

**CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Wednesday February 11, 2009**

A meeting of the Executive Board of the Connecticut Environmental Health Association was held on Wednesday February 11, 2009 at the Prospect Firehouse Prospect, CT. The following voting members were in attendance: Vicky Carrier, Scott Cook, Jennifer Eielson, Rob Guerrera, David Rogers, Sharon Antunes, Phyllis Amodio, Michael Kirby, John Deckert, Robin Sleeman, Alessandra Litro and Joe Hock. Non-voting members present: Marco Palmeri, Don Mitchell (12:30 P.M.) and Mira Lami. Guests: Ray Jarema and Annamarie Beaulieu, CPHA.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:19 P.M. by President Vicky Carrier.

Approval of Agenda – The following changes were made to the agenda:

President's Report moved from #3 to #5 and Guest Speaker added
Treasurer's Report – Acceptance of amended December 2008 report added
Standing Committee Reports – Membership, Education, Legislative
Special Committee Reports – Subsurface Sewage Disposal, Lead
Yankee Conference Update to include financial report, Board update
Old Business – Duplicate Scholarship scoring system item deleted
New Business – Stationary and Quassy deleted

Treasurer's Report – Sharon Antunes distributed an amended report for December 2008 which included Yankee Conference funds and a new report for January 2009.

Motion by Scott Cook to accept the amended December 2008 Treasurer's Report. **Second** by Robin Sleeman. **Motion carried.**

Motion by Scott Cook to accept the January 2009 Treasurer's Report. **Second** by Robin Sleeman. **Motion carried.**

Sharon also distributed copies of an invoice from Portland Town Tech for website maintenance from 7/1/08 to 1/26/09 in the amount of \$727.20.

Motion by Scott Cook to approve payment of the invoice. **Second** by Robin Sleeman. **Motion carried.**

There was a brief discussion on the costs of maintaining the website and if it would be better to have the ability to make changes within the site on our own. No action was taken.

Secretary's Report - Approval of minutes.

Motion by Scott Cook to approve the minutes of the January regular meeting. **Second** by Phyllis Amodio. **Motion carried**

President's Report – President Carrier introduced Annemarie Beaulieu Campaign Director for CPHA who addressed the Board about CPHA's participation in the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut. The Coalition is a group of many different organizations that is working on reducing the occurrence of toxic chemicals in the environment. Their priorities for 2009 include a bill to phase out hazardous substances in favor of safer alternatives, the elimination of Bisphenol A (BPA) in children's products and green cleaning in schools. She invited CEHA to join the Coalition and indicated that CPHA could offer support for items that are of interest to CEHA.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative - Dave Boone was not in attendance but had supplied the Board with a list of bills he is tracking.

Membership – Robin circulated 4 new member applications. She reported that about 2/3 of the current members have renewed their memberships so far. Reminder postcards have been sent out to those that have not renewed yet.

Education – Alessandra reported that the Disaster Field Manual Training Part 2 has been scheduled for May 6 at Yale West in New Haven. Registration information will be available soon.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Subsurface Sewage – Don Mitchell reported that 3 stand alone pump system seminars have been scheduled. He will forward the dates and locations to the Board. DPH was unable to attach any of these seminars to the Tech Standards session currently taking place.

Don also noted that Carol Lord had been let go by the Town of Essex after many years of service there. She will, however, continue on the SSDS committee.

Food – President Carrier had already forwarded an e-mail report from Nancy Wheeler about the February 3rd meeting of the Food Committee.

Lead/Housing – Marco Palmeri reported that he had attended a brainstorming session at the State Health Department about how to position the state to receive federal funds for Healthy Homes programs. He also noted that DPH is supposed to allocate additional funds to the towns for implementation of the new lead regulations. The meeting on the proposed property maintenance code has not been held yet, having been postponed because of weather.

Yankee Conference – Scott Cook reported that the billing issues with the Mystic Hilton had been cleared up. He has sent a check in the amount of \$3720.08 to the Yankee Conference Board for deposit in the CEHA scholarship account. The remainder (\$8514.56) will be deposited in the CEHA general funds account and the Yankee Conference checking account closed. The Board thanked Scott for his hard work on the 2008 Conference. Joe Hock noted that the Yankee Conference Board will be meeting Thursday February 19th in Warwick, RI. Joe has still not heard whether Steve Maskara will be able to take the vacant CEHA position on the Yankee Conference Board.

Old Business

Total Coliform Guidance Document – No report

Public Health Council – No further meetings have been held.

Scholarship Scoring Update – No report

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NEHA Inquiry – The responses President Carrier received have been forwarded to NEHA

Membership Social Event – Nothing further on this

Review of Financial Records - The President and Treasurer have met with the accountant, but the review has not been done yet.

Insurance Policy Update – Discussion carried over to the next meeting.

Water Sampling Guidelines – No report

Draft Policy on the Conduct of Business Meetings –Changes to the document have been forwarded to Cam Walden but a revised version is not yet available.

Flyer About Becoming RS/REHS – President Carrier distributed copies of the draft flyer for review and comment.

Budget – Sharon has begun crafting a budget based on previous and current expenditures. She will continue doing this until there is enough data to prepare a budget.

NEHA RS Exam – Phyllis Amodio will check on the prices of the books used to prep for the RS/REHA exam. The costs of purchasing multiple copies of the books could be considerable however and many members thought it would be better to keep a list of local health departments that have the books and are willing to loan them out.

New Business

Secretary of State Filing – President Carrier noted that CEHA must register for 2007 before the 2008 registration can be done. She will make the necessary registrations to complete this.

Maura Esposito has sent a thank you card to the Board for her receipt of the ML Smith Scholarship. She has also requested a letter of recommendation from CEHA for her application(s) for other scholarships.

Motion by Rob Guerrero to authorize the President to draft and circulate a letter of recommendation for Maura. **Second** by Mike Kirby. **Motion carried.**

President Carrier has received a request from *Water Pollution Equipment News (WPEN)* for a list of Yankee Conference attendees. It was noted that they were not exhibitors at the conference and the policy in place states that exhibitors are entitled to such a list. It was suggested that WPEN be invited to join CEHA as a Corporate Member which would entitle them to a CEHA mailing list.

Reimbursement for Attendance at Board Meetings – Joe Hock has asked if there is any reimbursement available to defray costs of attending CEHA Board meetings. This is a problem for him since he is now retired and does not receive any compensation for travel. Board members noted many potential problems with such a policy such as who is entitled, how much is appropriate and the perception by members on the use of CEHA funds for a volunteer position.

Motion by David Rogers to refer the issue to the Bylaws/Policies & Procedures Committee for consideration. **Second** by Phyllis Amodio. **Motion carried.**

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2009 Yankee Conference – Past President Guerrero has received a request from the organizers of the 2009 Yankee Conference to help with the recruitment of exhibitors. He noted that there were 18 exhibitors in 2008 that CEHA could contact for 2009. However, there is no specific information available on the exhibitor package at this time. Joe Hock agreed to contact Bill Ianucci, chair, and have him send a request to President Carrier with all of the details before proceeding.

Support for Soldiers – President Carrier has agreed to collect any items donated by CEHA members for soldiers in the Middle East and forward them to the appropriate agency.

Past President Guerrero reported that Art Leffert, DOH in Fairfield and long time CEHA member has retired. President Carrier will prepare a certificate of appreciation from CEHA in recognition of Art's service to the Association. Mr. Leffert's name should be placed into nomination for Honorary Membership for the 2009 Annual Meeting.

Regionalization/Per Capita Funding – As part of the Governor's Budget, a bill has been proposed that would cut per capita funding for local health departments and force regionalization on those departments that do not consist of at least 3 towns and a population of 50,000 or more. This would have a severe impact on public health in the state and could result in job losses for CEHA members. There was a lengthy discussion on how this information should be delivered to CEHA members. Ideally it would be best to inform them by e-mail or via the website, but this was thought impractical because of timeliness and political issues. It was finally decided to send a postcard to each member informing them of the bill and provide a link to the CGA website where the bill can be found.

Motion by Robin Sleeman to authorize the expenditure of funds to produce and mail postcards with this information. **Second** by Phyllis Amodio. **Motion carried.**

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 2:55 PM by Scott Cook
Second by Jennifer Eielson. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
David Rogers
Secretary
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