

Montana Environmental Health Association
Board of Directors Meeting
Phone Conference 1 pm
October 4, 2011

Board members present:

Karen Solberg, President
Ruth Piccone, President Elect
Josh Juarez, Treasurer
Steve Kilbreath, Director
Eric Leigh, Director
Clark Snyder, Secretary
Mary Lou Gilman, Director
Laurel Riek, 1st Vice President

Board members absent:

Christine Hughes, Past President
Frank Preskar, Alt. Treasurer/Director

Call to Order

Karen Solberg called the meeting to order at approximately 1:05. The meeting was held by phone conference.

Finance Report

Overall the budget wasn't impacted significantly by hosting a joint conference with MPHA. MEHA had a budget of 10500 for the conference and after the costs of speakers, food, and hotel the total costs are at 6200 tentatively. There are still costs for AV Technical Assistance and equipment, and miscellaneous that are not included at this time.

Old Business

Karen mentioned that joint conference planning takes a lot of work and correspondence with MPHA. MEHA came into the planning of fall conference a little late this year so MPHA took the lead on the keynote speakers, registration, and menus. In the future MEHA would want to play a bigger part in choosing keynote speakers.

Attendance was down, only 49 registered for MEHA conference compared to last year's 80 registered attendees.

Fall business meeting at the conference revealed that 36/133 MEHA members, or 27% voted to have joint conferences.

MEHA Survey

MEHA Survey Findings:

- Two major barriers for attending fall conference according to the survey was distance and travel costs.
- Number one time first week in October.
- 27% want a joint conference annually; 25% want a joint conference every other year; 25% want a joint conference every three to five years; and 7% only want a MEHA only conference.

2012 MEHA Conference Planning

- Mary Lou expressed that she is in favor of a Joint conference because it makes sense from an economic stand point because we are sharing expenses and networking during legislative sessions is beneficial.
- Steve echoed Mary Lou on the idea of having a joint conference with MPHA prior to legislative sessions. Having a joint conference prior to legislative sessions would be beneficial for forming alliances and teamwork. Have breakout meetings on who's going to be doing what or maybe have a legislative team approach.
- The point was made that the MEHA survey is suggesting that the majority of members would like a joint conference, but not every year.
- Ruth made the point that, networking is important during conferences, but in order for attendees to benefit conferences need to have a common goal. Goals need to be made before planning conferences.
- Mary Lou made the motion to have a joint conference with MPHA in 2012 and Karen seconded the motion.
- Members suggested that Butte be the next setting for MEHA/MPHA conference. Mary Lou offered to do some "leg work" as far as looking for venues in Butte.
- Ruth made the motion to have a joint conference with MPHA contingent on location and time, Mary Lou seconded it.
- It was also recommended to make conference breakout sessions relevant or unique to the city hosting the conference.

Monthly calls will be the first Thursday of every month at 1pm. Next phone conference will be held on November 3rd at 1:00pm. MEHA conference call adjourned at 1:45pm