

Proposed Changes to CEHA By-Laws

By Vicky Carrier

The Executive Board of the Connecticut Environmental Health Association (CEHA) recently charged the Bylaws Ad-hoc Committee with revising the bylaws to allow the currently active “Special Committees” to become “Technical Advisory Committees.” The intent is to enable the respective Chairs to become voting members of the Board in recognition of the fact that technical issues surrounding food, housing, sewage and water are fundamental elements of environmental health. The Special Committees currently active are:

- Food Committee
- Housing and Lead Committee
- Subsurface Sewage Code Advisory Committee
- Water Committee

As defined currently in the Association’s bylaws, the above committees are “ad hoc” or “Special Committees” and their respective chairs do not have voting rights at Executive Board meetings. The current bylaws revisions will correct this “unfair” situation and enable the Chairs of these hard-working and very active committees to have voting rights as Chairs of Technical Advisory Committees. Since the intended purpose of the vaguely defined Director position has never really been fulfilled and to keep the Executive Board to a manageable size, it was decided that the Director positions would be phased out as their terms expire. This will result in an Executive Board quorum (or number of voting members required to be present to conduct Association business) of nine (9), a net increase of one, once the Directors’ terms have all expired.

We encourage you to review the proposed changes as well as the bylaws in their entirety. The following is the current version of the bylaws with all additions in pink text, deletions are struck out, and the footnotes section related to the current revision of the bylaws are in purple. The bylaws revisions are expected to be voted on by the membership at the Annual Meeting in November, so please take the time to review these documents so you can make an informed decision at that time.

Finally, as the bylaws committee (consisting of myself as the chair, Sharon Antunes, Eloise Hazelwood, David Rogers and David Knauf) went through the bylaws document, the following incidental changes were also made:

- Added references to the budget since budgetary process has been formalized since the last bylaws revision
- Language was added in regards to coordinating with the Education Chair and the Legislative Chair for matters related to training events and legislation.

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions or comments via email (Vicky.carrier@ct.gov) or telephone (860-509-7333 or 860-463-6004). Thank you again for being a valued member of CEHA.