

ORPHANED LAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES
June 15th – 16th, 2026

The Orphaned Land Advisory Committee Meeting was held at Dumfries, Virginia on June 15th – 16th, 2026. The meeting was held at the Hampton Inn Dumfries/Quantico.

Attendees:

Committee members present were:

- Mr. Walter Beck, Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance (VTCA)
- Mr. Billy Lassetter, Citizen Member
- Dr. Lee Daniels, Virginia Tech, School of Plant and Environmental Sciences
- Mr. Palmer Sweet, Citizen Member (Chairman)
- Mr. Chuck Stilson, Industry Representative
- Ms. Lorrie Skiffington, Virginia Abandoned Mine Land Program
- Ms. Stephanie Kreps, Department of Environmental Quality
- Mr. Roy Bassoo, Division of Geology Mineral Resources (DGMR)

Members not present:

- Mr. David Spears. Citizen Member
- Mr. Chris Hamilton, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Services

Non-Voting advisors:

- Mr. Phil Skorupa, Virginia Energy Division of Mineral Mining (DMM) Director
- Mr. Paul Saunders, DMM Manager of Safety and Permitting
- Ms. Elle Lindgren, Orphaned Land Specialist
- Ms. Chrissi Wood-Smith, DMM Technical Services Manager
- Ms. Rachel Winnall, DMM Mine inspector

State of OLP:

- Orphaned Land Program updates were presented by Chrissi Wood-Smith including current inventory statistics, the work performed this past cycle, staffing, and funding resources.
- Elle Lindgren presented updates to the Inventory Process highlighting the statewide inventory and review strategy shift including the progress completed year-to-date. Six hundred and forty-five (645) sites have been reviewed. Seventy-two (72) sites were physically inspected, sixteen (16) new watersheds were inventoried and seventeen (17) were presented to the Committee this year.
- Paul Saunders presented the Four Mile Fenster and Edith Mine Reclamation projects which will be completed in 2026.

Reclamation Awards:

- Rachel Winall presented 5 reclamation award nominations for DMM/Virginia

Transportation Construction Alliance (VTCA) Reclamation Awards Program 2026 to the committee.

- Bardon Charles City (Amrize) as the best non-quarry and overall winner in the DMM/VTCA Awards Program and to be nominated for the Interstate Mining Compact Commission National Award Program.
- Martin Marietta Amelia was selected as the best quarry winner.
- Iluka Brink, Nestle Purina Petcare, Michael A Gregg, Boxley Otter River were selected to receive Honorable Mention Awards.
- Chuck Stilton suggests that DMM provide the reclamation award criteria to mine inspectors for assistance in preparation of nominations.

Tour:

- The committee toured the Cabin Branch Pyrite Mine at the Prince William National Forest.
- Mr. Gregg Kneuit and his team provided interpretation for the visit.
- A thank you note was sent by Phil Skorpua acknowledging the effort NPS made for OLAC.
- The History of Cabin Branch Mine was presented by Paul Saunders.

2025-2026 AMML Inventory Ranking:

- The OLAC reviewed the ranking criteria:
 - A = most important, proximity to public, severe safety concerns (open shaft, highwall, etc.)
 - B= lower priority, but still has safety or environmental concerns.
 - C= little to no hazards
- Seventeen (17) sites with environmental and/or safety scores greater than or equal to one hundred (=>100) were presented by Elle Lindgren and reviewed by the OLAC (attached).
- 5 sites were ranked as A.
- 10 sites were ranked as B.
- 2 sites were ranked as C.
- 59 were automatically ranked as C because their environmental and/or safety scores were <100.
- 1 was ranked as “Repurposed”.

OLAC Business:

- The OLAC membership (attached) was reviewed, and members were re-appointed.
- Palmer Sweet will continue to serve as Chairman. There was a motion to add

another member to the committee.

- This was approved. Roy Bassoo has accepted this role.
- Billy Lassetter, David Spears, and Palmer Sweet are citizen members.
- Billy Lassetter suggested we consider adding a member from National Park Service or US Forest Service.
- Palmer Sweet will check with Natural Bridge Forest Department. Suggested Tom Collins.
- Lorrie Skiffington reached out to Marcie about NPS and NFS contacts.
- It was suggested that Elle Lindgren overlay a map with areas of National Park and State Parks to determine which areas could be prioritized for reclamation.
- Lorrie Skiffington will reach out to DGMR about NPS contacts they have.
- Billy Lassetter emphasized the importance of having a mine expert on the committee. Someone who can determine the potential impacts of mining.
- Chuck Stilson mentioned that the OLAC committee should consist of 1 member per group, and 3 private citizens. Palmer Sweet says we will wait till next year to revise the membership list.
- Members shall remain on the committee until they resign and give notice, as opposed to the 3-year term in the by-laws.
- Palmer Sweet will talk to DOT to see if representation on OLAC is appropriate. Lee Daniels suggests the speak to Mike Fitch, Director of Virginia Tech Research Council in Charlottesville, O-Hill. This group manages research on acid sulfate soils, etc.
- The Committee by-laws (attached) were reviewed:
 - Article II, #2 used letters to keep track of the 3-year membership cycle. This has been revised.
 - Article II, #2 membership list will be revised next year after determining VDOT participation.
 - Mineral Mining Program is changed to Division of Mineral Mining
 - Article III, #1 membership, will change from 3 years until resigned.
- Committee members were assisted with reimbursement forms.
- Chuck Stilton and Paul Saunders will reach out to Iluka for a potential field trip next year.

DIVISION OF MINERAL MINING
ORPHANED LAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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CWS

**BY-LAWS
OF
ORPHANED LAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OF THE
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
DIVISION OF MINERAL MINING**

Article I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Orphaned Land Advisory Committee (OLAC) is:

1. To assist the Division of Mineral Mining (DMM) in prioritizing abandoned mineral mine lands to be reclaimed with available funding.
2. To provide advice to the DMM on methods used in reclamation on prioritized sites.
3. To select the winners of the annual DMM/Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance (VTCA) Reclamation Awards Program. Nominations from this program may also be selected for the NASLR and/or IMCC National Awards Program as the Virginia representative in the Non-Coal category.

Article II. MEMBERSHIP

1. The Orphaned Land Advisory Committee shall be composed of eight members appointed by the Director of the Mineral Mining Program.
2. The Committee shall consist of representatives of each of the following organizations or groups:
 - Virginia Department of Energy, Geology & Mineral Resources Program
 - Mineral Mining Industry
 - Private Citizen
 - Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
 - USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
 - Virginia Transportation Construction Alliance (VTCA)
 - Virginia Department of Energy, Abandoned Mine Land Program
 - Virginia Tech Crop & Soil Environmental Sciences Department
3. The DMM Director and Orphaned Land Specialist serve as ex-officio non-voting members and advisors to the Committee.

4. The Orphaned Land Specialist shall present information on selected inventoried abandoned mineral mine sites to the Committee.

Article III. TERMS

1. Members are appointed until resignation.
2. Members are reappointed automatically at the discretion of the DMM Director.
3. Members may resign at any time by providing notice of resignation to the DMM Director.
4. When a vacancy occurs, the DMM Director shall solicit and appoint a replacement from list of organizations or groups in accordance with Article II.

Article IV. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Chairperson or his designee shall preside over meetings.
2. The DMM shall take meeting minutes and provide to the Chairperson or their designee.
3. The Chairperson or their designee shall sign the OLAC Meeting Minutes and the DMM will maintain the record.
4. Each member shall make all reasonable attempt to attend all meetings of the Committee at designated times and places. Members who cannot attend should provide notification to the DMM and may designate a person to attend in their absence.

Article V. VOTING AND ELECTIONS

1. Each Committee member has the right to vote on any items brought before committee.
2. A simple majority of the Committee membership present shall constitute a quorum. In case of a tie vote, the Chairperson shall cast the deciding vote.
3. Election of a Chairperson shall take place every three (3) years. Elected persons shall assume office at the meeting in which they are elected.

Article VI. OPERATIONS

1. If requested, expenses for travel by the OLAC members will be reimbursed by the DMM.

2. All meeting minutes, records, and reports are the property of the DMM and shall be retained in accordance with Virginia Energy record retention policy.

Article VII. MEETINGS AND AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS

1. The Committee can amend the By-Laws by resolution and adopt changes by a majority vote.
2. The Committee shall meet in the Spring of each calendar year.
3. Meetings will be hosted and organized by the DMM.
4. Additional meetings may be called by the DMM Director or the Chairperson of OLAC.

REV 6/22/2026
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DMM_Num	EnvirScore	SafetyScore	ExpoScore	County	SCORE
DMM25036	200	0	40	Louisa	A Env. Haz mercury
DMM25035	200	100	111	Louisa	A Amb
DMM26050	60	150	40	Louisa	A
DMM25034	250	570	20	Louisa	A
DMM25058	30	160	17	Amelia	B
DMM25056	10	100	31	Amelia	B
DMM25057	0	100	4	Amelia	B
DMM26022	40	310	21	Albemarle	B
DMM26023	20	200	29	Albemarle	B
DMM26065	100	200	34	Albemarle	C
DMM26028	120	200	113	Culpeper	B
DMM26042	20	150	36	Augusta	C
DMM26062	10	150	39	Wythe	B
DMM26067	30	250	31	Wythe	B
DMM26084	14.8	150	46	Wythe	B
DMM26087	22.8	210	34	Wythe	B
* DMM22013					A

Wiley
Adan

→ MacHagy reached cut
We should reach cut again per C.S.