

MINUTES

**State Bar of Michigan
Environmental Law Section Meeting
Southfield Office of Warner Norcross and Judd
January 11, 2017 - 6:00pm**

Meeting called to order 6:01pm

In attendance:

Dennis Donohue – Chair	Kurt Brauer
Scott Steiner – Vice Chair	Sue Sadler
Ann Marie Sanford	Kurt Kissling
Kelly Martorano – Secretary/Treasurer	Todd Schebor
Chris Dunsky (by phone)	Dustin Ordway (by phone)
Paul Collins (by phone)	Ross Hammersley (by phone)
Scott Sinkwits (by phone)	Tommy Helminski (by phone)
Bill Schikora (by phone)	Doug McClure (by phone)
Steve Kohl (by phone)	Mary Anne Parks - Administrator

1. **September 2016 Minutes.** A motion to approve the minutes was made and seconded, approved by voice vote.
2. **Chairman’s Report.** Dennis Donohue presented the following report:
 - a. Acceptance of Committee reports received. No need for written reports from committee chairs that are present in-person or by phone and can provide a verbal report.
 - b. Council vacancy due to Brad Sysols departure.
 - The question is whether the council needs to replace him and ultimately do we need such a large council?
 - Currently the Council has 15 plus representatives and one ex officio member. Should we get down to 12 people in the next several years?
 - Mr. Donahue and Mr. Steiner suggested that the Section Bylaws would need to be amended, per State Bar rules. We would need a resolution to change the Bylaws, publish at annual meeting and present to Board of Trustees.
 - Mary Anne commented that there are twelve people on Administrative Law Section Council.
 - Discussion regarding the amendment of the Bylaws as relates to council size. It was suggested that we could amend to say that the Council shall have up to X number of members, so there is flexibility.

- We need to increase flexibility for people to move into leadership positions (not having to have 3 years on Council, such strict requirements).
 - We want flexibility, but also want to avoid the need to do any further amendments to the bylaws in the future.
- c. Margarethe Karney(sp?) has agreed to be on the programs committee. Kelly will step-down from the membership committee due to Secretary/Treasurer duties and Anne Marie Sanford will handle membership.
- d. Membership is a standing committee in the bylaws, should we review this committee and others and possible change when we make changes to the bylaws?
- e. Doug McClure is seeking a co-chair for litigation committee.
- f. Ontario Bar Association - Joint Program. They have a long term program planning approach. Lynn Mitchell (Dennis's Counterpart for the Ontario Bar Association). Special ad hoc committee to look into this type of program? Yes, Dennis, Anne Marie, Sue agreed to participate on ad hoc committee to discuss/review options. Dennis will report back after further discussion with the Ontario Bar Association.
- g. Webinars/Events Calendar. Anne Marie suggested that maybe we could assign committees to cover a webinar each quarter. That way committee will know they need to produce a webinar and we will have some firm commitments.
- h. MMA has asked about partnering with other media specific groups for webinars/seminars, such as waste, water, etc.
3. **Treasurer's Report.** Kelly Martorano presented the Treasurer's report showing 2016 year end totals and provided a draft 2017 budget.
- a. Dues increase for 2017 - think about it and vote on it at the April meeting or put off until strategic planning is done? The consensus was that we should prepare to vote on it at the April meeting.
 - b. Upon review of the draft budget there was further discussion regarding the continued need for some budgeted items. K. Martorano will look at the Budget and adjust based on discussion and then put together final budget for approval at the April meeting.

- 4. Administrator's Report.** MaryAnne says there are 409 survey responses. Upcoming events, include the Spring Air Conference with MMA and she is involved in planning. There is a need for some additional help with the Section Journal. Eliminated Facebook, Twitter is active. We do not have any scheduled webinars for first quarter 2017. She is making updates to the webpage at least once per week. She has tried to obtain a video or disk with the fireside chat from Grant Trigger to post on the webpage and use for marketing purposes. This video was from the 25th anniversary event. We are up to 33 Twitter followers!
- 5. Standing Committee Reports.**
- Deskbook – absent
 - Membership – Anna Marie, how can you service your members? The current survey is aimed at answering this question.
 - Programs Committee – Todd Schebor, Summer Program to be held at the Bengal Center June 8th (especially because we have a credit there).
 - Law Journal - Chris Dunsky, he expects to publish end of January/early February
- 6. Subject Matter Committees.**
- Air Committee, Kurt and Paul, April 13th program with MMA – The are doing it differently this year. Sponsorship/articles, etc. You'll have more content at the conference to look at.
 - Environmental Litigation and Administrative Practice Committee, Doug McClure, he wants to explore webinar ideas with committee members and produce a webinar.
 - Natural Resources Committee, Sue Sadler, working on a webinar that will be a 101 and 201 on Endangered Species Act. Trying to make the program broad.
 - Great Lakes and Inland Waters Committee, Ross Hammersley, Recent ALJ opinion on Anglers of the Ausable case, they were planning a webinar of this case.
 - Hazardous Substances and Brownfields Committee, Tammy Helminski, they hope to have a webinar topic soon and then they will present something.
- 7. Strategic Planning.** Bill Schikora noted that the membership survey was recently sent via e-mail to all ELS members; we've had a good response so far. Please ask colleagues and clients to fill out the survey.

Deleted Liaison reports from the agenda. We no longer have any!

Next Meeting - April 13th at 2:30pm, following the MMA meeting.
Then the next meeting is June 8th, 2017 at Bengal Center.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:11pm