

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

**July 27, 2023  
11:30 am EDT**

Meeting held in Person at the Bengal Wildlife Center outside of Lansing  
and via Zoom Teleconference

**MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 11:32 am.

Council members present in person at the meeting or by phone or video conference: S. Sinkwitts, K. Konwinski, N. Maloof, M. Hall, R. Baron, C. Valdes, E. Shell, J.P. Enright, T. Bodwin, B. Considine, and R. Hammersley; Section Administrator Ms. Parks was also present in person. A quorum of council members was present (six required) at the meeting. K. Kissling joined the meeting when he arrived as well.

Attending online: T. Schebor; J. O'Brien; A. Sanford; J. Roach; J. Weiner.

1. Approval of minutes – Motion to approve by T. Bodwin; seconded by E. Shell; passes unanimously.
2. Secretary/Treasurer Report – R. Hammersley presented expenditures and income as of the month ending 6/30/23; motion to approve by T. Bodwin, seconded by S. Sinkwitts; passes unanimously.
3. Administrator Report (Parks) – Ms. Parks described the current ongoing matters and upcoming events; also discussed the aging iteration of the Environmental Law Deskbook and its current url / web location on the section website.
4. Chair Report (Sinkwitts) – Discussed upcoming student outreach events that K. Konwinski is helping to organize; nominating committee will be ramping up in the next month or so with nominations roughly 30 days prior to the annual meeting coming up.
5. Expenditure approval –
  - a. Brownfield Reception (Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>) – check cut and received per prior online vote approval; no further action necessary, but event was discussed and appears ready to go.
  - b. Whitecaps Reception (Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>) – K. Konwinski has allotted a bunch of tickets and he and Varnum are helping to organize the event; 8-10 tickets currently taken but likely many more available; costs likely to be between \$600 - \$1000 – Motion by K. Konwinski, seconded by T. Bodwin to implement a \$1,000 not-to-exceed budget for the event; passes unanimously.

- c. UofM Reception (Sept. 27) – K. Konwinski presents on student outreach efforts and positive feedback from UofM enviro law event with the section; ideally would have 2-3 practitioners speak (have K. Konwinski & S. Sinkwitts lined up already; would appreciate another person, perhaps a transactionally-focused environmental attorney?); K. Konwinski motion to implement a \$1,000 not-to-exceed budget for the event, seconded by R. Hammersley; passes unanimously.

## 6. Subject Matter Committees – Advance Reports, Webinars

- a. Air (Kissling/Collins) – neither chair available; S. Sinkwitts did indicate K. Kissling is working on programming ideas and annual planning.
- b. Hazardous Substances and Brownfields (Enright/Maloof) – N. Maloof updates to notify folks there is still time to register for the August event, which is great to have as a national event in our backyard; please come to the reception if you can, even if you aren't able to make it to the conference.
- c. Natural Resources, Energy and Sustainability (Sadler) – no update.
- d. Great Lakes and Inland Waters (Schroeck/Hammersley) – no update; planning underway.
- e. Environmental Litigation and Admin Practice (Steiner) – Mr. Steiner is reportedly retiring in the near future, according to Mr. Sinkwitts; Motion to approve K. Konwinski as new chair of the committee, seconded by T. Bodwin; passes unanimously.

## 7. Standing Committee Reports

- a. Desk Book – last update was circa 2008; on occasion, folks reach out requesting updates, but we don't have a team available to take that on; some is still accurate, but may be best used as a starting point for further research, now that on-line resources are more broadly available than they used to be; as per M. Parks it will be kept for posterity and in the event anyone wishes to update in the future at the section.
- b. Program Committee (Schebor) – nothing to add outside of the events described above; next item to start planning for would be the annual event this coming fall.
- c. Environmental Law Journal – used to be twice a year, but hasn't been picked up since our last coordinator moved away, so this is available if someone wants to put energy into it. Law student working on wetlands piece currently that is searching for the right venue, so perhaps the ELJ, or maybe just the ELS website, etc.? E. Shell recalled prior student writing competition, and posed idea to solicit articles from students at the upcoming events, and/or elsewhere. J. Enright referred to the Wisconsin Environmental Law Section has a pretty well-run environmental law blog that might be a possible venue for the law student with a wetlands article
  - 1) Michigan Bar Journal – Current outreach efforts from SBM soliciting articles from members of the bar, so anyone with interest can contact S. Sinkwitts or G. Mantease (at (248) 515-6419 or [gmantese@manteselaw.com](mailto:gmantese@manteselaw.com) .
  - 2) Law student submission?

8. New Business

- a. Nominating Committee – S. Sinkwitts describes current outreach efforts and upcoming committee meetings; Sinkwitts, Schebor & Hammersley will be meeting soon to fles
- b. Ad Hoc Member Outreach Committee – K. Konwinski doing a lot of great work organizing social events to bring the section and potential members and students together; please contact K. Konwinski and/or S. Sinkwitts with additional ideas if you have them.
- c. Annual Meeting Date – upcoming in September; please reach out with any dates that are problematic for anyone; council members will be organizing and T. Schebor is willing to host once again if that works for the section.

\*\*K. Konwinski moves to adjourn, seconded by N. Maloof; passes unanimously.