**OSB Sustainable Future Section**

**Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
April 3, 2014, 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM
Landye Bennett Blumstein LLP, 1300 SW Fifth Avenue, 35th Floor, Portland**

Present: Robin Seifried, Janna Aginsky, Jennifer Gates, Jim Kennedy, Max Miller, Dick Roy

By phone: Diane Henkels

Absent (with notice): Michelle Slater, Maggie Vining, Monique Hawthorne, Ann McQuesten

Approval of March 2014 Meeting Minutes

With minor changes noted by Jim Kennedy and Diane Henkels, the March minutes as amended were approved by unanimous vote.

Membership Report

Robin Seifried reported that the Section has 273 members as of February 2014 (from the Bar report; 279 on OSB website). Our numbers fluctuate during the year between 250-300, and mainly hover around 275-290. At this time, the Section has a slightly higher loss rate compared to other sections - 8% - and a high overlap of members with the ENR and RELU sections. Robin noted that the estate planning and litigation sections both have over 1000 members so we should target them with CLE announcements.

Discussion and Assignment of 2014 Membership Efforts

The Committee discussed whether it is a useful expenditure of energy to try to obtain a lot of new members or re-sign up lost members? Robin noted that, in past years, those who dropped membership either had good reasons we can't address or did not respond to our inquiries, suggesting they are not interested. She recommended continuing to grow membership through programs. Dick Roy suggested an email to lost members that includes a link to join and pay electronically. Jim Kennedy recommended that charging for more activities, as we've done with programs, will be helpful in encouraging membership. Dick suggested perhaps visiting firms in November to encourage robust sign ups. Robin recommended continuing outreach and free memberships to new admittees.

Awards & Partners Committee Report

The Committee discussed the proposed paperless office award for 2014. The members supported it. Janna Aginsky asked if there will be a metric or whether the applications would be judged subjectively – there is no metric but comparisons of measurable changes will be made. We discussed prospect of multiple awards. The Committee discussed listing old award winners on the announcement but decided against it so as not to discourage smaller firms from applying.

Programs Committee Report

Maggie Vining provided a written report (attached) and Max Miller summarized it. Diane Henkels is planning a May CLE, for two CLE credits, to be held at Diane's office.

Jim Kennedy reported on the planned CLE on forest practices. There will be no need to subsidize bus costs and the program should qualify for at least two CLE credits. The CLE will be held on a Saturday. Jim asked for suggestions for a speaker on the bus, possibly on NEPA. Members suggested Stark Ackerman, Barbara Craig and Greg Corbin.

Report & Discussion of Possible 2015 Theme

Max Miller and Janna Aginsky discussed thoughts on adopting a theme around which other section events and CLEs would be structured in 2015. They noted that the theme should not be the exclusive work of the committee and outlined the following potential tasks: One study group of 1-year duration with expected work product/report at end of year; two newsletters devoted to the theme; offer a day-long CLE with different tracks; and perhaps use the theme for the law firm leadership award. The Committee also discussed whether a legislative proposal could result from the work. The two themes discussed so far are agriculture and water. Dick Roy questioned the value to members of a themed year and whether the EC is set up to execute this well. Janna commented that having reports and articles for the Section website would be valuable. She also noted that implementing the theme would require only the same tasks the EC typically undertakes, only with a specific focus instead of considering all possible topics as is typical. She and others felt a legislative proposal was too ambitious, but that otherwise a theme would not involve much extra work. Further discussion and decision on whether to adopt a theme will be tabled until the May meeting.

Report on Outreach - Lewis & Clark Presentation

Janna Aginsky, Jim Kennedy and Steve Higgs of SAGE gave a very well received presentation on sustainability in the bar and in law practice, plus discussion of the legal guardian concept, principles and discussion of guardian's evaluation of proposed legislation. The interaction provided some insights for use in our and SAGE's refinement of the guardian concept and principles. Jim asked for office space for a law student legal extern to host over the summer, who will be assisting with the legal guardian efforts. Jennifer Gates and Janna will ask their firms.

Discussion of Possible Section Support for Conservation Land Trust Pro Bono Effort

Diane Henkels summarized the history of the effort to start a pro bono land trust bar group. She identified three ways this section could support this effort: host a CLE to provide training to attorneys participating in the program, write a letter to the OSB Board of Governors recommending that its pro bono criteria be interpreted to include the program, or write a letter to the BoG recommending that it add pro bono criteria under which the program would qualify. Diane will prepare a draft letter to the BoG for EC consideration. Members present generally support the idea of supporting this program, but in a limited manner and with more detail before formally providing. Some members commented that the Section should not be providing training because it is not our area of expertise. The Committee discussed how clients will be selected and whether land trusts themselves are potential clients, and whether these issues are part of the Bar's reticence in approving this program.

Time for Public Comment and Added Topics

No visitors attended the meeting.

Dick Roy updated the EC on the IPCC Report (5th Assessment) status and his discussions with NRDC. He recommended having a webinar with a true expert (possibly from NRDC or Michael Oppenheimer from Princeton, who is writing the report) on this topic. Robin will contact the Bar about webinar options. Diane has looked into it and will confer with Robin. GoToMeeting also will be considered.

Committee members requested that meeting materials be provided more than one day before the monthly meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05.

The next meeting will be on May 1, 2014 at 9:00 at Schwabe.