Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting of August 5, 2011

Sustainable Futures Section

Oregon State Bar

Attending: James Kennedy (Chair), Michelle Slater, Jennifer Gates, Robin Bellanca Seifried (Treasurer), Diane Henkels (legislative contact), Dallas DeLuca (Secretary), Barry Woods (by phone), Ellen Grover, Pat Neill.

Excused: Dick Roy, Amie Jamieson.

1. **Opening Remarks** – Jim

• Jim’s discussion of lack of available facilities for returning unused prescription drugs and land fill and water pollution from same.

2. **Minutes of 2/4/11 and 6/18/11 meetings**

• Approved as written

• Dallas needs to send out May minutes.

3. **Partners in Sustainability** – Barry Woods

• Elizabeth Goodman at Tonkon Torp, and Dylan Cernitz at Gevurtz Menashe are on the committee.

• Discussed possible criteria for Partner eligibility

• Question 1: from Barry to Executive Committee: Should large firms have more mandatory criteria than small firms?

• **A:** Generally, no, at least for now.

• Question 2: If a firm has multiple offices, should each office be judged together, with mandatory requirements imposed on all offices or should the application be reviewed by office?

• **A:** review applications by each office.

• Question 3: Should some criteria be mandatory, or should there be requirement of several criteria of a list A: option B?

• Suggested **A:** require that an applicant firm qualify by meeting several criteria among a list (e.g. 5 of 7 items) for several different category areas (e.g., water reduction; reduction in consumption; transportation).

• Question 4: Should partner criteria be same or align with Leadership Award criteria?

**A:** Not necessarily aligned, as both are developing and improving, so no need to try to match them now.

• Question 5: Audits or self-certification?

**A:** Just self-certification every year. Though SFS would not reserve rights to do an audit, we would let the Partners know that we might ask for a visit or refer a Partner as a place to visit to see the example of sustainability.

• Question 6: what data collection and analysis do we want?

**A:** Depends on what we are allowed to make public and what firms want to keep confidential. Barry to check with Bar on rules for confidentiality of section materials.

4. **Selection of Law Firm for Sustainable Leadership Award** – Ellen

• We will write a letter to all applications thanking for application and applauding efforts and encouraging them to apply next year again.

• For next year: we will ask for concrete details on certain questions, such as whether firm pays for parking, and maybe paper purchase per employee.

• Also, next year, distribute application announcement to the small and solo practitioner section.

• The Executive Committee, after long debate, voted to select Schwabe Williamson and Wyatt as this year’s award recipient.

5. **Annual Section Celebration** – Robin and Jim

• Option for holding event at Zoo explored but not viable.

• Remaining options: speaker at local venue.

Costs are very high, such as $45-$60 per person.

• Possible speaker on sustainability and agriculture, speaking on monocultures.

• Budget is $1,000 for Annual all-section celebration event.

• Location: maybe at White Stag or at Schwabe.

• Robin and Jim talking to possible speakers.

6. **Requirements for Filing Amicus Briefs by Sections** – Diane

• Executive Committee reviewed OSB bylaws for writing and filing Amicus Curiae briefs, and reviewed current status of Oregon case law on public trust doctrine.

• Diane will research communications restrictions and costs for appearing as Amicus.

7. **Enhancing Value of Membership in Section** – Jennifer and Jim

• Section could charge non-members for attending events (e.g., brown bags) with membership registration at events.

• Moved: Charge more for non-members than for members at events organized by Section.

8. **2011 Legislative Summary and SFS Role in Future Legislative**

**Sessions** - Diane

• Discussed level of involvement Section should have on legislative developments.

9/12. **Selection of Annual Meeting Date/Executive Committee Meeting**

**Schedule** - Jim

• Annual meeting will not be at celebration for Section.

• Annual meeting will be between October 15 and November 15, likely November 4 at 3 pm.

• Annual meeting will be immediately followed by meeting of Executive Committee.

• September Executive Committee set for Friday, September 9, 9-11 am, at Landye Bennett, and October 7, 9-11 am, at TBD.

10. **New Business**

• Diane leading committee to meet at Ater Wynne next week to contact firms for website write-ups for office best practices. Bobby Mauger, Stacey Mark and Dawn Winalski.

• Diane and Dallas – Dallas will post to SFS website a revised list of resources section had developed for mentoring program. We will post, where available, the documents themselves instead of just links.

• Diane – discussed getting all-section involvement for commenting on the Rio Plus 20 to submit to the event’s “Compilation Document.”

• Jim and Michelle – communicating with Jennifer Berg on ABA review of state-by-state response of legal profession to sustainability issues.

11. **Old Business**

• Jim and Robin reported on half price Section membership for law students and on signing up members at section events.

Adjourned 11:55 a.m.

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