

**Montana Environmental Health Association
General Membership Meeting
Wednesday, October 7, 2009
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM Broadway Inn Conference Room
Missoula, MT**

MEHA Board Members Present:

Terry Murphy, President
Crystal Nuño, President Elect
Dan Strausbaugh, Past President
Kathy Moore, Treasurer
Christine Hughes, Secretary
Mary Schroeder, Director/Alternate Treasurer
Mary Lou Gilman, Director
Theresa Blazicevich, Director
Karen Solberg, Director

The meeting was called to order at 11:50 AM. 67 people were in attendance. Christine reviewed the minutes from April 1, 2009. No comments or changes were suggested. Terry motioned to accept the minutes of the general membership meeting from April 1, 2000. Pat Carroll 2nd the motion. The minutes from April 1, 2009 were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Kathy introduced the Treasurer's report. The Treasurer's report was shown to the general membership via computer and screen projection. See attached budget. Conference calls and the budget for the calls were discussed. Currently MEHA has 95 members and 87 registered for the Fall Conference. Kathy discussed the Cabela's raffle for the MEHA Foundation. Current total collections for the raffle were \$1585. Mary Lou Gilman motioned to approve the budget. Chad Lanes 2nd the motion. The budget as submitted was approved.

Fall Conference 2010 Discussion

Crystal explained that the option of a joint Fall Conference with Wyoming for 2010 was being considered. George Larson with the National Park Service Public Health Section who is Chair of the Educational Conference for Wyoming was introduced. WEHA has voted in favor of a joint Fall Conference in 2010. Locations of Mammoth Hot Springs, Gardiner and Chico Hot Springs are being looked at. George stated that costs are being looked into, but no estimates were available at the time of this meeting.

The time frame for the conference would be approximately the last week in September or first week in October. Steve Kilbreath asked how many members were in WEHA. There are approximately 50 – 60 members. Pat Carroll asked what the advantages of partnering with WEHA would be. Crystal responded that partnering for a conference would benefit both associations in that it would provide for collaboration with WEHA and provide networking opportunities with a neighboring state. Educational opportunities inside Yellowstone Park exist also. There may be an opportunity to view Yellowstone's

wastewater treatment plant and the location would likely be a large draw for speakers. Pat Carroll asked if the venue had been determined. A specific venue had not been determined and this would need to be taken into consideration. Shannon Therriault asked if specific topics per MT Code would be discussed and if a joint conference may present any disadvantage in the respect of discussing laws specific to each state? Crystal responded that it is most likely that break-out sessions would need to be incorporated in order to accommodate both states needs. Julie Lethert asked if there would be any cost savings by holding a joint conference. This would need to be determined. Greg McGann suggested that a different approach to the Conference Planning Committee would apply with two parties involved. Crystal agreed that a different approach would be needed.

George Larson expressed that speakers will most likely be more than happy to come to Yellowstone to speak, thus a large draw for quality speakers. Jim Zabroki motioned to hold the Fall Conference in Yellowstone in 2010. Mary Schroeder seconded the motion. Pat Carroll amended the motion to include a cost analysis of holding the Fall 2010 conference at Yellowstone, presenting the cost to the membership and then determining how to proceed. Barbara Woodbury volunteered to assist with conference planning, should it be held in Yellowstone. Rachel Lewis moved to accept the amended motion. Dean Pomeroy 2nd the amended motion. Crystal stated that if things don't work out with holding the conference in Yellowstone, Yellowstone County would be a good alternate plan.

Discussion of By-Law Changes

Crystal explained that the Articles of Incorporation (A.O.I.) and By-Laws committee had worked on some proposed changes stemming from previous discussions of two year terms for Board members. Several other changes also were incorporated into the By-Laws and A.O.I.'s as a matter of updating the content to allow the incorporation of new Board positions.

The first change discussed was in the By-Laws; the change of membership renewal date from January 1 to December 31 to October 1 to September 30. The purpose of this change is to allow for easier accounting and to pay for MEHA membership for the coming year at each Fall conference.

Many members expressed concern with this change. A summary of concerns was:

- 1) If MEHA registration forms come out too late, counties may not get funding until November, thus monies to pay registration and dues may not be available until after the Fall conference. It was suggested that MEHA registration forms be sent out mid August to early September.
 - It was discussed that a remedy for this would be to issue renewals/Fall registration with enough advance notice to allow adequate time for funding. Reminder notices could be sent out during the year for MEHA dues.

- 2) Some members feel the current system of payment is confusing. Some members expressed that October to September would not be a problem and that this would make the payment cycle very clear. Chad Lanes stated that the reason for the current yearly cycle was due to holding the Fall conference in October and that most members paid at that time. Kathy Moore expressed that the current method of payment had not previously been a problem, but after the Treasurer change of positions in 2008, all previous records were gone, thus requiring dues paid to start anew, making it difficult to tell who had paid for which year.

Jake Kammerer motioned that dues paid at the Fall conference carry forward to 2010, and that the membership will be valid from January 1 – December 31, as per the current system and existing By-Laws. Mike Rinaldi seconded the motion with the amendment that yearly dues may be pre-paid at each Fall conference for the following year (2 months ahead). The motion carried.

The second change to the By-Laws was the addition of the Excellence Award. The Excellence Award was not listed in the By-Laws and was added.

Discussion of Changes to Articles of Incorporation

Crystal discussed the restructuring of the Board of Directors. At the previous Spring conference, 2 year terms for Board members was discussed. The main purpose of two year terms is to keep continuity within the organization. A problem with 2 year terms would be that being on the Board could potentially be up to an 8 year time commitment. To alleviate the time commitment, 1 year terms for President, President-Elect, Past-President and First Vice President were discussed. The four Directors, Secretary and Treasurer would serve 2 year terms.

Under the proposed changes, Committee members (i.e., addition of President-Elect, First Vice President) would change. The proposed changes regarding committee members are reflected in the proposed changes to the Articles of Incorporation.

Under this structure, the President would act as more of a figure-head, participating in MEHA business outside of conference planning.

Jake Kammerer motioned that the Board structure be approved as proposed and that the proposed changes to the By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation also be approved as presented. Chad Lanes seconded the motion. The motion carried and is immediately effective.

Board Position Nominations

First Vice President:

Nominations from the floor were called for for First Vice President. Theresa Blazicevich nominated Karen Solberg. Greg McGann nominated Rod Fink. Rod declined the

position. Jennifer Pinnow moved to close nominations. Doris Morgan seconded the motion. Karen Solberg was elected by acclimation as First Vice President.

President-Elect:

Nominations from the floor were called for for President-Elect. Theresa Blazicevich nominated Christine Hughes. Greg McGann nominated Theresa Blazicevich. Theresa declined the position. Terry closed nominations from the floor and motioned that Christine be elected President-Elect. Karen Solberg seconded the motion. Christine Hughes was elected by acclimation as President-Elect.

Secretary:

Nominations from the floor were called for for the position of Secretary. Jake Kammerer nominated Mary Lou Gilman. Mary Lou declined the position. Corrine Rose was nominated. Corrine declined the position. Julie Lethert nominated Linda Ito. Linda Ito declined the position. Mary Schroeder was nominated. Terry moved to close nominations. Julie Lethert seconded the motion. Mary Schroeder accepted the position and was elected by acclimation as Secretary.

Director/Alternate Treasurer:

Nominations from the floor were called for for the position of Director/Alternate Treasurer. Kathy Moore nominated Frank Preskar. Frank accepted the nomination. Julie Lethert nominated Tom Moore. Tom accepted the nomination. Terry motioned to close nominations and vote by ballot. Kathy Moore seconded the motion. By majority vote, Frank Preskar was elected as Director/Alternate Treasurer.

Director/ 1 Year:

Nominations from the floor were called for for position of Director, to fill the remaining 1 year portion of the two year term. Mary Lou Gilman nominated Jeanna McPherson. Ralph Hamler was nominated also. Ralph declined the position. Crystal nominated Greg McGann. Mary Lou moved to close nominations. Corrine Rose seconded the motion. Nominations were closed and voted on by ballot between Jeanna McPherson and Gregg McGann. By majority vote, Jeanna McPherson was elected Director for the remaining one year of directorship.

2 Year Director:

Nominations from the floor were called for for a two year Director position. Julie Lethert nominated Tom Moore. No further nominations were received. Kathy Moore motioned to close nominations. Terry seconded the motion. Tom Moore was elected to the two year Director position by acclimation.

New Business

Jennifer Pinnow made a recommendation to the Nominations Committee that for future nomination sessions a prepared agenda or ballot be made, to the extent possible, in order to conserve time at the general membership business lunch. She discussed the

importance of making sure the Board is balanced with people who have been Sanitarians for longer lengths of time vs. shorter lengths of time.

Mary Schroeder discussed the fact that the Membership committee had completed the new MEHA pamphlet and membership envelopes. These are meant to give to any potential member of MEHA.

Melissa Tuemmler discussed historical articles that Jerry Cormier had in his possession. She will give these items to the new MEHA president.

Due to shortage of time, no further items were discussed.

Shannon Therriault motioned to adjourn. Theresa Blazicevich seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 1:20 pm.