



SEAC - May 21, 2025 - Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting Attendees

Courtney Smith	Cecile LaCombe Petro	Julie McElmurry	Cal Bellamy
Neil Stout	Sheryl Corey	Abbe Trent	Richard Hardaway
Todd Larkin	John Seibert	Karen Marben	Janice Malinowski
Sandra Davis	Angie Carr	Ken Zubeck	

Guest: Lee Ann Van Curen (Portage)

Missing SEAC Commissioners: Julie Wendorf, Dr. Vanessa Allen McCloud, Thomas Chihocki, Dale Combs, Cyndi Hughes, and Michael McIntyre

Missing SEAC Advisors: Michael Suggs, Tom DeGiulio

Summary: The Commission reviewed the organization's membership, financial situation, and upcoming expenses, with updates on upcoming ethics training sessions, communications efforts, and plans for the Summit and 20th anniversary commemoration.

Next steps

- Julie Mc to work with Mary to update the website with the new SEAC scope document and to add the Board and Commission training event to the website calendar. She will also talk to Mary about updating the home page design to add more color.
- Board & Commission Training
 - Julie Mc to send a reminder email to all registered participants 3 days before the Board and Commission training.
 - Julie Mc to pick up guides, trifold brochures, and signage from NIRPC for the Board and Commission training.
 - Cecile to obtain David Lombardi's bio for the Board and Commission training for Courtney's intro.
 - Courtney to pick up the check for the Board and Commission training event from Courtney Udvare.
- Julie Mc to draft an adjusted budget for review by the Executive Committee. Cecile to provide Julie Mc with the final cost information for the Board and Commission training event and licensing information.
- Julie Mc to create a communications plan for the 20th anniversary to be reviewed at the next meeting.
- Janice to follow up with Mark Herrick about Highland joining and paying dues.
- Cal to check with Julie Wendorf on the status of getting Governor Holcomb as a speaker for the summit.
- Training Committee members to assist Cecile with organizing the "How to Train" session for late Summer.
- Julie Mc to send talking points/email for Commissioners to share with their community leaders.

The meeting was called to order at 8:32am with the reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Courtney then moved on to discuss the March 2025 meeting minutes, which were approved unanimously (motion by Cal Bellamy, seconded by Sheryl Corey). All SEAC meeting minutes are available on the website at sharedethics.com.



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Membership Update: Courtney reported that the membership was moving in the right direction, with an assignment of Portage Mayor Bonta to the JBOD; and Lee Ann Van Curen discussed that Portage hopes to have a commissioner appointed soon. There were updates on East Chicago, Lake Station, Highland and St John, with plans to follow up with contacts.

Financial Update: Julie Mc provided a financial update for the organization. She reported minimal spending so far, with only about \$1,000 spent on folders, business cards, and lapel pins. The lapel pins, designed with the organization's logo, will be distributed at the upcoming summit. Julie mentioned upcoming expenses, including postcards for the lapel pins, printing costs for the Board & Commission training materials, and larger expenses for the venue and food for the Board and Commission training. She also noted future expenses related to the train-the-trainer event, Ethics Summit, and 20th anniversary.

Summit Update: The group discussed the upcoming summit and potential speakers. Cal suggested a panel of three local officials if they can't secure Governor Holcomb as the keynote speaker. They consider having one mayor from each county. Cal agreed to reach out to Julie Wendorf on the status of the efforts related to the Governor and best next steps. Julie Mc also showed the group the SEAC lapel pins that Sheryl ordered, and the postcard created to display the pin for giveaway at the Summit to celebrate the 20th anniversary.

Training Committee Update: Cecile reported on the upcoming training for board and commission members on May 29th, with ~130 people registered. The group discussed preparations for the upcoming event with Cecile outlining logistics, including opening time, handouts, and refreshments. Julie Mc offered to bring trifold brochures, guides, and signage from NIRPC. Courtney will handle the session's introduction. The group also addressed payment arrangements, with Courtney requesting an invoice to prepare a check in advance.

Cecile also provided an update on the train-the-trainer sessions and upcoming training plans. A session has been completed for Burns Harbor, Ogden Dunes, and Portage, as well as a fourth Lake County training. A fifth Lake County training is scheduled for June 3rd.

Cecile requested information from communities that haven't communicated about their training needs. The group is organizing a "how to train" session focusing on general training skills rather than ethics-specific content. Cal and Cecile have met with IUN professors to develop a proposal for this training. They are seeking volunteers from the Training Committee to help organize the project, aiming for a session in August or September.

After discussion about funding for the "how to train" session, Janice recommended that SEAC draft an updated budget. Julie Mc agreed to draft an updated budget for the Executive Committee to review, removing the ethics pledge line items and adjusting other categories given the updated information. The group agreed this is more transparent and responsible than simply moving funds between line items. Cecile will provide information on the total cost of the May 29th session and Trailiant licensing to help with the budget revision. The Executive Committee plans to approve the revised budget in June, then present it to the Joint Board of Delegates for final approval at their early July meeting, with the SEAC Commissioners ratifying it at their July meeting.



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Communications Committee Update: Julie presented an SEAC scope document created to clarify the organization's role in ethics complaints. The document outlines the ethics cycle and explains that while the organization provides a code and training, it does not handle reporting or investigation of ethics issues. Julie suggested adding this document to the website as a resource. The group expressed support for this idea and agreed it would be useful for trainings.

Julie also mentions plans for the organization's 20th anniversary communications, including articles and ads. The group discusses potential improvements to the website's design and suggests adding information about upcoming training events.

New Business: No new business.

Upcoming meetings and events are reviewed, including the Board & Commission Training on May 29th and the Ethics Summit in sometime in October. The next SEAC meeting is scheduled for July 16th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29am via unanimous approval of a motion by Cal Bellamy and second by Neil Stout.