



# MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

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

## MICHIGAN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

June 6, 2008

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Executive Board of the Michigan Environmental Health Association held a meeting on June 6, 2008, at the Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center in Roscommon, Michigan. President Bob Paulus called the meeting to order at 8:40 am.

Members Present: Bob Paulus, Erin Miller, Adeline Hambley, Tracy Nelson, Nancy Atwood, Lynne Tarbutton, Ken Priest, John Texter, Gene Paez, and Darren Bowling

Members Absent: Janet Phelps, excused

Guests Present: Pat Donovan, Julie Zdybel, Holly Gohlke, Barb Nickels, Kristen Schweighofer, Tricia Dreier, Becky Krzyzanowski, Kevin Halfman, and Chris Klawuhn

### **II. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

**Motion by Erin Miller and seconded by Nancy Atwood to accept the agenda as submitted. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.**

### **III. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

A. Approval of April 25, 2008 minutes

Minutes amended:

“Aggressive growth funds” removed from treasurer’s report.

**Motion by Erin Miller and seconded by Gene Paez to accept the minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.**

### **IV. TREASURER'S REPORT**

John Texter submitted statement May 15, 2008 through June 4, 2008

Funds have increased since last reported.

Tricia Dreier asked questions about deposits from fundraisers. John Texter clarified that these deposits were payments received from the silent auction.

**Motion by Lynne Tarbutton and seconded by Tracy Nelson to accept the treasurer's report. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.**

**V. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**A. MOU Conference Committee—Conference Proceeds**

Bob Paulus brought up concerns with the MOU that was provided by MOWRA to MEHA to sign. Bob questioned how much seed money was given to help start the conferences, but the MOWRA committee has not yet given that information to Tracy Nelson. There was general discussion about the amount, if any, MEHA provided initially.

Bob Paulus expressed concerns with Section 8 of current MOU, due to the unspecified amount to be given to MEHA of proceeds earned every year. The current rewritten MOU wants to maintain a \$20,000 balance in the account. Also, MOWRA would like to be provided a report of how the funds given to MEHA were used, as they would like the funds used for wastewater education. Bob Paulus would like board members to review the MOU so that a signed copy can be provided back to MOWRA.

There was general discussion about MEHA's current and future role in the wastewater conference.

Contract tabled until next meeting. Tracy Nelson will email the 2009 contract to the board for review prior to next board meeting.

**B. Policy & Procedure Manual**

Pat Donovan stated that the committee chairs were charged with reviewing the current policy & procedures and provide feedback to the P&P chair (Brian Cecil). Not all committee chairs have completed this review and provided the feedback back to Brian Cecil.

Erin Miller stated that there was also a plan for the board to review the P&P's, but Brian found multiple versions of the P&P in existence. As the process stands, Brian Cecil was to find the most recent version of the P&P and provide a copy of the board for review.

Bob Paulus will check-in with Brian Cecil and report back to the board.

**C. Website Update**

Covered yesterday

**D. NEHA Update**

A letter was sent to NEHA to reconsider Michigan as a location for the 2011 AEC. Bob Paulus received a phone call from the President of NEHA stating that the request will be taken to the board for reconsideration. Bob Paulus will try and attend the board meeting to represent MEHA.

## **VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Policy & Procedure  
See above
- B. Journal—Set deadline for summer edition  
Waiting for logos and reports to be submitted. Affiliate reports to be received by Tracy Nelson by June 12, 2008.
- C. Journal—Going online—Policy & Procedure needs  
Tabled

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. MALPH Contract  
Copy of MALPH contract has been provided to the board for review. Contract has not been changed from previous contract. Bob Paulus recommends contract be signed.

**Motion by John Texter and seconded by Erin Miller to sign the current contract as received from MALPH. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.**

- B. Budget Review & Approval  
Tricia Dreier brought up questions about the proposed budget regarding the fundraisers line item vs. the endowment committee. There was general discussion about the accounting practices and the notation of the funds on the budget.

**Motion by Erin Miller and seconded by Ken Priest to accept the current budget. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.**

- C. Michigan Licensure  
Pat Donovan reported about the differences between licensure and registration. He discussed current committee charges:
  1. Reviewing the new Sanitarians Administrative Rules (2008 drafts).
  2. Reviewing statute language from States other than Michigan where licensure is mandated.
  3. Drafting a definition of a scope of practice for Michigan.
  4. Proposing a strategy for inclusion of current practitioners who are not credentialed.
  5. Creating a draft of legislation to mandate licensure of the profession in Michigan.

Refer to attached committee report (Attachment 1) for details of what was presented.

There was general discussion of licensure issues. Erin Miller asked if codes would have to be amended to reflect licensure? Pat Donovan stated only the scope of practice would have to be changed, not the codes themselves.

Nancy Atwood raised questions about insurance and licensure. General discussion about how licensure would not change insurance requirements. If an individual worked for a public health organization he/she would be covered under tort law. If in private practice,

insurance requirements would be no different under licensure than under current requirements.

Kristen Schweighoefer asked how many state inspectors are R.S/R.E.H.S registered that may not be MEHA members? Holly Gohlke said that slowly the profession is eroding. Currently the DEQ does not recognize or encourage registration; therefore fewer and fewer people are obtaining that registration. Currently people are being moved into the profession who do not have the education or training to be doing the position.

Pat Donovan explained the need for extending the license to currently non-credentialed people in the profession and used the term grandfathering. Initially grandfathering would apply, however this would not be something that stays with the profession as time passes, it is only a temporary allowance extended to current people in the profession to enable them to continue their work until they leave the profession. Those given the 'grandfather license' would have the same status and accountability under the law as those who held a traditional license.

Nancy Atwood asked Pat Donovan why registration is not enough?

Pat Donovan explained that the current Registration process is poor at best. It is voluntary, requires no CEU's, provides documentation of the ability of the holder, but has no requirement for an employer to hire holders of the registration. Pat Donovan further explained that the REHS is not written into Michigan statute it is not recognized by the statute language, as is the RS which is a protected title. REHS is an academic credential, it is not a license. He explained in analogy that even though driver's training has been completed, a driver's license is still required to drive the car.

Darren Bowling stated there will probably be concerns from the membership regarding added costs for licensure on top of REHS/RS registration costs.

Bob Paulus said that another person should be added to the committee to represent local public health (not a director). Pat Donovan said he will extend an invitation.

Bob Paulus said the message and information needs to get to membership so that ad hoc committee can move forward on the issue.

**Motion by Gene Paez and seconded by Erin Miller that MEHA move forward and the licensure ad hoc committee takes it to the next level. Information regarding licensure to be released to membership via the web and journal.**

General Discussion:

Bob Paulus stated that the motion be amended to reflect a 'for' or 'against' status on licensure.

**Motion amended by Gene Paez and seconded by Erin Miller that the licensure ad hoc committee move forward and pursue licensure on behalf of MEHA. Information regarding licensure to be released to membership via the web and journal.**

General Discussion:

Ken Priest asked why is this issue so rushed, where is the acceleration coming from?

Pat Donovan first explained that this is not rushed. A fund and a task to pursue mandatory licensure for the profession have existed since 1995. The question of maintaining the fund or

it's intended purpose has been brought back to the membership in 1998, 2001, 2004, and 2007. All four times, the membership voted to continue the fund for its purpose.

Pat Donovan explained that the current acceleration of effort is coming from the MALEHA. The MALEHA adHoc committee is currently pursuing mandatory licensure and will recommend the entire forum endorse licensure at the next meeting on June 19. Pat would like to present MEHA's position on this issue at the meeting, and is seeking direction from the executive board.

Ken Priest asked where the committee charges came from?

Bob Paulus explained that through board vote, the board approved him (Bob Paulus) to form an ad hoc committee to pursue this issue. The charges were put in place by Bob Paulus.

Ken Priest asked why a motion was needed to proceed at this point?

Pat Donovan explained that he has completed the preliminary work on the question, now is the time to proceed, if MEHA is going to proceed, and Pat Donovan needs to know if the committee is to proceed towards licensure on behalf of MEHA. Pat Donovan is requesting a board vote to direct him.

Darren Bowling asked when this issue would be brought in front of the membership?

Tricia Drier explained that in 2007 there was a vote to keep funds in strategic fund in-order to pursue licensure.

Nancy Atwood asked for clarification on this vote. She explained pursue is different then making a decision on membership behalf. She requested that the minutes reflect the following:

“I believe the board is pursuing actions that may not reflect membership desires, and the membership should vote on this issue before moving forward.”

A copy of the MEHA Strategic Fund Ballot Question from March 2007 (see above for documentation that this vote is a repeat of 1998, 2001, 2004 votes on the same question) was reviewed by the board (see Attachment 2). This issue was brought before the membership at the 2007 AEC and the majority vote was to keep the strategic fund for the pursuit of mandatory licensure. The ballot provided the history of the strategic fund, which states the following:

“The moneys generated by this surcharge were to be held by the MEHA treasury for the specific purpose of funding an effort to mandate licensure of Sanitarians in Michigan”

**Motion Amended by Gene Paez and seconded by Erin Miller to state:**

**“The (licensure ad hoc) committee will move forward and pursue the mandate of licensure of sanitarians in Michigan on behalf of MEHA. Information regarding licensure to be released to membership via the web and journal.”**

A Roll Call vote was taken:

Votes were as follows:

Yea: Gene Paez, Tracy Nelson, Darren Bowling, Ken Priest, John Texter, Erin Miller, Adeline Hambley

Nay: Nancy Atwood

Absent (excused): Janet Phelps, Lynne Tarbutton

Abstain: Bob Paulus

## **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. AEC

No report

B. Audit

No report

C. Awards

Pat Donovan will move forward with the purchase of one gross of speaker gifts (engraved laser pointers).

Nancy Atwood will move forward with own speaker gifts for AEC 2009.

D. By-Laws Ad-Hoc

No report

E. Continuing Ed

No report

F. Endowment

No report

G. Environmental Education

No report

H. Environmental Health Curriculum

Pat Donovan stated that Lake Superior State University is seeking international accreditation. Central Michigan University will have students begin in the fall. MEHA members should do their part in helping students in the field.

Ken Priest suggest MEHA create information packets about MEHA and Environmental Health to send to the EH students.

Gene Paez also suggested getting information pamphlets from the universities to hand out at conferences as this will help universities generate interest in environmental health.

I. Food Protection Conference

No report

J. Grant and Training Funds

No report

K. Groundwater Wastewater Conference

No report

L. Membership

Committee charges should be changed as follows:

Delete: "Finalize and obtain approval for printing MEHA's 'Your Professional Association' pamphlet and make available at conferences"

Add: "Make information about MEHA available to the public"

Add: "Work to increase membership and pursue new members"

**Motion by Erin Miller and seconded by Gene Paez to accept the changes to the Membership Committee charges as suggested. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.**

M. Nominations and Resolutions

No report

N. Professional Development

No report

O. Ready Reference

No report

P. Wastewater Conference

No report

Q. Website Development

No report

R. Licensure/Credential Ad-Hoc

See above and Attachment 1

S. Journal Committee

Add new Journal Committee with the following charges:

1. Recruit articles for publication in journal.
2. Review articles upon submission and approve for publication.
3. Format journal into final copy and submit to president-elect for final approval.
4. President-elect to submit final approval prior to distribution to the membership.

**Motion by Erin Miller and seconded by Tracy Nelson to create Journal Committee and accept the committee charges as stated. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.**

**IX. NEXT MEETING**

The Executive Board will meet July 18, 2008 at the Ottawa County Health Department in Holland, Michigan. The meeting will start at 10am on July 18, 2008.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Tracy Nelson and seconded by Gene Paez to adjourn the Executive Board Meeting at 12:40 pm. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Adeline Hambley, REHS*

Adeline Hambley, REHS  
MEHA Secretary  
June 6, 2008

## Attachment 1

# MEHA Committee Annual Report 2008 - 2009

Name of Committee: Ad hoc Registration/Licensure Committee

Committee Chair: Pat Donovan, R.S.

Committee Members: Steve Tackitt, Dick Fleece, Jim Dingman, Harry Grenawitzke,  
Eric Pessel (MALEHA REP)

Board Liaison: Robert Paulus, Executive Board President 2008-2009

### Charges:

1. Review the new Sanitarians Administrative Rules (2008 draft)
2. Review statute language from States other than Michigan where licensure is mandated
- 3 Draft a definition of a scope of practice for Michigan
4. Propose a strategy for inclusion of current practioners who are not credentialed
5. Outline a draft of legislation to mandate licensure of the profession in Michigan.

Present completed Drafts of Position Statement, Problem/Resolution Statements, Scope of Practice Recommendations on Appropriate Procedures to the MEHA President for delivery to the Executive Board. By Oct.1, 2008

### Accomplishments:

(April 25, 2008) Committee is in place, charges have been identified and approved by the MEHA President, reviews of Adm rules and draft of scope are underway

(May 23, 2008) First joint meeting with MALEHA (minutes attached)

1. MALEHA ad hoc recommends proceed with Licensing, package will go to the MALEHA Forum on June 19, 2008 (Pessel, Fleece, DuHamel, Hall, London)
2. Initial drafts of Scope of Practice are under review.
3. Key elements of the MEHA Charges (6) received by MALEHA ad HOC (attached in minutes)

(June 19, 2008) next MALEHA forum meeting, next MEHA/MALEHA Committee Meeting

### Suggestions for next meeting:

1. Have the committees prepare to follow the current Adm. Rules package as guidance
2. Prepare briefing documents on Problem Statement, Resolution Proposal, Outline of legislative package.
3. Prepare a methodology for advising the membership and soliciting their input
4. Outline a recognition for the timeline of the legislature to receive the package.

Commentary by the Chair: MALEHA apparently is preparing to proceed whether MEHA is involved or not, whether MEHA is in favor of Licensing the Profession or not. While I believe Local Environmental Health Departments play a critical role in the profession, they do not represent the profession. Should MALEHA (100% Local Health Dept. oriented and focused) proceed without MEHA, the outcome of licensing may be exclusionary for Private Practioners, Corporate Sanitarians, State and Federal Employees and Academicians. MEHA exists in Charter to represent the Profession in it's entirety, not just Local Health Departments.

Clarification of this issue to the membership is key in progressing toward achieving success in the licensing effort. Already, ill informed or personal agenda oriented individuals are lending effort to derail this process. Those individuals are acting without regard for the continued erosion of the profession in Michigan. Four cases in point need to be brought to attention:

1. Home Inspection/Point of Sale programs exist in several areas of the State of Michigan. Often times, performance of this contract work involves a Sanitary Survey of the on site water supply, on site waste water treatment system, plumbing cross connection surveys, inspection of on site pools, spa pools, hot tubs and major appliances such as HVAC, etc. Additionally, pest control/prevention inspections accompany this process. There is no requirement for pre qualification for individuals to perform this work.
2. Michigan has a rapidly growing Bed and Breakfast Industry. Businesses of this type often include facilities with on site water, on site waste water, hot tubs, swimming pools, steam rooms, saunas, institutional housing, laundries, vector control, food preparation and service, massage service, etc. These businesses prominently display certificates that they have been professionally inspected and approved. By Who????
3. Service Companies are starting up in Michigan where contract for money service is provided to a home owner for their advanced on site waste water treatment system. Maintenance of those systems under 6000 gpd is not overseen by regulatory authority. Private pools, spas, etc. undergo the same contract for money services, with no pre qualification oversight.
4. A Local Health Department facing a budget crisis, has to suffer attrition, and professional staff is laid off, or vacant positions are not filled. Understaffed, the Dept. must decide what work is not going to be performed for that budget cycle. The demand for the work to be done is still there and a private enterprise group undertakes the work for contract pay. There are no pre existing qualifications for anyone who is performing that work. There are no in place accountability standards for individuals doing this work in a substandard fashion.

These are four of potentially many examples where there is a demonstrated need for a qualified professional to perform service, and it does not happen. Licensing the profession will correct this.

## ATTACHMENT 2

### MEHA STRATEGIC FUND BALLOT QUESTION March 2007

At the March 2004 AEC, the MEHA membership voted to sequester the balance of the Strategic Fund for a three year period. The vote also directed the Board to bring the issue back before the membership to determine what next to do with the fund. This ballot direction was identical to a vote which took place in 1998 and again in 2001.

#### HISTORY

The MEHA Strategic fund was initiated in 1996, after a vote during a 1995 AEC from a motion brought before the group during the AEC business meeting. The initial vote was for a \$5 per year per member surcharge on dues for a period of three years. The moneys generated by this surcharge were to be held by the MEHA Treasury for the specific purpose of funding an effort to mandate licensure of Sanitarians in Michigan.

The fund, since 1998, has continued to grow based only upon interest compounded from the original surcharged dollars of \$3800 (surcharging stopped in 1998), and the fund is at \$14,500.55 as of February 22, 2007.

At the annual business meeting held on March 15, 2004, a majority of membership in attendance directed the Executive Board to sequester the monies in the Strategic Fund for a period of three years, after which direction would once again be sought from the membership if the Fund had not been utilized.

The Executive Board has decided two viable options exist relative to the fate of the Strategic Fund account. Because of the importance of this issue, MEHA's entire membership is being asked to vote, not just those who will be in attendance at the March, 2007 AEC. The two options are offered below. If you are not an active member at the time your ballot is cast, your ballot will not be able to be counted.

**Mark an X next to the option of your choice. MARK ONLY ONE OPTION.  
Return this ballot as indicated in the instructions for absentee ballots.**

\_\_\_ Option 1. Keep the funds in a protected investment account for three years while the Executive Board develops a strategy for licensure. Return to the membership at the AEC Business Meeting in 2010 for further direction on the Fund.

\_\_\_ Option 2. Redirect the Strategic Fund in 2007. Abandon the funding effort for licensure, keep the Strategic fund balance in liquid accounts, made accessible to the Executive Board to be used in accordance with the MEHA Constitution and By Laws.