



Environmental Division Meeting Agenda

February 22, 2026 @ 9:00-11:30 am

In person during MINEXCHANGE 2026

Hyatt, Snowbasin Room

2025-26 Executive Committee

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

Meeting Agenda

Omar Smith, presiding

1. Call to Order 905 called to order by Omar, seconded by Amar
2. Introductions and meeting Roll Call

Refer to sign in sheets

3. Safety Share

Pedestrian street safety

4. Approval of January 16, 2026 meeting minutes

Lianne George motions to approve, seconded by Gen. Approved as is. No nays or abstains.

5. Division meetings and activities during MINEXCHANGE 2026

5.1. ADTI Subcommittee meeting: Sunday, February 22, 1:00-4:00pm, Hyatt, Woodward room

See ADTI agenda for

5.2. ENV Division Student Poster Session: Tuesday, February 24, 9:00am-noon, SPCC, North Ballroom Foyer

13 (to 10) posters for this session.

5.3. Division Silent Auction (during Division Luncheon), Tuesday, February 24, Noon-2:00pm, SPCC, Grand Ballroom A/C

Emily needs volunteers to support the auction. Bring auction items

Nina recommended to consider an online auction in the future like for the SME MXC27.

Bring Auction items to the Arcadis Booth.

5.4. Division Luncheon (ticketed): Tuesday, February 24, Noon-2:00pm, SPCC, Grand Ballroom A/C

Speaker (slides). Omar to work with SME to finalize luncheon script

5.5. ENV Division Nominating & Planning Committee meeting: Wednesday, February 25, 3:00-5:00pm, SPCC, room 150B

5.5.1. "Tickets" to promote Nominating Committee meeting

EVD XC to host a virtual coffee break March 25, 2026 as an extension of the planning and nominating committee meeting.

6. Division Financials

6.1. ENV Division Operating Fund (Cost center 620): \$82,315 net assets at 12/31/25

6.2. ENV Division Scholarship Fund (Cost center 621): \$193,229 net assets at 12/31/25

6.3. Vote on donation to SME Foundation: \$1,000

Omar motions to vote, Annelia seconded. No nays and one member (Denise Levitan) abstained from the vote. The vote passes.

7. Volunteer Portal: 11 ENV Division volunteers since May 1, 2025

EVD is working on a process to onboard and mentor the volunteer portal individuals through 2026.

8. Member Engagement in 2026

8.1. Monthly Division meetings:

8.1.1. Move to Zoom platform

8.1.2. Email with Zoom link to Division members - week of March 2

8.1.3. Post meetings on SME Events calendar – starting in March

For 2026, Zoom will be deployed similarly to SME mixer invites.

Nina suggested the town hall feature in Teams as another option.

Focus group suggestion by Melanie.

8.2. ENV Division Virtual Coffee Break

8.2.1. Wednesday, March 25, 2025, 10:00-11:00am MT

The Schedule is designed to include follow-up on nominating Committee, meet the EVD board and Executive Committee members, collaboration with the YLC,

Lianne George suggested to include breakout rooms.

EVD to provide documents or visuals for members to understand the nominating packet and volunteer opportunities

8.2.2. Begin promoting – week of March 2

8.2.3. Suggested topic ideas

8.3. Community posts: to engage members and create online discussion year-asalto

Nina wanted to confirm the purpose of this effort – the group affirmed the purpose may be to engage existing and new members. Generally, creating a división (XC, división subcommittees, GPAC, ADTI, etc) marketing or promotion plan and Schedule that generally aligns with SME and Division activities.

Walk through how SME members can adjust their Community. EVD to coordinate with Rachel Grimes. Suggestion is to demo this function at the March 2026 coffee break.

Can the EVD cross post in the Community to the virtual section/Chapter?

Next steps will likely include SME's investment for a LLM and organizing Onemine.org database

A room for improvement to increase volume of Pre-prints while balancing to reduce programming to improve quality over quantity.

Another goal is to cull repeat content year over year.

Ginger recommends a process to account for individual the pre-prints (historical) and for mining engineering and the mining journal.

What criteria are needed for an abstract, pre-print, Conference proceedings, peer review publications, mining engineering, and mining journal

Emily H (SME) emerging themes and hot topic review.

8.3.1. Brainstorm topics by month and ask for volunteers to write posts

8.3.2. Division Chair and Staff Liaison to follow up with volunteers after MINEXCHANGE

8.3.3. Example content calendar:

Month	Member Name	Topic
January	Chair/Chair-elect	Engagement: MXC & beyond
February	Ex Comm Mbr 1	Technical topic
March	Ex Comm Mbr 2	link to useful article
April	Ex Comm Mbr 3	recent lesson learned
May	Ex Comm Mbr 4	Technical topic
June	Etc.	Etc.
July	Etc.	Etc.
August	Etc.	Etc.
September	Etc.	Etc.
October	Etc.	Etc.
November	Etc.	Etc.
December	Etc.	Etc.

9. Net Zero Symposium (Lisa Gonzales)

9.1. *“Balancing Tradition and Transformation Towards a More Resilient Energy Future”*

10. Program Committee (Gen Sutton)

Gen provided an update on the technical sessions, chairs and cochairs are set,

11. Program Planning Committee (Nina Astillero)

Nina provided an update on the poster session (10 to 13 poster sessions)

12. Environmental Division Committee Reports

Suggestion is for nominating process is to confirm the preferred email (not default to the SME member).

A suggestion is to engage EVD members with a survey via the SME community page

12.1. ED Membership Committee

(Omar Smith, Annelia Tinklenberg, Emily Sportsman, Hannah Chop, Milan Calendine)

12.2. ED Scholarship Committee

(Emily Schlenker, Irene Montero, Elham Rahimi, MacKenzie Best, Angela Babst-Kostecka, Daniel Torres)

Over 50 applications were received and removed. All 3 awardees for this year will be present at the EVD luncheon. Members are encouraged to engage with these folks.

12.2.1. Don't forget to bid on Silent Auction during Division Luncheon

There is a community and linked in posts to market this

12.3. ED/ADTI Sub-committee

(Patrick Williamson, Ethan Wologo, Denise Levitan)

Same update for ADTI as before and Ethan is the incoming 2026 chair.

12.4. Tailings Sub-committee (Lisa Gonzalez)

Mapping and regulation tool. 5 sessions at MX26 because of the robust quality of abstracts received.

13. ED Representatives for SME Standing Committees

13.1. Government and Public Affairs

(Harrison Schultz, Joe Pere, Barb Nielsen, Leslie Watson, Heather Lammers, Amar Patel, Jen Pepe)

13.2. Mining Engineering Committee (PJ Nolan, Liane George)

Denise and Annelia will provide updates for 2026. Lianne George identified that another person may be a better fit in 2026.

Leadership debrief (Dave K, Mary K, Bill Hancock , and Melissa S)

Dave has 25 days remaining before the transition to Melissa

Mary K. explained that an overall SME member engagement survey is planned for around March 23, 2026. The purpose of the mission is to refine the strategic committees. >10% survey results is the goal.

13.3. Student Member Affairs (Cassandra Galvez, Elham Rahimi)

Student chapter reports. Not all SME student chapters reported (8 to 10 reports, only 4 US chapters reported). Planning on a webinar or workshop to advance student chapter reporting. 5 new international chapters were included. In 2025, some chapters only provided a statement that they still exist but the other reported 50 to 70 pages of activities.

Elham is considering

13.4. Structure & Governance (Gen Sutton, Anne Williamson)

ADTI charter passed. Three division bylaws are being reviewed. Gen suggested if the EVD is changing bylaws, the next three months may be a good window to target.

13.5. Young Leaders Committee (Zohreh Kazemi Motlagh, Hannah Chop)

The change for 2026 is to remove elected division or strategic committee representatives and encourage a lead representative to solicit additional representation not limited to only elected YLC members.

13.6. SME P.E. Committee (Lisa Gonzales, Gen Sutton, Julia Schmidt, Daniel Torres)

There is a concurrent workshop for the PE committee today.

13.7. SME Inclusion & Diversity Committee (Isabel Casasbuenas)

Isabel provided an update the ethnographic demographics components of member registration process.

More collaboration between the committees and leveraging volunteers.

Programming update for the ID sessions at MX26.

13.8. Sustainable Development Committee (ENV Division reps TBD)

Flagged by structure and governance because they haven't provided an annual report in two years.

14. Strategic Committees

14.1. Responsible Mining & Underground Construction

(Jen Pepe, Lisa Gonzales, Heather Lammers, Omar Smith)

RMUC is developing a toolkit portal and a detailed proposal for this effort. Omar is proposing an ad-hoc committee for heap leach failures which may be like the effort proposed by the tailings and mine waste committee.

RMUC to make a request to short course 106 for tribal engagement

14.2. Association Growth Strategic Committee (Simone Bailey)

No report

14.3. Industry Workforce (Denise Levitan)

The IWSC is compiling inventory for industry workforce across SME. Please reach out to Denise through the conference to share 2025 efforts.

14.4. Industry Innovation (Nina Astillero)

No report. Isabela asked a question for the formation of the initial standing committee for robotics and automation.

Remove Nina A from IISC

15. Other

16. New Business (added after publication of agenda)

Ginger is requesting volunteers for reviewing or editor (credentials required). History and health and safety are newer topics. Processing has represented a majority of recent publications. The range of topics is wide and must be connected to the mining or mineral processing industry.

17. Upcoming Meetings:

17.1. Monthly Division virtual meeting: Friday, March 20, 2026, 1:30-2:30pm Mountain Time

17.2. Division Virtual Coffee Break: Wednesday, March 25, 2026: 10:00-11:00am Mountain Time

18. Adjourn

Omar motioned to adjourn, Gen seconded the motion at 11:39am.