

**Minutes  
Indiana Lobby Registration Commission  
Regular Public Meeting  
March 15, 2019, 11:00 a.m.  
Market Tower  
10 West Market Street, Suite 830  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204**

**Members Present in person:** Chairperson Sue Scholer; Commissioners Beverly Gard, Joe Micon and Terry White

**Staff Present:** Edward Ferguson, Executive Director and General Counsel; Amy Nicholson, Director of Operations; and Pamela Hebenstreit, Customer Service Representative

**Signed-in Attendees:** Jeff Stant, Indiana Forest Alliance; Robin Beck, Ice Miller; Russ Sipes, Indiana Forest Alliance; Philip Sicuso, Bingham Greenebaum Doll; Lindsey Erdody, Indiana Business Journal; Mindy Westrick, Faegre Baker Daniels; Charma Budney, Bose Public Affairs Group

**Call to Order and Opening Remarks**

On March 15, 2019, Chairperson Scholer called to order the Public Meeting of the Indiana Lobby Registration Commission at approximately 11:15 a.m. Before proceeding to the first item on the agenda, Chairperson Scholer read the following statement:

“The Indiana Lobby Registration Commission met in executive session immediately before this public meeting to discuss job performance evaluations of employees as permitted under IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b) (9). No other subject matter was discussed during the executive session, and the Commission took no action during the executive session.”

**Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Micon moved approval of the minutes of the Commission’s executive session held on September 23, 2018. His motion was seconded by Commissioner White and was unanimously approved by a voice vote of the Commissioners. Commissioner Gard moved approval of the minutes of the Commission’s public meeting, also held on September 23, 2018. Her motion was seconded by Commissioner White and was unanimously approved by voice vote of the Commissioners

## **Late Fee Appeals**

A. Mr. Ferguson said that between December 5, 2018 and March 15, 2019, the Commission recorded 31 late fee appeals. He indicated that staff had been able to administratively resolve 30 of those appeals and had collected \$10,600 in late fees from the lobbyists who filed the appeals. One appeal (in the amount of \$300) is due on March 21, 2019. The report was received by the Commission, but no action was taken.

B. Mr. Jeffrey Stant, Executive Director of the Indiana Forest Alliance, petitioned the Commission for a reduction in late fees that had been imposed on The Forest Alliance, Leslie Bishop, Rae Schnapp and Jeffrey Stant, which he felt were excessive. The late fees were assessed for failure to meet registration and reporting deadlines. Mr. Stant recognized the delinquencies, but felt that no harm was done to the public. Further, he asked for the reduction because of the organization's small size and its nonprofit status. Following questions by the Commissioners and discussion, Commissioner Micon moved that the Commission's late fee policy guidelines be observed, with no reduction in the late fees assessed. Chairperson Scholer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **Staff Report on Legislative Activities, 2019 Session of the Indiana General Assembly**

Mr. Ferguson reported that other than the ILRC budget, to his knowledge there was no other legislation being considered by the General Assembly that would impact the Commission. He reported that the ILRC biennial budget that had been submitted in December was progressing through the appropriate committees, and that the proposal had not been changed from that submission.

## **Staff Report on Lobbying Investigation**

Mr. Ferguson reported that the staff investigation into possible lobbying by the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs, KHI, Inc., and Allen Paul was still ongoing.

## **Staff Report on Audits for 2017-2018, ILRC Expenditures, 2019 Registrations and 2018 Second Period Activity Reports**

Mr. Ferguson reported that the 2017-2018 audits have been completed, and that audit materials will be returned to the audited lobbyists.

Ms. Nicholson reported that expenditures to date were well within budget, and that there were no unanticipated expenditures expected before the end of the fiscal year. She also reported that registrations were up about 100 so far for 2019, and that she expected additional registrations to be made.

## **Matter for Commission Discussion raised by Bingham Greenebaum Doll**

Mr. Philip Sicuso, Partner at BGD, reported that one of his clients had been assessed a late fee for failure to meet the registration deadline. The fee was paid, and no appeal was filed at the time. However, he asked that the Commission clarify and correct its policy regarding registration deadlines. He felt that the policy is confusing and inconsistent with the Indiana Code. He further asked that the Commission review and make clearer for clients – particularly those from out-of-state – what date to use on the MOU. Following Mr. Sicuso's comments, members of the public and the Commissioners engaged in a conversation regarding those concerns. The Commissioners agreed, without motion, to continue to review the matter.

### **Comments from Commissioners and Public Comments**

There were no further comments from either the Commissioners or other meeting attendees.

### **Next Meeting Date**

By mutual agreement, the next meeting date was set for June 14, 2019, in Indianapolis.

### **Adjourn**

There being no further business before the Commission, Commissioner Micon then moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Commissioner White, and passed unanimously at approximately 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward E. Ferguson  
Executive Director and General Counsel