



New York State Bar Association
Environmental & Energy Law Section



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES



January 18, 2023 – 1:30 PM

Present: J. Rigano; Y. Hennessey; M. Hecker; A. Kendall; A. Jasiewicz; J. Almanzar; S. Amron; M. Baker; T. Bakner; K. Bernstein; M. Bogin; C. Braymer; A. Cinamon; D. Cordisco; M. Cusak; J. Endres; D. Freeman; S. Friedland; D. Gamils; K. Healy; J. O'Sullivan; M. Kahn; Z. Knaub; A. Knauf; D. Krainin; J. Kublick; K. Kuh; K. Lang; C. Leas; S. Lobe; H. Mauch; J. McClymonds; M. McDonald; K. Mintzer; D. Mussio; W. Mugdan; R. Nichols; J. Parker; G. Port; T. Putsavage; D. Quist; K. Reilly; D. Richmond; V. Robbins; N. Robinson; S. Russo; A. Sargent; L. Schnapf; M. Schoonmaker; L. Shaw; J. Simpson; M. Sinkman; L. Srolovic; A. Stolorow; H. Tollin; M. Valle; C. Vollweiler; N. Ward-Willis; M. Weider.

Welcome- J. Rigano

Approval of Minutes: All in favor. Approved

Budget: (J. O'Sullivan): Last year we ended with surplus of 89,000. We have not received 2022 year end numbers yet. According to NYSBA policy, we can use the surplus for diversity initiatives and recruitment. N. Ward-Willis asked about revenue from meetings. If a meeting is virtual, the revenue goes to NYSBA; if in person, the Section keeps the revenue. The Section also keeps sponsorship funds. Nick recommended raising the issue with the House of Delegates.

Spring Conferences: Legislative Forum is April 26 headed up by John Parker; Petroleum Spill Symposium, tentatively scheduled for May 10; Buffalo Conference on June 8.

House of Delegates: (A. Sargente) Attended the House of Delegates meeting November 5 at the Bar Center provided an overview of report which is attached to the minutes. The Finance Committee presented the budget which anticipated a surplus of \$49,000 for this year. Reports were presented by Women in Law Section which was approved by the House supporting the Equal Rights Amendment and the overturning of *Dobbs*. Reports were presented on judicial discipline and territories.

NY Law Journal: Margaret Barry and Jay Simpson do tremendous work. They have requested that their student assistant get \$250 per edition of the Environmental Law Journal which the Cabinet has approved. There were no objections.

Diversity Committee: (C. Leas/ S. Lobe) This year is the 30th year of providing scholarships. The focus of the Committee has been on fundraising for the past few years and they would like the Committee to be more programmatic. It is a lot of work to get the word out about the fellowship, touch base with law schools and now that there are a lot of applicants, reviewing takes a lot of effort. She recommends moving beyond fundraising and using the surplus to fund them. They also recommend increasing the amount. We have supported two fellows per year for the past several years at \$7,500 with an eight-week minimum. The question was raised as to whether the Section has traditionally funded it. G. Port said the amount should be more like \$10,000; the fellowships used to be a City/State collaboration, which we could look into again. V. Robbins said there was a period of time that the ABA contributed; past chairs were looking for a foundation or something to assist. The Committee requests that the Section fund so that the Committee can focus on its mission. A. Jasiewicz mentioned three fundraisers planned with J. Almanzar assisting on fundraising efforts. M. Hecker stated that there has to be some mechanism for

making it sustainable, whether through law firm or consultant fundraising, etc. Otherwise we just deplete the surplus.

G. Port made a motion to expend up to \$20,000 per year on fellowships from the Section's budget; 10,000 per fellow; for the next two years.

N. Ward-Willis proposed a friendly amendment that the Committee look into ways to make it sustainable. Motion passed.

Law School Initiative (M. Wieder): Effort is being led by the CLE Committee; working on in-person conferences with a reception, including EELS swag. There is a plan to hit schools Buffalo, Long Island, Westchester. We have set aside \$6,000 for this recruitment effort; memberships for law students

USEPA Conference. Section as been asked to sponsor the event which is held at Columbia and is also sponsored by USEPA, the ABA and others. This would be at no cost to Section, but we would need to appoint a liaison. There was no objection to sponsoring. J. Rigano requested a volunteer.

NYCELLI: The Section has been supporting this for 16 years. IT has a new director and the class is being filled. Motion to support at \$1,500 passed with all in favor.

PFAS Committee: (N. Rigano) : We had a conference last year at which Rob Billott spoke; planning a CLE once USEPA issues the new MCLs, probably March 2023. W. Mugdan notes that a CLE has been presented in EPA Regions 2 and 3 and we will have the same speaker at the webinar when it happens.

Proposed Part 375: L. Shaw reports that we have been asked to organize a session with NYSDEC on the proposed regulations with stakeholders.

New business: G. Port: Miriam Villani's mother passed away; J. Rigano will send a condolence letter.

Next meeting: May 2023