

STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SECTION

Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 10, 2024
Via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 12:01 p.m.

Present via Zoom: Mary Anne Parks, AnnMarie Sanford, Erika Shell, Kurt Kissling, Kyle Konwinski, Lauren Teichner, Paul Stewart, Ross Hammersley, Scott Sinkwitts, Scott Watson, Teresa Bodwin, and Todd Schebor, Gerard Mantese, Matt Hall, Nicholas Maloof

1. Approval of Minutes (Schebor)

Motion made to approve the 10/4/2023 minutes as proposed; seconded; motion passed.

2. Gerard Mantese, ELS Board of Commissioners Liaison

Mr. Mantese introduced himself. He reiterated his ability to facilitate communications with the Board of Commissioners. Feel free to contact him with any issue to be addressed with the Board of Commissioners: gmantese@manteselaw.com 248-515-6419

3. Secretary/Treasurer Report (Konwinski)

a. Budget Review

Kyle provided a review of last year's fiscal year, as well as the budget for this year. Discussion was had regarding various expenses this year, especially in light of ELS taking the lead to plan the joint conference this year. In light of the discussion and to ensure committee members have adequate time to review, an updated budget will be circulated via e-mail to the committee, at which time the committee will seek to approve a budget via e-mail vote once finalized.

4. Administrator Report (Parks)

Ms. Parks did not have much to report yet. She noted an uptick in her responsibilities will soon occur with onset of planning for the joint conference.

5. Chair Report (Schebor)

Chair Schebor gave his report. He would like to get more activity from the various committees this year, with the goal of each committee having one type of even throughout the year. He noted that the air committee is already quite active, and the hazardous substance committee is fairly active too. Chair Schebor wants to update the subject matter committee chairs.

6. Expenditure Approval

a. LCC Deposit \$1,600– Joint Conference

Discussion regarding the deposition and the fact that the date for the conference is not yet set.

Motion made by Kurt Kissling to approve \$1,600 deposit at LCC to host the joint conference once the date for the conference is settled; AnnMarie Sanford seconded; motion passed unanimously.

7. Subject Matter Committees

a. Air

Kurt Kissling gave update. MMA partnership program is upcoming on Tuesday April 9 at MMA headquarters in Lansing. They have saved space for ELS council meeting to occur after.

b. Hazardous Substances and Brownfields

Chairs not present. No update given. Todd to confirm interest with the chairs.

c. Natural Resources, Energy and Sustainability

Chairs (Sue Sadler and Tim Lundgren) not present. The committee will inquire whether more active participants would like to head the committee.

d. Great Lakes and Inland Waters.

Mr. Hammersley plans to connect with co-chair Nick Shroek with the hopes of planning an event this year. No other update.

e. Environmental Litigation and Admin Practice Standing Committee Reports.

Mr. Konwinski did not have any update, besides he plans for the committee to distribute a newsletter with notable recent decisions.

a. Program Committee.

Update given by Mr. Schebor. Summer Program and Annual Meeting planning upcoming. The former "ad hoc committee," which assisted in planning some of the law school outreach events, is going to be consolidated into the Program Committee.

8. New Business

a. Joint Conference Committee Chair

Lauren Teichner and Kyle Konwinski agree to co-chair. Former chairs and planning committee members will continue helping. The plan is to have an initial meeting in May. Kurt Kissling will send out the e-mail in May to organize initial meeting. It was suggested that either the West Michigan AWMA or East Michigan AWMA handle registration fees. The goal is to have registration open by Labor Day.

b. Environmental Law Journal

No one is currently doing this. Discussion was had on whether to continue doing a journal, some sort of blog, or just focus on committee's doing events. No final conclusion was reached.

c. Next Meeting-April 9?

The next meeting will be April 9 at MMA headquarters after the Clearing the Air event.

d. Summer Event. Mary Anne to reach out to Bengal Conservancy Center to check for dates. Discussion about setting dates earlier to ensure adequate time for planning and to encourage attendance at events.

e. Erica Shell: Wayne State's Environmental Law Moot court team is up and running. Outside judges needed: January 21 (Sunday, via Zoom, 1 p.m.) or January 23 or 25 at 4 p.m. (in person). Erica Shell and Noah Hall are the co-chairs.

Motion to adjourn by Ross Hammersley; seconded by AnnMarie Sanford; unanimously approved.

Meeting concluded at 12:48 p.m.