



New York State Bar Association
Environmental & Energy Law Section
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
May 8, 2024 – 2:30 PM 



* Action Items

PRESENT: David Quist, Amy Jasiewicz, Louis Alexander, Jim Rigano, Julia O'Sullivan Poarch, Yvonne Hennessey, Martin Baker, Amy Kendall, Mike Hecker, Kevin Bernstein, Amy Reichhart, Ivonne Norman, Claudia Braymer, Alan Knauf, David J. Freeman, Julia Martin, Michael Bogin, Zackary Knaub, Sarah Lobe. George Pond, Jon Brooks, Katrina Kuh, Jay Simpson, Alicia Legland, James McClymonds, Margaret Barry, Maggie Macdonald, Karen Mintzer, Dan Krainin, Matthew Sinkman, Jenna Rackerby, Susan Amron, Jose Almanzar, Cheryl Vollweiler, Christine Leas, Jan Kublick, Phil Bousquet, Bennet, K., Robert E. Knoer, Teresa Bakner, Nicholas Robinson, Steven Russo, Linda Shaw, John Parker, Telisport Putsavage

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The budget report at the end of March shows the Section is currently reporting net revenue. Financial stability is noted, though fluctuations may occur as the year progresses. The Section currently has a surplus of approximately \$103,000. However, there may be changes as program costs, such as those from ongoing events, are factored in.

FALL MEETING: Announcement (Presented by M. Hecker):

- Dates and Venue: September 25-26 at The Equinox, Vermont.
- Agenda and Costs: Finalized; details will be disseminated shortly.
- Panel Discussions:
 - Environmental Enforcement
 - Cross-border Environmental Issues (with practitioners from Toronto)
 - ESG
 - Ethics/Diversity Credit Opportunities
- Keynote Speaker: Efforts are ongoing to secure a keynote speaker from Vermont's senior environmental agency officials.
- Registration Details: Amy Jasiewicz will distribute the room block code and the link to the meeting website soon.

LAW SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE (Presented By J. Rigano)

- Objective: To educate about the practice of environmental law.
- Participating Institutions: Pace, St. John's, Toro, with two attorneys each presenting. Member Promotion: Free section membership has been promoted, attracting new members.
- The giveaways include a "Mini Office" kit, which has been a hit with the students.
- Upcoming Sessions: Planned for Hofstra in mid-September, with additional sessions in Albany and NYC (dates pending).

- Format: Each session includes a presentation followed by dinner and a giveaway.

COMMITTEE CONSOLIDATION AND FEEDBACK (Presented By David Freeman)

- Merger: The task force and committee have been consolidated to streamline efforts.
- Public Comments: A set of comments, similar to those issued two years ago, has been circulated. These comments have been acknowledged by the DEC, reflecting substantial input from our section.
- Action Required: Members are requested to vote by this Friday. Approved comments will be reformatted and submitted to the DEC by the May 21 deadline.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS: Annual Superfund and Brownfield Update (Scheduled for December 5, 2024):

- Content: Discussions will include updates on Part 375 regulations, implications of recent election results, and developments in renewable energy.
- Panel Planning: Panel topics are still being finalized.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION (Presented By Christine Leas): Summer Fellows Program: Two fellows have been selected for this summer’s program. Both first years. Committee made an effort to reach out to a broader set of students. The fellows wrote compelling essays about their commitment to fostering diversity and equity within environmental law. The two fellows are:

1. **Julie Bazill** from Pace Law School, whose persistent enthusiasm has made a strong impression.
2. **Joseph Kovar** from Hofstra Law School, who has been actively involved in environmental justice initiatives.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE (Presented By Presented Jose Almanzar and Ivonne Norman)

EJ Committee Initiatives:

- Scheduled Events: Toxic Torts tour on June 1, open to all section members.
- Anniversary: Celebrating the first year of the EJ Committee newsletter.
- Call for Collaboration: Jose and Ivonne are encouraging collaboration between all committees and the EJ Committee on future programming and initiatives.
- An additional tour is being planned for the South Bronx, likely to take place in June or July, to complement the Upper Manhattan tour

COASTAL AND WETLAND MANAGEMENT (Presented by Theresa Bakner): Regulatory Updates (Anticipated mid-June): New DEC regulations expected part 664 mid-June, which represent the most significant changes at the state level since the program’s adoption initiated by legislation back in 2022 so it is going to have a substantial affect on NY projects.

- The potential regulatory changes could significantly impact ongoing and future projects across New York, especially in economic development and municipal projects.

- The focus of the committee will be on offering early input on the regulatory changes, and a meeting may be set up with DEC representatives for preemptive discussions.
- Committee Response: Preparations are being made to develop comments post-release for executive committee consideration.

JOURNAL UPDATES (Presented by Jay Simpson and Margret Barry) : Upcoming Issue:

Scheduled for publication by the end of May, featuring articles on the CLCPA and its impact on disadvantaged communities. Great Contributions from the EPA, NYSERDA, and the Attorney General's office.

- New Issue Editor: Welcoming Gabby Mickel, a first-year attorney at Davis Polk and Pace Law graduate went to the Yale school of Forest Management.
- Contributions: Ongoing call for articles, particularly for themed issues.
- Next Issue: Expected before Labor Day.
- Erin Gashanowitz has retired, and a profile article on his career and contributions will be included in the upcoming issue.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING AND MEMBERSHIP (Presented by Amy Kendall):

Recent Programming: Highlighted recent successful programs on civil and criminal environmental enforcement.

- Future Opportunities: Suggestions for new programs, such as 1-hour lunch CLEs, are welcomed to help expand offerings and increase membership engagement.
- Joint Land Use Event: Scheduled for June 18 from 12:00 to 1:30 PM, featuring Dan Spitzer discussing updates on climate change law and relevant case law.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM.