

THE ENVIRONMENTALIST

"PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN CONNECTICUT SINCE 1954"

VOLUME 42 ISSUE 3 SUMMER 2014



Inside this issue:

- **President's Message**

(pg. 1 & pg. 2)

- **CEHA Annual Meeting**

(pg. 3)

- **Yankee Conference**

(pg. 4)

- **Membership News**

(pg. 5)

- **Legislative Updates**

(pg. 6)

- **Annual Summer Meeting**

(pg. 7)

President:

Marco Palmeri

Publicity Chair:

Jeff Catlett

Editor:

Mira Lami

President's Message

By Marco Palmeri

The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) held its Annual Educational Conference (AEC) in Las Vegas, NV, July 7-10, 2014. Each state, region or member affiliate is expected to send a representative and, as CT's President, I was fortunate to attend. As one can imagine, there were many educational sessions, presentations, and special events offered during the 4 day event, many of which ran concurrently. Choosing the right session to attend was difficult at times, but I believe I made the right choices.

As CEHA's President, one of my responsibilities was to attend the Affiliate President's Meeting. At that meeting, I had an opportunity to meet other state and regional representatives, as well as the NEHA Board of Directors. The meeting started with NEHA's President explaining the process of choosing an AEC site. This was in response to the concerns (understandably) raised regarding this year's choice in Las Vegas and the problems some had receiving travel reimbursement, from their employers. The President assured everyone that much thought goes into the process to determine a site, but most importantly, it must be affordable and an attractive location. Clearly, it's hard to compete with Las Vegas in both those categories. The Northeast was mentioned as an option for an upcoming site and I believe, as do others in CEHA, that CT could offer a very competitive and attractive package, especially if we do something in collaboration with the Yankee Conference or other Environmental Health related conference, such as Onsite Sewage Regulators, Food and Dairy Sanitarians, etc. So we will be discussing this topic in the near future.

Also, during the Affiliate President's Meeting, each NEHA Board of Director shared some of their past accomplishments and plans for the upcoming year and, lastly, the local affiliates had an opportunity to share their thoughts, accomplishments and concerns. At that time, it became apparent to me that there was a clear disconnect or lack of communication between NEHA and the local affiliates, to no

(Cont. pg. 2)

(cont. from pg. 1)

fault of anyone. For many of us, it was the first time we were hearing what NEHA and the other affiliates were doing. So I suggested to the NEHA's board that they share their projects and plans, with the affiliates, on a regular basis (not just at the AEC); and develop a means for state affiliates to share and communicate our issues and ideas with each other. This could be simply accomplished by having quarterly conference calls of something similar. Based on the reaction to my suggestion, I was not alone with that perception.

Some of the highlights of the AEC were:

- ◆ The unveiling of the CDC's Model Aquatic Health Code, which was long overdue.
http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/pdf/swimming/pools/mahc/mahc_factsheet.pdf
- ◆ A Foodborne Illness Investigation Training and Recall Response Workshop geared specifically for Industry. <http://www.neha.org/ifiit/index.html>
- ◆ And last, but not least, the Awards Ceremony, where CT's recipient of the NEHA Certificate of Merit was announced. We will formally present the award to that individual at an upcoming CEHA meeting. Stay tuned!

In closing, I had an opportunity to meet and speak with a several other affiliate Presidents and members, throughout the conference regarding membership in our respective associations. We all agreed that member participation in the Association is the "key" to the Association's success. Regardless of the Association's wealth or "Board's experience", it's the enthusiasm and participation of the members that steer the efforts of the Board to address the issues on hand. I mentioned that we (CT) were having trouble getting our members more involved with the association and participation on the Board, which seemed to surprise some, based on their perception of CT being such a highly educated, motivated and extremely opinionated state. Although those perceptions are accurate, we're not hearing much from our membership. Could it be because there are no environmental or public health issues we haven't effectively addressed; or that our members are extremely shy; or perhaps the time commitment is scaring some away? Although I would love to believe the former is true, I know there is so much more to do. It can't be that our members are shy, because I have attended the Summer Meetings, so it must be the time commitment issue. If you are concerned about time commitment, think about teaming up with someone else. Perhaps the position you're interested in can be shared with a co-worker or fellow colleague. We already have some positions that are shared by two members. Regardless of what your issue or concern is we want to hear from you, so please contact me or another CEHA Board member. Thank you!

Respectfully yours,

Marco Palmeri





CEHA Annual Meeting

Friday, November 7, 2014

Anthony's Ocean View

450 Lighthouse Road, New Haven CT 06512

- 8:30-9:00 am Registration
- 9:00-9:15 am Opening Remarks
- 9:15-9:45 am Private Well Program— New Initiatives—Ryan Tetreault, CT DPH Private Well Program
- 9:45-10:15 am Uranium, Arsenic and Pesticide Occurrence in Connecticut- Brian Toal, and Sharee Rusnak, CT DPH- EOHA
- 10:15-10:35 am Overview of General Permit for the Discharge of Low Flow Water Treatment Wastewater - Jim Creighton, CT DEEP
- 10:35-10:50 am Break
- 10:50-11:10 am Siting Wells near Water Mains— Revisiting the 200-foot Rule, Florin, Ghisa— CT DPH Drinking Water Section
- 11:10-12:00 am Common Well Deficiencies, Alex Tabatabai and Chris Urena, Drinking Water Section
- 12:00-1:15 pm Lunch & Business Meeting
- 1:15-2:00 pm Overview of Water Treatment including what typically backwashes, Tiziana Shea, CT DPH Private Well Program
- 2:00-2:15 pm Break
- 2:15-3:30 pm Cross Connection at Food Service Establishments, William Sullivan, CT DPH Drinking Water Section
- 3:30-3:45 pm Wrap-up and questions

This event will provide one training contact hour for food inspector recertification.

Registration fee: \$40 for CEHA Members and \$80 for non-members

Join CEHA and SAVE on this and future training events and enjoy all the benefits!

To register please visit TrainCT at :

<https://ct.train.org>

Payment is due the day of the event. Please make checks payable to: CEHA



**HOTEL ROOM
RESERVATION REQUEST**

Manchester Radisson
700 Elm St
Manchester NH

**\$114 per night (plus tax) single or
double occupancy**

To receive this discounted rate, reser-
vations must be made by **August 13th**.

Call the Manchester Radisson
directly to book your reservation at
1-800-333-3333 or (603) 206-4109.

use the promotion code #
NHHO14

For online bookings visit
www.radisson.com/manchesternh.
Select "more search options" in the
reservation section to enter the
promotional code.

*Hotel rate is for room only and does NOT
include taxes, gratuities, or meals.*

Check-in time: after 3:00 pm
Check-out time: prior to 11:00am

Parking fees:

\$10.00 per vehicle for overnight parking
\$5.00 per vehicle for day parking

Parking tickets should be brought to the
conference registration table to be
validated.

REGISTRATION FORM

MAIL TO: Heidi Peek
City of Nashua
18 Mulberry St
Nashua NH 03055

PHONE: (603) 589-4530

E-MAIL: peekh@nashuanh.gov

Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Check One
Registrations due by August 27th.

- \$150 Full Conference— includes
Wednesday (with dinner) and Thursday
- \$85 Wednesday Only (includes dinner)
- \$75 Wednesday Only (no dinner)
- \$45 Wednesday Dinner (guest)
- \$75 Thursday only

There will be no refunds

Total amount of check enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Yankee Conference

**Program &
Registration**

**52nd Annual
Yankee
Conference on
Environmental
Health**

**September 3-4, 2014
Radisson Manchester
Manchester, NH**



**Sponsored by:
Northern New England
Environmental Health Association &
New Hampshire Health Officers Association**

A Special Thank You

DAVID BOONE,

Glastonbury Health Department

Dave is not only stepping down from the CEHA executive board, he is retiring. Dave is a Past President, a Perriello Award Recipient, and most recently has served as the Legislative Chair

DAVID ROGERS,

Naugatuck Valley Health District

After many years of service on the CEHA Executive Board, Dave has decided to step down in November. Dave is a Past President, a Perriello Award Recipient, and most recently has served as Secretary

Legislative Round-up

Dave Boone, Legislative Chairman

Of the numerous bills the CEHA Legislative Committee tracked this past session, two bills of particular importance were passed and signed by the Governor: Public Act 14-92 “An Act Concerning Outdoor Wood-Burning Furnaces”, and Public Act 14-226, “An Act Concerning Essential Public Health Services and the Euthanization of Animals in a Facility Subject to Regulation by the United States Department of Agriculture”.

The passage of PA 14-92 sustains the requirements for the siting and use of outdoor wood furnaces as specified in CGS 22a-174k. Without the passage of this bill, DEEP and local oversight of the siting of OWB’s would have disappeared. CEHA provided testimony in support of the bill to continue to require vertical and horizontal separating distances, and specify only clean wood be burned in outdoor furnaces. In previous years, CEHA has called for the outright ban of such furnaces. This year, we argued that federal emissions standards coming in to effect do not address the wide spread nuisance impact OWF emissions generate. We were joined by CADH, the American Lung Association, and other environmental groups in this stance. The upholding of our state regulations on this area is an important victory for air quality and public health.

The other huge public health initiative that passed this session was the bill involving the “10 Essential Public Health Services”. This bill, developed and initiated by CADH, sought to modernize the purpose of local health departments and bring LHD responsibilities more in line with national standards. The provision of the 10 essential services by LHD’s is considered to be the method by which communities health needs are best identified and delivered.

PA 14-226 specifies that the LHD’s that currently receive per capita funding shall continue to be funded based on the provision of the 10 essential services, effective October 1, 2014. CEHA did not provide testimony on the bill. We certainly recognized the significance of the new language, but also felt that if the services required are indeed essential to the health of our communities, ALL local health departments should be funded to provide them. It was felt this appeal for equal funding of all local health departments and districts could interfere with the successful passage of the bill, so we remained silent.

You may be asking “...what about the euthanization of animals that is contained in the bill?” That is one of the oddities of politics, that requiring drug companies to humanely euthanize animals is glommed on to a totally unrelated bill. This sort of thing that makes serving on the Legislative Committee so fascinating! Please consider becoming part of the Committee for next session, and do not fear sanitarians will not be responsible for the compassionate killing of test animals!

ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING Hammonasset State Park



Pamela Scully from DPH giving an update on the New Bathing Area Regulations



CEHA members participating in a Food Safety Trivia Game present by Christine Applewhite from DPH