Minutes: General Membership Meeting
New York State Bar Association, Environmental Law Section

Annual Meeting
February 1, 2008
New York Marriott Marquis
1535 Broadway, New York City

I. Call to Order: Louis Alexander, Chair of the Environmental Law Section, called the meeting to order at approximately 12:45 p.m.

II. Introductions: Alexander introduced the individuals at the head table, including the Section officers, program chairs, keynote speaker, Pete Grannis, Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation, and Stuart Gruskin, Executive Deputy Commissioner of the Department.

III. Special Award: Alexander then turned the podium over to Commissioner Grannis and Jean McCarroll for the presentation of a posthumous Section award to Peter Berle recognizing his life's contributions to the environment and environmental law. The award was graciously accepted by Mr. Berle's widow, Lila, and his daughter, Mary.

IV. Keynote Speaker and Award: Alexander then introduced Commissioner Grannis for his remarks. Upon completion of his remarks, on behalf of the Section, Ginny Robbins presented Commissioner Grannis with a Section award for his work on the environment during his long service in the State Assembly. Due to the Commissioner's schedule, he then had to depart and the remainder of the keynote remarks were delivered by Executive Deputy Commissioner Gruskin.

V. Introduction of DEC Attendees: Alexander introduced a number of DEC staff in attendance, including Suzanne Mattei, Tony Morenzi, Robbie Schlaff, Phil Lodico, Deb Christian, Bruce Fein and John Parker.

VI. Thanks: Alexander thanked: the main program co-chairs (Joan Leary Matthews, Larry Schnapf, Dave Freeman and Gail Suchman) and the program's speakers; Gail Port and Bob Kafin for hosting the Thursday evening reception at Proskauer Rose; the law firm co-sponsors of the reception; and Lisa Bataille, Lori Nicoll and Kathy Plog of the NYSBA staff for their support and hard work.

VII. Awards: Michael Lesser, on behalf of the Awards Committee, the other members of which were Phil Weinberg and Jean McCarroll, presented awards to Jennifer Hairie and Kevin Ryan for their work on their respective committees and in the Section's CLE programs. Alexander then presented an award to Walter Mugdan, the immediate past Chair of the Section, for his leadership and work on behalf of the Section.

VIII. Elections: James Periconi, as a member of this year's Nominating Committee, presented the Committee's report. Periconi first thanked the other members of the Committee,

Laurie Silberfeld, Jennifer Hairie and Phil Dixon, for their work in developing this year's list of candidates for Section officers and members-at-large of the Section's Executive Committee, and then presented the Committee's report:

1. *Section Officers.* Carl Howard was nominated to become Secretary, effective June 1, 2008. All other officers were nominated to advance one step, effective June 1, 2008: Phil Dixon to Treasurer; Barry Kogut to Second Vice-Chair; and Alan Knauf to First Vice-Chair. In accordance with the Section By-Laws, Joan Leary Matthews is to become Chair of the Section on June 1, 2008.

2. *Members-at-Large of the Section's Executive Committee.* Periconi then placed into nomination the following for Members-at-Large, whose terms would begin on June 1, 2008:

- Current members whose terms are to be extended:

  Glen T. Bruening, one-year term
  Lisa M. Bromberg, one-year term
  Jeanne A. Compitello, one-year term
  James H. Ferreira, one-year term
  Paul Gallay, one-year term
  Andrew Gershon, one-year term
  Peter H. Lehner, one-year term
  Eileen Millett, one-year term
  Laurie Silberfeld, one-year term
  E. Gail Suchman, one-year term

- New members:

  Alison Crocker, three-year term
  John Parker, three-year term

John Hanna, Jr. then moved for a vote to approve the election of those nominated. The motion was seconded by Gail Port and was unanimously carried.

IX. Minority Law Student Fellowship Program: Two of the co-chairs of the Section's Environmental Justice Committee, Luis Martinez and Jean McCarroll, presented this year's recipients of the Section's minority law student fellowships: Erika Selli, Kyu-ah Julia Kang, Andrew Jhun and Osafo Barker.

X. Adjournment: In his closing remarks, Alexander reminded the attendees of Nick Robinson's presentation on the Bali global warming conference and the Section committee meetings scheduled for that afternoon and welcomed all to the Section's Executive Committee meeting that was scheduled to begin at 3:20 p.m.

The General Membership Meeting of the Environmental Law Section was then adjourned by Alexander at approximately 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary, NYSBA Environmental Law Section