



Environmental Division
Executive Committee Meeting – MINEXCHANGE 2025
Sunday, February 23, 2025 @ 9:00-11:30am
Hyatt Regency Downtown, Denver, CO
Mineral Hall A

2024-25 Executive Committee

Chair	Annelia Tinklenberg
Vice-Chair	Omar Smith
Secretary/Publications	Amar Patel
Program Committee Chair	Heather Halderman
Program Planning Committee Chair	Gen Sutton
Past Chair	Jen Pepe

Meeting Agenda

Annelia Tinklenberg, presiding

1. Call to Order

Annelia call to order at 903am, second Amar.

2. Introductions and meeting Roll Call

Executive committee all present. Refer to sign in sheet.

3. Safety Share

Denver RTD trainline can be hazardous. Train directions can approach on multiple roads. Buses can also cut across and over on the curb which could impact pedestrians. Pedestrian walk signals are not fully functional or working. Ice on sidewalk can be hazardous for slips, trips, and falls. Care not to walk with phone which may be a distraction.

4. Approval of the February 23 Meeting Agenda

Heather motions, Gen seconds

5. Approval of January 17, 2025 and September 23, 2024 meeting minutes

Double check format however all content looks correct

Heather motions, Amar seconds

Jen motions, Gen seconds

6. Division meetings and activities during MINEXCHANGE 2025

6.1. ADTI Subcommittee meeting: Sun. Feb. 23, 1:00-4:00pm, Hyatt Mineral Hall E

Meeting isn't likely 3 hours long, invitation to stop by.

6.2. ENV Division Business meeting: Mon. Feb. 24, 8:00-9:00am, CCC 206

Consider changing the purpose of the business meeting or removing from schedule. Also, consider changing the name of the executive committee meeting.

6.3. Division Poster Session: Tues. Feb. 25, 9:00am-noon, CCC Four Seasons Foyer

Sponsorship has been consistent. Consider stopping by the poster session and engage with the students. 17 posters accepted for MX25. Update of the poster guidelines for MX26 to be more specific for mining and environmental.

The website was not updated for the MX25 poster guidelines.

- 6.4. Division Silent Auction: Tues. Feb. 25, 10:00am-3:00pm, CCC Expo Hall
Auction ends an hour earlier to facilitate other SME programming. The auction (and new timing isn't on the SME app).
- 6.5. Division Luncheon: Tues. Feb. 25, noon-1:30pm, CCC Four Seasons Ballroom (ticketed)
Concurrent with the Auction.
- 6.6. ENV Division Nomination & Planning Committee meeting: Weds. Feb. 26; 3:00-5:00pm, CCC 204
- 6.7. Martin Marietta Quarry Field Trip: Thurs. Feb.27, 8:00am-noon
The field trip is sold out.
7. Financials
 - 7.1. Environmental Division Operating Fund (CC 620): \$58,701 at 12/31/24
 - 7.2. Environmental Scholarship Fund (CC 621): \$178,530 at 12/31/24
 - 7.3. Donation to SME Foundation (Jan. 2025: \$1,000. Funds not transferred yet.)
Laura to confirm about transfer to SMEF.
8. SME Code of Conduct
 - 8.1. Review highlights and member expectations as well as reporting procedure
9. Volunteer Portal
 - 9.1. Volunteer portal main web page with volunteer interest form and email back to interested volunteers. Routing volunteer requests (staff liaison). Portal provides immediate engagement – identify entry level volunteer opportunities. Updates to Division web page (Leadership video; link to volunteer interest form; update Distinguished Service Award video)
Which subcommittees are good for volunteers?
Scholarship, membership, or sustainable development (tactical arm of RMUC).
Past chair to be officially on the membership subcommittee
Omar to complete a volunteer video for the division page
10. Planning for 2025 – New Initiatives?
Consideration MX26 for Nominating and Planning Committee follow-up meeting, open house (at the awards Gala). Is there a potential for another
Nominating and planning committee meeting may be moved to outside the conference (MPD has gone virtual) or Saturday or Sunday.
Meet the executive committee; social meeting in the expo hall.
Virtual coffee break, post conference
Julie Lucas, RMUC, proposal for consolidating state permitting workshops, panels, or website content.
NM copper rules and awareness
Missouri cobalt mining regulatory program creation and challenges
11. Symposium: Balancing Tradition and Transformation Towards a More Resilient Energy Future (Lisa Gonzales)

Will be for MX26, 6 sessions. Planning to meet on Wednesday 730-930am. Lisa has participated in monthly calls. Abstracts will be managed through abstract central and will require a paper. Session title and abstract is needed by Wednesday.

Paper review is in development. Volunteer paper reviewers are needed, two reviewers per paper and revisions go back to the paper author. September 30 2025 papers are due with final papers due by end of calendar year 2025. Follow-up for paper authors who submitted for MX24.

Subtopics may include:

Energy

ESG reporting

Decarbonization

MX26 technical sessions may overlap with the symposium (count and branding).

12. World Gold Conference (Heather Halderman)

No update, check the SME app.

13. Program Committee (Heather Halderman)

No further updates (2 authors dropped out), all chairs and authors expected to participate.

14. Program Planning Committee (Gen Sutton)

17 posters in the contest, with easel numbers implemented. Judges and reviewers are expected to complete winner selection by EVD luncheon

15. Environmental Division Committee Reports

15.1. ED Membership Committee (Annelia Tinklenberg, Shawn Calendine, Nahomi Sayuri Caururo)

Adding content to EVD webpage such as videos and nominating and planning meeting. In 2025, may consider adding the past chair to officially be on this subcommittee

15.1.1. Promote Division membership and volunteering

15.2. ED Scholarship Committee (Emily Schlenker, James Mullen, Irene Montero, Julia Schmidt, Betty Zataray, Lianne George)

Lianne mentioned 50+ items, though not as many mineral specimens. Last year raised >\$5,000.

Donation QR code is available for donations to the scholarship fund. Idea to include in the luncheon PowerPoint.

30 scholarship applications; count prior to filtering non-environmental

15.3. ED/ADTI Sub-committee (Rens Verburg, Patrick Williamson, Dave Williams, Lauren Bozeman)

Meets later today at 1pm. Will report at next monthly EVD meeting.

15.4. Tailings Sub-committee (Lisa Gonzalez)

Writing a closure book. Meets later tomorrow. Will report at next monthly EVD meeting.

16. ED Representatives for SME Standing Committees

16.1. Government and Public Affairs (Andrea Martin, Leslie Watson, Heather Lammers, Harrison Schultz, Joe Pere, Amar Patel, Jen Pepe, Barb Nielson, Virginia)

Monitoring good Samaritan mine sites selected and regulatory changes. Three focused efforts for 2025 briefing papers including Uranium, Minerals used in defense of US, and Reprocessing waste streams (business case). GPAC seeking volunteers for paper writer and reviews.

Interest is for AI briefing paper and/or white paper, however some folks are unavailable to contribute because of conflicts of interest.

Revising old or out of date papers is a general request for EVD members.

- 16.2. Mining Engineering Magazine Committee (PJ Nolan, Denise Levitan)
Monthly articles (green news). Meeting on Tuesday morning 10am CCC Room 206. There is a spreadsheet of articles for future planned.
- 16.3. Structure & Governance (Omar Smith, Gen Sutton, Anne Williamson)
Review of SME structure and governance, specific to strategic and working committees. An example of this is how RMUC is a strategic committee, with Sustainable Development being the working committee.
Review of existing awards has been prepared for the SME Board.
- 16.4. Young Leaders Committee (Elham Rahimi, Mohsen Rabbani, Nahomi Cauroro)
Elham noted that the two new YLC representatives, Mohsen Rabbani, Nahomi Cauroro, to be involved. Mentoring meetings have been ongoing. Elham will attend the upcoming YLC mentor meeting and follow-up if EVD mentors are needed.
- 16.5. SME P.E. Committee (Lisa Gonzales, Gen Sutton, Julia Schmidt, Lianne George)
Promoting new study guidebooks. Today the exhibit (social event/mixer) in the expo hall for students interested in obtaining a PE (MMP subsection) NCEES work is primarily done by Lisa and Liane.
- 16.6. SME Inclusion & Diversity Committee (Anne Williamson, Elham Rahimi)
No plans to change charter, diversity statement, or role. Meets on Wednesday. The ID committee relies on volunteers, not in particular
Look at EVD nominating packet for next in the EVD rep role.
Two sessions, Monday be an upstander not a bystander. Tuesday unconscious bias.
- 16.7. MME Special Water Management Issue (Ginger McLemore, Dale Rucker)
Call for volunteers for reviewers and assistant editors. Recommendation is that the journal drop this in the short-term. Ginger mentioned that if the water management issue is dropped, the EVD should consider a special issue in the future for mine waste. Ginger to coordinate with Heather Lammer and PJ for additional authors.

17. Strategic Committees

- 17.1. Responsible Mining & Underground Construction (Jen Pepe, Lisa Gonzales, Heather Lammers)
Creating a permitting repository of references across US of papers (use one mines), case studies (work with industry), short courses (couple years out).
Reprocessing waste streams, programming for MX26 or MX27, for all divisions and potential as a symposium.

Ginger and Omar have been nominated to join RMUC in the future years.

- 17.2. Association Growth Strategic Committee (Simone Bailey, Annelia Tinklenberg)
Partnership matrix, in review and presentation to the SME BOD later today.
Simone asked when her role ends, although she's interested to keep participating.

Virtual Section programming development. Will analyze and map all members to segment subsections, for example Texas. Understanding how the divisions and local sections operate for virtual content. Plan for 2025 is to create an ad-hoc committee for virtual sections. Defining and researching new audiences for membership, social scientist, valuation experts, recycling, and materials science/engineering.

EVD executive committee and Laura to work on officially nominating Simone Bailey to the AGSC in summer of 2025.

- 17.3. Industry Workforce (Denise Levitan)

Denise attended the meeting yesterday. Mineral education program was shared that is used in Australia. Technical programs at community colleges and re-skilling for individuals who lack certification or credentials. For the trades, focusing on individuals who are in trade roles and looking to transition to more technical roles. Proposal for SME BOD is a standing committee on social media, which may involve the EVD. Collaboration for other mining related groups in other countries, such as CIM, NMA, Australian mining organizations.

- 17.4. Industry Innovation (Nina Astillero) No Update

18. Other

- 18.1. Division Monthly Meetings: Third Friday of the month, 1:30pm

- 18.2. 2025 ED Award Nominations: Open April 1

Request for award nominations for at least 3 nominations in this cycle.

- 18.3. Changes to Operating Guidelines and Conference Manual

- 18.4. National Materials & Minerals Council proposal

19. Board visit SME VIPs and report – Dave K, Mark and Bill

Marc mentioned that 2024 was an outstanding year for SME content and growth

Marc talked about how AI may change technology and transfer of knowledge in the mining industry in the next five to ten years. Anticipating a global problem to solve like the man on the moon mission.

Marc discussed the effort for the US Bureau of Mines revitalization, as National Mining and Materials Council (NMMC)

Bill mentioned that emphasis is on a replacement candidate for Dave K as he retires at the end of 2025 calendar year. Plan for timing is to include a hire to overlap with Dave in 2025 Q4.

Bill talked about the SME youth for certification programs at the college level that could be face to face or virtual. Concept is to complete a market survey and to introduce more technical people into the mining industry.

Dave answered that SME is not changing the diversity statement, ID charter, or committee, because diversity is a critical element of workforce development. Dave not aware of mining companies dropping DEI programs.

Around 6500 conference attendees, with a potential for 7200 to 7800 total. Growth in SME in 2024 domestic 7.2% and 10.7% international.

20. Next Monthly Meeting: March 21, 2025 @ 1:30pm MT (for meeting link, email Laura Nelson, nelson@smenet.org)

21. Adjourn

Heather motions to adjourn at 11:45am, second by Amar