



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

**Board of Directors Meeting Agenda**

July 25, 2023

12:00 p.m.

[Zoom Meeting](#)

**Meeting ID:** 811 5445 4627

**Passcode:** 2023

**Quorum = 6 Directors**

**Quorum Met:** Yes No

|    | <b>Name</b>        | <b>Position</b>         | <b>Present</b>                      |
|----|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1  | Melinda Branin     | Chair                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2  | Steven Hernandez   | Director                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3  | Zachary Ogaz       | Director                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4  | Paula Vance        | Director/Chair-Elect    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5  | Bidtah Becker      | Director                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6  | Thomas Paterson    | Director                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 7  | Kristen Burby      | Director/Budget Officer | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 8  | Kari Olson         | Director                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 9  | Louis Rose         | Past Chair              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 | Vacant             | UNM Faculty Liaison     | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 11 | Vanessa Springer   | UNM Student Liaison     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 | Chandler Farnworth | YLD Liaison             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

1. Approval of the agenda
  - a. Unanimously approved upon a motion duly made and seconded.
2. Election of Secretary
  - a. Chandler Farnworth voted as Secretary.
  - b. Unanimously approved upon a motion duly made and seconded.
3. Approval of the June Meeting Minutes
  - a. Chandler to make corrections and to send revised minutes via email on 7/25.
4. 2023 Budget Update (Melinda Branin on behalf of Kristen Burby)
  - a. Made up fully budgeted amount in membership dues.
  - b. Retreat expenses have not yet been incorporated.
  - c. Some expenses have been approved already, including hotel expenses. Other retreat expenses still require approval.
5. CLE Update (Paula Vance)
  - a. TX v. NM CLE update- CLE committee to discuss Special Masters Report and finalize details of CLE, including date.
  - b. Admin Law CLE- to take place in the fall, planning still in the works.

- c. Annual Institute
  - i. speakers confirmed include Brett Phelps on fire litigation/FEMA updates
  - ii. Walker Boyd and Carolyn Minnier agreed to speak on ethics
  - iii. Kristen in touch with technical expert for PFAS panel
  - iv. Paula Vance in touch with contacts about earth panel and endangered species act focused presentation but has not yet heard back.
    - 1. Consideration of whether Texas attorneys who are licensed in New Mexico could serve on panel.
  - v. Save the date has been sent out.
  - vi. Agenda for annual institute to be sent out in August and advertising to begin shortly.
  - vii. For air panel, Chandler and Lou will coordinate on presenters and the focus of the panel.
- 6. New Business
  - a. Melinda reached out to Professor Padilla about serving in vacant Board spot as UNM Liaison, invited her to today's meeting as well as 8/22 meeting and emphasized interest in Board supporting UNM Natural Resources programs.
  - b. Plaques displayed at State Bar have errors. Plaque lists Stuart Butzier as recipient for 2018, 2019 and 2020, which is inaccurate and inconsistent with website. Tom Paterson will reach out to state bar about making corrections.
    - i. In 2021 and 2022, we had two career achievement awards and did not do a lawyer of the year award.
  - c. Melinda to contact bar about call for nominations in August or September.
  - d. Melinda to prepare report from Retreat and will email it out in the next week.
  - e. Tom Paterson to revise qualification language for career achievement award. Zachary Ogaz will revise language on website about career achievement award.
  - f. Add to agenda for next meeting, discussion of UNM Committee and back to school night at UNM.
- 7. Next Meeting August 22, 2023