



**MINUTES OF THE
LAND RECLAMATION COMMISSION MEETING
EAST ELM STREET CONFERENCE CENTER
BENNETT SPRINGS & ROARING RIVER CONFERENCE ROOM
1730 E. ELM STREET
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI
MAY 21, 2009**

Vice Chairman, Dr. Gregory Haddock called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., at the Department of Natural Resources, Nightingale Creek Conference Room, located at 1101 Riverside Drive, in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Commissioners Present: Vice Chairman, Dr. Gregory Haddock; Joe Gillman, Kevin Mohammadi, Nick Matherly and Col. John Riffle. Not present: Chairman, Jim DiPardo and Bob Ziehmer.

Staff Present: Bill Zeaman, Chris Thiltgen, Larry Slechta, Mike Larsen, Mike Mueller, Joyce Luebbering, Teri Bibbs, Amanda Weimer, Guy Frazier, Charles McGhee, Larry Hopkins, Teresa Schubert, Tina Stockman and Leanne Tippett Mosby.

Others Present: Jenny Frazier and Jack McManus, Attorney General's Office; Larry Coen, Public-retired.

Approval of January 22, 2009 Meeting Minutes

The January Meeting Minutes were not approved last month by recommendation of one of the Commissioners due to who was present or not present during the last meeting. Col. John Riffle made a motion to approve the January 22, 2009 Meeting Minutes as written. Joe Gillman seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Approval of March 26, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Col. John Riffle made a motion to approve the March 26, 2009 Meeting Minutes as written. Nick Matherly seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Commission Resolution for Larry Hopkins

Mike Larsen introduced Larry Hopkins to everyone present. Mr. Larsen stated that the Commission may not be completely familiar with Larry because over the past several years, he hasn't had any need to address the Commission with any Agenda items. Larry has been with the Commission and the Program for 16 + years. During the course of that time, Larry has been the eyes and the ears of this Commission and of the Program. He has conducted almost 1000 inspections of various types and all kinds of mine sites throughout Missouri during his tenure with the Program. He has looked at and has been involved in almost every aspect of the Program. Industrial Minerals and Coal Mining has been Larry's forte over the last 16 years or so. Mike stated that we are going to sorely miss Larry. Mike has supervised Larry for 15 of his

16 years with this program. Mike also stated that Larry has been an invaluable asset to the units he has supervised. We are very happy that Larry has finally reached a point in his career that he can retire. He is going to go forth and live a life that he has dreamed about for a number of years and we congratulate Larry for that. Mike Larsen read Larry’s Resolution that was prepared on behalf of the Commission.

Larry Hopkins shared a few words. He thanked the Administrative staff: Teri, Teresa and Tina for all of the work that they do and he gave a very nice compliment to each one of them. Larry stated that he has learned something from each and every person he has worked with and came into contact with including the Commissioners and their Predecessors. The only thing that he would hope as he leaves the Program in good hands with all of these young folks is that they always remember that he tried. He thanked the Commission for his resolution and thanked everyone for everything.

Larry Coen, a member of the public, now retired from the State of Missouri, wanted to take an opportunity to thank Larry Hopkins for all of his service. As a manager, it is so invaluable to have someone with Larry’s experience. When you give him a task, you know that it gets finished; you don’t have to worry about it anymore. All of you that have people that report to you know what that means. He not only will get it done, but he will do it right. He will advise you if things need to be done differently and he will warn you of issues coming up. This kind of dedication and work ethics is invaluable. The Program has a number of people that will be able to fill his shoes, but Larry has the experience of many years. Mr. Coen also stated he wanted to take the time to acknowledge Larry Hopkins invaluable input to the citizens of Missouri and to him personally while he was Staff Director of the Program.

INDUSTRIAL MINERALS

The Acting Staff Director of the Land Reclamation Program has reviewed, evaluated, and approved the following Industrial Mineral bond release requests. This summary is being provided for the Commission’s information:

Company	Permit #	Mine	Land Use	Acres Released	Amount Released
E.T. Stokes	0493	Howell County, #3 Site 0538	Unaffected	5	\$2,500.00
Jeff-Cole Quarries, Inc.	0701	Cooper County, Lile Quarry Site 0658	Development	2	\$8,000.00

Staff presented the above request for bond release to the Acting Staff Director. The Acting Staff Director approved the releases noted above following review of the requests along with photographs taken during the bond release inspections.

Confirmation of the approval has been sent to the company and bonding entities.

PERMITS, CONTRACTS AND DESIGN

Coal Permitting Activities Update

This report covers coal permitting activities between March 10, 2009, the date of the last update, and the date this memo was prepared, May 1, 2009.

During this reporting period, LRP received three (3) new coal permit actions that require review and approval. One (1) of these permit actions has been finalized during this reporting period. As the reporting period ended, two (2) permit actions were still under review by the LRP staff. LRP staff reviews are proceeding on schedule.

Abandoned Mined Lands Status Update

Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Reclamation Projects

WEST FOUNTAIN SHAFT CLOSURE PROJECT

The West Fountain Shafts Reclamation Project is complete. This project closed six (6) dangerous vertical mine shafts on private property located northwest of Joplin in Jasper County. All of the mine openings were excavated to expose bedrock and a 4-foot thick concrete plug was constructed over each shaft. The work was successfully completed by Freddy Van's, Inc. for a total cost of 49,300.00. A change order in the amount of \$800.00 was authorized to investigate an additional shaft feature that appeared to be actively subsiding. The work was successfully completed and the project was final inspected and accepted on April 7, 2009.

WEST MONTROSE RECLAMATION PROJECT

The West Montrose Reclamation Project is currently in the bidding phase of project development. Bids were opened by the Office of Administration, Facilities Management, Design and Construction (OA, FMDC) on April 9, 2009 and following review they determined all bids should be rejected and the project rebid. A new pre-bid meeting is set for May 19, 2009 with a bid opening date of June 4, 2009. This project will reclaim approximately 70 acres of barren and eroding mine spoils located in the Germantown area, approximately two miles west of Montrose, Missouri. Reclamation of this site will include elimination of a hazardous pit and highwall located along a county gravel road, grading and recontouring dangerous piles and embankments, eliminating acid water impoundments, and revegetating the barren spoils to control erosion.

HARRISBURG/ THORNHILL

A proposal to provide design and engineering services has been submitted by GREDELL Engineering Resources, Inc. for the Harrisburg/ Thornhill Reclamation Project (Boone and Howard Counties). Staff has reviewed the proposal and negotiated minor changes regarding the time allotted to the various tasks to be completed. The Office of Administration, Facilities Management, Design and Construction (OA, FMDC) is currently working to develop a formal professional services contract with the engineering firm. This reclamation project considers the design and reclamation of approximately 115 acres associated with six areas of abandoned mine lands located near Harrisburg, Missouri. The scope of work for this project includes excavating and burying coal waste, grading and recontouring the site to eliminate spoil piles and

embankments, eliminating acid pit impoundments, mitigating acid mine seeps, and revegetating the site to reduce erosion.

DE SOTO SHAFTS PROJECT

The AML staff has completed the final design of the De Soto Shafts Closure Project located in southern Jefferson County. The Office of Administration, Facilities Management, Design and Construction (OA, FMDC) is currently reviewing the project design and working to develop construction documents for advertisement and bid. This project will close fifteen (15) vertical lead mine openings on private property located 4 miles southwest of De Soto. All necessary landowner consents, NEPA clearances, and written authorization to proceed with the project from the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) have been obtained. Project completion is expected by Fall 2009.

HIGHLAND HIGHWALL RECLAMATION PROJECT

The AML staff has completed the initial site investigations and preliminary design of the Highland Highwall Reclamation Project, located near Calhoun, Missouri in Henry County. Staff met on site with a professional consultant to determine if federal jurisdictional waters will be impacted by this work. The wetlands consultant has determined that no jurisdictional waters are located on the property to be reclaimed and a letter with the appropriate supporting documentation has been sent to the U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers for their concurrence. Work at this site will address approximately 70 acres of pre-law coal mine land where reclamation was left incomplete by the mining company. Reclamation will eliminate an extremely dangerous highwall that is located immediately adjacent to a county gravel road. Additionally, dangerous piles and embankments will be graded and revegetated to control erosion.

BEE HOLLOW RECLAMATION PROJECT

The AML staff is working to design the Bee Hollow Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Project located within the Bee Hollow Conservation Area in Macon County. Our staff hired a local contractor to excavate test pits to verify the depth to solid rock so as to define the volume of sandstone to be blasted and excavated. The scope of work is to remove an approximate 1.5-acre sandstone embankment through blasting, and covering the surrounding coal waste with spoil. After final grading, approximately 6 acres of reclaimed area will be revegetated with a mixture of warm-season grasses and forbs or cool-season grasses and legumes that are beneficial to wildlife.

OTHER BUSINESS

Staff Update

Bill Zeaman introduced Charles McGhee as a new employee to the Program, who started on January 16, 2009. He is replacing David Dowdy, who used to work with Metallic Minerals and is now working in the AML unit. Charles used to work for the Southeast Regional Office, working with Metallic Minerals which will be a good addition to our staff. He is also working with Industrial Minerals and is a great addition to the Staff.

Comments from the Public

Jenny Frazier, Attorney General's Office, (not as a public member) wanted to introduce herself to those who have not met her yet. She stated she had the pleasure of representing this Commission from the years 1996 to 2000. She said it is a real pleasure and honor for her to be back working with the Commission and this very excellent staff. Ms. Frazier introduced her supervisor, Jack McManus, Chief of Agriculture and Environment Division with the Attorney General's Office. Mr. McManus stated his appreciation for the work that the Commission does and for the service that each of you provides to the State of Missouri. He stated he appreciates the opportunity to work with everyone and if you have any concerns please feel free to get in touch with him.

Leanne Tippett Mosby, Acting Staff Director of the Land Reclamation Program, on a personal note, (as a public member) stated she has not had the opportunity and pleasure to work with Larry Hopkins as closely as many as the others have. She has had an occasion or two over the years to work with him and she always found him to be very professional, speak with candor and is extremely funny. He makes work a lot of fun. She stated on behalf of herself and her husband, David Mosby, who has worked very closely with Larry Hopkins over the years, that we wish him well in his retirement and that they will miss him.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Kevin Mohammadi made a motion that the Land Reclamation Commission meet in closed session on July 23, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of discussing activities, issues or any subject allowed for under Section 610.021 RSMo, 2003. Col. Riffle seconded the motion. Vice Chairman, Dr. Haddock asked for a roll call vote.

Kevin Mohammadi: yes
Joe Gillman: yes
Col. Riffle: yes
Nick Matherly: yes
Dr. Haddock: yes

The motion passed by roll call vote, with all 5 yes votes.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Col. John Riffle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nick Matherly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman