

11-20-2020 4:00 p.m.

Troy Bernier
Joey McKinnon
Clint Noble
Kim Arnold
Tom Herbert
David Wilshaw
Natalie Kato (FAPG lobbyist)

- Discuss legislative agenda



Clint: Want to streamline action items list. All clerical items have been completed and Natalie Kato is officially lobbyist for FAPG.

Turned over to Natalie:

The public is not yet allowed in for public meetings. Probably nothing will happen in December. No bills have been filed yet. It will be an unusual year due to COVID-19. Session starts March 2 with 5 committee weeks in January and February (there are typically 6-7 committee weeks in a :“normal” year), so there may be a bottleneck for legislation.

Full committee assignments are not yet listed. Typically a bill is referred to 3 committees—1 is usually budget—in both the House and the Senate. Committee chairs have been identified. Natalie names key committee chairs. The Commerce Committee would handle licensing and other matters pertaining to FAPG and FL PGs. Blaise Ingolia is the committee chair. Natalie said she has a good relationship with him and should be able to get access. Sub-committees handle reg reform, infrastructure and tourism, etc. Ralph Massullo chairs the State Affairs committee responsible for environmental and agricultural issues.

Legislative agenda:

- Play defense re. deregulation
- Natalie will work with registered professional lobbyists to form coalition against “sunset review” bill.
- She will look for legislation that writes out geologists as eligible to sign certain items. Group needs to inform Natalie if they hear of such bills.
- Proactive: Should focus on single item because of abnormal session)—Get more licensed professionals able to sign SLIP studies (e.g. geologists, landscape architects). Will work with FDEP and chairs to get this in another bill.

Joey asked about membership engagement options.

Natalie: Not entirely certain because of the strange year. Some organizations are planning lobby days. She will try to get Zoom calls with key members—she wants to identify these individuals.

Joey would like to use a remote platform to keep in communication, e.g. Zoom lobby day, and this should become a regular occurrence in order to tell geologists’ story. Natalie said she would try to make that happen.

Tom Herbert: Group needs to be Zoom literate, although it’s not the ideal platform. He has participated in calls with the Florida Groundwater Association that went well, but the call needs to be concise and focused.

Paul Renner will be speaker in 2022. The professional licensure sunset issue will likely come back, but opposition is building.

The group is trying to get time with Noah Valenstein of FDEP on SLIP study issue.

Tom will try to loop-in Natalie with other coalition groups regarding the petroleum cleanup program freeze. It would be good to form ties with other affected industries as well.

Kim asked about the recent revision to the Geology Business license format. Natalie suggested waiting on pursuing changes to that in favor of focusing on deregulation fight, but will try to look for amendment vehicles in the future.

Adjourned 4:40.