



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

**Board of Directors Meeting Agenda**

May 24, 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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
9	Joseph Schremmer	UNM Faculty Rep/Secr.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Paula Vance	YLD Liaison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11	Louis Rose	Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
12	Maria Trujillo	UNM Student Rep	<input 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 approved unanimously.
2. Approval of April 2022 meeting minutes (Joseph Schremmer)
  - a. Moved, seconded, and approved unanimously.
3. 2022 budget/expenditures update (Sunnie Richardson)
  - a. The Board reviewed the Statement of Activities for the months ending April 30, 2022, provided by the State Bar, and discussion was had.
  - b. Mark asked if we had reapproved the grant to the Law School for a summer stipend and noted that \$4,000 appears on the budget for this line item. Addie confirmed that this line item referenced the stipend for the summer of 2022.

- c. Addie mentioned that the Board could vote to make the grant again next year or wait until it makes the 2023 budget. Lou noted that we should table this item until a later Board meeting.
  - d. Chris asked whether and how the grant money had been paid to the Law School. Joe answered that the funds were transferred to the school for the school's NREL program to administer. He further noted that the student recipients had been chosen. Joe will invite Prof. Reed Benson to a future Board meeting to update the Board about the student recipients and where they are working.
4. CLE update, including 2022 Legislative CLE, proposed water issues CLE, annual meeting CLE, and December 2022 CLE (Melinda Branin)
- a. Member Discounts
    - i. Melinda informed the Board that it will be possible to provide a discount on CLE tuition to section members. The section could offer a coupon of \$20, which would supplement the 10% discount the State Bar gives to section members.
    - ii. Lou suggested that the CLE Committee discuss the potential for a coupon or discount policy and report back to the full Board.
  - b. Melinda proceeded to update the Board on the CLEs that the section has put on thus far.
  - c. Water Issues CLE
    - i. Melinda: The CLE Committee has discussed this CLE with Adrian Oglesby of the Utton Center. Adrian has suggested that we wait until the water infrastructure task for report in July before holding the CLE. We need to finalize a date for the CLE, and Melinda suggested September or October.
  - d. Annual Meeting CLE
    - i. Melinda: Scheduled for in-person attendance on August 11 from 3-4 pm. Joe and Drew Cloutier will present on changes in oil and gas law and regulation.
  - e. New Ideas (possibly for the December CLE)
    - i. Mark mentioned that the 9th Circuit recently decided the Rosemont mining case interpreting the Mining Law of 1872 and that this case might make an interesting and timely summer CLE. Mark and Lou both mentioned that there might be limited interest on mining issues in New Mexico.
    - ii. Chris noted that the time might be right for a CLE relating to the ongoing fires and fire management in the state. Lou agreed that it is timely and pondered whether there would be enough legal content for a CLE. Chris answered that PNM has recently been sued for starting the Ruidoso fire and that liability might make a good topic. Kari noted that PG&E recently settled the similar claims made against it in California.

- iii. Mark further suggested the fire's impact on water infrastructure could be a legal topic, and Lou mentioned that water use to fight the fires could be, as well.
    - iv. Lou instructed anyone with ideas to consult with Melinda offline before the Board's next meeting and Melinda agreed to present any recommendations at the next meeting.
- 5. Update/status of project planning for 2022 (Paula Vance)
  - a. Paula wanted an update on the section's planned activities (including CLEs) to take back to the Young Lawyers group. The CLE update provided by Melinda satisfied this request.
  - b. Paula asked whether the Board was considering any non-CLE events, such as volunteer events. Lou answered that this would be an appropriate topic of conversation at the Board Retreat.
  - c. Lou also mentioned that the Board could collaborate with the Law School's NREL program to bring in speakers and for various other events. Mark reminded us that the Board helps with a speed-dating mentoring event each fall and a social mixer each spring at the Law School. Joe said he would touch base with the Law School's NREL committee about the possibility of collaborating in the fall.
- 6. NREEL Board Retreat
  - a. Lou asked Addie to send the Board members a Doodle poll to schedule a weekend for the retreat. The only Saturday that would not work for the State Bar is July 9—the rest should be open.
  - b. Chris will circulate a proposed agenda to the Board and solicit topics for discussion. He suggested a morning meeting followed by lunch.
- 7. Section bylaws/election of Board members (Steve Hernandez)
  - a. Steve asked Chris to put this on the agenda for the Board retreat.
  - b. Tom suggested that the Board is doing well in this regard and that our resources would be better spent on other things, particularly on CLEs.
- 8. New business
  - a. None raised
- 9. Next meeting June 28, 2022