

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

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

DATE: February 29, 2012

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

Leon Bethune, Kathleen MacVarish, Michael Moore, Jennifer Murphy, Dan Ottenheimer, Gary Perlman, Alan Perry, Larry Ramdin, Steve Ward, Natasha Warden, Jim White

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**I WELCOME**

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

**Proposal for Choke Saving Regulation Change**

The president recognized Robin Williams and John McNally to present their proposal to alter the choke saving requirements for food establishments to the board. Their platform is to lower the number of required seats in establishments from twenty five to zero. They are seeking the association's support.

**II MINUTES**

There were no minutes submitted for approval

**III TREASURER'S REPORT**

Balances for the bank accounts total \$77,543.80.

The second installment of the EP Grant will be arriving soon.

**IV COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Coalition for Public Health**

G. Cody reports the Coalition is working with the state to develop a template document for emergency shelter planning for municipalities and regional shelter organizations. The state has hired a consulting firm.

**Education**

J Murphy reports the "On-Site Wastewater" training had 168-170 attendees. The need for demographic data from attendees was discussed again (it's a stipulation for grant money used to subsidize the cost of the training).

There was a review of the presentations for the housing-themed educational session coming up in March.

The board discussed locations for the associations "Annual Meeting" in May. Some of the topics being considered are a speaker to present the science behind anaerobic digestion, chickens in residential areas and SMART (Small Animal Rescue Team) on what to do with household pets in an emergency situation.

## **Food Safety**

M. Moore approached the board about one of his colleagues at the Food Protection Program, Linda Sperandio, who has a talent for planning meetings. She is well versed with the hospitality industry and is willing to assist the board when negotiating/ signing contracts with hospitality venues. The board extended an invitation for Ms. Sperandio to speak at one of our meetings.

The Boston Seafood Show is 3/12 – 3/13/12 at the Seaport Hotel.

The Wholesale Food Code is undergoing revisions including the definition of “wholesale” vs. “retail” establishments and review of permit applications limiting the local authority 10 days to comment on viability (there is no plan review by the state authority).

Currently there are 249 vending machine permit holders and approximately 22,000 vending machines in the state. The School Nutrition Regulation is looking at increasing the fee for vending machine permits in schools to increase from \$3 to \$20 to fund regulatory agent’s salaries.

## **Website**

G Perlman reports one of the associations domain names had expired temporarily and has been reinstated.

G. Perlman proposed the board allocate funds to hire a security consultant ( Kenneth Crowder, \$100/ hour for 1-3 hours) to review the website to ensure it is adequately protected and purchase a subscription to “Admin Gen” to block against attackers ( approximately \$26/ yr).

R. Hanson made a motion that the board allocates \$300.00 to hire Mr. Crowder for a security review of the website and \$26 dollars for the “Admin Gen” subscription. M. Moore seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Also, G. Perlman suggested the board subscribe to “Constant Contact” for 18 months to manage “bounce-backs” and to have the ability to send attachments with emails.

R. Hanson made a motion for the board to approve the 18 month subscription to “Constant Contact”. Seconded by H. Porter. Motion passed unanimously

## **IV OLD BUSINESS**

### **Workforce Development**

K. MacVarish reports the ETHER course is full.

Also the Fellows of Local Public Health Institute will hold its graduation ceremony on March 26, 2012 at Tower Hill in West Boylston. The graduates are Pat Maloney, Dave Naparstek, Kevin Sweet, Phil Lazar, Kitty Mahoney and Sandra Martin. The president is hoping for a strong attendance of board members

### **Award Committee**

J. White requests member submit all nominations by March 23, 2012 so they can be ready for the Annual Meeting

### **NEHA Annual Conference and Education Session**

The conference will be held in San Diego in the end of June. Four board member expressed interest in attending.

### **Choke Saving Regulation**

The board discussed the virtues of the requested change to the choke saving requirement previously presented.

President Cody will draft a letter from the board declining to offer our support until adequate training is available statewide.

#### Board Vacancies

There will be a vacancy on the board when Sam Wong finishes his term (he is not seeking re-election). Several names were recommended for consideration.

G Cody made a motion to adjourn at 12:00. Seconded by J White. Passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: 4/11/12 @ 10:00