



Texas Environmental Health Association

Draft Minutes of the Governing Council

Friday, January 8th, 2010
Omni Southpark in Austin

1. Call to Order was given by President Jodie Heilman at 8:34 am.
2. Invocation was given by Chaplain Jeff McWhorter.
3. Roll Call was made by Steve Berry.

Officers Present: President -Jodie Heilman; President Elect-Betty Richardson; Kandy Berry, Proxy for First Vice-President- Steve Killen ; Second Vice-President- Janet Tucker; Sandra Long, Proxy for Past President-Kelly Kirkpatrick-Stockburger

Governing Council Members Present: Dan Dennison, Richard Briley, Proxy for Julie Stallcup, Susan Yates, Tony Gray, Bill Alsup and Ree Slovin

Chapter Presidents Present: Central Texas, Lori Calzoncit; East Texas, Kevin Hammett; Gulf Coast, Russell O'Brien, Proxy for Betty Richardson; West Texas, Cheryn Hargrave; South Texas, James Soderholtz; North Texas, Pamela Webb.

Also Present: Steve Berry, Executive Secretary Treasurer; Ruth Hendy, Parliamentarian and Jeff McWhorter, Chaplain.

Absent: Nick Fohn, Historian

4. Approval of Minutes from October 16th meeting. On a motion by Dan Dennison and seconded by Betty Richardson, minutes from the October 16th Governing Council meeting will be approved after the update on Richard Briley is made.
5. Report from the Executive Secretary-Treasurer was given by Steve Berry
 - a. Membership and Financial Report-Steve B. reported a total membership of 1267 as of 12/31/09. Susan Yates ask if the renewal notices had been sent out and several members reported they had not received this notice. Steve B. indicated that renewal notices have been mailed and reminded everyone to ask their members to forward new addresses to him when they move. Steve B. provided copies of the AEC financial breakdown of revenues and expenses for the AEC and reported the final count for the conference reached 382 people. Steve B. informed Council that expenses continue to rise and our membership fees have remained the same for several years. Steve asked the council to think about this between now and the April meeting for possible consideration of a membership fee increase. Jodie H. reminded the council that we have money in the bank and we should consider the members and continue giving back to them. Kevin Hammett asked when was the fee increased and what was fee at the time. Richard Briley said the fee was raised in 1998 to the current \$30.00. Ruth H. mentioned any increase would require changing the bylaws. Russell O'Brien asked if there would be an increase in the reimbursement to the chapters. Steve B. indicated this would have to be researched at the appropriate time.
 - b. Status of Printing Issues- Steve B. reported that we are moving toward the goal of going green. We are hoping that the winter issue of the Beacon will be the last time we have to have it printed.
 - c. Website, Beacon and TEHA E-news update-Steve B. reported that we are still moving toward our goal and hoped to have more information to share at the April meeting. Jodie H. asked how long a job posting remains on the website. Steve B. responded that job postings are good for 3 months. Jodie suggested we put a statement on the website informing people that postings are good for 3 months. This can be done and will be followed up by Steve B. Discussion followed about TEHA E-News and ability to set up email blast for individual chapters. Question was asked about blank spot on website for Gulf Coast Chapter President. Following short discussion, Betty R. and Russell O. indicated the issue about their chapter lacking a President would be resolved the next week. Steve B. also told council that postings to TEHA E-News do not advertise products or solicit business from members in any way.
 - d. Correspondence-Steve B received a letter from Chrissy Acuna and shared it with the council.
 - e. Committee Assignments-Steve B. talked to Steve K. before the GC meeting and reported that we need someone to chair the General Environmental Session. Kelly K-S and Jodie H are taking care

of Food, Stuart Walker is handling Code, Ginger Shafer is chairing OSSF again and Steve K. and Jodie H. are going to take care of Opening and Closing. Janet T. and Ree S. are taking care of the Silent Auction items. This is not a legislative year so 2 people on the Legislative and Guidance Committee is probably sufficient. Steve B. told council he and Kandy have a family wedding to attend in August that will conflict with the GC meeting date and asked if it would be possible to change that date. Jodie H. asked how the meeting dates are set. Ruth H. said the by-laws state that the council must hold quarterly meetings, including a meeting at the AEC. Dates for the meetings are determined by the council. Discussion followed with result to change summer meeting from August to best available date in July, preferably around the date of deadlines for officer candidates and award submittals which is July 15. Steve B. will check with hotel and email possible dates to council for consideration.

6. **Report from the President -Jodie Heilman**-stated how much she appreciated everyone being at the meeting and how much she is already looking forward to the AEC. Jodie still hopes to attend at least one quarterly Chapter meeting for all 6 of the TEHA Chapters.
7. **NEHA Regional Report-Sandra Long** –encouraged everyone to attend the next NEHA meeting which will be June 6-9, 2010 in Albuquerque, NM. She also reported that NEHA was probably going to go to a 3 day meeting after 2010. In December NEHA started offering online CEU's free. Sandra attended a conference in Missouri in March and also made a presentation on vector control at the meeting in South Padre Island late last year. Sandra will have a NEHA newsletter for the website very soon.
8. **2010 AEC Program Planning Report-Steve B.** reported on this under committee assignments. Steve B. developed a form for all of the committee members to have completed for each speaker. The form was distributed to each member and can be used for Chapter meetings. Jodie H. reminded everyone to ask people at their chapter meetings if they knew of anyone who might like to speak at the AEC. Lori C. suggested that we have all the chapters donate to Casino Night so that the prizes will be worth bidding on. The Central Chapter already donates and it was agreed this is a good idea and another way to give back to the members. Jodie and Lori also wanted to go back to bidding on the prizes instead of drawing tickets. James S. also said he thought it was a good way to give back and the South Texas Chapter would participate.
9. **Standing Committee and Other Reports**
 - a. Professional Education-**Betty Richardson** – reported that she had several people working with her, they include Lori C., Tony G., James S. and Ree S.
 - b. Legislation and Guidance-**Janet Tucker**- Julie Stallcup and Cheryn Hargrave. This is not a legislative year so nothing anticipated at this time.
 - c. Membership-**Janet Tucker** – reported that we currently have 1267 members and that she is working on getting more students involved.
 - d. Site Selection Committee-**Steve Berry** reported that Debra LeRoy with DCI had called and the committee was going to look at the Downtown Radisson at 1 pm. Mary Meath with the Omni South Park would like for us to sign a contract for 2011. It was mentioned that 2010 is our last year at the Omni. Jodie H. mentioned that we needed more room for the exhibitors and suggested we ask them to exhibit during Casino night. Jodie also ask how everyone liked the buffet we had at the 2009 AEC and got positive feedback. We had been told about a new hotel somewhere in North Austin but no one knew anything about it. Ruth H. thought it may be at I-35 and Parmer Ln. We will follow up on this.
 - e. IE Scott Committee/Awards Committee-**Steve Berry** reminded everyone of the July 15th deadlines.
 - f. Nomination Committee-**Kelly Kirkpatrick-Stockburger** nothing to report at this time.
 - g. Visions in Environmental Health- **Dan Dennison** discussed the possibility of developing descriptive information for use by guidance counselors when discussing environmental professions with students. Discussion centered on the broad responsibilities of and varied job opportunities for environmental professionals. Several council members informed the membership of some related material either existing or under development in their locales, and offered to share it. Dan also introduced an idea for possible consideration in the future, that being a possible change in the Registered Professional Sanitarian name, which has sometimes been mis-associated with sanitation workers who collect refuse. Some discussion followed, which included the comment that any change would have to consider the impact on the Department of State

Health Services job and pay classifications, as well as other ramifications. Lori C. suggested targeting high schools and colleges, specifically science students who may not know their options in this field. Russell O. indicated there are so many different areas we cover and any program to promote our profession would be really good. Jodie H. thinks we are an emerging profession and have a need for continued growth. This item is open for further discussion in the future.

- h. TEHA Excellence in Environmental Health Award Committee-**Sandra Long** is planning to put out information on these awards in Feb. to all the Chapter Presidents and then again in May and June. She will also be making phone calls again this year since all her hard work paid off last year and she hopes to get even more response. Jodie H. commented on the number of people that were recognized for this award at the AEC and hopes this will continue to be a sought after award.

10. Report from Sanitarian Advisory Committee Chair-Sandra Long reported that the selection committee received 10 applicants and they should be making a decision in the next few weeks as to who the new members will be.

11. Old Business

- a. **Electronic Voting Amendment- Dan Dennison** provided an update on the process of providing a mechanism for electronic voting under specific circumstances by the Governing Council. He passed out a document "Proposed Bylaws Change and Procedure Pertaining to Governing Council Electronic Voting" for purposes of discussion, and to request input from council members. The information was based upon procedures and associated bylaws in use by a variety of other organizations. Following discussion, parliamentarian Ruth Hendy stated that she had some additional information that she would forward to Dan. Suggestions and recommendations will be incorporated into revised documents that will be emailed to the council, and discussed at the upcoming meeting scheduled for April.
- b. **Online Banking- Jodie Heilman**-ask that all the chapters get their online banking set up and share this information with Steve B. and Kandy.

12. New Business-Jodie Heilman

- a. **Discussion of Animal Control for AEC-Janet Tucker** shared with council that Animal Control officers need additional CE hours over a 3 year period to maintain their credentials. She has been told they are having increased difficulty finding training and we might consider adding this to our AEC program. TACA has merged with two other groups to provide an educational conference this year in March. Bill A. suggested this could increase membership but is concerned with room requirements and if we can accommodate another program section. Steve B. suggested adding hours to our general environmental section to start and grow from there. Some question about how we would get the word out to them. Janet T. thinks we could get contact information through TACA. James S. reminded council that in many jurisdictions, code enforcement officers also serve as animal control officers. We could provide training for both where they can get all their hours at one conference. Richard B. suggested it would be better to keep them separated. It was pointed out that when the OSSF section is finished on Wednesday afternoon, that meeting room is empty for the remaining of the AEC and could be used for animal control.
- b. **Discussion of Facebook Page for Chapters- Pamela Webb** said the North Texas chapter is thinking about developing information for facebook and is wanting direction from the council. She indicated they would post items such as pictures from their recent Christmas meeting. Jodie H. reminded Pamela that we are a professional association representing about 1,300 members across the state who might post things on the site that could impact someone's career. There does not appear to be anything to prohibit them from doing a facebook. Richard B. asked how would this benefit the association? Other concerns included liability and potential scam or hackers. Pamela thanked the council for their input and will take this information back to the North Texas chapter.

13. Chapter Activity and Financial Reports

Central Texas-Lori Calzoncit reported their Dec. 3rd meeting was a great success with 90 members and 15 new members. The City of San Marcus provides them with a free place to hold their meetings and city employees attend free. May 26-27 they will hold a TFER meeting with Ruth Hendy presenting. As of now they have 60 registered with a waiting list. Ruth reported that she would also be presenting the TFER in September for the South Texas Chapter. Lori said they had purchased a new computer and projector and they would be available for us to use at the AEC. We were also glad to hear that the T-shirt sales had gone

so well \$550.00. Steve B. reminded all the chapters that we need 45 days to get the OSSF hours approved.

East Texas-Kevin Cummings- reported they were planning a Swimming Pool Training in April or May and also a Food Safety & Code Compliance in the Spring. Kevin expressed his concern for the inspector due to cross training the Fire Department. He was told to contact Brian Collins or Sandra Long for input on this.

Gulf Coast-Russell O'Brien reported that their Nov. meeting offered 8 hours of OSSF with 70+ in attendance, Food/General had 85+ and they had 42 new/renewals. OSSF is in big need in their area. They are holding a GC meeting next week. Happy Birthday to Susan Yates!

North Texas-Pamela Webb reported that their December meeting has 106 in attendance and they got excellent feedback on the location and food. They voted to change their chapter meritorious award to the Willy Acuna Meritorious Award which was awarded to Susan Yates and the Industry Award was awarded to Kroger. The City of North Richland Hills Health Department was recognized as recipient of the Texas Excellence Award. The City of Richardson received three TEHA Certificates of Achievement. Graduate and Undergraduate scholarships were also presented. Their next meeting will be held on Feb. 18th at Birdville Center of Technology and Advance Learning in North Richland Hills.

South Texas-James Soderholtz-reported that their December was down in attendance with just 75+. Feb 3rd they will be holding a meeting in Victoria and in May or June they are planning an OSSF meeting also to be held in Victoria. In Aug. they are planning on holding a DR and Installer training in the Harlingen /McAllen area. TOWA with not be held in Waco this year it will be held in Mesquite and that will be a real problem for South Texas.

West Texas/Panhandle-Cheryn Hargrave- reported that they were planning a meeting March 25-26 in Lubbock on Swimming Pool/Spa Inspections.

14. Next Governing Council Meeting Date-Jodie Heilman

Friday April 16th, 2010, 8:30 am at the Omni Southpark in Austin

15. Adjournment-Jodie Heilman 11:06 am