

**CONNECTICUT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
Wednesday February 9, 2005**

A meeting of the Executive Board of the Connecticut Environmental Health Association was held on Wednesday February 9, 2005 at the UConn Law School West Hartford, CT. The following voting members were in attendance: Mike Pascucilla, Sands Cleary, Cam Walden, David Rogers, Ed Briggs, Joe Hock, Connie Dinerman, David Knauf, David Boone, Phyllis Amodio, Maureen Whelan, Don Mitchell, Sal Nesci, George Calkins (1:08 PM). Non-voting members present: Brad Parandes, Marco Palmeri, Eloise Hudd, Karen Reid, Vicky Carrier (1:44 PM). Guests: Ellen Blaschinski (DPH) 1:00 PM.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:29 P.M. by President Mike Pascucilla.

2. Guest Speaker – None

3. Secretary's Report

Approval of minutes. **Motion** by Sands Cleary, second by Ed Briggs to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2005 meeting. **Motion carried.**

4. Treasurer's Report

This item was deferred, as the Treasurer was not yet in attendance.

5. Standing Committee Reports

Membership – Brad Parandes reported that 175 membership renewals had been received and there are 6 new members. He is scheduled to speak to the Sanitarian training class at SCSU on April 12th. A reciprocal membership with COWRA (previously CSDA) will be put in the name of the current CEHA President. There is no cost for this. A get-well card was sent to Bill Milardo on a recent injury and a sympathy card was sent to Tracey Weeks on the death of her father-in-law

Publicity – Dave Knauf asked the Board to consider combining the positions of Publicity and Newsletter chairmen, as the newsletter is one method of publicizing CEHA. Since the Newsletter chair is a non-voting special committee position, this would not affect the Board make-up. **Motion** by Phyllis Amodio to approve combining Publicity and Newsletter positions, second by Sal Nesci. **Motion carried.**

Information on the new Executive Board has been posted on the website. Corrections should be passed on to Dave. Updated membership applications and Board meeting minutes are now posted on the site. An article on the work of the Food Code Committee has also been put up. There was a discussion on creating a training calendar for the website. This would require constant maintenance to keep it current. Since CEHA training often overlaps with CADH, it would be best to keep them updated as well. Eloise Hudd offered to help in maintaining the calendar. Dave will set up a training session with the Webmaster. Any other members wanting to help out should contact Dave.

Scholarship – Maureen Whelan indicated that scholarship letters will be going out next week (2/14-18)

Legislation – Sal Nesci reported that there are many issues of concern to the Association that have been presented to the General Assembly. He is recommending that CEHA's positions on the issues be developed by members with expertise and involvement in the field. Sal has invited Sen. Murphy to meet with the Board before the March meeting to discuss bills of concern to the members of CEHA. Sen. Murphy is the Ass't Majority Leader and is the Chair of the Public Health Committee and a member of the Environment and Appropriations committees. To accommodate his schedule, the meeting will begin at 9:00 AM and will be held in the West Hartford Town Hall. In order to facilitate the dialog, a brief position statement on each issue needs to be developed. Issues of concern and those who will speak about them include the posting of restaurant scores (Dave Knauf), incorporating food inspections into the Dept. of Agriculture (Karen Reid, Ellen Blaschinski), exemptions on testing for small water companies (Dave Boone), funding for local health departments (Marco Palmeri, Dave Boone, Dave Knauf, Eloise Hudd) FOG (undecided), smoking in food service establishments (undecided).
[Secretary's note: after the meeting Sal was informed that Sen. Murphy would be unable to make the next meeting. Instead CEHA members have been invited to meet Sen. Murphy in the Legislative Office Building on March 11, 2005 at 1:30 PM.]

Mike Pascucilla has prepared a letter to Baker Salisbury, CADH President, indicating CEHA's interest in participating on the Public Health Council Steering Committee. The issue of support for the bill Strengthening Local Public Health sparked a considerable discussion. Representatives of municipal health departments are concerned about the unequal funding provision of the bill (compared to health districts) and are lobbying against it. They are supporting equal funding for all health departments at the higher per capita rate. There is also the concern about what constitutes a full time health department. While the board agrees that part time services are not desirable, a sanitarian who obtains his/her MPH and becomes a full time Director of Health with no corresponding increase in staffing is not the proper model either. Don Mitchell was asked if he would be willing to testify on the bill since he has worked for a part time health department that recently joined a health district and could provide insight on both situations. He agreed to do so, but cautioned the Board that his position might not totally agree with CEHA's. Eloise Hudd mentioned that the bill appears to have removed the requirement that each health department employ a Registered Sanitarian and if true, CEHA could not support it. However, upon further examination of the bill it was discovered that the bill does not affect the sections of the Statutes dealing with an RS.

Nominations/Elections – Joe Hock stated that the committee has not met but will do so soon. Dave Knauf has modified the document outlining which positions are up for election. If no further modifications are needed, this should be reproduced and made available at all CEHA training sessions, conferences and other events.

Education – Phyllis Amodio reported that Vicky Carrier is working on a well care workshop possibly in September. A seminar on disaster sanitation is being developed and may include DPH Food Protection, the American Red Cross and others. A swimming pool operator's seminar may be planned for May in a central part of the state if Ed Briggs is willing to put it on. Eloise Hudd is following up on a training on dealing with difficult people, which has been mentioned before.

6. Special Committee Reports

Summer Meeting – Marco Palmeri reported that Hammonasset State Park has been reserved for July 29th. Dave Boone has sent a letter to the Commissioner of DPH that may result in the fee for reserving the space being waived.

Food – Karen Reid discussed the issue of food establishments using time as a public health control, which is common at McDonald's and Burger King. She is looking into getting DPH to issue a blanket approval of this practice so there will be consistency throughout the state. She also asked Ellen Blaschinski for an update on the status of the Food Code and the new Food Safety Committee. Ellen replied that the code was at DPH but that no action has been taken. A committee is being formed to update the compliance manual using the revised code and the focused food form.

Ellen also discussed the desire expressed to have food inspector training offered more than once a year. She indicated that the field standardization requirement would make this very difficult. Other considerations are the logistics of holding the class more than once and the financial impact that would be felt by SCSU. She reminded the board that those wishing to get certified quickly can obtain provisional certification by challenging the exam and getting field standardized as long as they attend the next classroom training.

Housing/Pb – No report. The chairmanship is still open and Mike is looking for someone to take the position.

Newsletter – Connie Dinerman stated that four issues will be produced this year and outlined what articles of a timely nature will be in each. Dave Knauf suggested that the next issue should include an article about the NEHA AEC in Providence and something about the status of the Yankee Conference for this year

Yankee Conference – Joe Hock stated that the future of the Yankee Conference was still undecided. He mentioned that a Northern New England affiliate that would include Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine was in the process of being accepted by NEHA. George Calkins asked for an approval to pay the per capita dues assessment to the Yankee Conference Board at \$1 per member registered as of October 1st. After a question about the viability of the organization, the Board decided that the dues for this year should be paid and a re-evaluation of the Yankee Conference would be made at a later time. **Motion** by Don Mitchell to approve payment of the Yankee Conference dues, second by Dave Boone. **Motion carried.**

Water – Vicky Carrier is working on well training especially bedrock formations, a legislative update, tracking software, Consumer Protection licensing of well drillers and water supplies at fairs and fairgrounds.

Subsurface Sewage – Don Mitchell reported that some of the shoreline towns met with DEP in January to discuss wastewater treatment districts and some of the issues associated with alternative technology systems, such as who will review, approve and inspect them. The DPH Code Advisory Committee met on January 25th. Issues discussed include manufactured fill, dirty stone and tire chip aggregate. A soils training session is being planned, but there are no details at this time.

There was a discussion of how much involvement CEHA should have in the upcoming NIEWPCC conference in Groton. Following the discussion, Cam Walden made a **motion** to purchase and have available CEHA note pads, CEHA pens or pencils, membership information and applications and the use of the CEHA banner at an information table. Second by Phyllis Amodio, **Motion carried.**

Bylaws – The committee has not held a meeting yet.

RS/CEU Committee – The first meeting has been held and a second meeting will be on February 15, 2005. Eloise Hudd reported that the first meeting went well.

7. Other Business

Annual Meeting – Sands indicated that a tentative hold has been placed on meeting space at Adrien's Landing in Hartford for the first Friday in November. There is a charge of \$300-600 for the room, depending on size and food costs would be about \$58 per person. Many members thought the food costs are too high and should be negotiated down. If this cannot be done, another venue may be chosen.

Partnership Training - Sands Cleary reported that a proposal needs to be submitted to the Partnership if CEHA wants to develop a 4th module. The 3 original modules will be offered in the period from March to June (3/month).

4. Treasurer's Report

George Calkins distributed copies of the Treasurer's Report for the month of February. **Motion** by Don Mitchell to approve the report. Second by Dave Boone. **Motion carried.**

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:59 P.M. by Sands Cleary, second by Joe Hock. **Motion carried.** The next CEHA Executive Board meeting will be March 9, 2005 at West Hartford Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

David Rogers
Secretary