

CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Wednesday March 14, 2007

A meeting of the Executive Board of the Connecticut Environmental Health Association was held on Wednesday March 14, 2007 at the MDC Training Center Hartford, CT. The following voting members were in attendance: Cam Walden, Luci Ponganis, David Rogers, Gil Roberts (1:25 PM), Patrice Sulik, Karen Reid, Robin Sleeman, Scott Cook, Joe Hock and David Knauf. Non-voting members present: Carol Speer (12:40 PM) and Vicky Carrier.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:29 P.M. by President Cam Walden.

Secretary's Report - Approval of minutes.

Motion by Robin Sleeman to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2007 regular meeting.
Second by Joe Hock. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer was not in attendance and there was no report. Robin Sleeman will be forwarding dues checks to the Treasurer for deposit and President Walden will be submitting a receipt in the amount of \$68.69 for today's lunch.

Joe Hock requested that CEHA pay his NEHA membership dues since he is the Chairman of the Yankee Conference and he does not have an employer who will pay them for him. He made the request in the form of a motion that was seconded by Robin Sleeman.

David Knauf asked why the Yankee Conference Board did not pay the dues for its Chair. David Rogers stated that if CEHA was to pay the NEHA dues for anyone, it should be for the President, as this is a requirement of holding the office. Joe was asked if being a member of NEHA was a requirement of being on the Yankee Conference Board and Joe replied that he did not think it was a requirement, but he would check.

Motion by David Knauf to table the preceding motion until the April meeting to allow time to research if NEHA membership is a requirement of Joe's position.
Second by David Rogers. Motion carried.

Motion by David Knauf to reimburse the CEHA President for his or her NEHA dues for the year during which he or she is CEHA President.
Second by Robin Sleeman. Motion carried.

President's Report

President Walden distributed technical guidelines for Non-Community Public Water Systems for those on the Board that are interested. He also noted that he had previously sent out a Report to the General Assembly on Geothermal Wells.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislation – Written report and Bill Tracking Reports submitted. Scott Cook reported that there was a public hearing on the changes to the lead regulations. He also noted that there are 2 competing lead bills, SB 1340 and HB 6723 that may be combined into one. There is very little reference to local health departments or money to pay for increased activity by LHDs in either bill. He finds it very difficult to keep track of all of the bills and acting quickly enough to provide testimony on bills of interest as there is often very little notice. Carol Speer agreed and noted that many agencies such as CADH have lobbyists on staff to do this for them. However, this is very expensive. President Walden said CEHA needs to do a better job of fast tracking testimony when time is short. This may require using the Special Committees to keep track of bills in their area of expertise. David Knauf noted that turnover on the CEHA Board does not allow for there to be a consistent message or approach to handling legislative matters. Carol Speer suggested using CEHA members to contact their Representatives or Senators about a particular bill. The web site was mentioned as one way of notifying members of bills of interest and who to contact about them.

Membership – Written report submitted. Robin Sleeman circulated new membership applications from Ryan Zannotti, Marailaina Szpryngel and Mona LaBissoniere. 32 members were suspended as of March 7th for not renewing their memberships. Robin discussed how best to recruit new members and get them active in CEHA. She will be addressing the sanitarian training class at SCSU on March 28th. A combined new member/renewal application has been circulated for comment. Once completed, it will replace the 2 applications now in use. David Rogers discussed the support sanitarians have received over the years from Judy Dicine of the State's Attorney's Office and made a motion to award her an Honorary Membership. Second by Karen Reid. Joe Hock and Gil Roberts spoke in favor of the nomination and the motion was approved unanimously. The award will be made at this year's Annual Meeting. Robin will send a letter to Judy notifying her of the award.

Nominations/Elections – Joe Hock reported that the nomination form will be included in the next issue of the Newsletter. President Walden asked each Board member to think of 2 members who would make good additions to the Executive Board and contact them about serving.

Publicity/Newsletter – David Knauf is still waiting to hear back from the webmaster about the changes to the website. Information on the CEHA scholarships is needed right away so it can be posted on the website. Robin Sleeman is putting the next issue of the Newsletter together. The deadline for submissions is March 26th. Paula Pendleton, a long time CEHA member, is retiring from DPH in July. President Walden will or to interview her and write up an article for the Newsletter.

Scholarship/Awards – Maureen Whelan was not present but provided a written report. Scholarship application and Awards nominations forms have been revised. Information to local colleges will be going out by March 19th. Background information on the M.L. Smith Scholarship is needed for the website, Newsletter and Policy document. President Walden will follow-up on this.

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Education – Patrice Sulik reported for Francesca Provenzano. Francesca has been working with the Food Committee on the AGRU seminar on April 5th and with DPH on the Hot Topics seminar on March 29th. She is planning to do a CEHA member survey on training needs so future seminars can be planned. Planning for the Summer Meeting is going on and the Board discussed potential dates, locations and maximum per person cost. It was agreed that the last 2 weeks in July is best and that we should stay away from amusement parks and the like as members tend to scatter when there.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Subsurface Sewage – Written report provided. Carol Speer reported that the joint meeting of CEHA, DEP and DPH on alternative technologies and the Clean Water Funds will be held on March 22nd. CEHA, CADH, COWRA and the Homebuilders of CT would like DEP to delegate authority of alternative technology systems less than or equal to 5000 GPD to DPH along with funding to develop technical standards. Funding sources for on-site systems and municipal sewers also need to be investigated. Several bills in the Legislature are being tracked. These include bills on SSDS additives, alternative technologies and clean water funds. David Knauf stated that DEP and DPH need to cooperate more rather than being at odds.

Water – Vicki Carrier mentioned the American Groundwater Trust training on March 27, 2007 in East Hartford. A stakeholders meeting on regulation changes is scheduled for April 3rd. One of the proposed changes would place responsibility for well exceptions with the local health department. Copies of Raised Bill 1341 concerning Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity Were Distributed.

Policies Procedures & Bylaws – The committee met prior to the regular Board meeting. David Rogers reported that information from some of the Committee Chairs was still needed. The policy document is almost ready to be acted on by the Board and the committee wants to finish it up before moving on to bylaws changes. Committee Chairs are asked to send their information in as soon as possible. The committee is going to set up meeting with several of the Committee Chairs starting with Scholarship & Awards. They also feel they can finish up Publicity and Nominations quickly. There are a great many changes being looked at in the bylaws that will take a lot of time. The committee wants to deal with the Honorary Membership issue by this year's Annual Meeting, and should have an outline for the membership on the other changes by then.

Food – There was no representative from the committee present. The FOG/AGRU seminar will be held on April 5th in Rocky Hill. A letter from Tracey Weeks to Patrice Sulik on Food Code changes was received. Gil Roberts brought up the issue of produce and meat for FSEs being purchased at retail establishments. DPH does not seem to have a consistent policy on this. The matter was referred to the Food Committee for follow-up.

Yankee Conference Planning Committee – The committee met before the Board meeting. It is having a hard time scheduling site visits to potential host sites. They have some figures but are waiting on others. Joe Hock has placed the issue of phone conferences on the agenda for the next Yankee Conference Board meeting.

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Housing/Pb – Included in Legislative Report.

Old Business - The budget issue has not been addressed yet. Carol Speer will contact George and arrange to set up an Excel spreadsheet that should be adequate for CEHA's needs at this time.

New Business - None

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 3:35 PM by David Rogers
Second by Joe Hock. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
David Rogers
Secretary
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