

MINUTES

**State Bar of Michigan
Environmental Law Section Meeting
Michigan Manufacturers Association – Lansing
April 13, 2017 - 2:00pm**

Meeting called to order at 2:00pm

In attendance:

Scott Steiner – Vice Chair	Sue Sadler (by phone)
Kelly Martorano – Secretary/Treasurer	Bill Schikora (by phone)
Paul Collins	Todd Schebor (by phone)
Scott Sinkwits	Dustin Ordway (by phone)
Steve Kohl	Ross Hammersley (by phone)
Kurt Kissling	Tommy Helminski (by phone)
Margrethe Kearney	Doug McClure (by phone)
Mary Anne Parks - Administrator	Jim Enright (by phone)

1. **January 2017 Minutes.** A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded, approved by voice vote.

2. **Chairman’s Report.** Dennis Donohue was out of the country and unable to attend so Scott Steiner presented the Chairman’s report as follows:
 - a. A draft version of the updated and revised Environmental Law Section Bylaws was distributed to the Council prior to the meeting. Changes were made to the provisions discussing the size of the Council, the qualifications for being nominated to serve on the counsel, and counsel dues.

Mr. Enright suggested that we also look at the section on term limits for Council members and committee chairs; how do the draft revisions impact current Council members. Nomination to serve as a member, 4 full years as a member. Term limits for subject matter committees. Are term limit provisions something that we even want for committees?

 - b. Comments and suggested revisions to the draft Bylaws should be sent to Mr. Donahue by **May 24th**.

 - c. Next steps will be to review comments and final draft of the Bylaws at the June 7th council meeting and present the revised Bylaws for a vote by the ELS at the Annual State Bar Meeting September 28/29.

- d. Ontario Bar Association - Joint Program. Planning for this event is ongoing.
 - e. Webinars/Events Calendar.
 - i. Hazardous Waste Committee held a successful webinar on vapor intrusion and has another one coming up on April 25th.
 - ii. Natural Resources Committee held a webinar on endangered species.
 - iii. Air committee involvement in April 13th joint program with MMA
 - f. Michigan Environmental Law Journal (MELJ). Chris Dunsky is stepping down after many years of dedicated service on the MELJ. ELS appreciates his dedication and he will be sorely missed. Discussed finding other volunteers for this job. Also discussed taking on a new approach to the MELJ, capitalizing on social media outlets, student involvement, etc. Is SBM Connect a good forum for blog posts/articles?
 - g. One law student has expressed interest in getting students to attend the annual meeting, work on strategic planning and outreach to students and young professionals. Danil? MaryAnne/Dennis to respond to him or keep in touch with him.
3. **Treasurer's Report.** Kelly Martorano presented the Treasurer's report showing Section fund balance as of the end of February 2017 is \$50,185.89, which still exceeds the ending fund balance for FY 2016. Expenses as of the end of February were \$3,164.

Presentation of 2017 budget. Some expenses eliminated such as student writing contest awards. Discussion regarding MELJ expense for Chris Dunsky.

- A motion to approve the 2017 budget was made and seconded, approved by voice vote.
 - A motion to approve the budget line item for the Michigan Environmental Law Journal, of \$2,500 and to pay Chris Dunsky for his service was made and seconded, approved by voice vote.
4. **Administrator's Report.** MaryAnne is working on preparations for the annual meeting in September. We need to provide an explanation to the State Bar of the programs we are doing for the Annual Meeting. The State Bar has an event that they want people to attend during the Annual Meeting; therefore, we have adjusted our council meeting time to be from 11:30-12:30pm, with programs to follow and SBM social event at 5:00pm.

She is making updates to the webpage at least once per week and posting events and materials. The MMA event today was successful.

5. Standing Committee Reports.

- Programs Committee – Todd Schebor, Summer Program cancelled. Focus is on annual meeting in Detroit; program committee is looking for ideas and topics.

6. Subject Matter Committees.

- Air Committee, Kurt and Paul, program with MMA today was successful, reasonably well attended. We will get survey/feedback information and can see how we did with overall financially and participation levels.

DEQ is considering a waste program this fall during the same week as the annual East and West Michigan and State Bar Joint Conference. They have asked us to potentially move that conference so it does not conflict with DEQ event. Could move the event date and location to Cooley Law School. May be a consideration for future events. Wait to see what West Michigan decides to do because they are leading the joint conference planning this year. Kurt will keep us posted.

- Environmental Litigation and Administrative Practice Committee, Doug McClure, he had a planning conference call and there were 20 participants/members of the committee. Possible webinar topics include Enbridge case at MI Supreme Ct., aqua culture regulations, NESHAP/asbestos.
- Natural Resources Committee, Sue Sadler, working on a sustainability webinar/seminar.
- Great Lakes and Inland Waters Committee, Ross Hammersley, aquaculture webinar. Nick and Ross think this could be bigger than a webinar and want to gage interest. Possible other topics include a hatchery case or water law in general.
- Hazardous Substances and Brownfields Committee, Tammy Helminski/Jim Enright, upcoming webinar on vapor intrusion and due diligence.

- 7. Strategic Planning.** Bill Schikora noted that the membership survey was recently completed and we got approximately 40 complete responses. More date gathering needs to be done and then they would like to target specific groups of people (i.e. non-profits, government, industry).

8. Miscellaneous/General Discussion.

- Motion to approve \$500 for a representative of the ELS to go to the Mackinaw Conference, motion seconded, approved by voice vote.
- How can we offer CLE credits for our webinars, specifically to those out-of-state participants who need them? The ELS should look into and discuss at the next meeting. MaryAnne will check with the State Bar to see if they have any insight.

Next Meeting – June 7th, 5:30pm; Grand Rapids offices of Warner Norcross & Judd.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:03pm