

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SECTION COUNCIL**

**March 11, 2021
12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

VIA Teleconference Only

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 12:04pm by Chair Helminski

Council members and officers present by phone: Helminski (Chair), Sadler (Chair-elect), Sinkwitts (Secretary/Treasurer), Barbash-Riley, Kissling (at 12:06pm), Schebor, Collins (Allison), Fruchey, Leonard, Urban, Hammersley, Kearney (at 12:36pm), Enright.

A quorum of council members was present (six required).

Section administrator Mary Anne Parks was present.

1. Approval of September 15, 2020 meeting minutes
 - a. After review and discussion, Fruchey moved to approve the minutes; Enright seconded. Motion approved.
2. Secretary/Treasurer's Report (Sinkwitts)
 - a. The most recent financial statement from the State Bar, dated January 31, 2021, was reviewed and discussed. Discussion regarding Annual Joint Conference expenses and budget notes.
3. Administrator's Report (Parks)
 - a. Organized the December 2020 webinar "A Year in Review and a Look Ahead to 2021" and have been attending the Spring Conference planning sessions. This year the ELS will be hosting the Joint Conference so I will be assisting the organizers with that in addition to any communications and council meeting planning.
4. Chair's Report (Helminski)
 - a. Chair Helminski discussed her three priorities for 2021, 1) providing valuable programming to the members, 2) collaboration between the committees and council members to further advance understanding in various aspects of environmental law, and 3) sharing information with each other as we deal with issues and agencies.
5. Annual Fall Joint Conference Lead for 2021
 - a. The search is over. After beating the bushes, our own Ben Fruchey has stepped up and has offered to take on the role of 2021 Joint Conference Planner. Thank you Ben!

6. Budget Discussion
 - a. Approval of Overall Budget
 - i. After review and discussion, a motion was made by Fruchey, seconded by Sadler to approve the proposed budget. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Approval of Webinar Hosting Contract
 - i. Administrator Parks reports the Section currently uses Gotowebinar for their webinar services at \$99/month which is paid annually (\$1,200) and up for renewal in March 2021. In addition, we use a separate teleconference company for conference calls, that is only billed upon usage. Recommendation of purchasing a Zoom account that includes both a Pro Meeting (\$150) and Webinar up to 500 package (\$1,400) for a total of \$1,550 annually and possibly eliminate the conference call in line. The Webinar package next level down is \$400 annually but only includes up to 100 people, so another option is to choose a one-off upgrade for a month and return to the original package. After discussion, Sinkwitts made a motion to approve the Zoom Pro Meeting and Webinar expenditure of approximately \$1550. Seconded by Fruchey. The motion was approved.
 - c. Approval of Expenditure Renewal for MELJ Stipend
 - i. Explanation of the history and value of the MELJ and a stipend to its editor. Motion made by Sinkwitts, seconded by Sadler, to approve an expenditure of \$1000 to the MELJ editor in the form of a stipend. Motion passed.
 - d. Approval of Disbursements following Annual Fall Joint Conference 2021
 - i. Upon review and discussion of the accounting for the upcoming 2021 Joint Conference, the motion was made by Kissling, seconded by Schebor to approve disbursements of monies collected for the 2021 Joint Conference to both East and West AWMA and any vendors necessary to host the conference. Motion approved.
7. Subject Matter Committee Reports
 - a. Air (Kissling/Collins)
 - i. The annual spring air conference with MMA is scheduled for May 20, 2021. Be sure to sign up for this two-hour event.
 - b. Hazardous Substances and Brownfields (Fruchey)
 - i. Held a webinar on December 9, 2020. Changes expected in this area of the law in 2021, so additional webinars might be helpful.
 - c. Natural Resources, Energy and Sustainability (Sadler/Lundgren)
 - i. No report.
 - d. Great Lakes and Inland Waters (Schroeck/Hammersley)
 - i. Working on a program for the summer of 2021.
 - e. Environmental Litigation & Admin Practice (Steiner/Lungren)
 - i. Looking at planning a “Lunch & Learn” in the near future.
8. Standing Committee Reports
 - a. Desk book (Haynes/Martorano)
 - i. No report.
 - b. Program Committee (Schebor/Kearney)

- i. Ongoing COVID concerns make a summer program unlikely. Any annual meeting programming can be discussed at the next meeting.
 - c. Environmental Law Journal (Urban)
 - i. The last issue was a joint publication with the Animal Law Section of SBM. Will be looking for articles in the summer of 2021 to launch something off the fall conference.
- 9. Ad Hoc Committee (Barbash-Riley)
 - a. There is an in person “off-the-shelf” event ready to go when things get back to normal in terms of gathering and social distancing. This event was originally postponed due to COVID,
- 10. New Business
 - a. None.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25pm.