

**MSBA Environmental, Natural Resources & Energy Law Section**  
**Council Meeting Minutes**  
**8:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 2, 2011**  
**Minnesota State Bar Association**

- I. Call to Order.** Katie Roek; Sara Peterson; Aleava Sayre; Tim Rudnicki; Greg Korstad; Chuck Salter; Eldon Kaul; Dan Schleck; and Elyse Farnsworth attended in person; Alex Klass; Ann Seha; Jeff Sepesi; Joe Maternowski; and Michael Welch participated by phone.
- II. Review and approve Minutes of February 2, 2011 meeting.** The minutes from the February 2, 2011 meeting were approved.
- III. Financial Report:**
  - A. Monthly report.** Status of the finances is good. Took in about \$58 in membership dues and spent about \$79. Ending balance as of January 31, 2011 is \$9,651.10.
- IV. Continuing Initiatives:**
  - A. Newsletter and Website Enhancements** At this time, the Council is waiting for staff at MSBA regarding formatting issues relating to the website. The Council discussed several other related initiatives, including the possible use of a Facebook page and LinkedIn Page. The general consensus was to explore the use of these sites, including other sites dedicated to attorneys.
  - B. One-hour CLEs**
    - i. May CLE** – On the first Wednesday in May during the normal meeting time for the Council, the Section will host a CLE. The subgroup will solidify the specific plans for this CLE and report at the next meeting. Suggestions included: a session focused on changes to the federal rules of civil procedure regarding expert disclosures and an environmental law court drawing upon experiences in New Zealand.
  - C. Environmental Institute**
    - i. Distinguished Service Award.** The Section has received one or two nominations and have not yet heard back from previous nominators. The subcommittee will followup with Kim regarding nominations.
    - ii. Brochures.** Brochures for the Environmental Institute have been sent out.
    - iii. Possible discounts or special offers.** Elyse raised the issue of special offers for attendees that join the MSBA. One example is that MSBA members can join for 16 months for the price of 12 months. Another example is that non-MSBA members who join can become section members for free. No one has any objections to these promotions. Katie will mention them at the beginning of the Institute as part of housekeeping. Nicole (the membership manager for the MSBA) will coordinate details and ensure printed materials are available.

## **D. Social Events**

**i. Arboretum.** On May 7, the Section will host a social event at the arboretum. It will be in the Tea Room, which should host 50 people. The event will include a children's craft and a tour. It will not include the volunteer activity as it has not been possible. The Section will plan announcements at the beginning of the event.

**E. Writing Competition.** Deadline for submissions will be May 31 to allow students time to complete the essays after the end of finals. Notices should go out shortly.

## **V. Old Business**

**A. February CLE.** The presentation for the CLE was very good. Roughly 20 people, including the speakers, attended. A number of people signed up to attend, but did not show. The consensus was that the event was better attended last year. Possible reasons could include the location in St. Paul or the scheduling on a different day to accommodate the speaker's schedule. Next time, the Section will consider hosting the event in Minneapolis as attendance may be affected by hosting the event in St. Paul. Alternatively, the Section will ensure any St. Paul location has teleconference capability (i.e., Minnesota Justice Center). The cost of webcasting is \$.16 per minute, but it could be added to the website.

**B. Happy Hour at the Local – February 10, 2011** The happy hour was generally a success. It was well-attended. The Section will book the same venue for a September happy hour.

## **VI. New Business**

**A. Section Dues.** The MSBA is evaluating fees and dues and has asked the Section for input on its dues. At this time, MSBA has recommended administrative fees in the amount of \$6, but this amount has not been approved yet. Dan moved for the Section's fees to remain the same, and Tim seconded this motion. The motion to keep fees the same passed.

**B. MJF Summer Clerkship.** The MCEA has submitted a request to MJF for funding to support a summer clerk. This request came later than normal, which resulted in the late request to the Section. In the past, the Section has funded a MJF clerkship for different organizations in the amount of \$2,500, which is half of a summer stipend. This year, the request has increased to \$3,000. Although the majority of comments supported the idea of funding a clerkship, the consensus was that more variety in the programs seeking the Section's support would be better. Because the topic had the potential to be controversial, required additional consideration, and would benefit from more variety in the applicant pool, the issue was tabled for the next meeting. Possible organizations for consideration, include VLN, MN Brownfields, or some other public organization.

**VII. Adjourn.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 am.