

Michigan State Bar: Environmental Law Section
Minutes of December 3, 2025 Annual Meeting

- Present: Kyle Konwinski, Noah Hall, Elizabeth Morrisseau, Nate Davis, Kyle Jones, Scott Watson, Rebecca Cassell, Gabby Mickel, Todd Schebor, Matt Hall, Hope McLellan-Brandt, Paul Beach, Erica Sarver, Ross Hammersley, Paul Stewart, Kurt Kissling, Kurt Brauer, Lauren Teichner, Greg Narsh, David Cassell, Brian Considine, Steve Kelly, Nick Maloof, Mariel Dunn, Norrel Hemphill, Edu Enin-Okut, Beth Gotthelf, Chris Mikesell.
- Secretary Report: Sarver to circulate September 23, October 22, and December 3 after this meeting for advance review and approval.
- Treasurer Report: draft received from Bodwin last night, she is in trial prep and not present for today's meeting - not everyone has had time to review so not up for approval today.
 - o We tend to over-budget expenses and then not actually spend that much money. Purpose was to authorize some spend in advance so that a special meeting did not need to be held to approve expenses before they are incurred.
 - o Kissling – need to follow up and actually do those activities.
 - Joint conference revenue is expected to be around \$6,300 this year.
 - Request to have rolling tallies from State Bar disclosed in advance of each meeting.
 - o Sarver – make sure that whatever we decide on the amicus front is incorporated into final budget.
 - o Konwinski – we are going to put together a packet with financial, minutes, and agenda before the meeting.
- Administrator Report: Kamp is dealing with a death in the family and may not be on the call, expected to be late.
- Chair Report: committees were refreshed at and following October 22 meeting. Old list from website was updated.
 - o Question from McLellan-Brandt about joining – believe any section member can join a committee even if they are not on the council.
 - o Joint conference – held at Lansing Community College West Campus – great event with good turnout (hence higher revenue noted above by Kissling). 2026 is not our year to host but 2027 will be – there will be an opportunity for assistance with planning.
 - Sarver – when should we start organizing if we are hosting in 2027?

- Kissling – for our hosting should look into it in June/July of the conference year – want to make sure we are on EGLE director's calendar, which Kissling will do as soon as they have a date for 2027.
 - Beach / Kissling / Sinkwitts are plugged in and will run point if others are interested in helping.
- Subject Matter Committees:
 - Air (Kissling):
 - Clearing the air program co-hosted with Michigan Manufacturers Assn. – **June 2, 2026**
 - Contact Kamp or Kissling if you want to assist with planning, which is expected to start in January.
 - Environmental Litigation (Konwinski):
 - Heard from some non-council members who are interested in joining / participating. Planning to hold a committee meeting soon.
 - Kissling – consider publishing committee meetings on ELS website?
 - Konwinski – if you have a committee meeting let Kamp know and she can post it on the website so people who are interested can join.
 - Sarver – can the committee make a bulletin board or place where we could see when people are arguing to either observe or grab lunch?
 - Great Lakes and Inland Waters (Hammersley): no substantive update, planning to have a call in January to consider some webinars for the coming year.
 - Hazardous Substances and Brownfields (Enright/Maloof): thoughts about RCRA webinar, Part 115 webinar, having some people from EGLE about Brownfield site assessment grants, budget for 2026, opportunities for developers.
 - Sarver – would be interested in developer opportunities, think that section membership would get a lot of value out of the first category.
 - Kissling – consider partnering with other organizations on a particular topic – e.g. Real Estate on cleanup funding?
 - Journal / Publications: hasn't done anything since Konwinski has been active in council, no longer doing the Journal.

- Motion (Konwinski): to eliminate the committee – Sarver second. None opposed – motion carries.
- Deskbook Committee: made some traction last year on potentially spending section funds to pay someone to do this.
 - Sarver – would any law students be willing to do it for money or school credit – N. Hall – could serve as liaison with students. N. Hall could take on some additional responsibilities for publications in future.
- Program Committee (Schebor): Consider if there's a speaker that our section members would want to hear from – we would likely have to pay travel expenses or some other cost to get a speaker to come give a presentation.
 - Konwinski – please reach out if you have a suggestion for a speaker at the summer program.
 - Sarver – consider if we could move a little broader than straight environmental – perhaps marketing environmental services, etc.
 - Kissling – Aaron Keatley?
 - Considine – decision against ELGE relating to PFAS cleanup at Gerald Ford Airport.
 - Kissling – PFAS webinar might be joint effort of Litigation and Haz Substances committees?
- New Business:
 - Maloof: there are pending HB / SB about 210 and 255 tax abatements for Brownfield projects. If those do not go through those abatements will sunset after 12/31/25.
 - Gotthelf: there have been meetings among stakeholders – consider the purposes of the abatements.
- Amicus Committee (Konwinski / Sarver): warning for folks to jump off due to conflicts. Discussion of considering an adjournment so that we have more time to discuss, given that it is 1:00 PM.
 - Gotthelf: what is our position on the amicus briefs – updated from Sarver / Konwinski.
 - Motion (Konwinski): to adjourn discussion of the amicus brief. Sarver – second, noting that Watson had to leave and also requested a brief adjournment. Want all interested members to have opportunity to share their thoughts and comments.