

ENRLS Council Special Called Meeting
Via Telephone Conference
Friday, April 24, 2020, 2:00pm
MINUTES

I. Quorum Call and Introduction – Susan Maxwell.

Section Chair Susan Maxwell called and noticed a special meeting of the Council, pursuant to Section 7.1(d) of the ENRLS Bylaws, for the purpose of the Council’s necessary and urgent action to address contingency planning for the ENRLS-sponsored 2020 Texas Environmental Superconference in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. As provided under Section 7.1(f) of the ENRLS Bylaws and following current State Bar of Texas guidance that Section meetings be conducted electronically during the pandemic, the special called meeting was held by teleconference. Maxwell opened the meeting at 2:02pm with roll call, which established the presence of a quorum of voting Council members:

- a. Present: Susan Maxwell, David Klein, Pete Wahl, Erin Chancellor, Steve McMillen, Mike Dillinger, Kellie Billings-Ray, Kristen Fancher, Lisa Dyar, Aaron Vargas, Buck Benson, Heather Palmer.
- b. Absent: Nathan Block, Chris Schlag.

II. Discussion of Alternative Approaches for 2020 Superconference.

Susan Maxwell, together with Lisa Dyar, provided an overview of issues presented for the Council’s consideration, focusing on alternative courses of action regarding the annual Texas Environmental Superconference scheduled for August 5-7, 2020 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin, Texas, and the ENRLS annual meeting to be held in connection with the conference. The discussion among Council members addressed a set of outlined possible approaches regarding these events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, existing governmental orders affecting the ability to hold in-person events, and other considerations. The Council also discussed information and guidance provided by staff of the State Bar of Texas (SBOT), and the timeframe within which the Council should determine its course of action.

Following discussion and input by each Council member present, Buck Benson moved that the Council approve the alternative of cancelling the 2020 Superconference, by invoking the force majeure provision and terminating its event contract. Kristen Fancher seconded the motion. Upon further discussion, Susan Maxwell moved to amend the motion, such that the Council would state its consensus decision to cancel the conference and terminate the contract, and authorize the Section Chair, together with ad hoc committee members to be named, to further consult and coordinate with SBOT staff and implement a strategy for that cancellation and contract termination, and related necessary actions. The amendment to the motion was accepted. Of voting Council members then present, ten voted in favor and one was opposed.

III. Adjourn.

Susan Maxwell moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:20pm. The motion was seconded by David Klein, and unanimously approved.

