



MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

An organization of professionals dedicated to the improvement of health through management of the environment.

MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES March 18, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Executive Board of the Michigan Environmental Health Association held their Annual Business Meeting on Thursday, March 18, 2004 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids, Michigan. President Bruce Du Hamel called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

Roll Call by Secretary:

Members Present: Bruce Du Hamel, John N. Gohlke, Alan Hauck, Pat Donovan, Kimberly DeMars, Becky Ouellette, Mike Patterson, Derrick Simmons and Ryan Whaley.

Members Absent: Lori Simon and Diane Forys, both excused

II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

Motion by Mike Ells and seconded by Peggy French to accept the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

III. SECRETARY'S REPORT

A. The minutes of the March 13, 2003 Annual Business Meeting were distributed and reviewed.

Motion by Ken Priest and seconded by Brian Cecil to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

IV. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- A. Copies of the Treasurer's Statement dated February 8, 2002 through February 8, 2003 were distributed and reviewed. Treasurer Becky Ouellette explained that the fiscal year was changed to cover the time period of July 1st through June 30th.

It was questioned from the floor that the Treasurer's Report did not include information about the organizations checking account. An inquiry was made regarding the availability of this information for review at this meeting. The Treasurer reported that she did not have this information available during the meeting and could not present it at this time.

Motion by Pat Donovan and seconded by Joe Crigier to defer the 2003/2004 Treasurer's Annual Report until the 2005 Annual Business Meeting.

Discussion centered on the importance of presenting a complete Treasurers Report to the membership for review, making the report available for review before the next business meeting, and that quarterly treasurers reports are printed in the MEHA Journal. A request was made to approve the report with the stipulation that a corrected version be made available to the membership after this meeting.

Motion (as originally stated) passed on a voice vote.

V. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- A. Bruce Du Hamel reported that over the past year the organization has reached many of its goals and that all of our conferences were a success. Bruce also thanked each board member for their dedication to MEHA.
- B. Bruce Du Hamel indicated that the new Ready Reference was recently published after a lengthy process. Most of the information was lost due to computer problems and the process had to be duplicated. In addition he reported that an updated Membership Directory has been published and that both of these were in the process of being distributed to current members. Bruce thanked the committee chairs and everybody that was involved in completing these valuable resources. One thousand copies of the Ready Reference were printed. All current members will receive a copy of both references. Surplus copies of the Ready Reference will be sold to and made available nationally by NEHA. Bruce stated that many associations around the country are very interested in the new Ready Reference.

- C. Bruce reported that the RS issue is moving forward. Draft legislation has been developed that would change the process for examination in Michigan. The exam would be administered by NEHA and that you would have to meet the same requirements that NEHA has set for their REHS examination. When you pass the REHS exam and upon application to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth you would be issued the Michigan RS. This regulation created a seven member advisory committee. This advisory committee is made up of: four Registered Sanitarians and one representative from each of the following organizations, the Michigan Restaurant Association, the Michigan Groundwater Association and the Michigan Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association. Bruce thanked State Representative John Stakoe for his help in developing and introducing this legislation.

After an inquiry from a member about reciprocity from NEHA for current Michigan RS's, Steve Hall answered that discussions with NEHA are underway and that for a limited amount of time, NEHA may offer this option.

- D. Bruce Du Hamel thanked Terry Anderson for his years of dedication to the organization and to the profession of Environmental Health. Note: Members wanted it recorded in the minutes that Terry declined an invitation to address the membership and in doing so, Terry gave his shortest speech every to a group of people.
- E. Bruce thanked all members who have helped this organization throughout the years; "it is through them that makes MEHA so successful."
- F. Bruce thanked AEC committee co-chairs Julie Melia and Melanie Fahndrich and the rest of the AEC planning committee for a job well done in putting together this years AEC.
- G. Bruce identified and thanked the conference exhibitors and sponsors for the giving of their time and money to make MEHA a better organization.
- H. Bruce thanked the Chairperson John Johnson and the rest of the Endowment Committee who consist of Ken Priest, Chuck Lichon, John Texter, Tom Olsen, and Virgil Cimala for the Silent Auction that benefits MEHA's Endowment Fund. Bruce also thanked all members who personally made or donated items for this year's auction.

VI. NEHA REPORT

Bruce Du Hamel reported on his attendance at NEHA's Annual Educational Conference. Bruce stated that this was a very worthwhile experience and that over 1500 E-H professionals from around the world attended NEHA's AEC. He urged all members to attend a future conference. At the AEC state affiliates have caucuses where incoming candidates for NEHA office are introduced and interviewed by the delegates in attendance at the conference.

Bruce Du Hamel invited Ron Grimes, NEHA's 1st Vice-President to speak to the membership. Ron reported that NEHA was incorporated in 1935 in California by a group of Sanitarians to promote excellence in the field of environmental health. Their primary purpose was to provide a credential in the E-H field. NEHA today is a professional organization with over 5000 members. NEHA currently has seven credentials. The 2004 AEC will be held in Anchorage, Alaska. Ron encouraged MEHA members to join MEHA and to visit their website at www.neha.org. Ron indicated that NEHA's monthly Journal is read in over 53 countries throughout the world. Ron stated that NEHA is in the process of creating a presence in Washington DC, and that the Region 6th vice President represents Michigan on the NEHA Executive Board. Ron reported that each year NEHA recognizes individuals and affiliates who show dedication to the field of Environmental Health. This year current MEHA member and Ferris State University Professor Michael Ells received a Certificate of Merit for his many contributions to the profession.

VII. IAFP REPORT

Bruce asked Becky Ouellette to give MEHA's delegate report for the IAFP Conference that she attended in 2003. Becky urged all members to consider attending one of IAFP's Annual Conferences. She stated that professionals from all over the world attend this conference. This year's conference was held in New Orleans and that the 2004 conference would be held in Phoenix. Becky stated that one thing she took away from the conference was that MEHA and Michigan E-H professionals are very well respected around the country and that our educational opportunities are second to none.

VIII. COMMITTEE/LIAISON/AFFILIATE REPORTS

- A. Annual Education Committee – Written Annual Report included in Business Packet.
- B. Audit Committee – Written Annual Report included in Business Packet.
- C. Awards Committee – Written Annual Report included in Business Packet. The Co-chairpersons of this year's committee were Harry Grenawitzke and Mike Ells. They voiced their disappointment with the total number of nominees submitted to the committee for consideration. A nominee for the Young Professional of the Year Award was not even received. This award virtually has to come from the departments themselves. They challenged each department to nominate a person who is having a significant impact in their department, community and in the field of Environmental Health. Each regional association should nominate a peer for each award category. They also urged the board to take action to make the award process easier to nominate and select an award recipient.
- D. Bylaws/Policy and Procedures Revision adhoc Committee – Written Annual Report included in Business Packet.
- E. CEU Committee – Written Annual Report in Business Packet. Application for CEU's is on the organization's Web site at www.meha.net

- F. Endowment Committee – Written Annual Report included in Business Packet. 415 raffle tickets were sold. After expenses approximately \$1000.00 will go into the Endowment Fund. Winners of the 2004 raffle were announced.
- G. Environmental Education Committee – Written Annual Report included in Business Packet.
- H. Food Protection Conference Planning Committee – The turnout for this year's conference was lower than expected however the conference came within the proposed budget. The 2004 Food Protection Conference is scheduled to be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Ann Arbor. The dates for the conference are set for November 3 – 5, 2004.
- I. Grant & Training Fund Committee – No report.
- J. Groundwater Conference Planning Committee – This year's conference was very successful. The conference came in slightly over budget. This was the first time in ten years that the conference did not come in at or under the proposed budget. The 2004 conference is scheduled to be held at the Holiday Inn in Grayling. The dates for the conference are set for October 5, 6 & 7, 2004.
- K. Legislative Observance Committee – No report
- L. Membership Committee – Reported on under Presidential Report # B.
- M. Nominations & Resolutions Committee – Reported on under Section X, Election Results.
- N. Professional Development Committee – Written Annual Report included in Business Packet.
- O. Ready Reference Committee – Reported on under Presidential Report # B.
- P. Recreational Waters Conference Committee – The 2004 conference is scheduled for April 14 at the Sheridan Inn in Lansing. Concurrent sessions on swimming pools and bathing beach issues will be presented in the a.m. session.
- Q. Sanitarian Registration adhoc Comm. – Reported on under Presidential Report # C.
- R. Wastewater Conference Planning Committee – Written Annual Report included in business packet.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. The board was urged to review the annual membership dues and the conferences overall revenues and expenses. The annual dues are low when compared to the dues of many other professional organizations. The revenues and expenses of each conference should be consistently looked at and scrutinized to make sure they are kept in line.
- B. A member reported that there was some confusion in the room rate for this year's conference. Some departments reserved hotel rooms over the internet for \$20.00 less per night than the MEHA conference rate. These departments were required by the hotel to pay the additional fee. Bruce Du Hamel said he was aware of this and that fees are charged in a variety of areas to cover the cost of the entire event. Fees for each conference are negotiated in advance. Consequently if room rates would be lowered, then cost for other portions of the conference would have to be raised or not included in the registration fee.

A member pointed out that this type of arrangement was not an unusual way for professional organizations to cover expenses of a conference. He pointed out that this organization does not enter into contracts with minimum room reservation guarantees that could be very costly to the organization if a conference has low attendance.

It was stressed by many members that their departments needed to know exact cost for conference attendance and do not want to have a situation where departments that have employees staying overnight may be covering part of the conferences expenses for departments that commute and do not have any room expenses. The board was asked to separate out expenses for future conferences.

X. ELECTION RESULTS

Joe Crigier, Chairperson of the Nominations & Resolutions Committee announced the results of MEHA's annual election. Joe encouraged all members to step forward and run for offices in the future.

- SSS Representative – Tricia Dreier
- At- Large Representative – Mary Malta
- President-elect – Brian Cecil
- Strategic Fund Initiative – Option # 1 was approved. “Sequester the funds in a protected account for a period of 3 years and return the issue to the membership in March 2007.”
- MEHA By-laws and Constitution – Revisions passed.

Bruce Du Hamel thanked all nominees for running for office.

XI. PASSING OF THE PRESIDENTIAL GAVEL TO BRUCE Du HAMEL

Bruce Du Hamel was unable to “officially” pass the MEHA Presidential gavel to incoming President John N. Gohlke because he said that he left the gavel in his office. After several “yea right” from the floor Janet Phelps produced a real hammer and gave it to Bruce as a stand-in for the official presidential gavel. John gracefully accepted the new “gavel” and with one quick action asked for a motion from the floor to adjourn the meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mike Ells and seconded by many members in attendance to adjourn the Annual Business Meeting. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Hauck R.S.
Secretary MEHA
March 18, 2004