



MEHA Bulletin



**President
Mike Melius
Fall 2019 Issue
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President's Message

Submitted by Mike Melius

Greetings Environmental Health Colleagues! It is an honor to provide this President's Message. I will take this opportunity to offer you a unique perspective that may help in life and in your career. First, I must share some context that I gained while attending the 2019 National Environmental Health Association Annual Education Conference (and 2018 NEHA AEC) as part of serving as MEHA's President, and President-Elect. Attending these conferences is a benefit of serving on the MEHA Board in the President-track.

While at the AECs, I attended the Affiliate Workshop that brings representatives from state EH associations together to share and learn. I learned something! Drumroll ... we have a great organization! MEHA is active, growing, and has much to offer in sharing with other affiliates. Of course, we stand on the shoulders of previous Board and Association members. Our Association is about 425 strong, and we have many members that take opportunities to stay engaged in committees, events, and workgroups. We have systems in place that offer new Board and committee members a jump start on involvement.

In the Spring 2017 MEHA Newsletter, our distinguished 2016-2017 President, Jeff Luedeman contemplated, "...how a unit of time (a day, a year) seems to pass more quickly as time moves on...". This IS an actual psychological dynamic! Ronald E Riggio Ph.D., in the April 2010 issue of Psychology Today, explained that first experiences and new events make a more detailed and lasting memory.

However, events and experiences repeated over and over make a much LESS lasting impression. What is Dr. Riggio's suggestion? ... "As much as possible, take advantage of new and unique experiences." MEHA offers you these opportunities in the form of Board positions, committee involvement, attendance at conferences, and participating in events as members. Make a point to look at what opportunities MEHA can offer you. Begin thinking now about running for a Board position as nominations will occur in late Winter.

I want to thank MEHA's Board, Committee Members, and our membership for helping make our Association as great as it is! I look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new colleagues at the Winter and Spring conferences. Conferences provide rich experiences with new information and most importantly, new and unique perspectives. Thank you for letting me offer you a new perspective

Respectfully,
Mike Melius

MEHA Winter Education Conference: Save the Date

Winter is right around the corner, which can only mean one thing; it's time to save the date for the MEHA 2020 Winter Conference!

The conference will be taking place **January 30, 2020** at the University of Minnesota Continuing Education Center on the St. Paul campus. More information to follow, but expect to learn about a range of Environmental Health topics and applied University of Minnesota research.



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Growing Leaders for a Safer Food Supply

The IFPTI Fellowship Program is now accepting applications for Cohort IX. This fellowship program is a unique, year-long program for food protection professionals who want to make a positive impact through association, membership, advocacy and leadership.

This program takes a multi-faceted approach incorporating three on-location week-long sessions, periodic webinars and a mentor-guided research project. This program is guided by recognized leaders in food protection and focuses on the areas of Advanced Communication, Program Management and Applied Leadership.

The Fellowship has over 75 alumni from federal, state, local, tribal and territorial regulatory food protection agencies. [Click here to view](#) published research projects, including from our Minnesota fellows!

Who can become a fellow? The fellowship program is open to individuals who perform food protection functions at the Federal, State, Local, Tribal, or Territorial level and have at least 4 years of experience in the food regulatory field. IFPTI is now welcoming applications for Cohort IX until March 1, 2020. [Click here to learn more](#) about applying for the IFPTI Fellowship program.



Certified Food Manager Renewal Online Course Options

Earn your Renewal Credits with the University of
Minnesota Extension's Online Renewal Course

Modules:

- Cleaning and Sanitizing - Basics
- Cleaning and Sanitizing - Advanced
- Coolong Principles
- Emerging Trends I
- Emerging Trends II
- Personal Hygiene
- Preventing Foodborne Illness
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Features:

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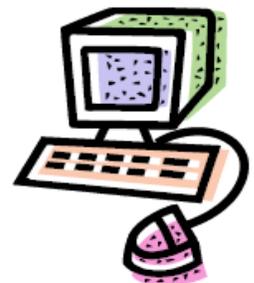
- Take modules individually
 - to supplement 1 or 2 hours for CFM renewal
 - convenient option for employee training

Registration Fee

\$75 full four-hour course

\$25 for each individual module

Register at www.extension.umn.edu/food-safety



MEHA Spring Conference-2019 Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge



(Top left) Congratulations to Merit Award recipients Peggy Spadafore, MDH and Julia Selleys, Hennepin County.

(Top right) Jeff Luedeman, MDA, presenting Tony Georgeson, MDH, with the 2019 Frank A. Staffenson Environmental Health Professional of the Year award.

(Bottom left) Amy Saupe presenting Meteo Frumholtz with the 2019 Mary Lauren Olson Scholarship award.

(Bottom right) Great attendance at the MEHA spring conference!

MEHA Spring Conference-2019

Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge



Minnesota Environmental Health Association

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Changes to Minnesota's R.E.H.S./R.S. Program

There are changes taking place to become credentialed in Minnesota as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist / Registered Sanitarian (R.E.H.S./R.S.). They are primarily driven by changes enacted by National Environmental Health Association (NEHA). Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is in the process of updating their website and application form addressing these changes.

Minnesota's R.E.H.S./R.S. rules have not changed. To become credentialed as a R.E.H.S./R.S. in Minnesota, you still apply to MDH. The [R.E.H.S./R.S. Advisory Council](#) determines if the candidate meets the requirements of Minnesota R.E.H.S./R.S. credentialing [rule 4695.2500 – 4695.3200](#). As a reminder, Minnesota R.E.H.S./R.S. rules are more exacting than NEHA credential requirements as an R.E.H.S./R.S.

At their recent meeting, Minnesota's R.E.H.S./R.S. Advisory Council, decided to double their meeting dates and will now meet **four times annually** (instead of twice annually). This will improve opportunities to take the exam and apply for reciprocity sooner. Please thank Advisory Council representatives: State and Local Health Members: Lynn Moore R.S., Charles Dierker R.S., Duane Hudson R.S., & Rochelle Steinbruckner R.S., Industry member: Neile Reider, and Public Members: Robert Anderson & Brooke Carlson for this decision. The deadline for submission is now set for February 15th, May 15th, August 15th, and November 15th each year.

Whether a candidate to take the exam or applying for reciprocity, MDH is accepting applications for the November 15th deadline. Following the Advisory Council meeting in December, the candidate will be informed by MDH of the decision outcome and details of next steps.

Effective January 01, 2020, NEHA is only providing a computer-based R.E.H.S./R.S. exam, taken at an approved [Pearson VUE](#) testing location. Thus, MDH no longer provides the paper-pencil NEHA exam. MDH has an application process for exam candidates to take the NEHA computer-based exam. Contact Jim Topie james.topie@state.mn.us or Tracie Zerwas tracie.zerwas@state.mn.us for the MDH application.

If applying for Minnesota R.E.H.S./R.S. reciprocity, you need to submit the MDH application, along with all forms and documents listed on the application, (e.g. official transcripts, [Minnesota REHS/RS Supervised Employment History Form \(PDF\)](#), copy of the supervisor's credentials). You must also include documentation of passing an approved R.E.H.S./R.S. credentialing examination, **and** a copy of your current R.E.H.S./R.S. or state R.E.H.S./R.S. certificate of registration.

Required Fees:

Applying to take the computer-based R.E.H.S./R.S. exam through MDH

1. Submit a non-refundable \$45 Registration Fee made payable to the *Minnesota Department of Health*, **AND**
2. Once approval is granted by the Minnesota R.E.H.S./R.S. Advisory Council, NEHA will contact you about taking the computer-based exam and submitting payment of the \$280 NEHA fees.

In comparison, if applying directly to NEHA, NEHA fees may be [viewed here](#).

Applying for Minnesota R.E.H.S./R.S. reciprocity

Submit a non-refundable \$45 Registration Fee made payable to the *Minnesota Department of Health*.

Please contact Minnesota R.E.H.S./R.S. Advisory Council coordinator Jim Topie, R.E.H.S. at james.topie@state.mn.us if you have any questions.

**NEHA Region 4 Conference
Omaha, Nebraska
September 25-27, 2019**



Left to right:

Shannon Rohr, Colleen Voss,
Jessica Jutz-City of Bloom-
ington

Logan Ebeling-City of
Minneapolis, Kim Carlton-
MDH, Nick Koreen-City of
Minneapolis, Josh Schaack-
City of Bloomington

Minnesota Environmental Health Association

www.MEHAonline.org

Committee Spotlight: Nominations Committee

Submitted by Caleb Johnson

As our profession continues its revitalization with a fresh and energized workforce, our organization representing the profession must keep pace. MEHA's past success is due in large part to an informal continuous improvement model fueled by a constantly evolving board of directors. New board members bring new ideas with new collaborations solving problems in new ways. We need you, the members, to serve this cause by helping guide the organization as new board members. Often times, board members are actively recruited based on their previous involvement within MEHA. Other times, we may be unaware of talented MEHA members who desire to contribute.

The Nominations Committee is led by the First Past MEHA President and is tasked with identifying a group of candidates for the upcoming board member elections. We are beginning our search for the next cohort of MEHA board member candidates to run for the 2020 elections. Board member positions vary in length of service and scope of duties. Here is some information on the positions open for 2020 candidates:

Vice-President (President Track)

Purpose: Provide a vision and long-term leadership for the association.

Notable Duties: Represent the organization at the NEHA AEC during President-Elect and President years, review and update the MEHA strategic directions, welcome new members, facilitate MEHA conference presentations, provide written and spoken addresses to membership, recruit new members and board members, manage award nominations and recognition.

Position Progression: This is a graduated five year position which automatically transitions to subsequent roles after Vice President, with the majority of duties occurring in years 2 and 3. The progression is as follows: : **Vice President**→President-Elect→President →First Past President→Second Past President.

First Year Director (Director Track)

Purpose: Provide medium term guidance for the association.

Notable Duties: Manage the NEHA AEC stipend program for general members, provide guidance during board meetings, collaborate on improving the Policies and Procedures and Bylaws when necessary.

Position Progression: This is a graduated three year position which automatically transitions to subsequent roles after First Year Director. The progression is as follows: **1st Year Director**→**2nd Year Director**→**3rd Year Director**.

Member-at-Large

Purpose: Represent the general membership during board discussions and decision making.

Notable Duties: Provide input during board meetings and ad hoc projects with a focus on the experience of the MEHA members.

Position Progression: This position is elected each year.

Secretary

Purpose: Keep record of board meetings and board actions.

Notable Duties: Manage agendas and minutes for board meetings, liaise with other committees to ensure website and document archives are current and maintained according to retention schedules.

Position Progression: This position is elected each year.

Please do not wait to be approached about running for one of these positions, we want to hear from you first! If you are interested in helping MEHA as a new board member contact Caleb Johnson, MEHA First Past President, at caleb.johnson@ramseycounty.us or 651-266-1170.

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MEHA Registration Committee Study Session

The next MEHA Registration Committee Study session is:

November 12, 2019, 12:00 - 3:00pm
Epidemiology and Disease Control

All health department videoconference sites are welcome to join the REHS/RS Exam Prep Study Sessions remotely by calling 612-373-8694, or students and staff are invited to attend in person at 1011 First St. South, Hopkins, MN, Conference Room 233. Questions? Please contact Committee co-chairs Patrick Kuisle RS Patrick.Kuisle@hennepin.us or David Boberg RS david.boberg@state.mn.us.

MDH has study reference material on their website [located here](#). Be sure to enroll in the Environmental Public Health Online Courses (EPHOC) [South Central Partnership Web site](#). They are free.

A little bit of pool humor:



Welcome to Paul Reeves-MDH

Submitted by Kim Carlton

Hello!

I am excited to introduce our new Swimming Pool Program Planner, Paul Reeves. He will begin working at MDH with the PWDU team Wednesday, September 18. Paul began his Environmental Health career at Washington County before moving westward to Colorado, working in a variety of environmental health program areas including food safety, body art, drinking water, solid waste, air quality, and on-site waste disposal. He has extensive recreational water experience, coordinating training, plan review, technical consultation, and rule revision for swimming pool programs in Montana, Washington, and Oregon. He has conducted Certified Pool Operator training, and has been involved with the development of CDC's Model Aquatic Health Code.

In his new role at MDH, Paul will be working to support PWDU's efforts to support state and local programs. He will be assisting Steve Klemm on the swimming pool plan review and construction process. Additionally, he will be facilitating long-range planning and assessment of statewide needs for the swimming pool program including training, outreach, program evaluation, and waterborne outbreak response. For a sneak peak of Paul's outlook on communication and finding common ground, check out this clip from the [2015 Float Conference](#).

We look forward to him joining the team.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEHA Winter Conference
January 30, 2020
University of Minnesota

2019 NEHA AEC
Sheraton New York Times Square
Hotel
New York, New York
July 13-16, 2020

MEHA is on Facebook! Visit our page and join the group! Please "Like" us so we can share MEHA news and other interesting Environmental Health info with you in a timely manner.



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Thanks to the following people who contributed to this edition of the newsletter: Jim Topie, Kim Carlton, Angie Cyr, Caleb Johnson, Casey Kipping, Jessica Jutz and Valerie Gamble.

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91st MN Legislative Session Summary

Prepared by the MEHA Legislative Committee

General Overview:

Session ran from January 8-May 20, 2019	2,925 bills were introduced in the Senate
Special session ran from May 24-May 25, 2019 to finalize the budget	2,921 bills introduced in the House
This is the first year of the biennium with a term end of January	78 laws were enacted

Highlighted environmental health law changes:

Description	Summary
Cannabinoid Products	Amends Minnesota Statutes section 151 by adding section 151.72, covering the sale of certain cannabinoid products. Non-intoxicating cannabinoids extracted from hemp, other than food, may be sold if testing and labeling requirements in this section are met. Enforcement authority is also included, and the provisions go into effect January 1, 2020.
E-cigarettes	The Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act (Minnesota Statutes 2018 section 144.412) was modified, effective August 1, 2019, to include e-cigarettes. This provides protection in public places, places of employment, public transportation, and at public meetings from involuntary exposure aerosol or vapor from electronic delivery devices.
Marketing position at MDA, Good Food Access Fund	The Agriculture and Housing Omnibus Bill included language that dedicates \$400,000 to farm-to-school work and creates a marketing position at the MDA that focuses on farm-to-school sales. Additionally, up to \$300,000 per year was dedicated to the Good Food Access Fund.
Public health lab equipment	A one-time general fund appropriation was included in the Health and Human Services Omnibus Bill for public health lab equipment. \$840,000 is available in fiscal year 2020 and \$655,000 is available in fiscal year 2021, with funds ultimately available until June 30, 2023.
Flame retardant chemicals	Amends Minnesota Statutes 2018 section. 325F. 071 to create prohibitions and broaden existing prohibitions on certain flame retardant chemicals in a set of specific, largely domestic products.
Wells and borings	This provision created a definition for temporary borings, defining it as an excavation that is 15 feet or more in depth and is sealed within 72 hours of the time of construction for specific purposes including testing and quality monitoring. The budget allocated for \$136,000 in FY 2020-21 based on the changes.
Skin lightening	The budget provides for \$200,000 in FY 2020-21 for a grant program for the purpose of increasing public awareness and education on the health dangers associated with using skin lightening creams and products that contain mercury that are manufactured in other countries and brought into this country and sold illegally online or in stores. Eligible applications include community-based organizations, local public health entities, and non-profit organizations that focus on providing health care and public health outreach to minorities. Priority will be given to organizations that have historically served ethnic communities at significant risk from these products, but have not traditionally had access to state funding.

Looking ahead:

Minnesota local elections will occur on November 5, 2019- there are no statewide elections this year

[MN elections calendar](#)

[Who Represents Me? representative search page](#)

[Balletopedia Minnesota election summary](#)

The 2020 legislative session is a policy year

Safe drinking water fee	The commissioner of health may assess an annual fee of \$9.72 for every service connection to a public water supply that is owned or operated by a home rule charter city, a statutory city, a city of the first class, or a town. This bill generates \$6.35 million in revenue during FY 2020-21 and funds Minnesota's regulatory and technical assistance services for public drinking water systems.
Lemonade stands	Amends Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 157.22 to create an exemption from licensing requirements for seasonal temporary food stands and special event food stands located on private property, have gross receipts or contributions of \$1000 or less in a calendar year, and posts a sign that states " <i>The products sold at this stand are not subject to state inspections or regulation.</i> " if selling TCS foods.
Licensing exemption for certain assisted living facilities	An assisted living facility licensed under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 144 (144I.02, Subd. 3) is not required to be licensed as a boarding establishment, food and beverage service establishment, hotel, motel, lodging establishment, resort or restaurant under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 157. Food must be prepared and served according to the Minnesota food code.
Board licensing exemption for licensed lodging facilities	An establishment licensed for lodging under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 157, is not required to have a license to provide board if meals are being supplied to residents under a contract with a food vendor that is licensed by MDH, MDA, or a local delegated agency. If a facility provides assisted living services, then they need a license from MDH-Health Regulation Division and no lodging license from MDH-FPLS or delegated agency. If a facility does not provide assisted living services, then they need a lodging license from MDH or delegated agency.
Reusable water bottles or cups in child care settings	Amends Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 245A.14 by adding Subd. 17. To allow a licensed child care center to provide drinking water to a child in a reusable water bottle or reusable cup if the center develops and ensures implementation of a written policy that includes procedures for washing and sanitizing, labeling, and storage of the bottle or cup.
Manufactured or modular homes	Amends Minnesota Statutes, section 327 by adding the definition of a modular home and allows the placement of modular homes in mobile home parks (MHP) and states that a modular home placed in an MHP is a manufactured home. Amends Minnesota Statutes, section 327C.095 and requires MDH or its delegated agents to provide information about MHPs licensed the previous year to the Minnesota Department of Management and Budget (MMB) by March 31 each year. MMB will then invoice the MHP for the manufactured home relocation trust fund that is used when MHPs are closed.

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MEHA Scholarship Opportunities

MEHA is once again offering up to \$5,000.00 in scholarships this year! Each scholarship has unique requirements and application deadlines.

The **Mary Lauren Olson Memorial MEHA Scholarship** is a memorial scholarship that is funded from our endowment with the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. The Mary Lauren Olson Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a full time student enrolled in the Division of Environmental Sciences at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health. Selection takes into consideration scholastic merit, community service, and contributions to environmental health. This year's award will be up to \$3,300 and awarded during the MEHA Winter Conference. Applications are due December 1st and complete details can be found here: [2019 Mary Lauren Olson Memorial Scholarship Announcement](#).

The **Northstar Scholarship** is awarded to undergraduate student(s) within NEHA region 4 (MN, WI, IA, ND, SD, and NE) currently enrolled in a science-based program. The scholarship is intended to attract top-tier students to seek employment in the State of Minnesota in the field of environmental and/or public health. Recipients of the Northstar scholarship are required to have a connection to Minnesota. Selection will take into consideration not only this connection but also scholastic merit, demonstration of community service, and involvement in student-faculty research. This year's award will be between \$1,000 - \$2,000 and will be awarded during the MEHA Winter Conference. Applications are due December 1st and complete details can be found here: [2019 Northstar Scholarship Announcement](#).

Additional Student Opportunities

[NSF International 2020 Internship Opportunity](#): **December 13**

[2020 AEHAP Student Research Competition](#): **February 28**

[NEHA/AAS Scholarship](#): **March 1**

NEHA is pleased to announce that CDC is funding the [National Environmental Public Health Internship Program](#) to support 20 environmental health student internships during summer 2020. The application period is now open for students from EHAC-accredited undergraduate and graduate environmental health programs and health departments to host interns. Deadline to submit is **January 15**.

How Can NEHA Support MEHA?

The National Environmental Health Association's most visible "products" are the Annual Educational Conference, the Journal of Environmental Health, and several professional credentials including the REHS/RS. Beyond those, NEHA works behind the scenes in myriad ways to support and enhance the environmental health professional. Just a few of these include a variety of training opportunities, written policy statements, and policy work at the national level. We've been talking quite a bit about how to specifically support NEHA affiliate organizations, such as MEHA.

Dr. Dyjack, the executive director of NEHA, gave the keynote address at the most recent Region 4 NEHA Conferences in Omaha ('19) and Minneapolis ('17). He has been very impressed by the quality of the conferences, by the camaraderie he observes, and he has had several meaningful conversations about environmental health issues facing our workforce. As he was sitting in the airport after the Omaha conference, he sent a note to the Board asking that we consider ways that NEHA can support our affiliate organizations. That has become one of our initiatives for the following year, and we'll be discussing it at length at our Board meeting in December. So if you have any thoughts or ideas about how NEHA can support the state affiliates such as MEHA, please let me know. I'm always available by email or phone and I'd love to hear your ideas about how we might accomplish this.

Kim Carlton

Minnesota Environmental Health Association

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MEMBER UPDATES

Congratulations to Eric Freihammer, MDH, on the birth of his son

Congratulations to Diane Olson, MDH, on your retirement. Enjoy!

On the Move.. Dan Disrud from Anoka County to MDH Water Protection Section.

On the Move.. Dan Huff from the City of Minneapolis to MHD. Dan is the new Assistant Commissioner of the Health Protection Bureau.

Congratulations to Kyle Johnsen MDH. Kyle is the new Delegated Program Coordinator for Noncommunity Water for MDH.

Welcome to Greg Nelson, MDH

Welcome to Sheng Yang, MDH

Welcome to Alison Peterson-Anoka County

Welcome to Baigal Tsolmonbaatar, Saint Paul-Ramsey County Environmental Health

Congratulations to Loreena Hilton, City of Bloomington, on the birth of her daughter

Congratulations to Nicole Hedeem, MDH, for receiving the Carol A. Selman Award for Outstanding Contribution to Environmental and Food Safety Research Surveillance.

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, 2020

Send to:

Lori Green, R.S.

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Maplewood, MN 55109-1320

Lori.Green@co.ramsey.mn.us or Angie.Cyr@state.mn.us

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