrative fees of UNR typically charged at 8%.**

**Seconded by:** Mary Korpi

**Unanimously approved.**

**V. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

**A.** Review of staff monthly activity reports for November and December.

No questions were asked.

**B.** Set date for next Commission meeting.

Administrator Visher proposed to have next CMR in either Reno or Carson due to the Legislative Session. Tentatively set for Thursday May 4 at 10:30 am at the Gold Building (GBSSRL) conference room.

**COMMENTS BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

There were no public comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**3:47pm**