

Finalized minutes/ CLA EXCOM ZOOM meeting 02/12/2024

Chairman Weinberg called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM EDT. In attendance, in addition to Chairman Weinberg, were David Menotti, Deb Jennings, Skip Shipman, Steve Kurzman, Patrick Coyne, Joyce Schlesinger, Rich Hines, Lois Shiffer, and Executive Director David Reed. There were no changes in the Agenda.

The Agenda and other documents either distributed prior to the meeting or presented and used in the meeting are in the documents file for this meeting on the Members Only section of the CLA website. All EXCOM actions summarized below were taken in accordance with required procedures; they will be noted below simply as "approvals," in the interests of brevity.

The minutes of the November EX COM meeting were APPROVED.

Chairman Weinberg announced that Marty Siegel has resigned from the Board, but has expressed an interest in staying involved in the Pennsylvania initiative. Chairman Weinberg expressed appreciation for Marty's service on the Board. Mr. Weinberg also noted that Patrick Coyne represented Climate Activist Michael Mann in a defamation case in DC Superior Court against several climate deniers. The case ended last week with Mr. Mann being awarded \$ 1,000,000 in damages.

I. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Financials thru February will be available in advance of the March Board meeting. Financials are available in the middle of each month; in light of this, future EXCOM meetings will be moved to later in the month. The broad summary of CLA's overall financial situation is very positive. Legal fees and Individual grants are well ahead of budget projections. Grant disbursements are somewhat below budget, but this is a timing issue and the situation is expected to improve. Legal fees for the anticipated Fleishman's settlement are expected to be approximately \$300K, and the network law firm (Saul Ewing) is donating its share. Approximately \$ 17K has been donated to CLA in Ridge Hall's memory.

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT:

LITIGATION REPORT:

David Reed reported on significant pending cases, including Blue Water Baltimore, Fleishman's, Abington Woods, and Ridgely Preserve. The consent decree in Blue Wate Baltimore has been entered; staff oversight will still be required. Settlement in Fleishman's is imminent; the expected attorney fee award is discussed above.

STAFF RECRUITING:

Several promising candidates for replacing Angela Haren and the Development Coordinator position have been interviewed. David Reed will personally be doing the reference checks for these candidates.

CWA CITIZEN'S SUIT INITIATIVE:

The importance of this initiative is underscored by the recent attorney fee recovery in Blue Water Baltimore and the anticipated attorney fee recovery in Fleishman's. A list is being developed of significant non-compliers in Maryland, matched with potential plaintiffs and possible network attorney representation. The target date for completion of the list is mid-March.

EDUCATION PROGRAM INITIATIVES:

Three were highlighted: A Post-Sackett Wetlands Protection program, a PFAS program, and a program on Microplastics. There was discussion about the need for education programs to align with CLA's strategic objectives.

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chairman Weinberg did not request formal Committee reports for this meeting. There were, however, brief updates from the Nominations and Governance Committee and the Litigation Committee.

The Nominations and Governance Committee reported that it was still working on the potential partnership with the Chesapeake Conservancy on the wetlands mapping project. The next step is preparing a draft Partnership agreement. The Committee is also still working on indigenous American candidates for both the Board and the Board of Advisors. Several names are expected to be put before EX COM and the Board at their next meetings.

The Litigation Committee is continuing to move forward with the CWA Citizen's Suit initiative, as discussed above.

IV. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

PENNSYLVANIA INITIATIVE: David Reed has been asked to develop a 60/90 day Action Plan for the March Board Meeting. It would be reviewed first by an Ad Hoc EX COM meeting before the Board Meeting. Interest was expressed in looking for a candidate for the Board with Pennsylvania expertise, to replace Marty Siegal.

BOARD of ADVISORS: David Reed has also been asked to develop a schedule for Board of Advisors meetings in the latter half of the year. The criteria for candidates for Board of Advisor membership was discussed. Scientific/technical expertise was agreed to be important, as well as capacity to assist in fund raising, and to financially support CLA. It was agreed that we needed to make better use of the Board of Advisors.

RETREAT: It will be held at the Gibson Island Club on March 16, with a Board Meeting at 10 am and Lunch at 12:30.

AD HOC EXCOM MEETING: A one hour ZOOM EX COM meeting is scheduled for March 7 at 3pm.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The was adjourned at 6:35 PM EDT.