

**ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 30, 2009
Par-A-Dice Hotel board room, East Peoria, IL**

President Kerry Abdullah called the meeting to order at 10:03 am.

ROLL CALL

Present: Kerry Abdullah, Glenn Filip, Wil Hayes, Beverly Slaby, Stefanie Johnson, Diane Gartner, Stan Cieczczak, Kimberly Bradley, Randy Markillie, Maureen O'Dea, Sharron LaFollette, Ph.D., Chad Moorman, Evelyn Neavear, Matt Eggleston, Paul Chase, and Doug Ebelherr.

Excused Absence: Stephanie Cline, Kyle Clemens, and Kathi Landow.

Absent: Brad Rendleman Bonnie Burnett, Diana Golden, Wayne Melichar, Kailas Nagaraj, Larry Mackey, Donnie Simmons, and Todd Campbell.

Ms. LaFollette made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2008 Board of Directors meeting, Mr. Hayes seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

1. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Written reports were provided for October, November, and December, 2008 by Ms. Slaby. The following is a summary of ending balances. See attached reports for line itemized details.

As of October 31, 2008:

Ending account balances: Checking = \$3,457.42 and Savings = \$51,357.20
Total Assets: \$54,814.62; Total Net Change in Assets: \$3,546.65

As of November 30, 2008:

Ending account balances: Checking = \$7,588.71 and Savings = \$57,051.85
Total Assets: \$64,640.56; Total Net Change in Assets: \$9,825.94

As of December 31, 2008:

Ending account balances: Checking = \$11,470.94 and Savings = \$44,571.75
Total Assets: \$56,042.69; Total Net Change in Assets: -\$8,597.87

Ms. Slaby indicated that IEHA was slightly over budget due to a fine paid for the late filing of taxes 3 years ago. The conferences looked great and many of them made money. There is a base \$30,000 in the savings that never gets touched that may be available for investing. Mr. Ebelherr requested information on the net assets from 2007 to 2008. It was noted that there was a typo on line 320 of the 2009 Proposed Budget- it should read \$200.00, not \$2,000.00. The corresponding total remains correct.

Mr. Hayes made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report as amended, Ms. LaFollette seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

2. SECRETARY'S REPORT: None.

3. GUEST'S REPORT: None.

4. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Mr. Abdullah stated that NEHA is looking for information regarding how the economic crisis is affecting providers of environmental health services in Illinois. He will send out an email to board members asking for figures. If time permits, Mr. Filip can put the request in the newsletter as well.

The LEHP Act passed without amendments for a 10 year extension. Since it is not a renewal year, it is not likely that the Act will be opened up for amendments. Mr. Hayes thinks that IEHA should not aggressively seek out the grandfathering of Sanitarians without the educational background requirements, but that IEHA can support it. Ms. O'Dea asked why the grandfathering clause was removed from the Act, and Mr. Hayes indicated that Rep. Saviano recommended that the amendment language be stripped to prevent the Act from sitting in JCAR and dying. Mr. Hayes recommends we send Rep. Saviano a Presidential Citation. Rep. Trion is willing to sponsor such an amendment. Non- LEHPs still have the option to become an EH Inspector if they have an Associate's degree and 9 semester hours in science.

5. **PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT:** Mr. Filip reported that the tentative dates for the AEC have been set for Tues 10/13 & Weds 10/14- no longer in November. We cannot get state room rates at the hotel for more than 1 year out. We are penciled in for 2 yrs. If someone else wants the dates, they can call us and ask us if we want the current rates before they offer the dates up to other parties. Mr. Filip is building his AEC committee- he plans to have more frequent meetings, but by conference call to cut travel costs of committee members. The Père Marquette is to be remodeled within 3 years and will be becoming a new Marriott with a walkway to the Civic Center. Embassy Suites was mentioned as a wonderful venue if change is necessary.

6. **CES REPORT:** A written report dated 1/30/09 was provided by CES. See attachment for details. Email reminders (new this year) to members to renew their memberships were well received. We are not yet up to 2008 member level, but a second reminder will go out in March.

Mr. Chase indicated that Central and South Chapter conference planning committees should have Mr. Ebelherr present to represent CES. A new feature on the website is that conference pages can be clicked on from the calendar. CES would like to add value to the e-version of the newsletter with clickable links.

The FOIA LEHP contact info was passed on to Mr. Hayes in mid-January.

Mr. Chase presented a CES Office Services Contract during the Board Retreat on 1/29/09, suggesting that a new contract be effective immediately upon agreement. CES Members exited the board room for discussion by the IEHA BOD regarding the contract renewal proposal. It was agreed that the new contract should not begin until the existing contract has expired. There was discussion regarding whether or not the contract should be put out for bid. The last time IEHA went out for bid for this contract, UIS and CES came in close to each other and the third party was much more expensive. Ms. O'Dea said it is a good idea to go out for bid regularly, but it isn't necessary now. Mr. Filip said there is an inherent value with the shared interests of CES and IEHA. Ms. Slaby agrees, and said they have worked very well together. Ms. LaFollette added that it is a good idea to consider an audit at some point so we know what the true cost is for the office. Mr. Markillie and Ms. O'Dea volunteered to join the Finance Committee.

Mr. Hayes made a motion for the Finance Committee to work with CES to negotiate a contract. Mr. Filip seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Awards: Mr. Hayes thinks we should re-evaluate the NEHA stipend to send someone whether or not they have been to NEHA in the past 5 years if there are no other applicants. Ms. LaFollette and Ms. O'Dea replied that it

is not in the spirit of the award to send someone regardless of whether or not they've been. There has been discussion over why the stipend has not been applied for- it does not cover all of the costs, it is a busy time of year for Sanitarians, perhaps better promotion would help? Mr. Eggleston suggested broadcast emailing the application and a message. Mr. Ebelherr suggested that the IEHA President send a personal message to the constituents to generate interest.

Finance: Ms. Slaby asked if we need to keep the \$6000 in the budget for the lobbyist. Mr. Hayes said it is best to leave it in the budget in case we need it. Mr. Moorman mentioned that he is lucky to get many industry sponsored speakers for the OWC so he is able to bring in a big profit. Mr. Abdullah recommended that they work on an investment plan for the next finance meeting.

Mr. Hayes made a motion to approve the budget. Ms. LaFollette seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

Constitution and By-laws: Ms. Burnett sent Mr. Abdullah a written report. Email ballots were dismissed as an option because that is not an anonymous method of voting. Ms. LaFollette asked for a draft of the changes to be made, and suggested establishing a policy for interpretations.

Tellers: None.

Membership: None.

Publications: Any articles for the newsletter need to be in by the end of February for the next edition. Mr. Filip also asked for volunteers for the member profile- Mr. Cieczczak and Ms. Johnson volunteered. Mr. Filip will email some questions out to the volunteers.

Public Relations: None.

Strategic Planning: None.

Legislative: Mr. Hayes discussed some amendments to the Smoke Free Illinois Act regarding administrative fines and the appeal process through IDPH. There is no longer a fine range, exact fines are listed. There was an allowance for school smoking research to remain operational. The "Sewage Bill" no longer deals with sewage. He isn't aware of any other current legislative activities. Ms. Foss' lobbyist contract is expired, and she has not solicited for a new contract yet. Mr. Hayes mentioned the need for a new lobbyist (a different one than the PH Administrators), depending upon how active we want to be in the legislative process. IEHA needs a good legislative committee to pursue lobbyists' info if we want to look at EH big picture, with 3-4 core people. Mr. Ebelherr has contacts to pass on that will truly represent IEHA and IEHA's interests. Mr. Chase indicated that IEHA has spent \$24,000 in 8 years for passing acts. Mr. Moorman discussed HB0170 which prohibits surface discharge without EPA permit. It has gone through 3 times but has never made it out of committee because there are enough southern legislators who oppose it. Mr. Moorman and Mr. Hayes plan to keep an eye on the bill.

Mr. Hayes made a motion to not renew with Ms. Foss and to discuss with Mr. Ebelherr other options of hiring a lobbyist with other means. Mr. Filip seconded. Motion carried by voice vote.

Nominating: None.

Professional Development: None.

TECHNICAL SECTION REPORTS:

Food: Ms. Landow provided a written report for Mr. Abdullah to discuss. At a regional directors meeting it was discussed that JCAR will not allow the new Food Service Sanitation Code (FSSC) to be printed with code numbers because that is not what was approved. Ms. Gartner has voiced the concern that her staff is required to post inspection scores at the entrance of establishments in Palatine, so they are not using the new code until they have received direction on how to enforce it. Ms. Gartner is also working on getting an IDPH representative to speak about the code changes at the North Chapter Educational Conference since the FSSC is a major priority for Sanitarians.

Water: None.

Onsite Wastewater: Mr. Moorman reported that a 2009 draft of the sewage code will be sent to JCAR in mid-February. IDPH will go through comments from IALEHA and take them into consideration. It was pulled for revision and resubmitted because of changes in the Act and new technology.

Pest/Vector Control: Mr. Markillie offered assistance in attaining conference speakers.

General Environmental Health: Ms. Nevear reported that the body art rules were adopted by JCAR.

Management: Vacant.

North Chapter Vice-President's Report: Ms. Gartner stated that she plans to finalize the agenda for the Th. 4/02-F. 4/03 North Chapter Educational Conference by 2/20, and that they are well on their way.

Central Chapter Vice-President's Report: Ms. Bradley stated that she is considering another baseball park Central Chapter Educational Conference theme, and the tentative dates are Th 5/14- Fr. 5/15.

South Chapter Vice-President's Report: Ms. Cline forwarded a written report to Mr. Abdullah for discussion. She has begun recruiting members for her Southern Chapter Educational Conference planning committee. The tentative dates are W. 9/02 - Th. 9/03. She also reported that many of the southern health departments are struggling financially and that the Southern 7 consists of directors only at this point.

Old Business:

Ms. Johnson mentioned that Mr. Sarajnecki asked for the Board to review his "LEHP Exam Review Course Responsibilities" document and discuss it at the retreat in January. Mr. Hayes suggested that an Ad Hoc committee draft a contract, which would include nailing down dates in advance with Walter. Mr. Simmons & the Professional Development Committee may already be working on that. Mr. Chase agrees that we need more consistency, and advance notice of the classes for proper planning and advertising.

New Business:

IDPH new sanitarian training dates are scheduled around IEHA Conferences to prevent conflicts.

Adjournment:

Ms. LaFollette made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Filip seconded. The motion was carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by,



Stefanie Johnson, Secretary



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Memorandum

To: Kerry Abdullah, President
From: Paul Chase, Office Manager
Date: January 30, 2009
Subject: IEHA Office Report

The IEHA office has been involved in the following activities since the last board meeting in October:

1. **Membership Program.** The 2009 renewal program began in mid-December. This was the first time that email was used to remind members to renew. The program seemed well received. There are approximately 220 new or renewed members for 2009 so far. A second reminder to renew will go out in March, timed more or less with the distribution of the March newsletter. Last year at this time there were 265 new or renewed members. The final total for 2008 was 524.
2. **Conferences.** The Northern Septic Conference is scheduled for February 3 & 4, 2009, this coming Tuesday and Wednesday, at the Crystal Lake Holiday Inn. This conference experienced the good fortune of having to find space for an overflow of exhibitors and if the weather is clear, walk-in registration should put attendance on a par or better with recent years.

North Chapter Conference. Scheduled for April 2 & 3, the conference will be held at Elgin Community College. Planning is pretty far along – a recent draft agenda looked well on its way to completion.

The AEC is scheduled at the Hotel Pere Marquette on October 13 & 14. Planning is underway.

3. **The Web Site** is being updated as new information is received.
4. **IEHA News.** Since the last board meeting in October, the December issue of the IEHA News was produced and distributed. The next issue is due out on March 15. The deadline for newsletter fodder is March 1. As always, thanks to all who contribute, especially Glenn Filip.
5. **IDFPR FOIA request.** The office was asked to obtain a list with contact information of all LEHP. This list was received in Excel format from the state and was forwarded to Wil Hayes in mid-January.