

MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW SECTION
Meeting February 24, 2010 Hawthorne Inn, Berlin, CT

5:30 pm – Executive Committee Meeting

Ann Catino, Keith Ainsworth, Doug Pelham, Ryan McKain, Holly Winger, Nancy Mendel, Alan Kosloff, Greg Sharp, Tom Harrison, Matt Ranelli, Patricia Horgan, Pat McCullough, Lee Hoffmann, Dwight Merriam

The Chair described the next section meeting at the Quinnipiac Law School as being different in some respects. Ultimately due to the venue rules the cost will be \$45.50/person which is higher than usual. She asked the Committee if they would like to recommend sponsoring students by subsidizing their attendance fee. Nancy Mendell/Ainsworth second Motion to subsidize up to 20 Environmental Law Society students so that their entry price is \$10 with the event open to all others at full price. Motion carried unanimously.

The Chair notified the section of SB 174 a currently pending bill before the legislature which would subject water quality standards to full notice and comment rulemaking under the state Administrative Procedure Act. She asked if the Executive Committee wanted to take a position on this bill so that the Section could officially take a position on the bill before the legislature.

Motion made by Ranelli, seconded by Kosloff to authorize the chair to request permission from CBA to send a letter supporting SB 174 and to seek a vote of the entire section in order to report the strength of the section support.

Discussion was had on the procedure for taking a position, seeking the weight of support from the section as a whole and then transmitting the position to the Legislative Review Committee which would then fast track the request to the CBA Board of Governors for approval so that a letter could be sent to the co-Chairs of the Committee taking testimony on the bill.

Motion carried unanimously, with one abstention by Horgan.

6:15 pm – Section Meeting

Ann Catino presiding. The chair explained the vote of the Executive Committee on SB 174 and sought the support of the section. Tom Harrison moved, seconded by several members in attendance. The motion carried with one abstention (Horgan).

The Chair announced that the section meeting for April scheduled to be held at Quinnipiac Law School (Stop the Beach Nourishment Supreme Court case presented by Dwight Merriam) will be advertised to the Environmental Law Society but will be open to all law students. The plan in addition to the program on the Supreme Court case regarding beach erosion and coastal land rights, will include a meal and open bar. The price will be \$45.50 which is higher than usual. The concern that students may be challenged to pay the price might influence attendance suggests that the Section subsidize some measure of the fee for students.

After discussion, Mendel moved, various seconds: The Section use such funds from the Treasury necessary to subsidize up to 20 students so that their price is \$10 for the event (first come, first served) and that the student attendance be unlimited at full price.

Motion carried unanimously.

Catino solicited ideas for an activity/event/tribute to the 40th Anniversary of Earth Day as the Commissioner of CTDEP has requested the section's participation. The CBA Board of Governors vetoed the idea of sponsoring a River or LI Sound boat trip with students or a trip with students to the CT Science Center (on liability grounds).

Legislative Liason: Many bills of interest are pending and have been submitted through the Commerce Committee as well as Environment Committee and there are too many for the section to take a position. Continuing lists will be sent via the listserv so that members can track and provide testimony as individuals members desire.

Treasurer's Report: The section has \$8,000, after an adjustment of \$2,000 was made to correct an accounting irregularity.

Greg Sharp and David Radka, a representative from Connecticut Water Company, led a thorough talk and powerpoint presentation of the history and the current status of stream flow regulations and Water Quality Standards.

After a lively round of questions and answers, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.