

**ISB ANIMAL LAW SECTION MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 10, 2016 12:00 Noon MST**

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**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Review prior minutes** – Lacking quorum to approve March minutes.
- III. Membership update** – Discussed new members and discussed outreach opportunities to recruit additional members.
- IV. Review budget** – Discussed current budget and plan for increasing income for the Section through a CLE.
- V. Discussion of Joint CLE** – Discussed CLE topic ideas and Sunrise will reach out to the Real Property Section to discuss a joint CLE on topics of Fair Housing Act, ADA, and breed specific restrictions.
- VI. CLE Presentation:** Brian Ertz, Board President of WildLands Defense gave a 30 minute CLE on the “Role of Community Organizing in Wildlife Conservation.”
  - a.** Discussed heavy reliance on litigation relying on federal statutes and successes enforcing ESA and NEPA; but end result has been political backlash that limits future enforceability of those federal statutes via riders.
  - b.** Need to provide politicians something of value to encourage them to use their political capital on this issue.
  - c.** For people who care about wildlife, there are opportunities to galvanize lay-peoples’ involvement at the local level through extending the codes and ordinances to protect wildlife, testifying at county commission meetings. Lawyers can assist by serving as legal observers, identifying opportunities for wildlife protections in levies and conservation levies, by helping draft language in these easements, and by going to the county commission meetings where

landowners are applying for the easements and suggesting addition of language such as “do not lethally remove wildlife.”

- d.** Discussed example of the Wood River Valley wildlife preservation levy and easements that stopped killing of wolves on those properties and allowed rancher to apply for a \$300,000 easement. Public pressure helped in getting the county to approve the levy.
- e.** At the private/corporate level, can gather signatures to show private actors the public interest and attention being paid to the issue, make it a public relations issue.
- f.** Discussed not having litigation in the lead role, but as a supportive role. Use media, public meetings, and signature gathering as main approach and lawsuit as an opportunity to get information and further the goal of public engagement.
- g.** Suggested keeping an eye on county commission and municipal website dockets and lists of proposed projects adjacent to NFS or BLM lands.

## **VII. Adjourn**

**THE NEXT SCHEDULED SECTION MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY July 12, 2016**