



MINUTES

NEVADA STATE BOARD for REGISTRATION of PUBLIC HEALTH SANITARIANS

**Meeting of April 13, 1994
Washoe County District Health Department
Conference Room, 2nd Floor
Reno**

Present on the Board were:

**Clare Schmutz
Carl Cahill
Peter Allen
Barbara Orcutt**

Also present:

**John Fuller
Patty Lechler
Bob Tankersley
Jim Begbie**

Call to Order

Quorum - 10:30am

Approval of Minutes of December 9, 1993 Meeting

Pete Allen requested that minutes be corrected to reflect statement in General Discussion section, paragraph 2, concerning mandatory registration cannot be done within the county,... was stated by Carl Cahill. Mr. Allen further stated that he understood that Carl and Clare had pursued it at the counties, and been shot down, so there wasn't any energy to pursue it again.

With the correction noted above to minutes of December 9, 1993, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Secretary's Report

Mr. Cahill stated that the current Board account balance is \$4,664.83. There are currently 29 active registered members. Based on information received by Mr. Cahill, the board is supposed to be making quarterly reports on the financial status, and Diana and Carl will work on that. We have such a small budget that it's not much to report.

Budget Report, including discussion of Legislative Issues

Mr. Cahill stated that there was nothing that had to be handled by the board as far as financial reports, which are handled by MIS Services through the state. We are on the mailing list as a board, but we do not use their services.

Audit: Meeting legal requirements/Implementation

Jim Pierce submitted a note to the board stating that Kafoury Armstrong Company will be conducting the audit of the Board's finances by May 31, 1994. The cost will be \$550. They will be contacting the Legislative Counsel Bureau to let them know that we are making a good faith effort to comply with audit requirements.

Mr. Schmutz and Mr. Cahill reviewed the contracts for Kafoury Armstrong.

The Board unanimously approved the Kafoury Armstrong Company contract in the amount of \$550. Three copies of the contract were signed by Carl Cahill and Clare Schmutz.

Posthumous Award

Mr. Schmutz stated that approximately three years ago, the board voted to give Doc Mastroianni and Web Hunter Posthumous awards. At that time, the board was going to make it a political award with the governor, the families were even contacted, and it never got off the ground. Clare asked if this board is interested in carrying on with this award. Selection criterion was that the recipient be a past member and that they contributed significantly to the field of environmental health.

Carl stated that he would like to have an award for recognition of the contribution posthumously, but without the political fanfare, and the families would appreciate that, but the risk is that we would forget someone in the process and cause hard feelings.

Clare stated that what we would have to do is set guidelines for qualifying.

Posthumous Award (cont.)

Pete Allen stated that some of this could be subjective, but if you bring up a couple per year, and you have certain criteria to follow, and do it without the fanfare.

Barbara Orcutt asked if we would be following through with the two awards that we had contacted the families, and it would be a shame not to carry it through.

Clare stated that criteria should include years of employment in environmental health.

Carl asked if we want this to be an award, or a recognition of their contributions. He stated that he would prefer for it to be a recognition to give to the families.

Pete Allen stated that the criteria could include number of years of service; NEHA involvement; any other awards they may have gotten, such as Sanitarian of the Year; registration; any other service contributions.

Barbara Orcutt stated that we might want to put a time period in the criteria.

John Fuller stated he would like to receive an award after 15 years of service or so, while we are still alive.

Pete Allen stated he would like to see two people per year awarded at the NEHA meeting.

Names discussed by the board for consideration were: Art Warden, Doc Mastroianni, Web Hunter and Pic Reynolds.

Mr. Allen recommended that we pose a resolution to do this, and send criteria and a list for posthumous awards, and then from now on do two awards per year. These Sanitarians would be retired.

The board resolved to establish a posthumous award, and bring this forward as a retirement award, so that it would be entirely posthumous. This will be considered a recognition.

Pete Allen moved for an annual recognition for two retired public health sanitarians and to draw up a list for posthumous recognition for the next meeting and come up with criteria at the same time. This motion was carried.

Consideration of Application - David Lee

Clare Schmutz stated that David Lee is employed with the District Health Department in Clark County in the Air Pollution Control Division. He has been in the position for approximately 10 years, and he has made application for this board.

Carl Cahill stated concern that Mr. Lee's entire experience in the Health Department has been strictly in air quality. He has a PhD in chemistry, but no biology areas. Mr. Cahill read the statute covering membership requirements for taking the exam.

Patty Lechler stated that it was her opinion that if Mr. Lee has the physical sciences, then he meets the criteria and he still has to pass the exam.

Pete Allen asked if someone can be registered in Nevada without taking the National exam? Carl said he did not know the answer to this question, but would ask Jim Begbie to join the meeting to take a look at Mr. Lee's application.

Jim Begbie reviewed the application for qualification and compared it with the statute, and feels that the board had the authority to accept his application, because if you determine that you approve that work as environmental health it would be acceptable.

Carl Cahill stated that the issue here is that when we seek the registration exam, he may be able to register in the state, meeting our interpretation of our statutory language, but probably could not do reciprocity with National. We should possibly contact Nelson Fabian.

Mr. Lee's application was moved and seconded for approval to take the R.S. exam.

In discussion, Carl suggested that Page Underwood, legal counsel to the board, be contacted to help interpret this statute, so that we have a uniform and consistent way of interpreting this that meets the legal definition.

Due to Page Underwood's involvement with the State Board of Health meeting, Carl suggested contacting Debra Jeppson, Deputy Attorney General, Department of Human Resources, to help the board to determine the intent of this statement.

John Fuller at this time requested that he interject some comments due to his need to depart. He said that there has been a lot of discussion on mandatory registration in the State, but other members who are registered, and they are feeling a lot of frustration as far as what their position is, and what the board is doing for them, because there are a lot of people who are working here that are registered, and they are getting the same pay. I would like to see a discussion with the board on whether we could pursue some kind of mandatory registration. I understand the position of the board, that we must be apolitical, but I'd like to figure out some directions where we can go, because I and other members have worked here a long time, and we feel frustrated, and we wonder if there's anything we can do. Possibly, we could start people off as an Environmentalist Trainee, so they wouldn't have to be registered to work here, and maybe at the Environmentalist I level would be required to be registered.

Clare stated that some other states have a requirement that to be eligible for employment, you have to be registered within a certain period of time. I think the only way we could have mandatory registration in Nevada would be to go back to legislation.

Mr. Fuller stated that it isn't necessarily the salary, but to be employed here, you should be registered for professional reasons. But, we would probably need support by the State Health Officer to go before legislation.

Clare Schmutz stated that we would need support from the State Health officer, and Clark and Washoe County Health officers.

Barbara Orcutt asked what is the function of the board by statute in these matters?
Clare Schmutz said, to provide opportunity for members in environmental health to become registered.

John Fuller said that he is looking for help from the Board for support.

Pete Allen stated that the District Board of Health is supposed to be supreme in health matters and that may be a good place to start.

Clare suggested that John bring this up at the NEHA conference in two weeks.

Pete Allen asked that we discuss what exactly is the mission of this board, and that it be addressed by the board.

Carl Cahill contacted Debra Jeppson for interpretation of NRS 625.110(b) concerning qualifications, and explained that the applicant does not have degrees in biological sciences. Carl stated that the applicant has such a strong background in one area, but some chemistry, math and physics and structural engineering and PE in military training, and heavy in the chemistry area (PhD). He asked if NRS could be interpreted that if he has been working in air quality, so essentially he's been working in environmental health and whether the physical and biological sciences could be separated as physical and biological, or a combination of both.

Debra Jeppson stated that they could either have environmental health and hygiene, or physical and biological sciences, or a combination of both, it appears it could be environmental health, biological sciences, hygiene, physical sciences. So you could take one out of the first category, one out of the second category, and have that be a combination that would fulfill the requirement of that section.

Mr. Allen stated that we must change this section of the statute for clarity. In the process of revising this, we've got to determine whether as a board, we want them to have environmental sciences experience.

The board unanimously approved the request for examination for David Lee.

Regulation Amendments to NAC 625A

To add National Sanitation Foundation International (NSFI) (Sec. 1.J) as approved CEU course.

The changes to add NSFI have been submitted to LCB by Jim Pierce. Proposed material for the legislature must be submitted immediately.

Mr. Allen stated that NRS 625A gives us the authority to add approved courses to NAC. The posted agenda serves as public notification to inform our intent to add NSFI as approved CEU course.

The board unanimously approved to add NSFI as approved CEU course.

Modification of NRS 625A; plan for legislative action

Mr. Cahill read from past minutes that this meeting agenda should contain an item to organize a legislative committee to work on organizing our next trip to the legislature, and agreed that we should amend our existing regulations (NRS), and find a legislator who will support and introduce it. Additionally, we need to address retired people in our regulations, so we can motivate their continued membership.

Mr. Cahill stated that he feels the board is not prepared to go before legislature this session.

Mr. Allen said he thinks the board has some work to do to answer some questions, such as what is the mission of the board.

Ms. Orcutt stated that we should have a three-year committee to study legislative changes and amendments for this board.

Mr. Schmutz requested that Barbara serve as a chair for the committee. Carl requested that Jim Pierce also serve on the committee; and Pete volunteered to serve on the committee.

The committee will propose amendments to NRS 625A for the next legislature.

Mr. Cahill said the original statutes were introduced by Assemblyman Joe Dini. Ralph Capurro did a tremendous amount of work on the statutes. Mr. Cahill suggested that Ralph be encouraged to assist the committee.

Questionnaires and Public Information

Mr. Schmutz stated that the board discussed putting some questions together for distribution to Environmental Health Specialists for their input on how we can serve them better, what the board can do for them, etc. Mr. Allen forwarded questions to Clare for consideration. The board reviewed Pete's questions and discussed whom the questionnaire should be distributed to.

Ms. Orcutt stated that up front on the questionnaire we could make the point that a lot of work went into putting this board together in the legislature, and any hope of having mandatory registration, or to improve the professionalism of an R.S. can only be accomplished if this board remains intact, and if they don't support it now, they might not have the chance to support it later.

Mr. Allen said that one of the points to be made is that we need to see what people are thinking; they can't expect us to do everything; they need to give us their input.

Mr. Schmutz said that one of the problems is that there are people who are registered with the National under the special registration categories that they have, so they don't feel they have any reason to be registered with our board.

Mr. Cahill stated that one of the functions of this board is to provide for registration with the state. He stated that he has tried to make promotion to an EHS III contingent upon registration with the board a requirement, but the Equal Opportunity Laws determine that for equal employment it is not necessary to place an unnecessary hurdle in the way to perform a function.

Mr. Schmutz asked that we type up the questions on letterhead and distribute to currently registered R.S. members, NEHA, Darrell Rasner, Carl, and some to him. Clare will hand out the questionnaires at the upcoming NEHA meeting in Elko. The return address will be to Carl Cahill, Secretary to the Board, who will tabulate the answers.

Mr. Tankersley requested that the questionnaire list contacts for the board if anyone is interested in more information.

The ten questions, as submitted by Pete Allen for submittal to environmental potential membership from the state of Nevada were unanimously approved.

Testing of Candidates - Certified Personnel Services, Sacramento

Certified Personnel Services (CPS) of Sacramento submitted to the Board a proposal for testing services to be considered for contract.

Mr. Allen stated that we should talk to the State registration if we are interested to see what their experience has been with CPS.

CPS (cont.)

Mr. Cahill stated that a discussion with the California Conference of Directors, the test scores for the people being registered in California was going up dramatically, and it was felt that the test was being compromised.

Mr. Allen stated that if you develop a test and you aren't sure how everyone will do on it, you do what CPS is doing, and give them sample test questions. So, CPS is providing sample questions for their test. However, you want people to know this information, but I don't know if this is a plus or not.

Mr. Schmutz stated that we currently have a contract with Professional Examination Services (PES). This is the same testing service used by National.

Mr. Cahill said that as we do so few examinations, and we have a contract with someone who works, we should just continue with them (PES).

Mr. Allen stated that he thought it was a matter of reciprocity, if a person took this exam with the state of California, for example. Mr. Cahill replied that with the state of California registration board you must have worked in the state. Mr. Allen said California takes your national results and your experience and your manuscripts, so they have additional requirements.

The Board unanimously approved remaining with PES Testing Services.

Continuing Education

The following course was approved for CEUs as being approved or presented by sources as listed in Board regulations:

- NSF Standards", National Sanitation Foundation International, Reno, Nevada, November 30, 1993 for 1994 CEUs - 4 contact hours.

General Discussion

Mr. Allen said that the board has talked about people becoming registered. He said supervisors and environmentalists have goals and objectives, and I know as a supervisor, we have agreed upon some goals and objectives for people to become registered, not necessarily through the state, but to become registered, professional status. My statement is I think that is the place to start, is with individual goals and objectives. I think it has to start with the supervisor or management level, and the example set at their level.

Ms. Orcutt stated that she thought maybe there should be a recognition certificate or something. What about legislative representative through some of our actions here would give them legislative representation.

General Discussion (cont.)

Mr. Cahill stated that he felt the Association is the voice who needs to speak out for professional credentialing.

Mr. Allen stated that he wasn't talking about necessarily for promotion. There are things in goals and objectives that professionals don't directly deal with promotion. When a person is an employee and they want to do a good job, they set goals for themselves. It's really a matter of leadership.

Mr. Cahill stated there has been tremendous frustration on all supervisory staff at Washoe County Health District, because we set goals and standards, and Personnel tells us it is not enough. We can try to get people to get registered, but we can't force them. We try to promote it for personal development.

Mr. Schmutz stated Clark County Health District has four supervisors and only one is registered.

Mr. Allen stated that he feels strongly that we offer a mission statement as to what our position as a board is. The questionnaire is a good starting point, and it's something to be thinking about for the next meeting.

Mr. Schmutz referenced NRS 625A.030, Item 5, it states that the Board shall elect a chairman and a secretary, the chairman must be elected annually on July 1. Therefore, we must elect a new chairman.

Mr. Cahill suggested a teleconference to conduct nomination/election of chairman on May 18, 1994 at 1:30pm. The meeting by teleconference will be advertised stating Director of District Environmental Health offices and Bureau of Health Protection Services locations. Diana Silsby will initiate the teleconference link on Wednesday, May 18, 1994 at 1:30pm.

The business of the meeting will be nomination and election of the Chairman.

Ms. Orcutt questioned the election process for Secretary. Mr. Schmutz replied that the Secretary will continue in office at the pleasure of the board. Governor appointed members serve for three years.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be scheduled at a later date.
The meeting adjourned at 1:25pm

Minutes prepared by Diana Silsby

Approved by Carl Cahill