

PUBLIC UTILITY LAW SECTION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, November 10, 2023

Austin, TX

Call to Order: Chair Lara Zent called the Public Utility Law Section Council Meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. on Friday, November 10, 2023, at the offices of the Texas Rural Water Association, 1616 Rio Grande, Austin, Texas 78701.

Present: Council members Lara Zent, AJ Smullen, Creighton McMurray, Davida Dwyer, Natalie Dubiel, Carsi Mitzner, Todd Kimbrough, Ruben Arredondo, Taylor Kilroy, and Evan Johnson were present. Jamie Mauldin and John J. Carlton were absent. Administrator Lexi Conaway was also present.

Report from the Chair: Chair Lara Zent welcomed everyone to her first meeting as chair and provided the goals for the meeting, which included adopting a calendar of events. She reported that the Section has 576 members, up from 544 last year. She then reported that the AT&T Conference Center is available to host our seminar on Friday, August 23, 2024, and recommended that we not offer hybrid, but provide videos after, which everyone agreed with. Action items for Lara are to find out if the larger conference rooms are available and to contact PixelForge about their availability to record the sessions. Lara then laid out a proposal to hire Lexi Conaway as a part-time administrator to assist the Council with fulfilling its responsibilities.

Report from the Treasurer: Treasurer Creighton McMurray provided the Council's year-to-date financial activities, noting that we had not received the final bill yet for the September Seminar. Creighton MOVED to adopt a budget amendment of \$3,500 to hire Lexi Conaway for administrative support. Seconded by Davida Dwyer. MOTION CARRIED.

Report on Bylaw Amendments: Vice-Chair AJ Smullen reported on the status of the State Bar approving the most recently adopted PULS bylaw amendments, expecting that they would be approved in January.

Council Calendar: The Council discussed and agreed upon future Council meeting dates, months to send the two required newsletters, dates for 2 lunch & learn webinars with a 3rd in-person webinar to be scheduled later, section happy hours, and included other State Bar required deadlines.

Committees: Three committees were formed: Communications, Social Events, and Nominations, with chairs for each.

Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss, Lara Zent adjourned the meeting at 1:05pm.