

ENRLS Council Q2 Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, May 19, 2021 – 3:00pm
GoToMeeting Videoconference; Dial-in: (877) 309-2073, Access Code: 258-743-077

I. Welcome and Introductions – David Klein.

David Klein opened the meeting at 3:03 pm with roll call:

- a. ENRLS Council and Committee Co-Chairs Present via GoToMeeting Videoconference:
David Klein, Pete Wahl, Mike Dillinger, Erin Chancellor, Susan Maxwell, Kristen Fancher, Lisa Dyar, Chris Schlag, Aaron Vargas, Buck Benson, Heather Palmer, Amber Ahmed, Paul Sarahan, Ashleigh Acevedo, Steve McMillen, Mary Mendoza, Kimberly Kelley, Walt Shelton.
- b. ENRLS Council and Committee Co-Chairs Absent:
Nathan Block, Ty’Meka Reeves-Sobers, Greg Ellis, Jon Bull.

The business agenda began with the Secretary’s Report.

II. Secretary’s Report – Erin Chancellor.

- a. Approval of minutes of the ENRLS Council Q1 Meeting.

Draft minutes for the ENRLS Council Q1 Meeting, held virtually on February 11, 2021, were circulated prior to the meeting. Edits received prior to the meeting were incorporated. No further corrections or edits were offered at the meeting. Wahl moved to approve the minutes. Dillinger seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

- b. Approval of minutes of the ENRLS April 1, 2021 Special Called Meeting.

Draft minutes for the ENRLS April 1, 2021 Special Called Meeting, held virtually, were circulated prior to the meeting. Edits received prior to the meeting were incorporated. No further corrections or edits were offered at the meeting. Wahl moved to approve the minutes. Benson seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Treasurer’s Report – Mike Dillinger & Pete Wahl.

- a. Review and synopsis of latest financial reports.

Dillinger reported that as of April 1, 2021, ENRLS had ~\$341k in assets and ~\$8k in liabilities for a fund balance of ~\$333k. At that time last year, ENRLS had ~\$308k in assets and ~\$14k in liabilities for a fund balance of ~\$293k. As a result, we continue to remain ~\$40k higher than last year, mostly based on being frugal during the pandemic and securing better-than-expected sponsorship fees during the virtual 2020 Superconference.



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b. Amended Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021.

Wahl presented the proposed amended current year budget to the Council. Under the Section's financial controls policy, we need to amend the budget. This is due to bringing in more revenue than expected, the \$1,500 stipend to Mary Sahs for her work on the *Essentials of Texas Water Resources* publication, and other amendments to reflect actual expenses. Maxwell moved to approve the amended budget for FY 2020-2021 as laid out by Wahl. Dyar seconded the motion. The amended budget was unanimously approved.

c. Proposed Budget for FY 2021-2022.

Dillinger presented for discussion the draft FY 2021-2022 proposed budget, which may result in a deficit of ~\$47k. To reduce the deficit, the Council discussed reducing the pro bono budget by \$10k, the meetings expenses budgeted amount by \$5k, the law school programs budgeted amount by \$4k, and the scholarships budgeted amount by \$5-10k. The Council also discussed ways to increase revenues.

The proposed budget was not up for approval at this meeting, and Dillinger will contact SBOT regarding the deadline for requiring the budget to be approved.

IV. Discuss, Consider, and Take Action Regarding the 33rd Annual Texas Environmental Superconference – Lisa Dyar & David Klein.

Dyar reported out that speakers and topics have been identified for a full 2-day program, but the Council needs to decide if the conference will be in-person or virtual. Discussion ensued. Dillinger moved to hold the 33rd Annual Texas Environmental Superconference in-person. Fancher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Committee Updates & Recommendations – Committee Co-Chairs.

a. Education Committee – Lisa Dyar & Greg Ellis, Co-Chairs.

2022 Changing Face of Water Law.

Klein reported that the conference planning committee will pick up in late summer with new ENRLS program co-chair, Alia Vinson.

b. Website & Technology Committee – Steve McMillen & Paul Sarahan, Co-Chairs.

McMillen is working to fix the law journal articles website page with the help of Sarahan. The committee will start increasing correspondence between ENRLS social media and the website to amplify content. Council members are encouraged to let McMillen or Sarahan know if anyone has content for the website.



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- c. Social Media Committee – David Klein & Amber Ahmed, Co-Chairs.

Klein reported that the ENRLS Twitter account is active now and is aiming for one tweet a week and linking back to the Section website, while also incorporating LinkedIn.

- d. Diversity, Engagement, & Inclusion (DEI) Committee – Paul Sarahan, Amber Ahmed, and Ty’Meka Reeves-Sobers, Co-Chairs.

Sarahan updated the Council that the committee is focused on working with the Superconference planning committee on opportunities for increased diversity in speakers. The committee is also looking at other bar associations to see how they are handling DEI and will put together a proposal for the Council.

- e. Law School Programs Committee – Walt Shelton & Kristen Fancher, Co-Chairs.

Fancher reported that in-person campus programs are being scheduled for the fall. The summer internships are starting, and the biographies of the recipients will be featured on the Section website soon.

- f. Publications & Communications Committee – Ashleigh Acevedo & Aaron Vargas, Co-Chairs.

TELJ updates and recommendations – Ashleigh Acevedo.

Acevedo reported that a backlog issue with the publisher has been resolved, and TELJ is back on track and will have 2 issues per year moving forward. All articles are in for Volume 51-Issue 2. A new student editorial board is in place and excited to get started.

Sponsorship of Essentials of Texas Water Resources (7th edition) – Susan Maxwell.

Maxwell reported that the 7th edition is on schedule to come out next spring.

- g. Nominating Committee – Susan Maxwell & David Klein, Co-Chairs.

Klein let the Council know that the email went out to the full Section membership regarding the call for nominations, which was posted on the ENRLS website and social media as well. The committee has received 4 nominations to date. Ahmed has joined the committee, but several non-Council members will also be appointed.

- h. Pro Bono & Community Outreach Committee – Buck Benson & Chris Schlag, Co-Chairs.





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Benson reported that the committee will send information on volunteer opportunities to the website committee and the social media committee for dissemination to the Section. The committee welcomes ideas on other activities to offer Section members.

- i. Sponsorship & Membership Committee – Heather Palmer & Ty’Meka Reeves-Sobers, Co-Chairs.

Palmer reported that the committee will begin soliciting sponsorships for Superconference once the planning committee determines the format of the conference. The Council determined Block’s unique skillset would be best suited to help Palmer reach out to sponsors.

VI. Other Business.

- a. Open Forum.

No comments.

- b. 2021 Future Meeting Dates.

Wed., Aug. 4, 2021, 3:00pm. The Q3 meeting will be held virtually or in Austin, in conjunction with the 33rd Annual Texas Environmental Superconference. Klein announced that there may be a special meeting to approve the budget before the next regular meeting.

VII. Adjourn.

Fancher moved to adjourn the Q2 meeting. Dillinger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

