Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting of June 18, 2011

Sustainable Futures Section

Oregon State Bar

Attending: James Kennedy (Chair) , Robin Bellanca Seifried, Jennifer Gates, Ellen Grover, Diane Henkels, Dick Roy, Michelle Slater, and Dallas DeLuca.

Excused absence: Pat Neill, Amie Jamieson, and Rod Wegener (OSB liaison)

Guests: Kate Olney

1. Opening remarks:
   1. discussion of high quality of articles in recent newsletter. Timely overlap with recent remarks of Obama administration on integrity of science.
   2. Jim reviewed information on climate change at the Thomas Condon Paleontology Museum in John Day.
   3. Thanks and recognition to Ellen for arranging CLE yesterday and for arranging executive committee session in Bend.
   4. Discussion of topic of CLE – human right to water – and Oregon State Bar task force presentation to OSB Board of Governors on the topic of the human right to water.
2. Approval of minutes: deferred.
3. Membership Development Plan. Robin.
   1. Membership up slightly compared to last year, at all-time high of 277.
   2. Discussion of strategies to increase membership to 325.
   3. Robin is checking with Bar on easy membership registration at CLE events and other programs.
   4. Robin is checking with Bar regarding email outreach by Section to new members.
   5. Discussion of Dick and Jim’s plan to have a lead contact (preferably a managing partner) at all the larger law firms to recruit members and increase attendance at CLEs and other programs.
   6. Diane led discussion of outreach to small firms and solo practitioners, possibly via the OSB section for small firms and solo practitioners. Dick and Jennifer will talk to their contacts within that section about ideas for outreach to that section.
   7. Dick proposed distributing short (three questions) survey to sample of all Bar members, up to 4,000 Members, on issues related to sustainability and human impact on environment. Discussion of sending survey to OWLS, as chance for higher response rate. Jim proposes that we would provide results back to those who took the survey and combine with marketing of upcoming events.
      1. Dick will propose three questions before next Executive Committee meeting.
      2. Dallas to investigate using survey through Suvery Monkey and eVite.
   8. Robin will maintain Membership Development strategy document.
   9. Discussion of offering half-priced membership to new Bar members and to law students, and working through Section’s student-representatives for greater marketing to law students.
      1. Moved to offer memberships at half-price to new members: approved.
   10. Discussion of strategies for providing greater value for members relative to value provided to non-members, such as charging non-members for CLEs (currently, most CLEs are free) or not sending newsletter to non-Members. Jen Gates, Jim Kennedy to lead ad hoc group to propose strategies for enhancing value to members.
4. Partners in Sustainability – Dick and Ellen.
   1. Dick reported on work of Dylan Cernitz, who is working with group including Barry Woods, Elizabeth Goodman from Tonkon Torp, and {} from Bend.
   2. Dylan’s group is meeting June 24. Reports will follow.
5. Awards Program – Ellen
   1. The notice of awards program nominations is in the Newsletter and will be in July Bar *Bulletin*.
   2. We need to increase marketing of program information, directly (individual contacts) and via email to Section members.
   3. Discussion of also marketing the Board of Governors individual sustainability award.
   4. Ellen will prepare email to send to Section members and ENR & RELU sections.
6. Discussed possible programs and Paperless Office Program
   1. Jim discussed option of program with {\_}, founder of New Seasons, but he is likely unavailable until Spring 2012. Jim Kelly at Rejuvenation Hardware could also participate.
   2. Jim discussed that James Montieff {?} at {\_} will lead program on Land Trust with Blue Mountain Conservancy this fall. Discussion of other land trust groups to participate in program, and discussion of possible author for newsletter on same topic, possibly focused on Deschutes Land Trust. Ellen will contact people at Deschutes Land Trust, and Diane for people at coastal land trust groups.
   3. Jen discussed possible programs on Ecosystem services with Robert Costanza, and discussion of alternative program leaders, such as John Marsh and Sara Vickerman.
   4. Jen discussed possible program with Robin Morris Collin on {\_}
   5. Review of Paperless Office Program from late May. There was a lot of interest in the mechanics of the paperless office. Proposed further newsletter articles on the mechanics of paperless office.
7. Legislative Report – Diane.
   1. Many bills still in limbo in legislature.
   2. Deferred further discussion until next committee meeting.
8. Role of Section in Future Legislative Sessions. – Deferred until July committee meeting.
9. Annual Meeting Planning Ideas – Jim and Robin
   1. Annual celebration and annual meeting likely to be split into separate events again.
   2. Law firm award to be given at annual celebration event.
   3. Discussion of speakers for celebration, and for doing event at Forestry Center, Zoo or Audubon Society for presentations on particular sustainability issues related to species, or possible food and wine event focused on sustainable restaurant practices.
10. Update on Climate Change Litigation – Diane.
    1. Could be opportunity for unique service from the Section to Oregon Bar to present on this topic.
    2. Discussion of Columbia Law School website that has resources on climate change litigation.
    3. Discussed the public trust doctrine litigation that has been filed throughout the country, including in Lane County Circuit Court.
    4. Discussion of possible role for Section, for example filing non-advocacy amicus curiae briefs in conjunction or at direction of Board of Governors.
       1. Diane to review Bar handbook and rules and regulations (see subsection 2.105 of Bar rules) on issue of sections filing amicus briefs. She will talk to Sylvia Stevens re same. Diane to send memo to executive committee.
       2. Review of using email to broadcast to Section on Climate Change litigation updates, or sending updates on big issues, such as “Rio Plus 20” and Kyoto renewal discussions for 2012. Newsletter editorial board will discuss what should be in Newsletter versus “alert” emails, and what should be on website.
11. Perspectives on Sustainability from Deschutes County Bar – Ellen
    1. Review of CLE attendance from yesterday and interest level from smaller Bar such as Deschutes County Bar. Proposal that next CLE to fit in more usual Deschutes County Bar (or local bar) structure, such as lunch CLEs or CLE hosted with Inns of Court.
12. Old Business – none.
13. Executive Committee Meeting Schedule – Jim. – next meeting Friday, August 5, at MHG&M, or Landye Bennett.

Meeting concluded at 11:06AM