

CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Wednesday January 11, 2006

A meeting of the Executive Board of the Connecticut Environmental Health Association was held on Wednesday January 11, 2006 at the Wallingford Fire Headquarters, Wallingford, CT. The following voting members were in attendance: Sands Cleary, David Rogers, George Calkins, Robert Guerrero, Michael Pascucilla, Joe Hock, David Knauf, Robin Sleeman, Brad Parandes, Eloise Hudd (for Phyllis Amodio) and Cam Walden (1:07 P.M.). Non-voting members present: Karen Reid, Brian Testut, Marco Palmeri and Carol Speer.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:22 P.M. by President Sands Cleary. President Cleary introduced the new Executive Board members (Robert Guerrero, VP and Robin Sleeman, Director).

Secretary's Report

Approval of minutes. Motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2005 regular meeting by Robin Sleeman, second by Brad Parandes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Joe Hock, second by Mike Pascucilla. Motion carried.

President Cleary announced that he would be diverting from the normal agenda and work from bottom to top so as to allow adequate time for items at the end of the agenda, which typically get rushed.

Strategic Planning – President Cleary distributed a survey and asked the Board members to complete it indicating their agreement or disagreement with the statements. (Secretary's note: A copy of the survey and the survey results e-mailed after the meeting are attached). The survey prompted a discussion on the standards and educational requirements necessary to be a "sanitarian". There is considerable difference of opinion within the board about the need for a 4 year college degree, especially for those doing routine nuisance complaint investigation etc. Some Board members commented that CEHA needs to understand its members better, especially what they want the Association to do and/or provide to them. President Cleary would like to use on-line surveys more as a way to get input and feedback from members, but the value of this input was questioned if specific questions are not asked. It was agreed that there is a need to get more members involved in the operation of CEHA either on the Board or in some other capacity. President Cleary noted that he was looking for a motion from the Board endorsing his strategic planning effort this year, but no motion was forthcoming. It was noted that as President, he was free to set a direction for CEHA during his term without a Board motion.

1/11/06

Page 2

Special Committee Reports

Subsurface Sewage – Carol Speer reported on some of the code changes under consideration, which include tire chip aggregate and square footage credit for proprietary systems. Eloise Hudd noted that a company is looking to build a tire chip aggregate distribution facility in Wallingford, but nothing is final yet. Carol submitted a summary of issues related to FOG for inclusion in the next newsletter. George Calkins stated that CEHA needs to push for alternative treatment legislation now, noting that this has been discussed for many years, but nothing ever comes of it. Eloise said this was on the agenda for the next CADH meeting along with well abandonment regulations and bio-diesel. Members thought a joint meeting between CEHA and CADH would be useful in advancing items of common interest. Carol, George and Eloise will work together to come up with a list of such items and on setting up a joint meeting.

Summer Meeting – Marco provided some additional information on the boat cruise under consideration. An educational program could be incorporated and getting CEUs would help to boost attendance. There are many variables involved in booking a cruise, including size of boat, place of departure and the type of food service requested. A minimum number of attendees are needed for most if not all providers. A lengthy discussion ensued about whether this should be an educational event or a “fun” event, the time and the day on which it should be held. Following the discussion, it was decided that the Summer Meeting should be a “fun” event on a Wednesday or Thursday mid morning to late afternoon to maximize attendance. Registration information will stress this is a first come first served event, so members should register early.

Housing/Pb – Brian Testut spoke about a letter he has drafted on behalf of CEHA supporting DPH's grant application for lead abatement activities. A draft of the letter was circulated for comment. Motion by Brad Parandes to authorize sending the letter on behalf of CEHA, second by Joe Hock. Motion carried. Robin Sleeman related problems she has been having in getting lead cases prosecuted. There seems to be a disconnect between DPH and the Housing Prosecutors on how cases can/should be brought to court. The Prosecutor for Hartford/New Britain is a particular problem. Brad has had problems also and is forwarding his problem to Judy Dicine, the supervisor of Housing Prosecutors.

Food – Karen Reid reported that she has been working on training towns within the MDC on the FOG regulations. If this training goes well, it may be offered in other parts of the state. She also distributed copies of a handout with questions about FOG as it relates to the State Building Code. Questions that have not been fully answered include, who can pump out grease interceptors and what is done with the grease recovered.

The future of the CT Food & Dairy Sanitarians is still uncertain; they are supposed to have a meeting next month. IF CEHA were to take them in (and their funds), there likely would be an expectation of some sort of service in return. The extent of this is unknown. The consensus of the Board is that CTF&DS should make a proposal to CEHA if they are interested. President Cleary will send a letter to the President of CTF&DS inviting that group to a CEHA Board meeting.

1/11/06

Page 3

RS/CEUs – There have been no further developments on who will approve training sessions and track CEUs.

Yankee Conference – Joe Hock has nothing new to report. The Yankee Conference Board is trying to set up a meeting sometime in March.

Bylaws – No report

Water – No report

Standing Committee Reports

Publicity – Dave Knauf reported that CEHA should not expect any help from the Mohegan Sun in putting out the newsletter. Jeanne Chabot indicated that she spent about 12 hours in doing each issue. Robin Sleeman volunteered to take over most of the duties of the newsletter, as she has experience in doing a newsletter for another organization. The Board enthusiastically accepted her offer. Robin will work with Dave Knauf in publishing the newsletter. A new format is likely, especially now that the publisher is changing. Dave would like to have some regular features that highlight member happenings, job changes, new members etc. Dave is also planning to set up a separate section on the website for the SSDS group and also for the Water Committee.

Mike Pascucilla asked about sending a gift to Connie and Jeanne for the time they have spent for CEHA in publishing the newsletter and the money they have saved the Association over the years on meetings etc. Following a discussion, a motion was made by Mike Pascucilla to spend two gift certificates (\$150) each to the Bee & Thistle Inn for Connie and Jeanne. Second by Joe Hock. Robin Sleeman is concerned that since this is not a normal procedure it sets a bad precedent for the future. President Cleary remarked that while this has not been done in the past, this is an exceptional situation and he felt the gift was appropriate. Motion carried with one opposed.

Membership – Brad reported that 175 membership renewal applications have been returned so far. Reminders will go out in February. Brad will send out something to Don Mitchell following his recent surgery.

Nominations/Elections – Joe Hock reported on the special election, which has just been completed. 83 ballots were submitted by the January 3, 2006 deadline. Robert Guerrero received 70 votes for Vice President; Gil Roberts 65 for Director and Robin Sleeman 34 for Director. Gil has therefore won the 3 year Director's term. Motion by George Calkins second by Dave Knauf to appoint Robin Sleeman to the vacant 2 year Director post. Motion carried. (Secretary's note: Since the normal agenda was not followed, it is noted that the vote to appoint Robin to the 2 yr. term was taken early in the meeting, but is reported here for the sake of clarity in recording committee reports).

Legislation – There is still no chair for this committee. Nothing to report.

Scholarship – No report

1/11/06

Page 4

Education – Phyllis Amodio was not in attendance. Karen Reid has a contact with someone who can do a training on conflict resolution and dealing with difficult people. She will get more information and report back to the Board.

Other Business

Karen Reid will work on gathering stories from the field on unusual people, situations or other human interest stories. These could be put up on the website or published in another manner if there are enough of them.

Cam Walden indicated that there is a need for regulations to be developed for small water systems serving 2-25 persons. This is an area that has not been addressed by anyone in the past.

Brian Testut asked in the golf tournament was going to be held again this year. Mike Pascucilla said he was planning on doing so, but David Rogers was concerned that was getting too expensive and it would be difficult to attract many players. Mike noted CEHA will need to find sponsors if we are going to make money for the Arthritis Foundation (or other beneficiary) and keep the cost reasonable. CEHA may need to partner with another organization if the tournament is going to continue. The Connecticut Chefs Association already runs a golf tournament and may be willing to partner with CEHA. Karen Reid has a contact with them and will work on this.

Adjournment – Motion by Joe Hock to adjourn at 3:35 P.M. Second by Dave Knauf. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

David Rogers
Secretary

1/11/06 #2