



# WEHA Newsletter

1250 McDougall Dr., Lander, WY 82520

Issue I

February 2004

## *President's Message*

Well, here we go, off and running into 2004. Life really seems to be flying by anymore. With the New Year, WEHA has already been busy with several projects. We are planning a one-day training in April on small public water systems. This class will be offered at a very reasonable cost and will be located centrally in the state. Also, we are working on the non-profit status for the association that was not previously completed as we thought it had been. Of course another big project that is in the works is the planning for the 2004 AEC. You can find more information on the upcoming AEC later in this quarters newsletter.

The New Year also brings with it a new legislative season. With the legislature in session, environmental health professionals need to be aware of bills that can affect their programs either positively or negatively. Currently there are four bills that have been written that directly affect what we do and how we do it. The first bill is HB 0013. It addresses the age that a person must be prior to obtaining tattoos or other body art. Because Wyoming is one of few states that does not regulate these establishments, most of our members do not yet deal with these issues. However, cities and even counties are taking it upon themselves to regulate and license these businesses and it is probably only a matter of time before everyone may have to deal with them. The second legislative item on the docket is HB 0037. This proposes moving the Consumer Health Services out of the Department of Agriculture and into the Department of Health. The third bill, HB 0068, requires that a massage therapist be licensed statewide. This may be important to some local jurisdictions that are already licensing massage therapists. It will be especially important if state rules vary from the currently adopted local regulations. Lastly, HB 0074 addresses the investigation of Communicable diseases.

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On the lighter side, this New Year also brings with it the opportunity to do things a little differently in your personal lives. I was thinking earlier, that last year I had close to six weeks of vacation and comp time and only used about three of it during the year, the rest I was forced to use at the end of the year in “use it or lose it” time. I hope to be able to use the time more wisely this year and maybe actually do something more productive than sitting in front of the boob tube for three weeks in December. I think most of you will agree with me that our jobs can be stressful; if we take the time in our lives to say, “forget work” and do something positive for ourselves it would benefit our physical and mental health.

So, early this year, make a pledge to yourself to do something that you have wanted to do for a long time; take that long awaited trip to the Caribbean, take a cruise, go skydiving, ride the Rockies on your mountain bike or anything that you have an interest in that you have been putting off. Your health mentally and physically will be better for it.

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## Training Opportunities:

### CPO Courses:

<b>Cheyenne</b>	<b>WY</b>	<b>April 16<sup>th</sup> &amp; 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Pat Kirk</b>	<b>307-680-7946</b>
<b>Cody</b>	<b>WY</b>	<b>March 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Pat Kirk</b>	<b>307-680-7946</b>
<b>Gillette</b>	<b>WY</b>	<b>April 23<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Pat Kirk</b>	<b>307-680-7946</b>
<b>Jackson Hole</b>	<b>WY</b>	<b>May 12<sup>th</sup> &amp; 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Pat Kirk</b>	<b>307-680-7946</b>
<b>Riverton</b>	<b>WY</b>	<b>April 30<sup>th</sup> &amp; May 1</b>	<b>Pat Kirk</b>	<b>307-680-7946</b>
<b>Golden</b>	<b>CO</b>	<b>April 21<sup>st</sup> &amp; 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Angel Scheurman</b>	<b>303-271-5763</b>
<b>Golden</b>	<b>CO</b>	<b>May 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Angel Scheurman</b>	<b>303-271-5763</b>
<b>Golden</b>	<b>CO</b>	<b>June 23<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Angel Scheurman</b>	<b>303-271-5763</b>
<b>Golden</b>	<b>CO</b>	<b>August 25<sup>th</sup> &amp; 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Angel Scheurman</b>	<b>303-271-5763</b>
<b>Golden</b>	<b>CO</b>	<b>October 27<sup>th</sup> &amp; 28</b>	<b>Angel Scheurman</b>	<b>303-271-5763</b>

### WEHA Small Public Water Systems Class:

April 2004 Casper, WY. Details will be posted on the website as they become available

### NEHA 2004 AEC:

May 9-12, 2004: William Egan Civic & Convention Center, Anchorage, Alaska

### International Association for Food Protection:

August 8-11, 2004: JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort, Phoenix Arizona

### CDC National Environmental Public Health Conference:

Dec 3-5, 2004: Hilton Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta Georgia

### Rocky Mountain Food Safety Conference and Golf Tournament

May 10-12, 2004: Red Rocks Amphitheater Visitors Center



## **New WEHA Website:**

WEHA finally has a new website. After several years of trying to figure out how we wanted to design and host a website, the work is finally done. The board recently approved spending the money to have lonetree.com host the site. The site was designed by Roy Kroeger and was set up to offer quick access to whatever may be of interest to individuals as they navigate the site. There are links to officers, committee chairs, to the membership directory, the newsletters (in the near future), to information on upcoming events, to EH job openings and to much more. The site went live just before Christmas and a link was added from both the NEHA and IAFP sites. Through those links, we have received hits (people checking out our site) from all over the country. Lonetree.com has a program that will allow the Webmaster to check out information about who is using the website. Some of the information available includes who is online at the time and where they are from, how many people visited the site on any given day, and what days of the week we receive the most visits.

I want to encourage everyone to check out the new website and please make suggestions on how to make it better. If you have information that you would like to put on the site please send the info to **Roykehs@laramiecounty.com** so he can do what is needed. If you know of job openings in environmental health please send them also.

The website is located at: [www.wehaonline.net](http://www.wehaonline.net)



## **AEC 2004:**

Planning for this year's AEC is starting to move along quickly. The Board voted on January 9, 2004 to hold a joint conference with the Colorado in late September 2004. On January 22, 2004 a joint AEC planning meeting was held and it was decided to hold the conference at the Great Divide Lodge in Breckenridge, CO on September 28-October 1, 2004. The reason that the conference will be held in the latter part of the week is so that the CO Public Health Association and possibly the Wyoming Public Health Association can hold a joint conference early the same week at an adjacent hotel. We could have an open enrollment on Wednesday that would allow either association to go to the any of the sessions. Several topics have been suggested for the conference but none are set in stone yet. If anyone has ideas please forward those to me ASAP. If you have not been to Breckenridge don't miss this one, as it is truly a beautiful little town. Hotel rooms look like they will be at the rate of \$79.00 per night during the conference and registration fees are not yet determined. The conference will include the tradition of the Silent Auction so please be thinking of ideas for those items. If you have questions or comments please feel free to call or email me at any time.

I can be reached by phone at 307-633-4090 or by email at **Roykehs@laramiecounty.com**

## **Teton County Environmental Health Has Relocated**

Teton County Environmental Health, Water Lab and Public Health Nursing moved into a newly remodeled building on December 15, 2003. The WIC and Family Planning also share our building.

We now have more room. We went from approximately 4,300 ft<sup>2</sup> in three separate buildings 12,300 ft<sup>2</sup> in our new facility. This compares to the 300 ft<sup>2</sup> Environmental Health office, 3,100 ft<sup>2</sup> Public Health Nursing office, and a 900 ft<sup>2</sup> Water Lab in the old buildings.

Our new space provides us with an improved work area and streamlines our work processes and overall operation. Environmental  
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Health and Water Lab are located side-by-side in the basement of the new building. Previously, when our staff had to check on a water sample we would have to go a block down and across the street into the basement of the main County Administration building. Any business conducted with the Public Health Nursing required us to cross the street in the opposite direction.

You all have an open invitation to visit and tour our new location and facilities. Please stop by anytime. The new address is 460 East Pearl in Jackson and our new phone number is 732-8490.



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## Einstein Sneezeguards?

By Bill Pfeiffer, Sales Manager, Sneezeguard Solutions, Inc.

Yup, it seems that there is some connection of *relativity* to Sneezeguards. The recent adoption of the NSF/ANSI 2-2002 standard to breath shields allows a flat (or shelf) design of any horizontal distance and vertical distance to be added to produce a minimum of 18" positioned not higher than 14" above food. (See Section 5.35.3 through 5.35.7 and accompanying Figure 11.) This design concept may work well for permanent installations like cafeterias with drop-in hot or cold food wells, but, are temporary food service situations really considered in the new standard?

The Food Code, and its application throughout nearly all jurisdictions in the United States, considers a necessary protected zone from a patron as he or she is using a self-service food presentation. From a side view, the triangle shaped protected zone may be drawn from the top or bottom of the patron's head position to the front edge and the far edge of the food presentation.

A popular trend in presentations is chafing dishes and stair-stepped food displays. Another trend is that self-service food is being offered by banquet hotels, separate meeting facilities, and anywhere else caterers are asked to display food for events. Chafers, especially the new popular very large models, cannot fit under a 14" breath shield. Neither do many stair-stepped food displays. Chafers, when opened, expose their food contents to disease-causing contamination that sneezeguards are designed to prevent. In like fashion, clear plastic domes that open for self-service, do not adequately protect donuts or other food. What, then, is a conscientious food establishment inspector to do?

I would say that inspectors are thrown back to *relativity*. The new NSF/ANSI pronouncement should be considered a standard when it is appropriate to the food presentation situation. Similarly, inspectors should continue to commonly apply the side-view triangle-shaped protected food zone notion *relative* to situations in which other protective measures just don't protect the food offered to patrons. Another thought is for inspectors to offer suggestions before establishments purchase self-service food equipment to avoid restaurant manager or catering manager disappointment after they purchase protection-failing self-service food equipment. Although, these situations are *relatively* difficult for inspectors to anticipate.

21 January 2004

If you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact Bill Pfeiffer at Sneezeguard solutions #1-800-569-2056.

2004  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
WYOMING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Counties/Cities Assignment Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Position Duties/Specialty Areas: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you a: Registered \_\_\_\_\_ Licensed \_\_\_\_\_ or Certified \_\_\_\_\_ Professional?

Are you a member of: NEHA \_\_\_\_\_ IAFP \_\_\_\_\_ Member of WEHA since: \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues: \$100.00 Sustaining Membership  
\$10.00 Before March 31, 2003 or any new members  
\$15.00 April 1, 2003 or later.  
\$ 5.00 Student Membership

Please return completed applications with dues to: Doug Evans, Treasurer  
2701 Dogwood Ave  
Gillette, WY 82718

**Please fill out forms completely.**

## **Newsletter has new editor**

Due to a position vacancy, the job for newsletter editor became vacant early in this new year. Jennifer Escobedo was asked to take over the job and eagerly agreed to do so. For future newsletter inquiries or ideas, please contact her at:

### **ADDRESS:**

City County Health, Division of Environmental Health  
100 Central Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82007

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### **TELEPHONE/FAX:**

(307)633-4090 / (307)633-4038

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### **E-MAIL:**

**[jescobedo@laramiecounty.com](mailto:jescobedo@laramiecounty.com)**

## **Casper/ Natrona county Health Department participates in NEHA/CDC's "Epi Ready" program**

Submitted by John Drinnon

Casper/ Natrona county Health Department was recently involved in testing the joint National Environmental Health Association/ CDC's "Epi Ready" program that has been developed to introduce public health employees to the critical and often misunderstood science of epidemiology. The program was presented by Robert Harrington, a committee member of NEHA/ CDC that developed the program and Director of the Casper/ Natrona County Health Dept. Sandra Novick from the State Lab and Scott Seys from the State Dept. of Health's Epidemiology division were also presenters. Attendance was limited to employees of CNCHD to determine how effective and structured the program was in terms of comprehension and applicability. The program was well presented and highly useful as an introduction to epidemiology. As part of a well-rounded organizational structure of any public health curriculum, epidemiology is fundamental. Understanding the mechanics of disease investigation is not a series of questions on a form. It's being able to ask the "right questions" interpreting the data and summarizing the information into a coherent, testable hypothesis and drawing a reasonable conclusion. Look for this program to be available through NEHA in the near future.

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## **Minutes**

### **Wyoming Environmental Health Association**

#### **Executive Board Meeting**

**9 January 2004**

**Conference Room, State Fair Office, Douglas, WY**

An executive board meeting of the Wyoming Environmental Health Association was held Friday, 9 January 2004 in the Conference Room, State Fair Office, Douglas, WY. Present were Sherry Maston, Roy Kroeger, Doug Evans, and Bryan Grapes.

### **I. ~~CALL TO ORDER~~**

President Roy Kroeger called the meeting to order at 10:00 a. m.

### **II. SECRETARY'S REPORT**

A motion to suspend the reading of the minutes was made by Sherry. Doug seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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### III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Doug reported:

Smith -Barney Account \$ **6,768.96**

Community First National Bank checking account \$ **18,164.95**

Total WEHA funds are \$ **24,933.91** as of 31 December 2003

Check to WPHA for the Annual Education Conference is yet to be determined.

Roy submitted bill for new web site. If we prepay the bill for year, then we save \$20.00. It was decided that WEHA prepay the bill.

Bryan moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Sherry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Child Care - Jerry Olson** - No report

**Pools and Spas - Neal Bloomenrader** - No report

**Library - Roy Kroeger** - Library has had little use.

**Public Relations - Linda Stratton** - No report

**Newsletter – Josh Sandlian** - Josh has resigned from CHS to take a position with Banner Health Systems in Torrington. Jennifer Escobedo will be editor of the newsletter.

**Awards - Neal Bloomenrader** – No report

**Legislative - Laurie Leis** – The 2004 legislative session begins on February 9<sup>th</sup> and is tentatively scheduled to end on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Laurie reported on the bill that Representative Meuli may introduce. The bill proposes to transfer all Consumer Health Services programs except the meat program from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture to the Department of Health. The transfer includes staff, equipment, etc. If anyone has specific questions, please feel free to contact her.

To date very few bills have been posted. The last day for introductions is February 13<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested in learning more about the legislative process, the schedule of events, the proposed bills prepared and ready for introduction, etc., the Wyoming State Legislature has an excellent website which can be found at the following address: <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/> During the session if you have "real player" installed on your computer, you can also listen to live debate in either house. The website will inform you on how to access this capability once the session begins.

**Archives / Scrapbook - Sherry Maston** – The scrapbook was available for viewing at the AEC. Loose pictures were placed in albums. Many photos are undated. In the future, dates and locations will be included with photos.

**By-Laws / Resolutions - Gary Hickman** – WEHA, according to by-laws, is supposed to have an education committee

**Small Wastewater - Roy Kroeger** – Not much activity.

**Membership - George Larsen/Doug Evans** – Discussed dues

**Election Committee - Gary Hickman** – No activity

## V. BUSINESS

### OLD BUSINESS

Non-profit status – We currently do not have the status. Roy has ordered the necessary forms from the IRS. Forms could take a couple of months to receive. We will address the applications when we receive them. Benefit to WEHA is that the status allows donations to WEHA with tax deduction for donor. When Federal status is complete, then we can start with State status.

### NEW BUSINESS

2004 AEC – CO will allow us to join them if we want. Bryan moved that WEHA engage in a joint AEC with CEHA. Sherry seconded the motion. Motion passed. Location will most likely be Breckenridge, CO.

Opening in committee members: – Education committee and newsletter.

Education committee – discussed if actually needed. Board members will be committee members and the president will chair the committee until next election.

Newsletter committee – pending – Josh is leaving CHS

Jennifer Escobedo – will be willing to take over the newsletter.

Small public water supply class – We may hold class sometime in early April to provide training for people in local governments who might be affected around the state, as well as regulatory personnel. Fees: \$15.00 for members – \$25.00 for non-members. Education committee members will try to obtain speakers for the class. Date will be decided at later time. Roy will e-mail board on topics.

Little America will no longer give reduced rates unless a contract is in place. With a signed contract with WEHA, the room rates will be \$55.00 for WEHA members. This does not mean that we have to stay there, only that if and when we do, the rate will be locked in if the member states that he/she is a member of WEHA. Bryan moved to sign the contract. Sherry seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Web site – board viewed the web site on computer. Roy described the web site. Roy has to buy program to transfer from his computer to web site host. Cost will be paid by WEHA if billed. Fee will be paid by WEHA on a yearly basis to receive reduced rate. Our cost will be \$240.00 yearly. Roy has many options that can be added as needed.

### OTHER BUSINESS

Next meeting date will be 19 March 2004, 10:00 am at State Fair .

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made for adjournment at 11:20 am.

Submitted by

Bryan J. Grapes. Secretary

Wyoming Environmental Health Association



