



MEHA BULLETIN



President's Message

Submitted by Rob Carper

2012 is looking like a great year for the Environmental Professional in Minnesota. In fact, the future looks like we are going to be in demand to help the state navigate through some trying times. (I see it, do you?) It will be necessary for all of us to put ourselves in position for our role in the future. Just like in other professions, our profession continues to change and evolve as we get smarter and have to adjust to an every changing environment. It is challenging, but by staying relevant and positively focused on this change, we can be in position to seek our proper roles in whatever work environment that presents itself to us.

The board of directors at the last meeting, committed to this change. We will be taking a hard look at our organizational objectives, future vision & mission, and then we will move immediately into a market strategy that will promote who we are to the larger public. Our objectives were written in 1975. Our last mission statement was written over a decade ago. It is time to bring our organization to the present with an eye on the future.

This may not be the thing that is for our present group of veteran environmental health professionals, but it will certainly help our young professionals during their careers and will attract a better group of new professionals in the future. Our student committee leader, Evan Henke, has brought some new enthusiasm to get some of these students to join and look at our profession in a more serious way. We have seen a significant increase in student membership due to his efforts.

**President
Rob Carper**

**Winter 2011-12 Issue
Volume 41, No. 4**

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Minnesota Environmental Health Association
www.MEHAonline.org

At our December meeting, our Marketing Chair, Tom Messina, presented the first draft of our marketing plan for the future. His team members are Becky Burg and Kyle Johnsen, who also participated in this effort. The plan that the three of them put together is a working plan that will take a continued focus on the part of our board and leadership. Early indications are that the board is behind this plan 100%. Our president elect, Dan Disrud, and our Vice President, Kim Carlton, are committed to continue this effort for the next 3 years. It will succeed!!!

As many of you have noticed, we have gone to an online payment system for conference registration and membership. Now that we are up and running with our online payment system, it is time to:

1. Monitor and fix problems.
2. Get a handle on associated cost/per transaction.
3. Analyze time commitments and assign responsibilities.
4. Determine maintenance requirements.

During this time, I am asking all of you to respect our volunteer committee members that are working on this. As with any of these new systems, there are areas to be fine-tuned, based on our customer base. Please **take your time** and **read the instructions** and learn the system. Then if you are still having problems, present your problems you are encountering by email. Our goal is to have happy customers.

If you have not made it to one of our conferences this year, plan to attend either the Winter or Spring conferences. To me, the opportunity to **network with each other** is the number 1 way to professional development. I am always impressed with the **diversity** and **quality** of our **continuing education** offered at these conferences. We get the best speakers because they are eager to present to the best professionals!!!

Your President,

Rob Carper



MEHA Winter Education Conference

February 16, 2012

University of Minnesota Continuing Education and Conference Center

1890 Buford Avenue

Saint Paul, MN 55108

Thursday, February 16	
7:45- 8:30 am	Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:30- 8:45 am	Welcome & Announcements Dan Disrud <i>MEHA President-Elect</i>
8:45- 9:35 am	Keynote Address Linda Bruemmer <i>Minnesota Department of Health</i>
9:35- 10:25 am	Mobile Home Parks Angie Cyr & Peter Lindell <i>Minnesota Department of Health</i>
10:25- 10:45 am	BREAK
10:45- 11:35 am	Composting and Storm Water Management Using Compost Products Ginny Black <i>Minnesota Pollution Control Agency</i>
11:35 – 12:00 pm	Food Allergen Training for Food Service Employees Dr. Katherine Waters <i>University of Minnesota Extension</i>
12:00- 1:10 pm	LUNCH
1:10 – 2:00 pm	An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure: how health impact assessments lead to better decisions Kristin Raab, MLA, MPH <i>Minnesota Department of Health</i>
2:00 – 2:20 pm	BREAK
2:20 – 3:10 pm	Chemical Food Contaminants Kathleen Schuler, MPH <i>Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy</i>
3:10 – 4:00 pm	What exactly is fried polenta with sautéed hen of the woods mushrooms and duck confit and why should I care? Kim Carlton, MPH, REHS <i>City of St. Paul</i> Angie Cyr <i>Minnesota Department of Health</i> Chele Payer

Are We All Sanitarians?

By Larry Gordon, MS, MPH, DHL, DEAAS ; Sanitarian
Reprinted with permission from Mr. Gordon

Jerrold M. Michael, ScD, DrPH, DEE, Rear Admiral, USPHS (Ret.) recently wrote: “While doing research on an article on the National Board of Health, which existed between 1879 and 1883, I learned a lot more about the first Surgeon General, Dr. John Maynard Woodworth. Of interest is that Dr. Woodworth's headstone notes that he was a Naturalist, Physician, and Sanitarian. We recognize that the term Sanitarian was once used as a synonym for public health advocate, but we may choose to note that the first SG was a sanitarian...”

That commentary reinforces the fact that the field generally now recognized as the area of practice of “the sanitarian,” namely environmental health, is an important area of practice for a wide spectrum of disciplines and professionals. “Comprehensive” environmental health practice thus requires and benefits from the involvement of chemists, geologists, biologists, sanitarians, meteorologists, physicists, physicians, psychologists, nurses, economists, laboratory scientists, industrial hygienists, dentists, veterinarians, educators, sociologists, engineers, architects, attorneys, planners, political scientists, statisticians, journalists, electronic information specialists, epidemiologists, social scientists, political scientists, ecologists, public administrators and planners, as well as those who have been formally educated in the art and science of environmental health practice.

As the field is comprehensive, its effective leadership is profoundly complex, frequently controversial, and invariably in need of a wide range of individual capacities and initiatives. Many of our great environmental health leaders have been dedicated individuals who have achieved eminence not because they had the right pedigrees or belonged to the right organizations, but because they had the right vision, the right information, and the right leadership at the right time.

That is clearly true of some of the icons in the overarching field of public health. Lemuel Shattuck was a publisher, Edwin Chadwick was a lawyer, Charles E. A. Winslow and William Thompson Sedgwick were categorized as sanitarians, and Albert Lasker was an advertising specialist. As time progresses, the mantle of public health leadership continues to fall to those who are perceived as “having earned it.” The commonly accepted definition of environmental health is that promulgated in 1992 by the Committee on the Future of Environmental Health (1). Following widespread peer review, the committee noted that “Environmental health and protection is the art and science of protecting against environmental factors that may adversely impact human health or the ecological balances essential to long-term human health and environmental quality.

Such factors include, but are not limited to: air, food, and water contaminants; radiation; toxic chemicals; disease vectors; safety hazards; and habitat alterations.”

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That definition remains a hallmark of the field. It does, however, call for statements of vision that can set out standards for worldwide commitment to an enhanced environment:

- We should envision a world in which environmental health measures contribute substantially to preventing disease and disability, as well as reducing health-care costs.
- We should envision a world in which environmental health is considered to be an important entitlement for the common good.
- We should envision a world in which environmental health problems are measured and defined prior to designing and implementing control measures.
- We should envision a world in which environmental health efforts are based on sound risk assessment, public health assessment, and epidemiology.
- We should envision a world in which the primacy of prevention measures is understood and practiced.
- We should envision a world in which environmental health measures are designed for optimal net impact rather than zero risk.
- We should envision a world in which ecological considerations are understood to be components of environmental health because, in the long run, a deteriorated environment is a threat to public health and the economy.
- We should envision a world in which the citizenry understand that a quality environment is an important factor in economic vitality and productivity.
- We should envision a world in which environmental health outcomes contribute to minimizing social problems.
- We should envision a world in which the quality of the environment contributes to educational achievement.
- We should envision a world in which quality of life is enhanced by effective environmental health services.
- We should envision a world in which broad environmental health communication bridges are constantly traveled by the public, the media, and policy makers.
- We should envision a world in which policy leaders seek environmental health input prior to developing policy impacting environmental health.

If we share such a vision, are we all sanitarians?

1. Committee on the Future of Environmental Health, National Environmental Health Association. 1993.

"The Future of Environmental Health, Part One." *Journal of Environmental Health* 55 (4):28-32.

Menu

NEW

University of Minnesota Extension Food Safety
Team

dishes up a web-based training course:
**Food Allergen Training for Food Service
Employees**

Ingredients:

- What is a food allergy?
- Preparing and serving an allergen safe meal
- Food handlers role to prevent a food allergic reaction
- Emergency response to a reaction

Special Features:

- Joe's story of living and eating out with food allergies
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- Meets food training requirement for all food handlers



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- extension.umn.edu/food-safety/

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person**



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Food Safety

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Award Nominations for 2012

Do you know someone who is worthy of professional recognition? Help us find those individuals who exemplify the Environmental Health profession. Show your colleagues that their important achievements are appreciated!

MEHA annually presents awards at the Spring Conference banquet. The awards are:
the Frank A. Staffenson Environmental Health Professional of the Year Award, MEHA's highest honor;
the Emerging Professional Award for the outstanding member with not more than 5 years professional experience in Environmental Health, and;
and Merit Awards for outstanding service to the Association

Information about the awards and nomination forms can be found at www.mehaonline.org/members/awards-committee.

Deadline for all nominations is Friday, February 24, 2012.

Contact Joe Hibberd, R.S., MEHA Awards Committee Chair, at joe.hibberd@co.ramsey.mn.us or 651-266-1173 if you have any questions.



**Minnesota Environmental Health Association
www.MEHAonline.org**

Start Making Plans to Attend the 2012 NEHA AEC

MEHA typically offers a stipend for one member to attend the NEHA Annual Educational Conference. This year’s conference will be held in San Diego, CA, June 28-30. Look for the application materials to be sent out this spring.

Even if you are not selected to receive the MEHA stipend, there may be other scholarship opportunities available. Scholarships aside, please consider attending on your own. The NEHA AEC is one of the best opportunities to meet and interact with environmental health professionals from around the country. Topics include Children’s Environmental Health, Environmental Health Impact Assessments,



Emerging Environmental Health Issues, Food Protection and Defense, General Environmental Health, Healthy Homes and Communities, Informatics / Leadership / Management Development, International Environmental Health, Onsite Wastewater, Pathogens and Outbreaks, Recreational Waters, Sustainability / Climate Change, Terrorism / All-Hazards Preparedness, Uniformed Services, Vector Control and Zoonotic Diseases, and Water Quality.

This year’s Keynote Speaker is Thomas Frey, Senior Futurist and Executive Director at the DaVinci Institute. As things continue to change across our communities, there are “new normals” emerging. Frey’s presentation at the NEHA 2012 AEC will continue to explore where things are likely to go in the future, and continue the discussion of “new normal.”

All of the information you need, including dates, schedules, speakers, and more, can be found on the AEC website: <http://neha2012aec.org/home.html>

Minnesota Environmental Health Association
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President.....Rob Carper

**BLAST FROM THE PAST...
CAN YOU NAME THE YEAR???**



SECRETARY'S CLUB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**MEHA SPRING
CONFERENCE**

**Minnesota Environmental Health Association
www.MEHAonline.org**

Board of Directors Nominations Needed!

Have you wanted to become more involved in MEHA? Now is the time. Nominations of candidates for the open positions on the Board of Directors are being taken at this time. The positions open are:

Vice President This position is a five year commitment going from Vice President to President elect to President to 1st Past President and then 2nd Past President.

Board Member This is a three year time commitment. This person is responsible for participating in meetings and is a committee liaison.

Member at Large This is a one year time commitment. This person is responsible for participating in meetings and is a committee liaison.

Secretary Some of the duties of this individual are to record the official minutes of the Board of Directors meetings, mail the annual election ballots, and participate in the annual review of the Policy & Procedure manual.

If you are interested in having your name placed on the ballot, please **contact me by February 6th** and let me know which position you are interested in. Please contact me via e mail at angie.cyr@state.mn.us or via phone at 651-201-4843.

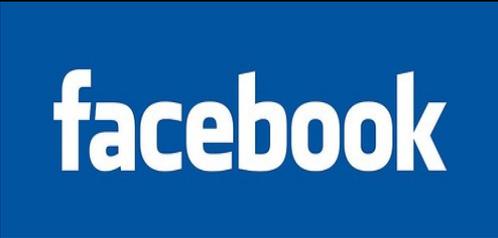
Do you follow MEHA on Facebook?

If you use Facebook, make sure to "Like" the Minnesota Environmental Health Association Page.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Minnesota-Environmental-Health-Association/160272054003203>

The page is used to share news about upcoming MEHA events, as well as interesting environmental health items that are in the news.

If you have suggestions for the MEHA Facebook page, or would like to be a contributor, please let Joe Hibberd or Kim Carlton know.

The Facebook logo is displayed in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Report on Food Safety Epidemiology Capacity in State Health Departments

An article in the December 23, 2011 issue of the CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) reports that in 2010, states reported a need for 304 more full-time equivalent employees working in food safety to reach full program capacity, with the greatest demand for master's degree-level epidemiologists (50% of demand).

According to the article, strategies should be developed to increase the number of food safety staff members and enhance their training opportunities, address gaps in IT, and improve the relationship between state and local health departments and federal agencies collaborating on responses to foodborne disease outbreaks. The article can be found here: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6050a2.htm?s_cid=mm6050a2_e

ServSafe Starters

In case you were not aware, ServSafe offers a “Starters” curriculum. The one-hour class and online assessment costs \$15.00 and is available in English and Spanish. It covers five key areas: basic food safety, personal hygiene, cross-contamination & allergens, time & temperature, and cleaning & sanitation. For more information, see: <http://www.servsafe.com/catalog/productDetail.aspx?ID=1710>

RS Exam Prep Sessions

The MEHA Registration Committee is conducting RS/REHS exam preparation sessions at the Minnesota Department of Health, Snelling Office Park Office, 1645 Energy Park Drive, in St. Paul. Some classes can be held in the Rochester area, if there is enough interest. The sessions are being scheduled for the mid-afternoon, usually starting at noon, and last about 3 hours each.

Participants in the session will be expected to be prepared for each session, having studied assigned material and completed a pre-session assignment. Each session will include discussions and require the active involvement of each participant. For additional information contact *Frank Sedzielarz* at rspreparation@yahoo.com.

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February 16, 2012
MEHA Winter Conference
University of Minnesota
St. Paul

April 26, 2012
EHS/Sanitarian Exam

May 1-2, 2012
FDA Food Related
Emergency Exercise
St. Paul

May 2-4, 2012
MEHA Annual
Spring Conference
Ruttger's Bay Lake
Lodge
Deerwood, MN

June 28-30, 2012
76th NEHA AEC
San Diego, CA
Hyatt Regency
Conference Center

October 11, 2012
MEHA Fall Conference
Chase on the Lake
Walker, MN



For the latest information and educational materials about Food Irradiation, Beef Safety, Modern Beef Production, and Consumer Topics relating to Beef contact:

www.mnbeef.org
www.beeffoodservice.com

Colleen Zenk
Director of Consumer Information
Minnesota Beef Council
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Full schedule, registration and details at www.cposeminars.com

2012 Schedule

Cost: \$245.00

February 22-23	8-5:30pm - Rochester, MN
February 27-23	8-5:30pm - St. Paul, MN
March 14-15	8-5:30pm - Bloomington, MN
March 21-22	8-5:30pm - Duluth, MN
April 11-12	8-5:30pm - Eau Claire, WI
April 25-26	8-5:30pm - St. Paul, MN
April 25-26	8-5:30pm - Baxter, MN
May 9-10	8-5:30pm - St. Paul, MN
May 9-10	8-5:30pm - Bemidji, MN
June 6-7	8-5:30pm - St. Paul, MN
July 11-12	8-5:30pm - Bloomington, MN
September 19-20	8-5:30pm - St. Paul, MN
September 19-20	8-5:30pm - Siren, WI



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education?

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or email aae@horizonpoolsupply.com



www.horizonpoolsupply.com



Member News



On the Move... Mark Anderson from Morrison County to MDH St. Cloud

Correction: Congratulations to Bill Buckley, Mower County, on his retirement.

Welcome to Hannah Davis, St. Paul-Ramsey County Environmental Health.

Thank you to the following people who contributed to this newsletter: Kim Carlton, Angie Cyr, Joe Hibberd and Frank Sedzielarz.

Visit our website: www.MEHAonline.org

Request From The Editor

An important part of the newsletter is the human element—what is going on with MEHA members. Please let the editor know about any comings and goings, births, weddings, honors...
Deadline for the next issue is
March 1, 2012.

Send to:
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