

MASSACHUSETTS ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH ASSOCIATION

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

DATE: March 9, 2011

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

Leon Bethune, Patrick Maloney, Paul McNulty, Michael Moore, Gary Perlman, Alan Perry, Larry Ramdin, Jim White, Sam Wong, Natasha

I WELCOME

President Cody opened the meeting at 10:11 and welcomes all members in attendance.

Massachusetts National Guard First Civil Response Team

The board had a special presentation by LTC Martin F. Spellacy, commander of the 1st Civil Support Team, Massachusetts National Guard, regarding how the team assists communities with identifying and assessing chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear (CBRNE) agent releases. The team will advise the incident commander but not take control of the situation. LTC Spellacy cited recent examples of the team in action (Brighton, cyanide incident and New Bedford harbor, mustard gas release)

II TREASURER'S REPORT

Balances for the bank accounts total \$79,587.98

The federal "Emergency Preparedness" allotment should be arriving soon. Balances do not reflect expenses for the association's participation at the Food Show.

III COMMITTEE REPORTS

Coalition for Public Health

L Ramdin reports that at the last meeting many health agents expressed their discontent with the regionalization trends proposed by the state. Many see the plan as diluting local health departments as opposed to providing needed services.

P Maloney made a motion to join forces with the Mass. Health Officers Association and re-issue the previous letter to the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health that documents the concerns our constituents have with the regionalization plan. In addition we will ask to have a meeting with the Commissioner and consider holding a press conference to publicize the importance of good public health practices in our communities. Motion was seconded by L Ramdin. Motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Forum

H Porter attended the "new aides training" and informed the board the session was very informative. The event was moderately attended but she urged each member to make an appointment to meet with their local legislator

both for the community you represent and the community you live in to voice your opinion on timely issues (regionalization).

Education

The association will hold a training concerning nuisance issues and their solutions. The session will be held on March 30, 2011 at the Holiday Inn in Dedham. There has been a good response for attendance so far.

The committee is considering having the Annual Meeting at the Four Points by Sheraton in Norwood. The feedback from our members regarding possible topics to cover reveals they prefer topics that support their day to day operations.

Food Safety

The FDA plan review training already has forty participants signed-up (in addition to a waiting list of 14 other individuals). The response has been so great they are pursuing a second session to run at the Yankee Conference.

Website

G. Perlmann reports the website quadrupled it's hits by having the "Food Allergy" training video posted. The careers section is the second most visited area of the website.

All members were urged to send pictures to post on the site.

Yankee Conference

The announcement for the 2011 conference has been posted on the website. Member need to choice the committee they wish to serve for the conference.

There was a discussion of the possibility of capturing programs at the conference, charging a fee to web=participants to view the video and answer questions for CEU's.

Also there was a discussion about accepting paid advertisement for the website. The board concurred that it was best to consult a tax-attorney before venturing into that area

IV OLD BUSINESS

The awards committee is requesting that all nominations be submitted to J White and P Maloney before the end of the month.

There has been a hiatus with the committee reviewing/ rewriting the Housing Code. The final chapter (Enforcement) has been distributed to the committee members.

V NEW BUSINESS

made a motion to adjourn at. Seconded by. Passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: April 12, 2011 at 10:00 AM