

**ENRLS Council Q4 Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2021 – 10:00 am**  
**Zoom Meeting**

**I. Welcome, Introductions, & Recognitions – Nathan Block**

Block opened the meeting at 11:04 am. Block proceeded with roll call:

**A. ENRLS Council and Committee Co-Chairs Present via Zoom:**

Nathan Block, David Klein, Pete Wahl, Erin Chancellor, Mike Dillinger, Lisa Dyar, Ashleigh Acevedo, Amber Ahmed, Marcella Burke, Kristen Fancher, James McGuire, Steve McMillen, Mary Mendoza, Ty'Meka Reeves-Sobers, Paul Sarahan, Walt Shelton

**B. ENRLS Council and Committee Co-Chairs Absent:**

Alia Vinson, Anne Austin

**C. Others Present via Zoom:**

Alessandra Pape

The business agenda began with the Secretary's Report.

**II. Secretary's Report – Lisa Dyar**

**A. Approval of minutes of the ENRLS Council Q3 Meeting and August 6, 2021 ENRLS Annual Meeting**

Outgoing Secretary Chancellor circulated draft minutes for the ENRLS Council Q3 Meeting, held in person and virtually on August 4, 2021, and for the ENRLS Annual Meeting, held in person at the Texas Environmental Superconference on August 6, 2021, prior to the meeting. Edits received prior to the meeting were incorporated. No further corrections or edits were offered at the meeting. Sarahan moved to approve the minutes, and Wahl seconded the motion. The Council unanimously approved the minutes.

**III. Treasurer's Report – Mike Dillinger**

**A. Review latest financial reports**

Dillinger reported that as of August 1, 2021, ENRLS had ~\$471k in assets and ~\$12k in liabilities for a fund balance of ~\$459k. Meaningful comparisons to previous years continue to be challenging because of the unusual circumstances related to Superconference for the last two years. For 2021, Superconference paid registrations and expenses were still being received and evaluated. Total sponsorships for the Superconference set a new record in 2021, with more than



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\$76,250. Dillinger expects to submit a balanced budget to the Bar for 2021-2022 with a surplus of \$439k.

**B. ENRLS membership fee adjustment**

Block discussed the Council's decision from the Q3 meeting to adjust the Section membership fee. A \$5 increase would allow the Section to take on additional initiatives. Block proposed coordinating timing of a membership fee adjustment with the Bar to occur after current membership statements are distributed in Spring 2022. Block plans to develop more specific information for discussion at the Council's Q1 2022 meeting.

**IV. Committee Updates & Recommendations**

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

**1. 2022 Superconference Update**

Dyar reported that the 2021 Superconference was very successful even with a limited attendance to facilitate increased spacing. In addition, transition of the Superconference liaison role responsibility to Ahmed is underway. Mendoza reported that the planning committee asked the Four Seasons for a contract to begin discussions about future conference accommodations.

**2. 2022 Changing Face of Water Rights Conference Update**

Chancellor reported that the conference is scheduled for February 16-18, 2022 at the Hyatt Hill Country Resort in San Antonio.

**3. 2022 Climate Change Symposium Update**

Block reported that the date of April 14, 2022 is confirmed for the Climate Change Symposium at the Bob Bullock State History Museum. He has secured commitments from five authors who expect to submit articles for a Climate Change Symposium-related special edition of the Section's Texas Environmental Law Journal. The planning committee is still seeking participation by student authors and cast a wide net to solicit input. McGuire will participate with the planning committee for the Climate Change Symposium. McMillen plans to update the website with registration information in November. Block plans to send sponsorship solicitations for the Climate Change Symposium to keep total costs of the event below \$45,000-50,000.

**B. Diversity, Engagement, and Inclusion Committee – Ty'Meka Reeves-Sobers, Chair**



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Reeves-Sobers provided an update of the committee’s work during the last year, including DEI data regarding Superconference speakers, which advanced the committee objectives, purpose, and efforts.

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

Shelton discussed initial plans for returning to law school visits in person. Baylor, Texas Tech and St. Mary’s each have significant environmental programs. Council members interested in participating on a panel for one of the law school visits should contact Fancher. Fancher reported she plans to provide relevant updates to the Section website related to the law school visits and to update contact at St. Mary’s. The committee is targeting one of the visits for Fall 2022 to coincide with the Council’s Q4 meeting in October.

**D. Publications & Communications Committee** – Ashleigh Acevedo, Chair

1. *Texas Environmental Law Journal (TELJ)*

Acevedo reported that the new editorial board is working out really well. Initial assignments are made, and all student editor roles are filled. TELJ is seeking articles for the issue in Spring 2022.

2. *Sponsorship of Essentials of Texas Water Resources (7<sup>th</sup> edition)*

Block reported that the committee’s Water Law Treatise liaison is due to transition from Susan Maxwell to a new committee member. Prior to rolling off the Council at the 2021 annual Section Meeting, Maxwell recommended and volunteered to transition the role over a six-month period to a practitioner who already maintains a water law practice. The pre-print version of the Seventh Edition of the Water Law Treatise is still on track for Spring 2022 publication by Texas Bar Books. ENRLS will be responsible for the acknowledgements page. Mary Sahs now has a co-editor for the book, Holly Heinrich.

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

No update.

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

No update.

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



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McMillen reported that registration for the Climate Change Symposium will be set up on the Section's website, and that website registration will incorporate learnings from the recent Superconference registration. Other updates are planned for the website, including tweaks to the layout and images, and news updates. Sarahan reported that the committee will be adding articles to the website and encouraged the Council to send materials as content is always appreciated. The committee is looking to remove the website password to allow Council documents to be publicly available.

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

Klein provided a reminder that the committee seeks content ahead of events and announcements for messaging so that the committee can put the programs to work to benefit the Section.

**V. OTHER / NEW BUSINESS**

No update.

**VI. ADJOURN**

Klein moved to adjourn the Q4 meeting. Wahl seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

