

**CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Wednesday March 12, 2008**

A meeting of the Executive Board of the Connecticut Environmental Health Association was held on Wednesday March 12, 2008 at the Prospect Volunteer Fire Station in Prospect, CT. The following voting members were in attendance: Robert Guerrero, Phyllis Amodio, Robin Sleeman, Scott Cook, Francesca Provenzano, David Knauf, Joe Hock and Gil Roberts. Non-voting members present: Sands Cleary and Laura Pagliaro, Guest: Ray Jarema, DPH.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 when a quorum was reached. Prior to that an informational meeting began at 12:35 at which Rob Guerrero presented information on the cost of providing refreshments for the DPH Farmers Market Seminar and there was a discussion regarding performing an audit of the association's financial records since we are transitioning to a new treasurer.

Scott Cook also began discussing current legislative issues during the informational meeting.

Legislative Report

At 1:02 a quorum was reached and he began his Legislative Report in which he discussed three bills. HB-5073, An Act Appropriating Funds to the Department of Public Health to Implement Regulatory Oversight of Alternative On-Site Sewage Treatment Systems, would appropriate \$407,000 to DPH for alternative on-site system regulation, but since being referred to Appropriations on February 15, it has sat with no action by the committee. HB-5730, An Act Concerning Environmental Health, was discussed primarily about a provision that would allow the Department of Public Health to hold persons in professions under its jurisdiction responsible for damages to property owners. There was a concern whether a Registered Sanitarian could be held personally responsible in such a scenario (it has since been confirmed that municipal employees are protected from such liability, but a town could be brought in a lawsuit as defendant). The public hearing testimony for Senate Bill 126, An Act Concerning Uniform Inspection Procedures for Farmer's Markets, Farms, Farm Products and Fresh Produce, was discussed. It is evident from the testimony that there is a general lack of knowledge about local health department and certified food inspectors for members on the Environment Committee. There is also a bit of hostility towards local health department and directors from those representing the farmer interest groups. Some of the testimony also indicated there may be an issue regarding consistent inspections and enforcement at farmers' markets from local health departments. The general situation is that there is a group of farmers that are not comfortable being regulated by local health, and this bill is an attempt by the interest groups to have the Dept of Agriculture set enforcement and inspection standards for local health at farmers' markets. The "custom slaughter" process was also discussed along with a desire to have products from this process as an approved source for food service establishments. The custom slaughter process is not inspected.

Membership Committee Report

Robin Sleeman presented that there is one new member and distributed an application. She distributed a list of 18 members who have not renewed as of yet. She shared that she would like to produce a membership directory which would be available in a pdf version and that she will provide an updated committee interest list. In addition she proposed two ideas, first of having membership renewal possible at the Annual Meeting and second, of having a social hour for CEHA members in a few locations throughout the state. There was discussion of both ideas and the board was in favor of membership renewal at the Annual Meeting and there was not a great deal of interest in the social hour concept.

Nominations and Elections Committee/Yankee Conference Board Report

Joe raised question of how this year's nominations forms should go out given the vacancy in the current Vice President position. There was some discussion and the general consensus was that the ballots would go out with only next year's VP slot on it with the understanding that the individual elected to the VP position would then move up to the President Elect position.

Joe shared some correspondence that he received indicating that Rhode Island may no longer be a Yankee Conference Affiliate.

Publicity Committee Report

Dave Knauf provided February written report below:

"February 8, 2008

To: CEHA Executive Board

From: David Knauf, Publicity Chair

Re: Website expense/income

Report to the Board:

- At the January 2007 meeting, the Board authorized expenditures of up to \$2500 for updating www.cteha.org. I have reviewed invoices submitted by Portland Town Tech and am pleased to report that the expenses incurred in 2007 for updates were \$1275. There is an additional charge of \$300.00 submitted on January 28, 2008 but as you can see, we are well below the amount approved and the updates to the website are essentially complete.
- Costs to place a classified ad are \$22.50 and removal of expired ads costs an additional \$15.00. We only charge \$30.00, so we are losing money every time we place a classified ad. I recommend increasing the cost of classified ads to \$50.00 (minimum) a month.
- FYI, 17 classified ads were placed in 2007, the same number as in 2006!"

Dave shared at the meeting that \$1600 of the \$2500 approved to upgrade/revise the CEHA website has been spent and that the work is complete. There were 17 paid classified ads placed in 07 and 4 so far in 08. There was discussion that our current fee for these ads do not cover the cost to post and remove them. Dave suggested that \$50 would be a more appropriate fee to cover the costs. A motion to raise the fee to \$50 was made by Sands Cleary, 2nd by Scott Cook, motion carried.

Robin shared that the winter Newsletter went out recently.

Food Committee Report

A Food Committee Meeting was held 2/28/08 where the potential topics for the Yankee Conference were discussed. The four top choices were submitted to the Yankee Conference Planning Committee. There was a discussion of cultural food issues and the practice of custom slaughtering.

Dave Knauf discussed recall notifications and a proposed bill requiring distributors to notify those who received the implicated food items and to provide the same information to DPH. There was some discussion on the difficulty of enforcing this since many food items are redistributed and/or repackaged

in various ways such that a the original distributor may not have that knowledge. There was some mention that this proposed bill may be in conflict with federal law.

There was a brief discussion of the Environmental Health Field Manual Training occurring on April 25, 2008.

Minutes

Minutes for the January meeting were discussed. One edit suggested to correct "Gerry" Curran to "Jeff" Curran. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Robin Sleeman, 2nd by Fran Provenzano, motion carried.

Treasurer Motion

A motion to approve Aimee Eberly as the new Treasurer was made by Sands Cleary, 2nd By Joe Hock, motion carried.

A motion was made by Robin to reprint CEHA stationary as necessary up to \$400. This would be necessary if a new P.O. Box or other item were to be changed with the new treasurer. The motion was seconded by Fran, all voted in favor.

Farmers Market Seminar Motion

A motion was made by Scott Cook for CEHA to provide refreshments for the upcoming DPH Farmers Market Seminar at a cost of up to \$500. Seconded by Phyllis Amodio, motion carried.

Yankee Conference Planning Committee Report

Sands reported that 34 suggested topic/training ides have been submitted and several speakers have been tentatively contacted and are willing. The most individual committees have submitted their training ideas with a few that we would like more information from. The board was given the list to ideas/topics and asked to select the ones they would like to see at the conference.

Sands shared that the exhibitor/Sponsor/Advertiser mailing was sent out by Patrice Sulik and that \$2500 in revenue from exhibitors has been received to date.

Sands and Rob meet with Donna Chenette of the Mystic Aquarium to discuss the Wednesday event proposed their. They are waiting to receive pricing information from her.

Sands and Rob also dropped Yankee Conference "Save the Date" Card and Exhibitor Applications off to Don Mitchell at the CEHA table at the NEWIPC Conference

Old Business

Some budgets have not been received yet.

Summer Meeting

There was discussion regarding the Summer Meeting whether the same approach as last year should be used (free for all members nominal guest/non-member fee CEHA member buy and/or cook all the food). A motion to follow the same format for the Summer Meeting as last year with the same budget of up to \$1500 was made by Sands Cleary, 2nd by Robin Sleeman, Motion carried.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 2:51 PM by Sands Cleary, **Second** by Joe Hock. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sands Cleary

Yankee Conference Planning Committee Chair

4/8/087 #1