Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting of December 3, 2010

Sustainable Futures Section

Oregon State Bar

Attending: James Kennedy (Chair), Robin Bellanca Seifried (Treasurer), Diane Henkels (legislative contact), Dick Roy, Michelle Slater, Dallas DeLuca (Secretary), Jennifer Gates, Pat Neill, Rod Wegener (OSB liaison), Amie Jamieson and J. Charles Griggs (member).

Excused: Ellen Grover

1. **Opening Remarks** – Jim

• Review of Dick Roy’s award from last night’s OSB Board of Governors’ dinner. The section received favorable comments and section award winners were mentioned.

• Diane will serve on OSB task force to study the Danny Lang proposal to propose to the Oregon legislature an amendment to a statute concerning appearing before the court on a criminal charge. We need an alternate to Diane.

2. **Approve Minutes of November 2, 2010 Executive Committee Meeting**

Approved.

3. **Membership Development Activities** – Dick

• Dick reported that our committee contacted people at over 30 firms to recruit additional members, per the plan discussed at last month’s meeting.

4. **Discussion of Section Role in 2011 Legislative Session** – Diane

• Ms. Greene from OSB will send list of bills proposed to legislature that might relate to the Sustainable Future section. We can decide from the list which bills to track, with assistance from OSB. We can decide then if we want to volunteer to provide information to Bar or legislature on proposed bills. Likely that involvement, if any, will start after January 7.

• Diane, Jennifer and Jim have worked with OSB legislative tracking process before.

• It was discussed whether we need legislative subcommittee with rules on how to decide on what bills to focus on.

• Jim agreed to wait to see list of bills before deciding how to participate.

5. **Newsletter** – Michelle

• Michelle reported that all articles, at least first draft, received. Michelle reviewed all articles.

• Diane noted that there was a presentation at Lewis & Clark recently on use of the precautionary principle, a topic in the upcoming newsletter, in Europe.

6. **Programs**

a. November 17 Program on Benefit/Flexible Purpose Corporations—Dick

• Dick described November 17 CLE, which had 49 people registered and 30 at event, and 25 registered to participate by phone.

• Diane noted that when she tried to call in, she received a message that there were no available lines.

• Michelle participated by call-in and said the Q&A was hard to follow.

• In future, we need to remind presents to repeat question in Q&A, and we need to remind people calling in to mute their phones.

b. January Program on 2011 Legislative Developments – Dick

• On January 26, there will be program with the legislators about sustainability issues in next session of state legislature.

• Discussion on whether and how to give participants option of ordering lunch in advance.

• Robin investigate using PayPal for future programs.

c. Additional 2011 Programs – Dick and Robin

• Jim – Nothing to report on future Green Guides program. It likely will not happen until Spring.

• Dick noted he met with Robert Constanza, expert on ecological economics, who directs the Institute for Sustainable Solutions at PSU. He can present on ecosystem services as a public trust or financial resource, or on other topics.

• Dallas mentioned that the Sustainable Future section could present a program on the precautionary principle based on recent OSU report on local effects of climate change. Jim thought he would follow-up with new OSU Director of Climate Change program.

• Jim and Dick discussed potential program with Helena Norberg-Hodge. She is already presenting at First Unitarian Church on January 21. Section will co-sponsor event on January 21.

• Jim and Pat discussed planning a video replay of last Spring’s constitutional debate CLE in Eugene.

• Diane suggested working with Terry Mahr of Newberg for an event in Newberg in 2011.

7. **Update on Filing Double-Sided Documents in State Courts** – Diane and Amie

• Amie provided update on results of survey so far.

• Biggest reported obstacle is logistics in the courts’ handling of double-sided filings.

• Judges report “hard to read and hard to sign documents.”

• Difficulty with 2-hole punch files in court.

• Courts report that they are “ok” with double-sided but prefer single-sided.

• Jennifer reported that some court personnel expect that eFile will be here soon so double-sided filing is just an interim issue.

• After we get results from all counties, Jim will arrange meeting to report to Dept. of Justice.

8. **Update on Section Study Groups** – Jennifer and Jim

• Jim still waiting for a response from Attorney General’s office on its interest in Future Generations Study group.

• Jennifer is setting up group to meet in January on program for Law Firm Request for Proposals that include sustainability questions.

9. **Interface with Other Bar Sections**

• Michelle discussed plan to meet with our sections’ executive committees to decide how to work with them.

• See handout.

• Discussed other legal groups and to meet with, such as OWLS, MBA Young Lawyers Section, OSB New Lawyer Division, and Oregon chapter of the ALA.

10. **Interface with Law Students; Student Representative** – J. Griggs

• Regardless of what we charge students, the OSB still charges fee per member. So, we cannot offer “free membership” because Sustainable Future section would have to pay fee to Bar.

• Discussion of outreach to students.

• Griggs noted that students rarely leave campus for events.

• Discussion of role of student representatives.

• Discussion of amount to charge for student membership.

• Approved to have Charles recruit student representatives at Lewis and Clark.

11. **January 7, 2011 Planning Meeting; Identification of 2011 Section Goals and Priorities**

• Preliminary discussion of topics for Jan 7 meeting, the overall theme of which is “How to get sustainability more deeply ingrained in the legal profession.”

• Discussed Partners in Sustainability program – Amie join this group.

• Jim and Dick will prepare agenda for January 7 meeting.

• Everyone with committee will prepare a report prior to meeting of goals for the committee’s projects for 2011.

12. **Holding 2011 Executive Committee Meetings Outside of Portland –Bend; Other Locations**

• Discussion delayed until Jan. 7

• Michelle to ask Ellen to send proposal for meeting in Bend.

13. **New Business**

•Rod discussed recent discussion at OSB on sustainability.

End: 11:00 a.m.