

MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

DATE: April 13, 2011

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

Heather Gallant, Patrick Maloney, Michael Moore, Jennifer Murphy, Gary Perlman, Alan Perry, Larry Ramdin, Jim White, Natasha Waden, Sam Wong

I WELCOME

President Cody opened the meeting and welcomes all members in attendance.

II TREASURER'S REPORT

Balances for the bank accounts total \$81,506.50

III COMMITTEE REPORTS

Coalition for Public Health

The president provided copies of a letter he is sending to Commissioner Auerbach stating the board opinions of the State's regionalization plans. The coalition is encouraged to send a letter to Jeff Wilkerson as well. A draft of this letter should be distributed to the Coalition members at their next meeting.

Education

J Murphy reports everything is set for the Annual meeting at the Four Points by Sheraton in Norwood on May 4, 2011. The subject matter is indoor air quality. There was a brief review of speakers and topics. The meeting announcement will be sent out by email and the distribution will include any lapsed members.

A survey was sent out on the last educational seminar with no results as yet.

Food Safety

1,700 certificates were issued for the Food Allergy training.

There is legislation at the Statehouse to change the requirement for choke saving training from establishments with a minimum of 25 seats to 1 seat. The board will consider sending a letter requesting a stand-alone training as well as maintaining a resource list.

The School Nutrition bill is in committee. Some highlights include: two inspections per year, the tracked data will be maintained at the local level (not sent to State annually) and the bill requires healthy food but there is no enforcement section.

Farmer's markets are now allowed to sell wine with a local license. There was a discussion about the use of temporary licensees and their limitations.

There is a bill to allow raw milk to be available to homes through a delivery service. The board is concerned that this may lead the push for retail sales. There was a discussion on warning labels, viability and implications.

H Gallant manned the Mass Partnership table at the Food Safety Show in March. The show was held in Boston for three days and was well attended.

The Public Health Inspector Training- Food program is in it's final developmental stages. The program includes six days of classroom training (which may be audited for CEU's only) followed by a kitchen inspection which is graded and the passing participants will receive a certificate of training. Certificate holders may opt to conduct ten field training with a certified field trainer.

Environmental Data Collection and Reporting

G Perlman attended training on mercury release responses. The speaker, Brendan Boyle, is available for a future association sponsored training.

There was a discussion on hand-held devices and inspection forms and what current technology best supports such an application

G Perlman distributed material on successful land reuse. There was a discussion on having a seminar on brownfields in September.

Website

G Perlman reports the Food Allergen video has been the most popular area of the website with about 800 hits a month. There is a disclaimer on the site that let's the viewer know MEHA does not issue certificates and they are referred to the DPH.

Training and resources is the second most popular area of the website

IV OLD BUSINESS

The nomination committee is meeting to finalize the awards for 2011. The following is the award recipients:

Dr. Leon A. Bradley Award: Larry Ramdin
Goldfarb Award: Heidi Porter
"Vic" Karian Award: Ben Carasco, MBTA Police
Periello Award: Gary Perlman
National Certificate of Merit: Alan Perry
MEHA Innovation Award: Mass PHIT- Housing committee

The President will distribute President's awards at the Annual Meeting.

The deadline for NEPHLI 2011 applications is May 2, 2011

L Ramdin nominates Natasha Waden to fill the vacancy on the board. M Moore seconded the nomination. The positions term would be through 2013. Four board members are at the end of their terms. Elections will be at the Annual Meeting

G Cody made a motion to adjourn at 12:50. Seconded by J White. Passed unanimously.