

ENRLS Council Q3 Meeting Minutes – August 3, 2022 – 3:00 p.m.
In Person Meeting at Jackson Walker Austin Office and via MS Teams

I. Welcome, Introductions, & Recognitions – Erin Chancellor

Chancellor opened the meeting at 3:06 pm and proceeded with roll call:

A. ENRLS Council and Committee Co-Chairs Present In-Person:

Erin Chancellor, Ty’Meka Reeves-Sobers, Marcella Burke, Anne Austin, Ashleigh Myers, Kristen Fancher, Walt Shelton, Mike Dillinger, Paul Sarahan

B. ENRLS Council and Committee Co-Chairs Present via MS Teams:

Lisa Dyar, Amber Ahmed, Buck Benson, Mary Mendoza, Pete Wahl

C. ENRLS Council and Committee Co-Chairs Absent:

Nathan Block, Heather Palmer, Alia Vinson, Chris Schlag, David Klein, James McGuire, Steve McMillen

II. Secretary’s Report – Lisa Dyar

A. Approval of minutes of the ENRLS Council Q2 meeting

Dyar circulated draft minutes for the ENRLS Council Q2 meeting, held virtually on May 26, 2022, prior to the meeting. Edits received prior to the meeting were incorporated. No further corrections or edits were offered at the meeting. Chancellor moved to approve the minutes, Austin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

III. Treasurer’s Report – Mike Dillinger

A. Review latest financial reports

Dillinger reported that as of May 31, 2022, ENRLS had ~\$408k in assets, ~\$51k in liabilities, and a fund balance of ~\$357k. At this point in 2021, ENRLS had ~\$333k in assets, ~\$32k in liabilities, and a fund balance of ~\$301k. As a result, the Section is in better financial health by ~\$56k compared to last year. This status appears to be largely attributable to the Section’s sustained commitment to maintain financial discipline and actively seeking ways to increase sponsorships for conferences. Superconference had another great year with a record 31 law firm sponsors.

B. Discuss approved FY 2022-2023 budget and consider any adjustments

No update. Discussion of a Section fee increase postponed until the Q4 meeting.



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IV. Committee Updates & Recommendations

A. Nominating Committee – Nathan Block & David Klein, Co-Chairs

Report of Nominating Committee and review of slate of Officers for 2022–2023 and Executive Committee members for three-year terms running 2022–2025

Slate of nominated Officers and Executive Committee members will be offered for approval at the annual Section meeting on August 5, 2022.

B. Education Committee – Amber Ahmed & Alia Vinson, Co-Chairs

1. *2022 Superconference update*

Pre-Conference Update – Amber Ahmed & Mary Mendoza

Mendoza reported registration of 422 attendees for Superconference, with ~4-5 cancellations/refunds due to Covid in the last week. Though less than full capacity attendance, the hotel block is full. The lower attendance level may present revenue challenges since the hotel has food and drink minimums. A/V costs have drastically increased from last year, which may necessitate a different contract in the future.

Topics tabled for the Q4 meeting include raising conference rates and the increased costs for food, beverage, and A/V support.

Superconference Sponsorships Update – Heather Palmer & Paul Sarahan

Sarahan reported 31 law firm sponsors, 14 consultant sponsors, and EarthX as the headliner sponsor for the conference.

2. *2022 Changing Face of Water Rights Conference update – Alia Vinson*

No update.

3. *2022 Climate Change Symposium update and potential for future symposiums – Nathan Block*

No update.

C. Diversity, Engagement, and Inclusion Committee – Ty’Meka Reeves-Sobers & Amber Ahmed, Co-Chairs



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Reeves-Sobers reported gathering information in the Nominating Committee process. In addition to background information and a photo, Ahmed suggested that next year's Nominating Committee consider gathering DEI information and asking why a potential nominee is interested in the Section's work, among other information, so the Committee can best evaluate and make recommendations. The Nominating Committee will evaluate how to coordinate the effort. For the Q4 meeting, the Committee may report on what other sections are doing to gather best practice ideas.

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

Shelton provided an update on law school programs and the Buck Wynne Scholarships. He indicated that the likely location for the Q4 fall meeting would coincide with a joint law school program event in Houston.

Chancellor made a motion to hold a joint meeting of the Council in the fall to coincide with a joint law school program in Houston, Dillinger seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Fancher reported an update regarding communication efforts with the Texas General Land Office (GLO). Chancellor moved to increase the amount of the internship stipend from \$4,500 to \$4,750, remove GLO from the Section's intern program, and provide 2-3 interns free registration to attend Superconference. Austin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

E. Publications & Communications Committee – Ashleigh Myers & Anne Austin, Co-Chairs

Texas Environmental Law Journal (TELJ)

Myers reported that the new UT Law editor is engaged and moving the process along. TELJ lost members due to graduation and is still working on filling journal staff for the current school year. Myers is soliciting articles for future publications.

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

Benson reported about a tree planting program at Enchanted Rock.

G. Sponsorship & Membership Committee – Heather Palmer & Paul Sarahan, Co-Chairs

Sarahan indicated the Committee did not have an additional report other than the Superconference sponsorship update discussed earlier in the meeting.



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

Sarahan reported additional content is always welcomed. Information is getting uploaded to the website and the working relationship has been productive. Intern bios are now available on the website.

I. Social Media Committee – David Klein, Chair

Chancellor reported that she has been generating 1-2 posts per month and is maintaining a social media calendar that she will circulate to the Council and Committee members.

V. Other / New Business

None.

VI. Adjourn

Chancellor moved to adjourn the Q3 meeting, Sarahan seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:01 pm.

