

CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Thursday February 15, 2007

A meeting of the Executive Board of the Connecticut Environmental Health Association was held on Thursday February 15, 2007 at the American Lung Association East Hartford, CT. The following voting members were in attendance: Cam Walden, Rob Guerrera, Sands Cleary, David Rogers, George Calkins, Patrice Sulik, Karen Reid, Robin Sleeman, Scott Cook, Joe Hock and David Knauf. Non-voting members present: Kevin Elak and Vicky Carrier (2:30 P.M.).

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:28 P.M. by President Cam Walden.

Secretary's Report - Approval of minutes.

Motion by David Knauf to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2007 regular meeting.
Second by Robin Sleeman. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

George Calkins distributed a Treasurer's Report for February 15, 2007. George noted that the 2007 Yankee Conference per capita dues had been paid. The 2006 dues had been paid earlier.

George reported that he had not yet set up a different spreadsheet type of report but had pulled out the last 2 years of reports and receipts and could break out expenses by committee. He asked the Board what type of information and how much detail was needed to prepare a budget. He circulated copies of 2 types of reports, one of which he had done for CEHA in the past. The Board indicated that it was looking for historical expense information to help with budget preparation and that a great deal of detail was not needed at this time. George will work on putting something together in the next month.

Motion by Sands Cleary to approve the February 15th Treasurer's Report
Second by Joe Hock. Motion carried

President's Report

President Walden reported that he has asked committee chairpersons to submit items for inclusion on the agenda for discussion and action (by way of a motion). He would like reports to be limited to action items to keep the meetings moving on time. If nothing is received, he will not put that committee on the agenda.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislation – Written report submitted. Scott Cook reported on the lead poisoning prevention statute changes, which are enabling statutes with little or no detail. CADH has proposed a 25% increase in per capita funding for local health departments to help with the added expense and workload. He also reported on the proposal to strengthen the language in the sanitarian licensing statute. He suggested CEHA support the proposal in its current form. The CEU for RS renewal appears to be a dead issue once again unless a revenue neutral solution can be found.

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Membership – Written report submitted. Robin Sleeman circulated new membership applications from John Holland of CT DCF Food Service and Jaimie Krasnitski of Uncas Health District. 44 members have not yet renewed their memberships and will be suspended on March 7th if they are not heard from. She asked if it would be possible to combine the new and renewal applications as they are the same except for an educational history on the new application. David Knauf suggested using the new member application for all and indicating the educational history is for new applicants only. A signature line should also be included. Robin will revise the form and the revision will be put on the website. Robin asked if CEHA wants to pursue using the DPH list of certified food inspectors to recruit new members. She has placed a request for this list but hasn't heard back from DPH. President Walden noted that there may be personal information on the list and approval by the Attorney General may be needed. The consensus of the Board was for Robin to make another request for the list and wait for a response. Sands Cleary suggested sending a letter to all local health departments about CEHA.

Nominations/Elections – President Walden sent an e-mail to Pat Maloney in Massachusetts about conducting Yankee Conference meetings by phone. Pat thought this would be possible and suggested Cam send a letter to the Yankee Conference Board about phone conferences. He is also proposing that the YC Board sponsor one representative of each affiliate to the Yankee Conference with the state association sponsoring the other. Joe Hock was asked to bring this before the YC Board at its April meeting. Joe noted that membership on the YC Board was a problem throughout New England, not just in Connecticut.

Nomination forms for this year's election (Vice President, Director and Treasurer) need to go in the next issue of the newsletter.

Publicity/Newsletter – David Knauf has met with the webmaster about changes to the website. Proposed changes include adding a dropdown tab for each committee with direct e-mail contacts to the chairperson, as separate tab to Scholarships with application forms a button for the Newsletter a photo gallery and a search by subject box. Surveys can be done through the webmaster @ \$100 each. David hopes the changes can be done for less than what was approved. President Walden indicated he would like to have a photo next to each contact name, but many members were uncomfortable with this and would prefer a group photo. There was a discussion on use of the calendar and who should have access to it. President Walden wants committee chairs to post their activities and meeting dates on the calendar after notifying the Publicity Chair of their intent to do so. The Education Chair should know what educational sessions are scheduled and posted to avoid conflicts.

Scholarship/Awards – No report

Education – No report. President Walden indicated that 14 members have expressed and interest in working on the Summer Meeting. Marco Palmeri is willing to chair the committee and has drafted a letter to those expressing interest. David Rogers asked if there has been any progress in tracking down those who attended last year's Summer Meeting without paying. President Walden reported that no one was sure who was implicated and we may need to let it go. There is a need to improve the collection and sign in procedures to avoid this happening again.

David Knauf leaves at 2:00 PM.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Water – The minutes of the committee meeting on January 25, 2007 were previously provided to the Board. The American Groundwater Trust workshop is scheduled for March 27th. The DWS Local Health Training planned for February 14th was cancelled due to bad weather and is rescheduled for mid March.

Policies Procedures & Bylaws – The committee met prior to the regular Board meeting. Sands Cleary discussed the procedure that has been used to amend the bylaws and noted that it needs clarification or revision. A discussion of changes to the membership classes is being held over for 1 more month to give committee members more time to consider the proposal. Sands distributed a draft copy of the Policies & Procedures manual the committee has been working on. He asked the various committee chairpersons to review the section(s) that apply to them and make comments, suggestions or provide information where noted. Input needs to be provided by next month so the document can be moved forward.

Food - Kevin Elak distributed a proposal and a draft agenda to a seminar on automatic grease recovery units (AGRU). The committee had tentatively set the seminar for April 5th at the Farmington Town Hall. Members were concerned about holding this so close to 3 other seminars already scheduled for late March. It was suggested this be put off for at least 1 month to get away from them. There was a lengthy discussion about who should be invited to attend and where to hold the seminar. Since there is so much interest in learning more about AGRUs, the potential audience could be quite large and might include local health staff as well as food service operators. George Calkins suggested looking into having a series of such seminars at different locations around the state. There is also the potential to have manufacturers be exhibitors to generate money that could then be used to secure a larger venue. Kevin will take the suggestions back to the committee for further consideration. Karen Reid asked about the status of the changes to the food regulations that were worked on by the previous committee. She is concerned that all of the work might be lost, and she has been unable to find out what is going on. Members of the CEHA Board who sit on the new Food Safety Advisory Group were unsure of the status of the changes and if these are part of the charge of the group. Patrice Sulik will ask at the next committee meeting and report back.

Yankee Conference Planning Committee – The committee met before the Board meeting and is planning to visit some potential sites. George Calkins stressed the need to attract exhibitors and to set the program to attract them to the conference. There area number of factors to be considered in selecting a site that will be successful.

Housing/Pb – A written report was provided, but a representative of the committee was not present. A few changes have been made to the proposed lead regulations but they have not been considered by the Housing & Environment Committee yet.

Subsurface Sewage – The committee is meeting today.

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Old Business – Robin Sleeman brought up the issue of Honorary Memberships again specifically as it relates to Anthony Bono. Sands Cleary noted that this issue is under consideration by the Bylaws Committee and would be referred to the Board for the March meeting. The proposal would create a “Retired” member category. Robin noted that Mr. Bono was in limbo at this time as he does not currently meet the definition of Active member since he is retired but had not been granted Honorary Membership, and she was not sure what to tell him.

Motion by Sands Cleary to extend an invitation for Mr. Bono to renew his membership at a reduced rate for the next year, after which he would be considered for a Retired membership.

Second by Karen Reid.

George Calkins noted that the bylaws do not allow this sort of thing. Rob Guerrera would prefer to award Mr. Bono an Honorary membership instead. There was a lengthy discussion about the issue that included a history by George Calkins about how Honorary Memberships have been awarded in the past. President Walden reviewed the vote taken previously on this issue and stated that he would be more comfortable having it brought before the full Board rather than the smaller number present at this meeting. He suggested placing the issue on the agenda for the next month to give all Board members notice that it would be reconsidered then. At this point Sands Cleary withdrew his motion and asked that the matter be put on the agenda for next month.

Patrice Sulik leaves at 3:40 P.M.

David Rogers stated that he could not support a motion to extend an invitation for Mr. Bono to renew at a reduced price as this would be a violation of the bylaws. He noted that the only option at this point to meet the letter of the bylaws was to vote again for an Honorary Membership. The Bylaws Committee will propose a change to the bylaws to avoid this happening again, but this will not help Mr. Bono now.

Motion by David Rogers to award an Honorary Membership to Anthony Bono.

Second by George Calkins.

President Walden stated that he would prefer a unanimous vote of the full Board, but in this case would accept a unanimous vote of those present. He called for a written ballot by the voting members present. 8 yeas, 0 nays; Motion carried.

Robin Sleeman leaves 3:50 P.M. Quorum lost.

Adjournment

The quorum having been lost, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David Rogers

Secretary

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