

MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

DATE: January 11, 2012

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

Kathleen MacVarish, Dan Ottenheimer, Gary Perlman, Larry Ramdin, Steven Ward, Jim White

I WELCOME

President Cody opened the meeting at 10:17 and wished all Board members a happy new year.

II MINUTES

H. Porter made a motion to accept the minutes of 12/08/11. The motion was seconded by G. Perlman. Motion was passed unanimously.

III TREASURER'S REPORT

Balances for the bank accounts total \$72,891.26

M. Blanchard reports the Association has received the reimbursement money from the Yankee Conference and the first payment from the EP fund is included in balance.

Also, the Treasurer is updating the financial software (QuickBooks) and reviewing documentation for non-profit tax filing.

The board took this opportunity to congratulate L. Ramdin for being awarded a Yankee Conference scholarship.

IV COMMITTEE REPORTS

Coalition for Public Health

S. Ward has been working with the Coalition to organize a table at the Massachusetts Municipal Association Conference. The table will focus on bringing awareness to town managers of what local health does. Also, the table will distribute collapsible water bottles with the local public health logo as reminders.

Yankee Conference

K. MacVarish reports that Liz Fey has been approached to develop an organizational structure for trainings that can be expanded for the Yankee Conference.

Education

The next Association training will be "On-Site Wastewater" on 1/26/12 at the Holiday Inn in Taunton. To date 76 people have registered. Many attendees are questioning why the registration form is asking for demographic information. The cost of the seminar is being subsidized with funds from the MERSA Grant. One of the stipulations on this grant requires demographic data.

Future trainings include a housing- themed session on the last Wednesday in March and the Association's "Annual Meeting" on the first Wednesday in May will center on solid waste.

K. MacVarish distributed information about a summer internship program and that there was money available to support this program.

H. Porter inquired if the Board has a protocol to "pay" a training session speaker (a stipend or gift?) to show our appreciation for their participation.

S. Ward made a motion that the Association present all non-governmental speakers a \$50 gift card and for governmental speaker a voucher for a future training.

Food Safety

The Food Show will be on March 11-13th. The Partnership has purchased a booth in which someone from every professional organization will man.

Website

G Perlman reports the website had over 500 hits last month with "Food Trainings" and "Careers" being the most popular areas. They are increasing security to protect against infiltrators. There was a discussion of upgrades to be investigated.

V NEW BUSINESS

DEP's "Building Capacity for Managing Organic Material's"

In The interest of time President Cody took this item out of order. He approached Felix Zimmel, because of his experience with the subject matter, to speak at the final public hearing on behalf of the MEHA. F. Zimmel gave a synopsis of the proposed regulations which excludes local public health. G. Cody made a motion to allow F. Zimmel to represent MEHA at the public hearing and to submit comments on behalf of the Association (and email a draft letter to the Board members). H. Porter seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

NEPHLI

No funding available for the program. It may reappear as a web-based program. The current attendees will graduate in July of 2012.

Exchange Program

Still on hold until someone expresses an interest.

Awards for 2012

Any members who has nominations for a MEHA awards please submit them to the president.

H. Porter will develop and accept applications for "NEHA Annual Meeting 2012" scholarships. F. Zimmel may potentially be presenting a poster .

L. Ramdin made a motion to adjourn at 11:31. Seconded by J White. Passed unanimously

NEXT MEETING: (teleconference) 2/08/12 @ 10:00