

OSB SFS Executive Committee
3/19/15 Meeting Minutes 9-10:30 at Davis Wright Tremaine law firm

Present: Robin Seifried, Dick Roy, Jen Gates, Michelle Slater, Diane Henkels, June Wirick Flores, Lindsay Byrne, Max Miller, Maggie Vining

Not present—excused: Jen Gates, Anne McQuesten

Guest: Sandy Polishuk, Divestment Coordinator 350PDX

Minutes to 2/19/15 mtg approved as revised (spelling Austin Family, Lennie Dee, and Lindsay Byrne)

Committee updates:

Awards/Partners:

Report from June and Diane that A/P Committee, including volunteer committee member Alexander Tkacz, recommends annual Sustainable Law Firm Award for 2015 focus on composting. 2016 Award would focus on a challenge them: Transportation. Committee to move forward with producing an announcement of 2015 award and to introduce the transportation challenge for a baseline from 2015 September. Discuss outreach to county bars which must be individual to each bar.

Editorial:

1st issue coming out in mid-April, articles in the pipeline: bike law

Programs:

SFS has done three in 2015 and working on more: divestment, biodiversity, *Chernaik* follow up, law and economics.

Membership update:

We start each year gaining about 10 members, but hope to get 300. This year we started 285. Reminder of calling members who have dropped. Discuss admission of new OSB members; of the 9 of the 2014 new admitees, only 3 renewed.

Guest speaker:

Sandy Polishuk from 350PDX speaking to EC re divestment from carbon. 350PDX is part of 350.org a global organization based on East coast founded by Bill McKibben. 350 parts per million (“ppm”) = carbon in the atmosphere that we can have globally and maintain current standard of living; we are now at 400 ppm; amount of carbon in the fossil fuel companies’ reserves=5 times the number we can afford to burn.

Divestment is a tactic: shame them/raise their awareness, political—gain the clout to get policy changes, and create fossil fuel instruments e.g. Greening American fossil fuel fund, PAX, Portfolio 21, Shelton Green, etc. It is also much riskier to get into the fossil fuel biz & it is not a risky proposition to divest.

What does it mean to divest? Does NOT mean to get rid of any company having anything to do with fossil fuels. 350PDX asks entities to divest from the companies having the 100 top carbon reserves. Carbon Underground tracks the reserves through its Carbon Tracker (see fossilfree.org & attached). Examples: Rockefeller's divestment from Standard Oil, Jubitz in Oregon. 350PDX asks for 5 year pledge—commitment to divest from the companies on the list. Portfolio 21's piece shows the risk of fossil fuels becoming stranded assets due to forthcoming restrictions making them unburnable. Foundations divesting—these have no fiduciary duty to divest. University divestments: Stanford a recent example as divestment from coal. Vermont legislature has bill (2015) to divest its state. Seattle...? In Oregon: Eugene, Multnomah County have divested (Multco ~ \$400 million), but Portland just invested in Exxon Mobile.

Goal of 350PDX: getting the political clout to get the companies to keep their reserves in the ground. How: if enough entities divest, that power is sufficient to support carbon pricing to bring regulatory pressures (e.g. carbon taxing, cap and trade, many ways these are all implemented), and unprofitable. Special interest in environmental, children's, etc., groups working right in this. Good to have an upswell prior to Paris COP meeting.

Legislation:

EC members to provide Diane bills they are familiar with that could be included in Bar's Public Affairs Dept. list.

ABA Sustainable Development Task Force Summary:

Diane to visit w/John Dernbach and Ira Feldman contribution SFS could make to the Sustainable Development Task Force Report likely re sustainability and legal education, and to report back to EC.

Climate Change Task Force:

So far 30 people interested in an informational mtg, making three lunch groups meeting mid-April. Questions: if there is a Task Force on Climate Change w/report, who would be the audience recipient of the report? Oregon lawyers, other bar associations, target it at lawyers, interested persons. What will be the parts of the report: climate science to put to rest climate change denial, summarize litigation and how individuals bring their own suits, other legal profession initiatives (e.g. ecocide trials?), possibly climate ethics & professional ethics (what does this mean to the legal profession, is there an independent ethical obligation of lawyers?); recommendations: Task Force; publicizing the Task Force
What is the highest vision of what this might be?

Adjourn.