

**STATE BAR OF MICHIGAN
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SECTION COUNCIL
Michigan Manufacturer's Association, Lansing, Michigan**

April 14, 2016 - MEETING MINUTES

Officers ,Council Members, and Committee Chairs Present: Rebecca Cassell (by phone), Paul Collins (by phone), Dennis Donohue (Vice Chair), Christopher Dunsky (by phone), James Enright (by phone), Ross Hammersley (by phone), Tammy Helminski (by phone), S. Lee Johnson (ex officio), Kurt Kissling, Steven Kohl, (by phone), Doug McClure (by phone), Susan Sadler , Ann Marie Sanford (by phone), Todd Schebor (by phone), William Schikora (Chair), Scott Sinkwitts, Scott Steiner (Secretary/Treasurer).

Officers and Council Members Absent: Jeff Haynes, Kelly Martorano, Robert Reichel, Nick Schroeck, Jamie Scripps and Scott Watson.

Others Present: Brian Figot (ELS Administrator)

Mr. Schikora called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

1. **Consent Agenda**

January 12, 2016 Minutes. A Motion to approve the Minutes, subject to minor corrections regarding members in attendance, was made and seconded. Approved by voice vote.

Written Committee Reports. Bill Schikora stated that he received written reports from the Natural Resources, Energy and Sustainability Committee and the Michigan Environmental Law Journal Committee. A Motion to accept the reports was made and seconded. Accepted by voice vote.

2. **Chairman's Report.** Bill Schikora thanked the Air Committee for its efforts in presenting the Air Regulations program which preceded the Council meeting today. He announced that Dennis Donahue would be leading the Nomination Committee in its effort to provide a slate of Council member and officer candidates for next year. Any one interested in joining the committee should contact Dennis. Bill stated that planning was under way by the Program Committee for the Section Summer Program and Annual Meeting. Council Member participation in the Bar Leadership Forum was discussed. State Bar of Michigan section leaders are encouraged to attend this annual forum. Bill stated that he would be interested in attending as Section Chair and asked if anyone else was interested in attending the Forum. A motion was made and seconded to reimburse up to two members of the Section a total amount of \$1,000.00 of the costs to attend the Forum.

3. **Secretary/Treasurer's Report.** Scott Steiner reported regarding the recent State Bar policy changes as to authorization for payment to vendors for large expense items and processing of credit card payments, including adding transaction charges which the sections will be required to pay. In review of the Section financial reports, there was a discussion of the need to find ways to avoid ending the fiscal year with a net loss as in the past few years.

4. **Administrator's Report.** Brian Figot reminded Council members of the importance of holding "practice sessions" before conducting actual webinars. There was a discussion about section membership status. Brian stated that overall membership in the ELS was down this year, except for the "free" memberships.

5. **Standing Committee Reports.**

Program Committee. Todd Schebor reported that the summer conference will again be at the Bengal Wildlife Center and is scheduled for June 29, 2016.

Michigan Environmental Law Journal. Chris Dunsky reported that the February issue was the 100th issue of the Journal and the next issue would be published in June.

6. **Subject Matter Committee Reports.**

Air. Kurt Kissling reported that the joint program with the Michigan Manufacturers Association earlier on April 14, 2016 was successful but attendance was down a bit from prior years.

Environmental Litigation and Administration Practice. Doug McClure reported on the Committee's efforts in developing the case law update. He stated that the goal was to have the update (including both judicial and administrative opinions) ready for publication in the June 2016 Michigan Environmental Law Journal.

Hazardous Substances and Brownfields. Jim Enright and Tammy Helminski indicated that the Committee is working to put together new webinars and are looking for some new ideas for topics.

Natural Resources, Energy and Sustainability. Susan Sadler reported that the Committee is working on webinar regarding the Endangered Species Act and another regarding Green Chemistry issues.

Great Lakes and Inland Waters. Ross Hammersley reported that the Committee is planning an aquaculture-related webinar and is working on lining up some dates.

7. **Strategic Planning.** Bill Schikora reported that the next step will be a conference call with the State Bar of Michigan Coordinator for assistance in developing a member

questionnaire to be used as a “kick off” for the strategic planning initiative. The questionnaire would be ready in the next week or so.

8. **Liaison Reports.**

None

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.