



State Bar of New Mexico
Natural Resources, Energy
and Environmental Law Section

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

April 26, 2022

12:00 p.m.

[Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 823 9906 0824

Passcode: 2022

Quorum = 6 Directors

Quorum Met: Yes No

	Name	Position	Present
1	Steven Hernandez	Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Christopher Shaw	Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Thomas Paterson	Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Bidtah Becker	Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5	Sunnie Richardson	Director/Budget Officer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Melinda Branin	Director/Chair Elect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7	Kari Olson	Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	Mark Rosebrough	Past Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Joseph Schremmer	UNM Faculty Rep/Secr.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Paula Vance	YLD Liaison	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Louis Rose	Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12	Maria Trujillo	UNM Student Rep	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
13			<input type="checkbox"/>
14			<input type="checkbox"/>
15			<input type="checkbox"/>
16			<input type="checkbox"/>

1. Approval of the agenda
 - a. Moved, seconded, and unanimously approved
2. Approval of March 2022 meeting minutes
 - a. It was noted that the minutes said "February" and this was corrected to "March."
 - b. Moved, seconded, and unanimously approved as corrected.
3. 2022 budget/expenditures update (Sunnie Richardson)
 - a. Reviewed by Sunnie, who reported collecting \$920 more in membership dues than projected.
 - b. Morgan reported that we should know by August whether the Bar Commissioners will permit the Section to roll over excess budget to subsequent fiscal years.

- c. Sunnie clarified that we already know that the Section may roll over excess membership fees.
 - 4. CLE update, including 2022 Legislative CLE, proposed water issues CLE, annual meeting CLE, and December 2022 CLE (Melinda Branin)
 - a. Melinda reported that the legislative update CLE went well. It was one hour long.
 - i. Brianna reported that 25 people registered for the CLE and 20 people logged in. Registration was open for about 10 days.
 - ii. Tom thought that last year's legislative update CLE featured two prominent legislators while this year's speakers were lobbyists. He preferred having the legislators. He also reported audio problems that he also had last year. Finally, he suggested that someone from the Section should be the one to open and introduce the online CLE, rather than a representative of the State Bar.
 - iii. Lou agreed that he would prefer having legislators speak in future years.
 - b. Melinda reported that the next planned CLE is for August 11 from 3-4 pm at the annual meeting. Joe and Drew Cloutier will be the speakers.
 - i. Morgan reported that the annual meeting will be fully in person, however, the CLE session will be recorded for remote viewing and replaying.
 - c. Melinda explained that the water law CLE has not been scheduled. She suggested July, September, or October.
 - i. Steve reported that infrastructure funding would be the focal topic for the water CLE and that the funding mechanisms are developing very slowly.
 - ii. Joe will contact Adrian Oglesby at the Utton Center to gauge interest in coordinating with the Section on the CLE.
 - iii. Lou suggested that there may be broad interest among the State Bar for the infrastructure CLE.
 - d. Steve suggested the possibility of subsidizing Section members' CLE registration, based on his recent experiencing at an Arizona CLE.
 - i. Brianna will consult the CLE supervisor about subsidizing Section members and report back to the Section.
- 5. NREEL Board Retreat
 - a. Lou reported that last year's retreat was hybrid in-person and online. He asked Tom and Steve for their thoughts about whether and how to do a retreat this year.
 - i. Tom said that he thinks the Section is doing well and that he does not think that a completely in-person retreat at a destination is necessary. The key to a successful meeting is

the agenda and having someone there to lead the discussion.

- ii. Steve largely agreed with Tom. He wouldn't mind holding it in person in Albuquerque at the Bar's facility like last year. He noted that the video format or the camera angle we used last year made it difficult for online attendees to see in-person speakers.
 - iii. Morgan said that the board room at the Bar facility would be better than the classroom we used last year, if it is available for the date we choose for our retreat. She will send a Doodle poll to members to schedule a date for the retreat.
 - iv. Lou proposed holding the retreat on a Saturday in June or July at the Bar facility in Albuquerque.
 - v. It was proposed that Chris should be appointed to chair the retreat, subject to his accepting the appointment.
6. Status of Lawyer of the Year/Career Achievement Award plaque (State Bar)
- a. Morgan explained that the matter has gone to the appropriate subcommittee for determination and recommendation to the Board of Bar Commissioners for final approval. She asked whether our Section wants its own plaque or would be willing to share with other Sections.
 - i. Lou's preference would be for our own plaque. Tom agreed.
 - ii. Tom clarified that the plaque should include the names of all winners throughout history and into the future.
7. Section bylaws/election of Board members (Steve Hernandez)
- a. Lou explained that the Section had previously considered updating its bylaws with respect to board membership, but was told by the Bar Commissioners that every Section's bylaws must to be similar or the same.
 - b. Steve said he's heard from the Solo and Small Firm Section that their bylaws require a certain number of members from outside of the Albuquerque-Santa Fe area. This appears to be sanctioned by the Bar Commissioners and he suggested that we could at least include a similar provision in our Section's bylaws.
 - c. Lou asked whether the current model works, in which new board members self-nominate with no input from the existing Board. He wondered whether the older system, in which Board members nominated new members, is worth reconsidering.
 - d. Tom suggested putting this on an agenda later in the year for further discussion. Sunnie suggested putting it on the agenda for the annual retreat. Bidtah agreed.
 - e. Morgan reported that we will discuss board openings in August, then we advertise them in September, and the elections are held in October.
8. New business

- a. None was raised
- 9. Next meeting May 24, 2022