



SEAC - Mar 18, 2026 - Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting Attendees

	Member Community	Commissioner	Attended?
1	Burns Harbor	Neil Stout	N
2	Cedar Lake	Sheryl Corey	Y
3	Crown Point	Julie Wendorf	Y
4	Dyer	Julie McElmurry	Y
5	East Chicago	NO COMMISSIONER	N
6	Gary	Dr Vanessa Allen-McCloud	N
7	Hebron	Thomas Chihocki	N
8	Hobart	NO COMMISSIONER	N
9	Lake County	Cecile LaCombe Petro	Y
10	Lake Station	NO COMMISSIONER	N
11	LaPorte County	Angie Carr	N
12	Lowell	Cyndi Hughes	N
13	Merrillville	Richard Hardaway	N
14	Munster	Michael McIntyre	N
15	Ogden Dunes	Todd Larkin	Y
16	Portage	NO COMMISSIONER	N
17	Porter County	Courtney Smith	Y
18	Schererville	Sandra Davis	N
19	St John	NO COMMISSIONER	N
20	Valparaiso	Brian Nosbusch	Y
21	Whiting	Tim Wajvoda	N
**	President Emeritus, At Large	Cal Bellamy	Y
**	Advisor, At Large	Michael Suggs	N
**	Advisor, At Large	Karen Marben	Y
**	Advisor, At Large	Tom DeGiulio	N
**	GUEST - Portage	Karen Anderson	Y
**	JBOD President	Janice Malinowski	Y

Summary: The March 2026 Shared Ethics Advisory Commission (SEAC) Meeting focused on reviewing the organization's financial status, approving the Jan 2026 meeting minutes, and discussing upcoming events and projects including Management Training, Candidate Ethics Pledge and Summit. The conversation ended with introduction of new Commissioner Brian Nosbusch representing Valparaiso, and a discussion of missing commissioners and delegates from various municipalities.

Next steps

- Janice/Courtney Udvaré: Follow up with Lake County about unpaid 2025 and 2026 dues
- Janice: Check with Courtney Udvaré about dues status for East Chicago, Lake Station, Merrillville
- Cecile: Send final management training contract to speaker once edits from Courtney are received
- Julie Mc: Send updated management training flyer (with registration link and QR code) to members once contract is signed and registration is ready
- Cecile: Coordinate with Brian to schedule "Train the Trainer" ethics training for Valparaiso
- Julie Mc: Send candidate pledge lists to Commissioners



- Julie W: Follow up with Lake County Republican and Democrat chairs about candidate pledge
- Julie Mc: Send Cal's column to commissioners when it runs
- Julie Mc: Send talking points email to members to share with community leaders
- Julie W: Reach out to Winfield town officials about potential membership
- Janice: Contact Don Ensign to get details about new Hebron Commissioner
- Cal: Send Michigan City mayor information about manager training once commissioner is named

The meeting was called to order shortly after 8:30am. Courtney kicked off the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and then the Jan 2026 meeting minutes were approved unanimously (motion by Cal, seconded by Sheryl). All SEAC meeting minutes are available on the website at sharedethics.com.

Financial Update: Julie Mc presented a 2026 YTD financial report showing current expenses and upcoming costs, including website licensing, stamps for ethics pledge letters, and management training fees. Janice provided an update on the CD investment, which is now with Trust Indiana and valued at \$90,419.72 with a 3.63% interest rate. The group discussed outstanding dues from various municipalities, with Janice planning to follow up on payments, and Julie Mc outlined the approved budget for the year, which includes expenses for training, advertising, and website support. The team also reviewed the final 2025 financials, with Janice reporting total revenue of \$31,786.88 and expenses of \$30,308.97, resulting in a surplus of \$5,691.03 against a budget of \$36,000.

Summit Update: Julie Wendorf provided an update on the upcoming summit planning, mentioning initial outreach to the governor and plans to follow up before reaching out to other potential speakers. A date for the Summit will be set once a speaker is chosen; it is expected to happen in late Fall.

Training Committee Update: Cecile announced that Dr. Kelly Richmond Hope will be the speaker for the management training on May 22nd, targeting department managers, town managers, and chiefs of staff, with registration expected to open soon. Once the contract with Dr. Hope is signed and the registration link on the website is completed, Julie Mc will update the training flyer and send it to all the Commissioners to share with their member communities. Cecile discussed plans to conduct additional "Train the Trainer" ethics training sessions, including for Valpo and other communities, with flexibility to combine small groups.

Communications Committee Update: The group reviewed the candidate ethics pledge progress, with Julie Mc reporting 29% completion rate among candidates across Lake, LaPorte, and Porter counties, and plans to send reminder emails and place ads in local newspapers. The group discussed ways to get more candidates to sign the Pledge, and Julie W agreed to reach out to the county party chairs for assistance. The group then discussed Cal's upcoming column that should be in local media Sunday, March 22nd. Julie Mc agreed to send a copy of the article and the website link to our media mentions to the Commissioners once it is published.

Membership Update: The meeting also included an introduction of new Valpo appointee Brian Nasbush, who shared his background as an ordained deacon and former Inland Steel millwright. Membership updates revealed several communities needing new commissioners, including Hobart, Lake Station, Lowell, Portage, and St. John. Cal agreed to reach out to the Michigan City Mayor in a few weeks to check on their status of appointing SEAC Commissioner and JBOD Delegate. The Executive Committee will discuss and clarify voting eligibility for municipal employee representatives (e.g., Tim from Whiting, Karen Anderson) at next executive committee meeting.

Next meetings and adjournment: The next meeting is scheduled for May 20th. The meeting was adjourned around 9:28am via unanimous approval (motion by Julie Mc and seconded by Julie W).