

**MEETING OF THE  
NORTH CAROLINA MINING COMMISSION  
AUGUST 15, 2023  
512 N. SALISBURY ST  
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA**

Chairman Travis Morehead, in the City of Raleigh, NC on August 15, 2023, called a meeting of the North Carolina Mining Commission to order at 1:05 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. Travis Morehead (Chair)  
Mr. Samuel Bratton  
Dr. Kenneth Taylor

**REMOTE COMMISSION MEMBERS**

Mr. Jason Conner  
Mr. Brian North

**ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE**

Mr. Phillip Reynolds

**DEMLR STAFF MEMBERS**

Mr. Douglas Ansel, Interim Director, DEMLR  
Mr. Toby Vinson, Program Operations Chief, DEMLR  
Mr. David Miller, State Mining Engineer, DEMLR  
Mr. Adam Parr, Assistant State Mining Engineer, DEMLR  
Mr. Josh Kastrinsky, Public Information Officer, DEMLR

**IN PERSON ATTENDEES**

Mr. Tracy Davis, Carolina Sunrock  
Mr. Jay Stem, NC Aggregates Association  
Mr. Alex Thompson, Vice President Albemarle Lithium  
Ms. Kirsten Martin, Community Manager  
Mr. David Lambert, NC DEQ

**REMOTE ATTENDEES**

Ms. Lisa Sorg  
Ms. Kari Barsness  
Mr. Marc Bernstein  
Ms. Brittany Griffin  
Mr. Cedric Ruhl  
Mr. Edward Lewis  
Mr. Brad Albert

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

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2022**

Minutes for the May 10th meeting were approved. Motion to accept minutes made by Mr. Bratton and seconded by Dr. Taylor. Roll call vote

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Review of operating procedures. Mr. Phillip Reynolds recommended review of the document before addressing it in the next meeting.

Mr. Reynolds reviewed the 5C Rule move from Mining to Oil and Gas. A letter will be to the Chairman by next week or so. The Chairman for the Mining Commission and The Oil and Gas Commission have been given authority to sign letter.

Appointment from this Commission to have representation on the Sediment Commission. Mr. Conner was the past but would like to relinquish. Mr. Bratton nominated Dr. Taylor; Commissioner Mr. North seconded. Roll call vote to have Dr. Taylor represent Mining on Sediment Commission

Mr. Sam Bratton gave an update on the rules committee. Ready for approval on necessary/unnecessary. Final changes to technical corrections to be complete on next committee meeting (8/29) to be approved by the commission for the next meeting scheduled for October 2023.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Doug Ansel gave an update on readoption of rules and phase two approach. Phase I of categorization and readoption, Phase II of substantial changes. Mr. Ansel provided an explanation of the Stakeholder group requested by members of the regulated community and recommended by DEMLR staff.

Mr. David Lambert is going to moderate the stakeholder group. Mr. Lambert gave a brief introduction of his current role at NCDEQ, and how he plans to run efficient effective meetings for the stakeholder group.

Mr. Doug Ansel provided guidance on the next steps for the Stakeholder group to start Phase II rules review and creation.

Mr. Bratton asked about the timeline to which Mr. Ansel clarified that it depends on a number of topics.

Mr. North asked about the presentation Mr. Ansel gave ahead of time. Mr. North asked if the mining commission will approve of the members of the Stakeholder group? Mr. Ansel stated that DEMLR will create the initial group. The rules will be drafted then will then go to the Commission for approval. DEMLR Staff and Administration will decide who is in the Stakeholder Group

#### **Albemarle Presentation**

Mr. Alex Thompson and Ms. Kirsten Martin gave a presentation on advancing responsible mining. There was a brief company overview explaining global operations as well as operations at the Kings Mountain site. Albemarle plans to submit applications by the end of the year to restart the Kings Mountain operation.

Ms. Kirsten Martin spoke about community engagement. Prior to permitting, Albemarle has held public meetings and town halls. There were 2 last year, 3 already this year with another 1 planned for fall/winter. They've discussed mine closure opportunities with the community as well as city land use plans. They are working on accessible greenspace and redevelopment of the gateway trail. Albemarle opened a project center in downtown

Kings Mountain that acts as an education center and opened May of this year. They are also providing community site tours that started in June.

Mr. Bratton asked for a copy of the presentation.

## **CONCLUSION**

### *Closing Comments from DEMLR*

Remarks from Mr. Doug Ansel to announce David Millers retirement and that Adam Parr will be interim State Mining Engineer until the position can be permanently filled.

Mr. Ansel spoke about human resource issues and filling the Mining Engineer 1 position. Once David retires the Mining program will be down to 1 staff member.

### *Closing Remarks from the Commissioners*

Mr. North asked Mr. Bratton to address an email from earlier in the day regarding rules.

No comments from Mr. Conner

No comments from Dr. Taylor

Mr. Bratton addressed the email by stating that changes to the mining rules is ongoing and will be taken care of by the rules committee. Mr. Bratton asked what the options are for meeting salary challenges within the Department.

Mr. Toby Vinson gave further clarification on fees and the money coming into the Division. Vacancies are a problem across the Department.

Mr. Bratton asked about short term help and contract work. Mr. Ansel explained that specific knowledge of mining is a requirement which limits the availability of temporary help.

No comments from Mr. Reynolds

No comments from Mr. Morehead

### *Public comments*

Ms. Natalie Lew provided comments on how land for modification to the Wake Stone Triangle quarry was not appropriately acquired by Wake Stone. She questioned what good the Commission serves if rules and regulations appear to be ignored? She requested that the Commission and DEMLR honor the truth about the history of the Triangle Quarry mining application. She stated that this is public land and should be voted on by the public.

Close for comments

The Committee adjourned at 1:54 pm