

MSBA Environmental, Natural Resources & Energy Law Section
Council Meeting Minutes
8:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 7, 2011
Minnesota State Bar Association

- I. Call to Order.** Sara Peterson; Dave Zoll, Aleava Sayre; Greg Korstad; Eldon Kaul; Dan Schleck; Chris Dolan, Alex Klass, Katie Roek, Joe Maternowski, Michael Welch, Chuk Salter, Jeff Sepesi, and Alex Iliff attended in person; Jake Woodard, Thad Lightfoot, Steve Nyhus, and Tim Rudnucki participated by phone.
- II. Review and approve Minutes of May 4, 2011 meeting.** The minutes from the May 4, 2011 meeting were approved.
- III. Financial Report:**
- A. Monthly report.** We do not yet have the numbers in for June and July 2011 and will therefore defer the financial report to next meeting. We are a little concerned about the current balance because we had to expend additional funds for the Institute. Nonetheless, the status of our finances is good.
- IV. Work Plan Review and Approval**
- A. Review and Revisions to Workplan.** Workplan sets forth subcommittees, their members, and the general schedule of events for the year. Additionally, we have a goal of a 2% increase in membership. Each council member should seek to recruit one additional member. The Workplan will be revised to reflect the Agency Update in November 2011 and the Happy Hour during the first two weeks of November. The council felt comfortable that we have sufficient time to get the Agency Update planned on this schedule.
- B. Approval of Workplan.** Aleava Sayre moved to approve the work plan, Alex Klass seconded the approval, and the motion carried.
- V. Subcommittee Reports**
- A. Programs Subcommittee.**
- i. Annual Agency Update.** Process for planning includes an e-mail to each Commissioner (or other speaker) for each agency with a description of the topic. Logistics include making parking available and obtaining PowerPoints. Generally, we select a preferred date with some alternative dates and present those to the agencies. Agencies will likely include MPCA, DNR, Department of Agriculture, OES, and/or PUC. Another option is the Board of Soil and Water Resources.
- ii. One-Hour CLE.** Subcommittee will distribute an e-mail soliciting input from section members on potential topics. Aleava Sayre has proposed a mining-related topic. Other possible options would be wind power siting and

agricultural runoff. Topics for joint sessions include transmission issues/new developments at FERC and/or green building with real estate or construction.

iii. **Technology.** It costs \$0.17/hour per person for a webcasted presentation, which averages out to \$10/person per CLE. We use Adobe Connector for webcasting.

iv. **Logistics.** Refer to MSBA Handbook for planning the CLEs.

B. Law Student Liaison Subcommittee.

i. **Summer Internship Scholarship.** Alex indicated that MJF has sent their notice out to students for them to apply for an internship. The proposal would be that our internship would allow an additional environmental internship through MJF. Participants could include the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County. One challenge is that the Hennepin County process begins in October while MJF gets started in January 2012. The primary concern about this internship is the availability of funds for the internship. Dan Schleck and Thad Lightfoot proposed that we pause in any decision-making based on increased expenses for the Environmental Institute. Ideas to resolve the funding include a jointly funded internship with another group and obtaining a sponsor for the fee reduction for non-profit/public attorneys at the Environmental Institute.

ii. **Law Student Reception.** The date selected October 11, 2011. Dorsey has space available on that date. An email will be distributed to the law schools and the Section Council.

iii. **Writing Contest.** We may want to defer the prize. The award could be publication. Announce the competition at the Law Student Reception and the winner at the Environmental Institute.

C. Publications Subcommittee

i. **Website.** The Section is looking for a more robust website with substance. We will need support from MSBA. The new practice developer, Bob Striker, is three weeks into his job. The designed website is in wordpress, but is not compatible with any of the databases we use. If the database package is approved by the assembly in December, the new program will come on-line in May 2013. We would not be able to migrate content to new website for May 2013.

ii. **Newsletter.** This will depend heavily on website planning and options.

D. Environmental Institute. The subcommittee has not yet met. Thad had a close-out discussion with MCLE after the Environmental Law Institute. The first action item is to pick a date, and the currently proposed date is April 19, 2012. We are awaiting final confirmation. The planning process will begin in earnest shortly. The Section Council should evaluate options for public/non-profit

E. Networking Events

i. Happy Hour. We are planning for a Happy Hour in the first two weeks of November. We will not select November 9 as the New Attorney reception is occurring on that date. The venue will be upstairs at the Local.

ii. the MSBA) will coordinate details and ensure printed materials are available.

VI. Adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 am.