

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**  
**Natural Resources, Energy, and Environmental Law Section**  
 Monthly Board Meeting by Phone  
 12 pm Wednesday, January 25, 2022

Board Members in Attendance:	Board Members Not in Attendance:
Christopher Shaw Bidtah Becker Tom Paterson Mark Rosebrough (Past Chair) Steven Hernandez Joe Schremmer (UNM Faculty Liaison) Cheyenne Trujillo (UNM Student Liaison) Sunnie Richardson Melinda Branin Kari Olsen	Paula Vance (YLD Liaison)

**1. Approval of November 2021 Meeting minutes**

- Unanimously approved

**2. New UNM Student Liaison**

- Cheyenne reported that her term as UNM Student Liaison has ended and she agreed to recruit a replacement from the student body at UNM.

**3. Introduce New Board Members**

- The three new Directors introduced themselves to the Board: Kari Olsen, Melinda Branin, and Sunnie Richardson.

**4. Election of 2022 Officers (Chair, Chair-Elect, Budget Officer, Secretary) and Replacement Board Member for Haley Adams**

- Chair
  - Mark reported that Haley Adams served as Chair-Elect during the 2021 year and was slated to serve as Chair for 2022. Haley resigned from the Board in December 2021 in connection with moving out of state.
  - Tom nominated Lou Rose, a recent former Director and a former Chair of the Board, to fill out Haley's term as Director and serve as Chair for the 2022 year.
    - Mark moved for a vote to elect Lou Rose to (1) fill out Haley Adams' remaining term on the Board pursuant to Article 8, Section 8.2 of the Bylaws, and (2) serve as the Chair for the 2022 year, both pending Lou's acceptance.
    - Tom seconded the motion.
    - The motion carried by a unanimous vote. Mark agreed to convey the invitation to Lou.
- Chair-Elect

- Melinda volunteered to serve as Chair-Elect for the 2022 year.
  - Mark moved for a vote to elect Melinda as Chair-Elect.
  - Sunnie seconded the motion.
  - Melinda was elected by a unanimous vote.
- Budget Officer
  - Sunnie volunteered to serve as Budget Officer for the 2022 year.
    - Mark moved for a vote to elect Sunnie as Budget Officer.
    - Joe seconded the motion.
    - Sunnie was elected by a unanimous vote.
- Secretary
  - Joe volunteered to serve as Secretary for the 2022 year.
    - Mark moved for a vote to elect Joe as Secretary.
    - Chris seconded the motion.
    - Joe was elected by a unanimous vote.

## **5. Financial Review**

- Addie reported that the Section is still collecting dues, so she can only estimate the Board's finances for the 2022 year at this time. By her estimation, the Board currently has \$11,000 and will collect an additional \$6,000 (approximately), for a total of \$17,000. Addie also shared that she believes it unlikely that the Board of Bar Commissioners will permit our Board to roll over excess funds into the 2023 year, as has occurred in recent years.
- Mark noted that our two major expenditures last year were the annual CLE in December and the \$4,000 donation to UNM School of Law for summer work stipends.
- Addie reported that the deadline for making expenditures of money for the 2022 year is December 31, 2022. The budget is due by February 28, 2022, but it can be modified until approximately Thanksgiving.

## **6. Bidtah Becker's Continuing as a Director**

- Bidtah reported that she has taken employment with Cal EPA and no longer practices in New Mexico. She raised the question whether she should resign from the Board for the 2022 year.
- Tom implored Bidtah to remain on the board (receiving general agreement from the other Directors) and Bidtah agreed to discuss her options with Mark offline.

## **7. Committee Appointments (CLE, Lawyer of the Year, Others?)**

- Mark introduced the three primary committees: (1) CLE committee (2) Lawyer of the Year committee and (3) Mentorship Program committee.
- CLE Committee
  - The following Directors volunteered to serve on the CLE Committee during the 2022 year: Melinda (as chair of the CLE committee), Mark, Steve, Sunnie, Joe, and Chris.
- Lawyer of the Year Committee

- The following Directors volunteered to serve on the Lawyer of the Year committee during the 2022 year: Tom, Steve, and Kari.
- Mentorship Program Committee
  - Mark suggested that we table the composition of this committee until a new UNM Student Liaison is appointed.
  - Chris asked whether we need a committee to plan the annual UNM mixer and other social events. Mark suggested that this function be given to the Mentorship Program committee when it is organized.

## **8. Goals and Objectives for 2022**

- Tom commented that he would like the Board to organize multiple CLE events like it did last year—perhaps on a quarterly basis, or so.
  - Steve agreed and further noted that online CLEs seem to be appropriate given the continuing COVID-19 situation and because they are popular with members from across the state who might otherwise have to travel a great distance to Albuquerque or not attend.
- Tom noted that the December CLE should be scheduled for December 17, 2022, based on past practice.
- Mark noted that the State Bar has scheduled our Section for a legislative update CLE on April 29, 2022, based on the date of last year’s legislative update CLE.
  - General discussion was had regarding the timing and scope of a legislative update CLE for 2022.
  - Chris commented that it would make sense to move the legislative update CLE to late February since this year is only a 30-day session.
  - Kari noted that her firm does a good deal of legislative and regulatory work and that she would keep her eyes on what legislation might justify a CLE.
- Steve suggested the possibility of organizing a CLE on the topic of selecting projects to receive federal infrastructure bill funds.
- Tom asked whether it was too late for the Section to propose a CLE for the State Bar’s Annual Meeting. Addie agreed to investigate that possibility.
- Tom suggested the possibility of a CLE organized around the topic of how the state government will respond to the recent report from its climate scientists.
  - Steve noted that the 50-year water plan is relevant to this topic.
  - Chris agreed that this might make for a good CLE and that we should follow up on the idea.

## **9. New Business**

- Addie reported a number of updates from the State Bar:
  - The State Bar is looking for ideas for podcasts that would interest members. Morgan is the contact person for this.
  - The Bar is changing how it will communicate with members over email. Relatedly, there will be online forums created for all Sections through the online dashboard, which will function somewhat like reddit threads, to communicate with Section members.
  - The State Bar has suspended all lobbying efforts while it investigates how other mandatory bars approach lobbying.

**10. Next meeting is February 22, 2022**