



MEHA Board Meeting Agenda

April 8th, 2026
Virtual & In Person

Call to Order

10:06 AM

Quorum:

President:	Kyle Johnsen	Present
First Past President:	Amy Saupe	Absent
Second Past President:	Jessica Jutz	Present
Vice President:	Amanda Buell	Present
President-Elect	Dave Boberg	Present
Member at Large:	Josh Schaack	Present
First Year Director:	Loreena Hilton	Present
Second Year Director:	Jacob Schmidt	Present
Third Year Director:	Julia Selleys	Present
Secretary:	Brittney Douglas	Present
Treasurer:	Greg Nelson	Present

Introductions: Non-Board Members

Caitlin Rosch, Resolutions Committee,
Kelly Muellman, Legislative Committee
Michael DeMars, History Committee

Agenda Approval

Motion to approve agenda Amanda, 2nd: Dave, Passed

Treasurer's Report

Report attached in email for review prior to meeting

Discussed in future instead of taking interest from CDs and putting in checking account when it matures- it will be left in CDs so that the interest can gain interest. A motion/vote not needed for changing this.

Also discussed combining CDs as they mature. Will combine next few that mature so that there are less CD accounts floating around. Pulling Caldwell name off of CD so that it isn't confusing in future.

Greg- combining CDs and taking Caldwell name off CD. Combining down to five CD accounts moving forward, 7 accounts currently.

Motion to accept treasurer's report Jessica, 2nd: Jake, Passed

Board Member/Committee Reports

Secretary's Report

Reminder: Each committee chair need to submit a written annual report 30 days prior to meeting. Make sure to list all committee members and identify all major activities for committee for preceding year.

Motion to approve meeting minutes: Britt, 2nd: Greg, Passed

President's Report

Message from NEHA requesting letter of support for wildfire education in k-12 schools. Letter is for support- not asking for specific work just a signature from President. Agreed to sign letter.

Kyle- letter in Google Drive, review before signing and sending

President's lunch today at 11:45

President-Elect's Report

Submitted David Boberg

Job Action Sheets were sent out to committees for review in December. Reminders were sent out in February for those that didn't respond. Majority of JAS's were updated. There was an access issue with the Scholarship committee trying to use their general gmail account to get into the Google Drive. Will work to troubleshoot issue with Liaison and Tech Committee. Discussed Student Reimbursement with Planning and Student Committees.

On 3/27/26 volunteered as a Special Awards judge at the Science Fair along with Elizabeth Lyons, Sheng Yang and Jake Schmidt. Great projects from middle school and high school students.

Completed budget requests for President-Elect and Registration Committee. NEHA extended the early bird rate for AEC to April 30th. NEHA State Affiliates will meet at NEHA AEC for a leadership workshop.

Awards Committee

Submitted by Jessica Jutz

An awards committee consisting of Jessica Jutz, Julia Selleys and Loreena Hilton met to choose recipients. Nominations were received for Staffenson, Merit and Emerging Professional. Awards will be presented in each category at the Spring Conference.

Submitted by Amy Saupe

Awards Subcommittee Report – State Science & Engineering Fair

On March 27, 2026, MEHA judges selected winners for the 17th annual “Excellence in Environmental Health Science” awards for high school and middle school students at the 89th annual Minnesota State Science and Engineering Fair, which was held in-person (with project videos also available online). MEHA judges participated in person and had a rewarding experience meeting students and asking questions about their projects. Awards were judged by MEHA members for the best project studying environmental factors impacting public health, and were presented by the science fair at a virtual awards ceremony on March 29, 2026.

The award recipients in the high school division were:

1st Place (\$200): Megan Eisenmann: *Computational design of low-cost air filtration for mitigating dust pollution in the Sahel*

2nd Place (\$100): Amelia Lucke: *A Silent Contaminant Beneath Our Feet: Multivariate Analysis of Geogenic Arsenic Pathways into Private Drinking Water Wells Across St. Louis, Lake, and Cook Counties*

3rd Place (\$50): Aditi Gandhi: *Continuous Low-Cost Proxy Monitoring System for Chloramine Detection in Indoor Pool Air*

The award recipients in the middle school division were:

1st Place (\$100): Arika Kundu: *LIGNEX - A Novel Biosorption-Based Approach that Uses Agricultural Waste Material to Eliminate Pesticide Residues from Fresh Produce*

2nd Place (\$50): Lila Foster: *Using the Agar Disk Diffusion Method to Prevent Growth of *Bacillus Subtilis* with Plant Extracts*

Award information is also posted on the MN Academy of Science website: <https://www.mnmas.org/state-science-fair-awards>.

This year, the Science Fair mailed out certificates and MEHA mailed out awards checks and letters. No swag was mailed this year.

Judges:

- Elizabeth Lyons, Anoka County Public Health and Environmental Services
- Sheng Yang, HCMC
- David Boberg, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- Jacob Schmidt, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Special thanks to Greg Nelson for sorting the award checks.

Conference Planning Committee

Submitted by Kelly Smeltzer, Tom Moran, Nicole Baysal, Melanie Firestone

Registration is open for the MEHA Spring Conference, which will take place May 7-8, 2026 at Sugar Lake Lodge. The committee has assembled an exciting agenda and is looking forward to an entertaining and educational meeting.

After the conference, the committee will evaluate potential locations for Winter 2027 and Spring 2027. The Plymouth Community Center generally received positive reviews from members, so a similar setting would work for Winter. If we are interested in hosting it in a different part of the metro, we can consider other venues. Sugar Lake Lodge offered us the same dates in 2027, but last year the Board expressed interest in Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria. The pricing we were quoted last year was competitive with Sugar Lake Lodge. Before we decide, it is important to visit Arrowwood Resort to see the amenities in person. Input from the Board is appreciated!

Jacob Schmidt is going to Fargo directly after Spring conference and could attempt to tour Arrowwood Resort.

Kyle reaching out to conference committee to see when spring conference 2027 will be decided and when they can tour, connect with local EH in area. Caitlin connecting with Jacob about Arrowwood.

Communications Committee

Finance Committee

Respectfully submitted by Dan Disrud, Nate Kelly, Kyle Johnson, and Greg Nelson

The committee met on 4/6/26 to review financial activity. Since the last meeting budgets from all committees were requested, compiled, and provided to the board for review.

History Committee

Legislative Committee

Submitted by Kelly Muellman

- Legislative Committee met on March 12, 2026 (note attached)
- The committee has connected with MN League of Cities and MN Counties Association
- The committee is working on updates to the MEHA Legislative Committee webpage
- The committee will be meeting with NEHA / Doug Farquar on April 15
- The committee has submitted a budget request for a bill tracking software
- The committee will meet again April 20, 2026
- Bills discussed to-date:
 - SF1131 – proposal to regulate the massage industry at a state level
 - HF 4268 – modifying requirements for licensure of Mobile Food Unit

Legislative Committee meeting notes attached in email

- Discussion of AutoBill tracking service- provides updates with keywords you enter that could be related to legislation. Interactive engagement- annotating, commenting, etc. Curated list of bills that committee is tracking could be sent out. Estimated to be around \$8,000 a year

- Is this application/service something we want to look at? Cost might not be worth it right now, other ways to possibly keep tabs on some bills?
- Discussed role of Legislative Committee? If they can't track bills what is the purpose? At least some awareness of legislation. Suggested meeting with Tom Hogan at MDH who is aware of EH legislation and could possibly offer technical advice but no opinion.
- Bill tracking is a lot to ask of legislative committee! Having a program would be great, we're just getting committee going again, how do we support this committee? Price tag is pretty high. How to make it work?
- Does NEHA use bill tracking system? Would they be willing to share this info? Kelly is not sure but will be asking these questions next week when meeting with Doug.

Acknowledged how helpful bill tracking program would be but price tag is pretty high and not really in budget for upcoming year. Keep on radar as something to look into, not something right now.

Membership Committee

Submitted by Dan Disrud, Bill Kass, and Jim Donovan

MEHA is currently at 310 members:

- 270 Active
- 9 Retired
- 23 Student
- 2 Sustaining
- 3 Honorary
- 3 Life

Since the last report, we have welcomed one new Student member. During this time, 18 Active memberships have expired. An additional 30 Active memberships will lapse at the end of the month if no action is taken. Membership activity is expected to go up and down this time of year as participation in the annual conference is considered.

Fillable PDF membership applications continue to be available on the MEHA website. Individual applications and renewals are primarily completed through WildApricot using the links found on the association's website or in automated renewal notice emails. Retired membership requires an administrative change of an existing Active membership. Sustaining membership relies on the completion and processing of an application form found on the association's website or provided by a member. Membership profile accuracy is dependent on user input.

Please contact a committee member for lists of members interested in board or committee positions, identification of lapsed memberships, or other membership related reports.

Nominations Committee

Submitted by Amy Saupe

We had a great turn-out of MEHA members willing to run for office this year, despite two candidates who dropped out after board confirmation of their nominations (one was running for Member-at-Large and one was running for Director) but before balloting. All positions had two candidates running except Member-at-

Large. Candidate photos and bios were provided for the Spring newsletter. Thank you also to the secretary (Britt) and technology committee (Ryan and Greg) for getting the electronic ballots set up and sent out. Balloting is set to close on April 6 with winning candidates to be announced at the board meeting.

Additionally, I requested that the Scholarship Committee give a brief history on the MEHA scholarships at Spring Conference, by request of the board at the previous meeting. Cara agreed to put something together and will provide to the Conference Committee. I've also been working with Leah and Jacob on some Outreach and Engagement activities!

Election results:

Vice President- Dane Huber

Director- Cody Miller

Member at Large- Sarah Conboy

Secretary- Cara Pederson

Outreach and Engagement Committee

Leah and Jacob trying to schedule a meeting to finalize MEHA swag order. Planning to get ordered in next two weeks. Working on setting up more outreach events: seed/art event at breweries after work on or around June 12th, water treatment plant tour for September, volunteer event, store is going to be open during spring conference

Registration Committee

Looking into NEHA REHS study course

- \$400 for 12 month access, 26 hour course, online practice exam.

Resolutions Committee

Scholarship Committee

Student Committee

Technology Committee

Respectfully submitted by Casey Kipping, Greg Nelson, and Ryan Lee

The committee met on 3/21/26. Since the last meeting the committee has posted four job opportunities, created the advertisement/registration pages for the spring conference, assisted in sending out the spring newsletter, held the board elections, and made updates to the board webpage.

BREAK FROM 11:43-12:29

New Business

- MEHA Honorary Membership nomination- see document attached in email
 - *Motion to confer honorary membership to Tannie Eshenaur: Kyle, 2nd: Dave, Passed*
- Proposed budget – see document attached in email
 - Awards- budget accepted as is (\$785),
 - Communications- (\$0) accepted as is

- Conference Planning- asked for 10k, adding 1.5k for conference attendance stipend (use as necessary), adding note about added 1.5k to delineate. 11.5k new total.
- Finance- asked for \$600, decided to up to \$700. \$700 total
- History- accepted as is (\$0)
- Legislative – asked for \$10k, not accepting request for bill tracking, \$200 decided upon for operating for. \$200 total
- Membership- asked for 100, accepted as is. \$100 total
- Nominations- as is \$50 total
- Operations- as is \$3k total
- Outreach and engagement- asked for \$3100, accepted. \$3100 total.
- President – asked \$3736, accepted. \$3736 total.
- President Elect- asked \$2463 accepted. \$2463 total.
- MEHA to NEHA – asked \$0 because we got rid of last year, decided to reinstate. \$2500 total.
- Registration – asked \$300, \$300 total
- Resolutions – asked \$0 accepted as is
- Scholarships - asked \$500, accepted as is \$500 total
- Science Fair Awards – asked \$875, accepted as is \$875 total
- Student – asked \$1k, accepted as is \$1k total
- Technology – asked \$2235
- New total for budget: \$33,044
- *Motion to approved budget as amended: Dave, 2nd: Julia, Passed*

Old Business

- Policy and Procedure review
 - *Motion to approved PnP as amended Jess, 2nd: Julia, Passed*

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, June, 9th at 10:00 AM at Bloomington City Hall. Tentative since new members incoming.

Tasks:

Person(s) Responsible	Task
Greg	Combine CD accounts as they mature and take Caldwell name off of one specific CD account, add Kelly and new members to MEHA listserv, looking into PO Box and if possible to move
Kyle	Sign and return letter of support for NEHA, reaching out to Conference Committee to discuss Spring 2027 location

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: Greg, 2nd Jessica, adjourned 1:52 PM

