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

Annual Meeting
January 30, 2009
New York Marriott Marquis
1535 Broadway, New York City

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

II. Introductions: Matthews introduced the individuals at the head table, including the Section officers, program chairs, and Michael Northrop, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Pete Grannis, Commissioner of Environmental Conservation, State of New York, Lou Alexander, Immediate Past Chair of the Section, and Dave Sampson, Section Council Representative.

III. New Projects**:** Matthews mentioned three new projects of the Section:

1. **New member outreach.** We are reaching out to new members to the Section and to the Executive Committee, and attendance at this morning=s program and the luncheon reflect well on our efforts.

2. **Blog.** We are moving into the 21st Century with a new Section blog, which shall be live shortly. Cullen Howe from Arnold & Porter is the blog master.

3. **Classroom Project.** We are starting a Classroom Project, which will also be live shortly. We have compiled teaching materials on environmental and environmental law topics and posted them on the Section=s website, by topic within each grade level. Leading the group is Peter Casper, and he is joined by Aliza Cinamon, Proskauer Rose, Brody Smith, Bond Schoeneck & King, Bridget Lee, from Sive Paget & Reisel, and Joseph Mouallem, from Carter Ledyard & Milburn.

IV. Thanks: Matthews thanked the main program co-chairs (Vincent Altieri, J. Kevin Healy, Alan J. Knauf, Eleanor Stein, and Virginia C. Robbins) and the program's speakers, as well as 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.

V. Awards: Lou Alexander, on behalf of the Section, presented awards to The Nature Conservancy and New Yorkers for Parks. Accepting the award on behalf of The Nature Conservancy was Shauna McMillen DeSantis, Senior Attorney with that organization. Accepting the award on behalf of New Yorkers for Parks was Christian DiPalermo, its executive director. This year's Awards Committee was comprised of Philip Weinberg, Kathleen Martens, Gail Suchman, and Louis Alexander. This year's Awards Committee

also prepared a set of written procedures and guidelines that the Section Cabinet has adopted for use by future awards committees

VI. Award to Lou Alexander**:** Matthews extended a special thanks to Lou for his past and continuing outstanding work on behalf of the Section and presented him with a gift on behalf of the Section.

VII. Elections: Virginia C. Robbins, as a member of this year's Nominating Committee, presented the Committee's report. Robbins first thanked the other members of the Committee, Carl Howard, James Periconi, James Sevinsky, and Miriam Villani, 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**. Kevin Reilly was nominated to become Secretary, effective June 1, 2009. All other officers were nominated to advance one step, effective June 1, 2009: Carl Howard to Treasurer; Phil Dixon to Second Vice-Chair; and Barry Kogut to First Vice-Chair. In accordance with the Section By-Laws, Alan Knauf is to become Chair of the Section on June 1, 2009.

2. **Members-at-Large of the Section's Executive Committee**. Robbins then placed into nomination the following for Members-at-Large, whose terms would begin on June 1, 2009:

J. Cullen Howe, three-year term
Glen T. Bruening, one-year term
Lisa M. Bromberg, 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

Robbins thanked Jeanne A. Compitello and James H. Ferreira for their service as members-at-large.

A motion confirming the above unanimously carried.

VIII. Minority Law Student Fellowship Program: Jean McCarroll, Luis Martinez, and Victor Gallo are the Co-chairs of the Environmental Justice Committee. The Fellowship program was started in 1992 as a joint effort of the Section and the NY City Bar=s Environmental Law Committee. It was developed through the foresight and hard work of Michael Gerrard, Bill Ginsberg, Phil Weinberg, Gail Port, and others, and has been advanced through the efforts of our colleagues Lou Alexander, Peter Casper, Jean McCarroll, Luis Martinez, and Chris Fazio. Minority fellowship recipients include Dan Feng Mei, a first year law student at St. John's University School of Law, Kelly Whiten, a

first year law student at Pace University Law School, and Vanessa M. Young, a second year law student at Syracuse University College of Law.

IX. Commissioner Grannis. NYS Environmental Commissioner, Pete Grannis was our guest for the luncheon and he shared his thoughts with the Section thanking the Section for its good works and encouraging us to remain vigorous advocates for the environment and for the people of New York.

X. Luncheon Speaker. Michael Northrop of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.
Mr. Northrop directs the Sustainable Development grant making program at the Rockefeller Brothers Fund in New York City, where he focuses on climate change. He is a Lecturer at Yale University's Forestry & Environmental Studies School & at the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton, where he teaches graduate courses on environmental campaigns. He has also served as Executive Director of Ashoka, an international development organization that seeks & supports "public sector entrepreneurs;" at an investment Bank, First Boston in New York City; and as a teacher at Anatolia College in Greece and at Gadjah Mada University in Indonesia. Northrop also serves on the Advisory Board of Climate Change Capital in London as well as on the board of directors of three organizations: Oceana, a global marine conservation organization; SmartPower, which encourages demand for renewable energy; and Princeton in Asia, which offers fellowships for post-graduate work across Asia. Mr. Northrop continued the thread that we began at our program this morning: what can be done to address climate change.

Adjournment: In her closing remarks, Matthews reminded the attendees that the Committees will be meeting in the luncheon room until 2:45 and Executive Committee meeting will follow and all are welcome to sit in. The General Membership Meeting of the Environmental Law Section was then adjourned by Matthews at approximately 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl R. Howard
Secretary, NYSBA Environmental Law Section