

**Minutes of the State of Nevada Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists  
Meeting, February 4, 2004, 10:00 A.M.**

Washoe County District Health Department  
1001 E. 9th Street  
Reno, Nevada

Quorum Present:

Peter S. Allen, R.E.H.S., Chairman  
Daniel J. Maxson, R.E.H.S., Secretary  
Kinley Goodman, R.E.H.S., Member  
Teresa Long, R.E.H.S., Member

Absent:

Karen Dorsey, F.M.P., Member

Attendees:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Peter S. Allen, R.E.H.S.	President	Environmental Services, Ltd.
Daniel J. Maxson, R.E.H.S.	Environmental Health Supervisor	Clark County Health District
Kinley Goodman, R.E.H.S.	Public Health Rating and Survey Officer	State of Nevada Health-Representing State Health Officer
Teresa Long	Environmentalist	Washoe County District Health Department
Bryan Wagner, R.E.H.S.	Environmentalist	Washoe County District Health Department
Mike Lupan	Environmentalist	Washoe County District Health Department
Bob Sack	Environmental Health Director	Washoe County District Health Department
Robbin Rose	Environmentalist	Washoe County District Health Department
Anna Vickrey, R.E.H.S.	EHS 4	State of Nevada Dairy Commission, Nevada Food Safety Task Force
Bob Tankersley, R.E.H.S.	Retired	Washoe County District Health Department
Dave McNinch	Environmentalist	Washoe County District Health Department
Jeff Brasel	Environmentalist	Washoe County District Health Department

Judy Neubert, R.E.H.S.	Environmental Health Specialist	Nevada State Health Division, Bureau of Health Protection Services
John Kukulica	President	Pacific Restaurant and Hospitality Mgmt. Group
Robert Sobsey	Environmentalist	Washoe County District Health Department
Jeff Buckingham	Environmentalist	Washoe County District Health Department
Kristina Olson	Environmentalist	Washoe County District Health Department
Luke Franklin	Environmentalist	Washoe County District Health Department
Rich Hubbell	Environmentalist	Washoe County District Health Department
Becky Purkey	Environmentalist	Washoe County District Health Department
David Orozco	Environmentalist	Washoe County District Health Department
Rick Sanchez	Environmentalist	Washoe County District Health Department
Bryant Gilkeson	Environmentalist	Washoe County District Health Department
Brenda Wilson	Environmentalist	Washoe County District Health Department
Marty Goodman	Environmentalist	Nevada State Health Division, Bureau of Health Protection Services
Tony Macaluso	Environmentalist	Washoe County District Health Department
Patty Lechler	Environmental Health Specialist	Nevada State Health Division, Bureau of Health Protection Services
Nancy Sbragia	Environmentalist	Washoe County District Health Department
Jim Pierce	Retired	
Mike Ezell	Environmentalist	Washoe County District Health Department

1. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Allen at 10:07 A.M.. Chairman Allen announced that the meeting had been duly posted as a public meeting and regulatory hearing to address a possible change to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 625A regarding mandatory registration of Environmental Health Specialists in the State of Nevada.

2. Chairman Allen stated that every organization has a Board demonstrating competency. He stated that, as Environmental Health Specialists (EHS), we need to have a strong Board as well and was adamant that the Registration Act not be “sunsetting” like the Board of 1977.
3. Secretary Maxson, mentioned that Nevada Senate Bill 132 which was proposed by Senator Bob Coffin related directly to the Nevada R.E.H.S. Board in that a new credential (Certified Mold Assessment Professional) would have been created which would have been overseen by the R.E.H.S. Board. The CMAP credential is included in the current draft CCHD Public Accommodation Regulations. Secretary Maxson and Chairman Allen gave a brief history of the S.B. 132 legislative efforts and the CCHD’s draft Public Accommodation Regulations.
4. Chairman Allen and Secretary Maxson discussed the direction the Board is going and the rationale. The Board will likely pursue mandatory registration; however, input into the details of the process, are being solicited by persons working in Environmental Health across the state of Nevada. Registration must be mandatory to cover the cost of liability insurance (\$765 annually) for the Board. Secretary Maxson explained that with current income/expenses the Board is losing money. Any increase in annual registration renewal fees could reduce membership further creating a cycle which could ultimately lead to financial failure of the Board.
5. Chairman Allen invited comments from members of the audience regarding the registration of private individuals using the title Registered Environmental Health Specialist in Nevada (consultants, etc.). Reciprocity with the National was discussed. California has an unusual situation in that the current exam is not the same as the National creating reciprocity issues.
6. There was a question from the audience regarding “grandfathering” of existing environmental health (EH) employees in Nevada. The intent was to provide provisions for registering existing employees practicing EH, with new incoming EHSs meeting the full requirements required for registration. They would get the title, not have to take the test, but would have to obtain CEUs throughout their remaining careers. Discussion ensued between the Board members and members of the audience regarding the testing, registration, and grandfathering processes.
7. **Brian Wagner, R.E.H.S., Washoe County District Health Department.** Does not support requirements for registration for existing EHS/Environmentalists if placed as a condition of employment. Current employees would not have to be registered and that fact could not be used against them in the course of their duties or promotions. Board Member Goodman agreed that it would be a good compromise. The Board would not be able to dictate to an employer their conditions for promotion. Again, NRS 625A was brought up and the fact that CCHD would not support any act that would expose them to a lawsuit due to promotion interference by the act.
8. **Mike Ezell** is not registered because he has a degree in Art. He asked if there would be educational opportunities offered. Secretary Maxson stated that CCHD will provide CEU opportunities to its staff, as it is already doing now. Washoe County District Health Department supports mandatory registration.
9. A letter from **Barbara Hunt** was read by Chairman Allen. She supports working with current Environmentalists.

10. **Bob Sack, Environmental Health Director, Washoe County District Health Department,** is not registered but is intending to become so. He added that he does not see that registration is required at the time of application for employment, but rather it should be completed within two to three (2-3) years after initial employment. Time extensions would be possible under extenuating circumstances, if outlined legislatively. He does not support firing existing employees that are doing a good job otherwise. He does not want to be discussing any lawsuits. His District may pay for registration of its staff if registration is mandatory, as they already do for Professional Engineers. He is committed to paying for training/CEU opportunities. He would like to keep reciprocity with National.
11. **Robbin Rose, R.E.H.S., National. Washoe County District Health Department.** She is in support of mandatory registration. She wants existing employees to take the test, but to waive the educational requirements. She wants the Board to be looking toward the future. CDC's National Center for Environmental Health had a conference in leadership that she attended. The CDC set up six goals in their leadership group. It was noted that 45% of EH work force at age to retire in the next few years. The leadership conference addressed reciprocity. They set goals for the next 10 years to really promote EH nationwide. There are only 23 accredited EH programs across country. Only 350 EHSs graduate per year. She offered copies of information gathered during the CDC leadership conference.
12. **Anna Vickrey, R.E.H.S., EHS IV, State of Nevada Dairy Commission,** Nevada Food Safety Task Force, wants to provide training in the State of Nevada. They (Dairy Commission) will be hosting a FDA Food Code course. She offered sources of online training. She is working with University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) to develop EH programs. State of Nevada offers promotional and pay incentives for registration.
13. **Bob Tankersley, R.E.H.S., Washoe County District Health Department, Retired.** He wants the Board to look at availability to gain CEUs for retired persons. Right now it is very difficult for him to tap into opportunities and he is having hard time maintaining registration. Chairman Allen will be looking at requirements for CEUs for retirees at the next Board meeting. Chairman Allen also suggested that he would post information on the website maintained by Jim Pierce as new information arises. Secretary Maxson suggested that they may be able to use inactive status for retirees without needing CEUs until the retiree goes back to work.
14. **Dave McNinch, Sr. EHS, Washoe County District Health Department, not registered currently.** For him, mandatory registration might be an emotional concern. He supports mandatory registration and shares the concerns of those who have spoken previously. He suggested that there may be resentment from those who had to go through the whole process toward those who might be grandfathered. He suggested a probationary period for those who needed to get experience to qualify for registration. He stated that passing a written test does not necessarily correlate with demonstrated job competency. Others in the audience stated that the test has been redesigned based on a job task analysis to accurately reflect what EHSs do now. He agreed with Robin to let candidates take the test.
15. **Jeff Brasel, R.E.H.S. National, Washoe County District Health Department.** He stated that he doesn't want to alienate those who are already here doing a good job. Other states will determine if reciprocity is available in their states with Nevada. Anyone should be able to take the exam up to a

certain effective date. After that time, they must pass exam and meet educational requirements. 27 Environmentalists on staff currently at Washoe County District Health Department.

16. Member from the audience considers Human Resource Departments to be a hurdle. Washoe County District Health Department does not want mandatory registration.
17. **Renée Kline, R.E.H.S., National, but applying for Nevada.** She supports mandatory registration, but adamantly opposes grandfathering in just anybody. She would like to see mandatory National registration rather than just letting everyone claim the benefits of registration in Nevada without testing and educational requirements. She would like everyone to take the test. Secretary Maxson will inquire about how many are qualified or not qualified to sit for the exam at CCHD.
18. **Judith A. Neubert, R.E.H.S., Environmental Health Specialist II, Nevada State Health Division, Bureau of Health Protection Services.** She is opposed to giving registration to those who have not taken the test. She does not want her registration watered down. She stated that Provisional Water Operators were grandfathered. Now, they can't be bothered with getting CEUs and they are losing their water supplies' certifications. Secretary Maxson says that employers can be notified if the employee is not meeting the CEU requirements.
19. **John Kukulica, President, Pacific Restaurant and Hospitality group, etc.** He supports mandatory registration unequivocally.
20. **Robert Sobsey, Washoe County District Health Department.** He supports mandatory registration. He opposes discrimination against those currently employed. He is opposed to grandfathering, but also opposed to holding people back who are currently employed from promotion.
21. **Jeff Buckingham, Washoe County District Health Department, not registered.** He has worked in the EH field 13 years, but does not meet academic requirements. He does not want people who do not meet standards to be given registration. He does not want existing employees to be discriminated against. He would take the test if given the opportunity, even with not qualifying academically.
22. Audience asked for additional participation or comment. Chairman Allen commented on size of congregation and thanked them for their participation.
23. Chairman Allen moved to adjourn. Secretary Maxson offered the new certificates for staff to view. He stated that there is no current \$60 reciprocity fee right now for National to State registration. He offered those staff who would be getting their new R.E.H.S. certificates the opportunity to stay while they are signed by the Chairman.
24. Motion to adjourn offered by Secretary Maxson. Teresa Long seconded. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.