

**MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**HEALTH ASSOCIATION**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

DATE: April 11, 2012

ATTENDEES: Gerry Cody, President  
Heidi Porter, Vice President  
Regina Hanson, Secretary

Leon Bethune, Heather Gallant, Pat Maloney, Kathleen MacVarish, Alan Perry, Natasha Waden, Jim White

---

**I WELCOME**

President Cody opened the meeting at 10:04 AM and welcomes all members in attendance.

**II MINUTES**

Minutes from January 11, 2012 and February 29, 2012 meetings were submitted and reviewed. Motion made by P. Maloney to accept both sets of minutes. The motion was seconded by J. White. Motion passed unanimously.

**III TREASURER'S REPORT**

G. Cody reports that M. Blanchard was unable to attend the meeting and will provide a financial report at the next meeting.

**IV COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Coalition for Public Health**

G. Cody reports that while the Individuals Requiring Additional Assistance (IRAAs) will be a focus group for outreach and emergency preparedness planning, the term referring to this cohort will change to AAFNP relating to access and functional needs planning.

There is a regional push for shelter planning. Both NERAC and MEMA have a consultant working with them to engage public health, public safety and Red Cross professionals to gather information on actual experiences to develop plans for regional response. While regional shelters are a good idea, the thought is that most cities and towns will retain the need for local shelters to serve their own population.

A survey of MRC and CERT volunteers found that when the need for their services arose, only 25% were responding to staff a shelter.

**Education**

N. Waden reports that there were approximately 130 attendees at the March 28<sup>th</sup> Housing Seminar in Dedham. K. MacVarish requested the \$1000 invoice to Boston University and attendance list for her records. Future evaluations will be done using Survey Monkey.

G. Cody reports the "Annual Meeting" in May will be held at the DCU Center in Worcester. Registration forms have been sent out via US mail, emailed to our membership and will be posted on the website. Projections are for approximately 100 attendees.

## **Awards Committee**

The following nominations were presented by the Awards Committee (J. White, P. Maloney and M. Blanchard) and voted on by the Executive Board.

**Dr. Joseph S. Goldfarb Award.** H. Porter makes a motion to award Gerry Cody the Joseph S Goldfarb Award. Motion was seconded by N. Waden. The vote was unanimous.

**Robert C. Periello Award** ("Sanitarian of the Year"): R. Hanson made a motion to grant this award to Peter Kolodziej (Registered Sanitarian for the Tri-Town Health Department for 30 years). The award will be presented at the Yankee Conference. Motion was seconded by N. Waden. The vote was unanimous.

**Vartkes "Vic" Karian Award:** N. Waden made a motion to grant this award to Liisa Jackson (Coordinator for the Worcester MRC). Motion was seconded by J. White. The vote was unanimous.

**National Certificate of Merit:** L. Bethune made a motion to grant this award to . This award will be presented at the NEHA Annual Meeting. Motion was seconded by A. Perry. The vote was unanimous.

**Dr. Leon A. Bradley Award:** At this time the board does not have a nomination to present to the Yankee Board of Directors.

**MEHA Innovation Award** (George Smith): H. Porter made a motion to grant the award to Dr. Wendy Haiger Bernaise Professor at BU School of Public Health. Seconded by J. White. The vote was unanimous.

## **Food Safety**

H. Gallant was unable to attend the FEAC meeting  
Mass partnership for food safety had a table at the Food Show.

K. MacVarish gave the board an update on the MASS PHIT Food training. A new class is starting in May. M. Moore did a lot of administrative work for the first class. The Association is looking for volunteers to assist with setting up. The Board discussed the need for an administrative support position that would assist the association (Education Committee and Executive Board) with registrations for meetings, mailings and training coordination. The board will approach Ruth Ellen Sandler to inquire if she is interested and would submit a proposal.

Because of the Board's non-profit (IRS tax) status we must be mindful of the position as an "independent contractor consultant" and not an employee. Methods of compensation were discussed.

G. Cody will approach Ruth Ellen Sandler and will have something for the next meeting.

## **Environmental Data Collection**

L. Bethune sent a proposal this morning for software and interface for data collection in the field. The software can be expanded to include food, pools and other departmental inspections.

Felix. Zimmel mentioned two companies to approach who have similar software

The goal is to have the program user friendly and keep cost low. The Board discussed what is needed to expand to other fields for other types of inspections

P. Maloney suggested that where the program is already developed for food inspections we should field test it with a MASS-PHIT Food Program graduate and rate it's performance

There will be a demonstration in June. Watertown will test program and rate it.

## **Website**

G. Perlman is looking for a co-webmaster H. Gallant will step up to help. F. Zimmel volunteered to be second alternate.

The website had over 600 hits in March. The most popular areas being downloads for seminar form and Careers

### **Board Vacancies**

Jim White is looking for nominations

### **NEHA Annual Meeting**

Four Executive Board members going to the National Environmental Health Association Annual Meeting held in San Diego, CA this June. The Board discussed if something unforeseen was to happen to one of the members sponsored by the Association on this trip, would they claim against the MEHA? Do we have liability? How much does the individual employer's umbrella policy cover when on a training?

G. Cody made a motion to adjourn at 11:35AM. Seconded by H. Porter. Passed unanimously.