



Connecticut Environmental Health Association

Board of Directors meeting

March 8, 2022

Via Zoom Platform

Call to order: Chris Buter, President at 12:09PM

Attendees: Chris Buter, Tanielle Davis, Scott Cook, Maryam Hosseini, Jeff Polhemus, Mindy Chambrelli, Alyssa Brochu, Liz Kavanah, Katie Baldwin, Kevin Elak, Kristen Amodio, Erica Mikulak, Jennifer Sparks, Phyllis Amodio, Lisa Yu, Michelle Hansen

Guest: Tom Stansfield, new candidate for vice president of CEHA board

Agenda:

Agenda was presented with the following changes: 1) Tom Stansfield has been nominated as the new president elect to the CEHA board 2) comments on CBD and THC in foods from Food Protection and DCP. Scott made a motion to approve the agenda for 3-8-22 with the above changes and it was seconded by Maryam. None opposed, no abstention and the motion passed to approve the amended agenda.

1. **President's Report:** *Chris B.*

An email was sent to consumer protection in regards to CBD and THC being infused into foods. Some things are still unclear but DCP and Food Protection has confirmed that using THC in food is illegal.

Chris met with Lori Mathew, Tracey Weeks and her team recently. He informed her that CEHA does feel left out with a lot of major public health happenings and decision. Frequently, CEHA is the last to know things even after they're made public. Lori was under the impression that once DPH communicated with CADH, CEHA was then automatically made aware of what's happening. Chris clarified that these are two different agencies serving different purposes. Lori agreed that moving forward, CEHA will be kept in the loop about status of bills or anything that is affecting the public health environment.

Chris suggested that a standing agenda should be sent to Lori and her team with an open invite to attend CEHA's monthly meeting whenever possible.

Another topic of discussion was the reciprocal licensing of itinerant vendors. The bill has now gone past the testimony level and now to the advance level. Chris has reached out to Trent (CADH president) with hopes of having a meeting to discuss this.

Lori is enthusiastic about the work we're doing for workforce development. New topics will be sent to the Workforce Committee to seek someone to do presentations and trainings for certified food inspectors.

Lastly, Tracey will be sending out a circular letter with the upcoming trainings.



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2. **Secretary's Report:** *Tanielle D.*

Minutes dated February 8 2022 was presented to the board. There were no changes brought forward. Tanielle motions for the minutes to be accepted as it stands and the motion was seconded by Scott. None opposed, one abstention, motion carried.

3. **Treasurer's Report:** *Scott C.*

Full detail of account balances and transactions can be seen in Scott's email sent on 03-08-22. Income was generated from membership renewals and ads/job posting and expenses were paid for the wild apricot subscription. Another transaction included a membership refund for a member who had accidentally double pay on their account. A sympathy gift basket was purchased and sent to Scott Cook for the passing of his father. There treasurer's report also outlined the budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. No comments or concerns were brought forward on the report. Scott motions to accept the treasurer's report and it was seconded by Phyllis. Motion carried with no abstention or opposition.

4. **Education Report:** *Jennifer S. & Dia D.*

The committee has reached out to Hammonasset about booking the pavilion for the summer picnic. There are a few dates that were up for consideration and the committee would like a consensus on which would work best. The board agreed that July 22nd preferable with consistency of a late July date in previous years. The committee discussed having the food truck again this year and also attaching an educational component, perhaps on the topic of public pools. The committee would like feedback on whether or not a fee should be charged at the summer picnic. Discussion ensued. The committee is also looking to have an educational training in May on the topic of emergency preparedness. More details will follow in the next meeting.

5. **Legislation:** *Liz K.*

There are a few bills that are on the horizon:

- HB05045 Governor's budget contains reduced lead levels
- SB 00239 (Second generation rodenticide prohibition) To prohibit the use of certain rodenticides in locations such as state parks and forests for the protection of hawks, raptors and other wildlife that feed upon such rodents.
- SB00240 (Sodium Chloride on roads) To provide training, certification and protection from liability for roadside applicators of sodium chloride who use best practices when applying sodium chloride which, in turn, will reduce the environmental impact of such applications.



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- SB00153 (itinerant vendor reciprocity) To assess a fee on itinerant food vending establishment licensees to be used by the Department of Public Health to permit reciprocal licensing for itinerant food vending establishments throughout the state.
- HB 05295 (eggs and rabbits) To (1) make changes to the Agricultural Development Council, (2) prescribe requirements for producers selling eggs directly for home consumption, (3) authorize rabbit processing facilities in the state, (4) establish a CT Grown license plate, and (5).
- HB 05155 cannabis products

Discussion on the various bills ensued.

6. **Membership:** *Maryam H.*

There are still 43 members who have yet to renew their membership but renewals are still coming in. A new membership request was sent to the board for Javon Williams and he was approved with a unanimous vote. All committees he noted in his application has been notified of his interest. A thank you card, along with a business card, came in from Judith on her retirement. Kevin noted that Judith would be a great presenter and that education committee should consider her for future training opportunity.

7. **Nomination/ Election:** *Phyllis A.*

An updated nomination form was sent to the publicity chairs for CEHA's website. Welcome to Toms Stanfield from the Torrington Area Health District. Tom has been nominated to become the president elect. Phyllis made a motion to accept the nomination for president elect. It was seconded by Scott.

All were in favor with no opposition or abstention, motion carried. Congratulations Tom!

Scott reminded the board that the national elections for NEHA are also happening and that all NEHA members should vote for Larry Ramdin, Region 9 VP, who has been an asset to Connecticut in the past years. Discussion ensued.

Another discussion was also brought forth on whether Daniel Holmes will be joining as co-chair for the subsurface committee. Jeff will follow-up with Daniel.

8. **Publicity:** *Michelle H. & Lisa Y.*

Job ads have been coming in and being posted to CEHA's website. The spring newsletter will go out late March or early April. The new nominations for that was updated by Phyllis will be posted to website.



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9. **Scholarships/Awards:** *Erica M.*

Erica is looking to finalize the listserve for colleges and universities with majors that's applicable to Public health or Environmental Health in order to draw more scholarship recipient. The list will be sent to the board to add any additional schools that might not be on the list.

Technical Committee:

10. **Lead:** *Kristen A.*

Information on the lead has been sent out and part one must be completed by April 8th. The second part is in person and there are dates and locations to select from. House Bill 5045 which deals with changing the lead levels had public hearing but has not been voted on as yet. Discussion ensued

11. **Food Safety:** *Steve Y. & Katie B.*

The team is still working on settling a time for the monthly meeting. Katie asked if Chris could loop the committee in on the reciprocity meeting with Lori.

12. **Subsurface Sewage:** *Jeff P.*

The committee is trying to coordinate a joint meeting with Don to have a discussion on water treatment and waste water discharge and how to deal with waste water. Upcoming field training opportunity includes a repeat of the *final inspection* training. A possible date would be April 5th and it would be a full day. Another training is on all things related to septic tank: prep site, plastic vs. concrete tanks, riser requirement, riser options, secondary options etc. This is a half day training projected to be on April 6th. The committee is asking CEHA to promote as they did before through mass email and websites.

No update this week from the state health.

13. **Water/Wells:** *Don K.*

Not present at today's meeting

14. **Body Arts/Personal Services:** *Brian F.*

Not present at today's meeting.

15. **Workforce Development:** *Alyssa B. & Brianna S.*

The committee has decided to break out into smaller sub committees. Contact was made with Mario Garcia at DPH who has been working on their current workforce development committee. Next meeting will take place next Tuesday March 15th.



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16. **Old Business:**

Tracey and Matt will conduct a presentation on the digital health inspection via zoom on March 15th at 11am. Adoption of the platform is not going to be required by local health but highly recommended. This platform will be to collect data for the state.

17. **New Business:**

Chris will be presented at SCSU on April 27th to encourage the next generation to join our amazing work field.

Tom Stanfield has accepted the president elect position.

SB00240 (Sodium Chloride on roads) To provide training, certification and protection from liability for roadside applicators of sodium chloride who use best practices when applying sodium chloride which, in turn, will reduce the environmental impact of such applications. Discussion ensued.

18. **Adjourn:** Scott motions to Adjourn and seconded by Katie. Meeting adjourned at 1:24PM