

Environmental & Energy Law Section
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
October 22, 2020

In Attendance: Please see Attached Attendance List

Approval of May 13, 2020 Executive Committee Minutes

- Motion to approve by W. Mugdan, seconded by K. Bernstein
- Minutes approved with two additions to attendee list.

Treasurers Report (J. Rigano)

Report on 2020 income (approx. \$55,000) and expenses (\$67,000) to date and comparison to 2019 income (approx. \$108,000) and expenses (\$153,000). Total 2020 deficit is approx. \$11,000 which is trying to be recaptured through sponsorships.

Section still has a surplus of approx. \$67,000.

Membership Status & Initiatives (M. Hecker)

- 946 members, which is slightly lower than normal but not unexpected due to pandemic.
- Committee actively working to increase membership.
 - Pushing law student numbers with recent law school panel, outreach to law professors and better/earlier advertising to law students.
- Discussed NYSBA decision to require law students to pay Section membership fees (\$17.50)
 - Motion by M. Hecker, seconded by S. Lobe, for Section to file Petition for Waiver of law student section fee. Following discussion, motion passed unanimously.
 - NYSBA Finance Committee meets in December at which time Section will know if its Petition is granted. If not, Section will consider sponsorships to cover Section membership fees for law students.
- Discussed other membership initiatives including targeting energy attorneys, government attorneys and Western New York programming.
- Membership Committee doing great work but needs more volunteers. Anyone interested in joining Membership Committee should reach out to N. Ward-Willis.

NYCELLI (W. Mugdan)

- Overview of Institute given and annual seminar that will be held virtually this year.
- Discussed promoting Section to Institute students, whether Institute graduates historically have joined Section and access to Institute articles.
- Motion by W. Mugdan, seconded by M. Bogin, for Section to provide \$1,500 funding to Institute in accordance with historic practice. Following discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Diversity and Inclusion (S. Lobe)

- Update on 2021 Fellowship given, including plans for expanded outreach to increase participation and plans for funding at \$7,500. The goal is to reduce Section funding through various fundraising efforts, including Wine Reception planned as part of Annual Meeting.
- Section ahead of other NYSBA Sections.
- Section's efforts should be part of the discussions with law schools. Request made to share law school contacts with D&I Committee.
- Fellowship form has been updated and available on Section website.

Public Utility Law Committee (N. Ward-Willis and Y. Hennessey)

- PULC, which is currently housed in the Business Law Section, will be voting to join the Section as of January 1, 2021.
- To accommodate this, there will be some changes to Section committees.
 - PULC will become the Utility Siting and Regulation Committee.
 - Existing Mining and Oil and Gas Committee will become only the Mining Committee.
 - Oil and Gas will be wrapped into existing Energy Committee.
- Motion by K. Bernstein, seconded by M. Hecker, to have PULC join Section and update Section committees. Following discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Nominating Committee (N. Ward-Willis)

- Y. Hennessey will Chair Committee per Section By-Laws.
- N. Ward-Willis will be appointing other committee members and taking recommendations, with goal of diversifying Nominating Committee.

Green Amendment (K. Kuh)

- Update given on Green Amendment to State Constitution.
- Section previously issued a report to NYSBA Executive Committee with our position. Constitutional Committee opposed our position and proposed alternative language.
- NYSBA Executive Committee has asked for additional briefing and will take issue up during November 6, 2020 Zoom Meeting. Issue may also be considered by House of Delegates although unclear if they must consider it.

House of Delegates Update (A. Kendall)

- Scheduled to meet by Zoom on November 7, 2020; A. Kendall will report back.
- HOD focused on NYSBA financials.
- Other reports being considered by HOD address the pandemic and mass shootings.

Young Lawyer Section Liaison (P. Logan)

- Report on lunch and learns via Zoom.
- No formal proposal yet but considering (1) CLE programming for young lawyers and (2) a Facebook group with a mentoring focus. Will report back at Annual Meeting.

Social Media (R. Parington/D. Gamils)

- 252 Twitter followers and 100 LinkedIn followers
- Looking at ways to expand followers – e.g., reposting Section members’ posts and possible social media takeovers. Open to other ideas.
- Be sure to like and share posts.

Upcoming Events (N. Ward-Willis)

Superfund/Brownfield Update 2020 Webinar:

- Will be held December 2, 2020.

Annual Meeting:

- Will be held virtually over 2 weeks.
- Section programming Tuesday, January 26, 2021 from 9am to 1pm.
- Regulatory update will be Friday, January 29, 2021 at 4pm followed by Wine Reception to benefit D&I Fellowship.
- Date and time of Executive Committee meeting to be determined.
- Looking for both CLE and non-CLE sponsors. Discussed sponsorship opportunities.
- Committee Chairs asked to consider hosting a virtual committee meeting in January 2021, leading up to Annual Meeting.
- Committee Chairs need to send updates on committee activities for Annual Meeting.

Federal Environmental Policy Task Force (D. Freeman)

- Efforts paused pending election.

Essay Contest (M. Villani)

- Motion by M. Sinkman, seconded by K. Bernstein, to (1) automatically enroll any applicant as a member of the NYSBA and Section and (2) expand eligibility to law schools in all states that share a border with New York. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Miscellaneous

- Vacancy on Enforcement and Compliance Committee. Looking for another co-chair.
- Thank you to past chairs of Oil Spill Committee.
- If they have not already done so, Committee Chairs should provide A. Jasiewicz with committee description for new NYSBA Website.

PARTICIPANTS BY ZOOM/CONFERENCE CALL
October 22, 2020 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Nick Ward Willis
Linda Shaw
James P. Rigano
Yvonne Hennessey
Amy Jasiewicz
Simone Smith
Jose Almanzar
Kevin Bernstein
Michael Bogin
Gary Bowitch
Claudia Braymer
Aliza Cinamon
Philip Dixon
David Freeman
Drew Gamils
Laura Godly
John Greenthal
Michael Hecker
Bob Kafin
Amy Kendall
Alan Knauf
Robert Knoer
Barry Kogut
Dan Kranin
Katrina Kuh
Jeanenne LaBella
Christine Leas
Richard Leland
Sarah Lobe
Patrick Logan
Helen Mauch
Walter Mugdan
Rachel Parington
Daniel Riesel
Nicholas Robinson
Steve Russo
Dan Ruzow
Adam Schultz
Mackenzie Schoonmaker
Larry Schnapf

Matthew Sinkman
Adam Stolorow
Howard Tollin
Melissa Vale
Miriam Villani
Cheryl Vollweiler
Maria Weider
Mindy Zoghlin