

2018 NMEHA Conference Meeting

October 25th, 2018

Participants: Cecelia Garcia, Travis Bowser, Samuel Frank, Ed Fox, Fernando Salcido, Kaitlin Greenberg (absent), NMEHA membership

Location: Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, 2401 12th St NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104

Meeting Called to Order: 1237 MST

Treasurer's Report – Travis Bowser

I. **BEGINNING BALANCE:** \$6,212.01 CHECKING Pay Pal \$1,384.71

II. **MONIES RECEIVED:**

- 1.) 4 Deposits for 2018 CONFERENCE FEES—Totaling AMOUNT OF \$6,446.37.
- 2.) THE REIMBURSEMENT TOTAL not yet deposited is \$2,040.

III. **EXPENSES:**

PAYMENT IN FORM OF CHECKS WAS MADE TO INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL in AMOUNT OF \$10,215. A check for 2,403.90 has not yet cleared. Reimbursement checks were made to Cecelia Garcia in the amount of \$244.57 for NMEHA Conference.

IV. **CLOSING BALANCE:** \$7,232.82 CHECKING

Secretary's Report – Samuel Frank

Updates: We have had a really busy year here at NMEHA with lots of planning activities surrounding our two largest annual events, the Vector Borne Disease Conference that was held here at the Pueblo Cultural Center April 24-25th as well as the annual NMEHA conference. At our Vector conference this year we had over 100 attendees, which was higher than expected and was up more than a third from the previous year. We had attendees from multiple agencies attend including: pesticide/insecticide/larvicide applicators, industry professionals, and of course representatives from our city, county, state and federal agency partners.

Just out of curiosity, by show of hands, who in here attended the Vector Control Conference this year? And out of those who have their hands raised, how many of you have attended more than 1 vector conference? 3? 5? That's great to see so many familiar faces here again at the NMEHA conference, and I encourage all of you to keep attending and providing your input so that we can make these events the best that they can be for you.

We were very lucky to be able to offer a field trip excursion out to Montessa Park again this year, through collaboration with our City of ABQ partners, that included: Equipment demonstrations, Larval & Adult mosquito collection methods, surveillance techniques of Adult Mosquitoes for Virus Testing, Mosquito Classification & Identification, bed bug hunting and response efforts in the City of Abq, pesticide applicator inspections, and rodent trapping and vector disease sampling techniques.

I have to give a huge shout out to the City of Abq, for their incredible work to put on such informative and interesting hands-on activities to really give us an inside look into the fascinating world of control efforts actually being put into action to combat the spread of vector borne diseases.

We also worked on growing the ranks of NMEHA members this past year and are happy to report that we added an addition of 25 new members. Which reminds me to tell you all to PLEASE check your current membership status on the NMEHA website (NMEHA.org) to ensure that it is currently active and if not, PLEASE renew it as soon as possible!

So I'll keep this short and sweet for everyone, but I would just like to express, on behalf of all of the NMEHA Board members, our sincerest gratitude to all of you for the hard work you do to continue moving us forward as an organization. As some of the ideas you put forward this morning regarding ways to further promote NMEHA as an organization suggested, we really do rely on your input and feedback to help better the organization as a whole and help shape public opinion surrounding the excellent opportunities that NMEHA can provide to Environmental Professionals here in the State of New Mexico.

General Discussion:

Recruitment of NMEHA members:

- CABQ – Increase awareness about organization, did not know we existed and he was across the hall from NMEHA members.
 - o Suggestions for increasing awareness include: Handout flyers at other conferences throughout the year (example: SWANA conference), set up booths at conferences to recruit new members.
- NMEHA should partner with NM Public Health Association to increase collaboration efforts and our member #'s
- Set a goal to increase #'s of members by:
 - o Target industry professionals
 - o Have each member reach out to certain # of potential members and/or recruit folks within our own organizations to meet goal.
- NMEHA is an affiliate of NEHA, so work to have them advertise on our behalf (i.e. in emails, conference advertisements, etc.).
- Post trainings that are being offered through our departments/organizations on NMEHA website and/or advertise NMEHA on department/organization conference training flyers.
- Focus recently seems to have turned to retail/consumer food safety, maybe focus on some of the other environmental health/public health issues to increase interest for other EH professionals and industry professionals.
- Create a blog focusing on various environmental health related issues to increase educational awareness and promote NMEHA membership.
- Job postings for in-state/out-of-state positions on NMEHA website.
- Look into scholarship opportunities (Larry J. Gordon Award was a scholarship that was offered in the past).
- NMEHA Participation at University Job Fairs to recruit new members.
- Continue to reach out to our agency partners to promote new employee participation.
- Continue to provide updates to our website to increase information sharing and usability.
- Creating internship opportunities to assist with organization activities throughout the year.

NMEHA ELECTION RESULTS

President: Bart Ferris, CABQ

Board Members: Kaitlin Greenberg, CABQ

Treasurer: Travis Bowser, IHS

Kellison Platero, BERNCO

Secretary: Sam Frank, IHS

Ed Fox, NMED

Welcome to the newly elected NMEHA President and Board Members!

NMEHA AWARD WINNERS

President's Award: Shannon LaBeau BlueEyes, CABQ

Environmentalist of the Year: Antoinette Toya, IHS

Outstanding Contribution to Environmental Health: Shannon LaBeau BlueEyes, CABQ

Anita Roy Award of Excellence: Belinda Lucero, BERNCO

Congratulations to all of the 2018 NMEHA Award Winners!

Next Meeting:

The next monthly NMEHA meeting will be held November 8th, 2018, at the Albuquerque Indian Health Center, Office of Environmental Health-Conference Room from 1100-1200 MST.

Meeting Adjourned: 1330 MST

Meeting Minutes Submitted by Samuel Frank – NMEHA Secretary

Letter from the Outgoing President

Dear Members,

My heartfelt congratulations and thanks to those new and returning members for making this year's conference and membership meeting a success. Special thanks goes out to Ed Fox for his efforts in recruiting membership from the State of New Mexico agencies.

We have a new board!! As Sam stated in the minutes the new board includes:

- President Elect - Bart Faris - City of Albuquerque
- Treasurer - Travis Bowser - Indian Health Services
- Secretary - Samuel Frank - Indian Health Services
- Board Members - Ed Fox - New Mexico Environment Department
- Kaitlin Greenberg - City of Albuquerque and
- Kellison "Kell" Platero - Bernalillo County

We also presented awards to the following members as follows:

- Environmentalist of the Year: This award is given to a NMEHA member who is employed full-time in Environmental Health and has provided a variety of much needed support to the communities that they serve as well as collaboration with other jurisdictions and community services.

Congratulations to Antoinette Toya: Indian Health Services Environmentalist of the Year

- Outstanding Contributions to Environmental Health: This award is given to an individual or entity that provides their communities with support, service and expertise. The award is not limited to NMEHA membership, but supports anyone or organization that exemplifies the desire to provide cohesiveness to New Mexico and its citizens.

Congratulations to Shannon LaBeau-BlueEyes: City of Albuquerque Outstanding Contributions to Environmental Health

- Anita Roy Award of Excellence: This award is given to an individual whose lifelong pursuit has been to provide support, knowledge and collaboration across the board and whose dedication to their profession is exemplified through their works by promoting the mentality that "We are all on the same page and collaboration is key to our success".

Congratulations to Belinda Lucero: Bernalillo Count Anita Award of Excellence

- President's Award: This award is given by the president as he/she sees fit, to the individual who has provided the support, expertise and commitment to the organization as a whole.

Congratulation to Shannon LaBeau-BlueEyes: City of Albuquerque President's Award

As I leave the office of President, I would like to thank all the board members for their support throughout my presidency and the hard work they have all given to the organization. Farewell and thank you Fernando Salcido (outgoing board member) for your help in schlepping boxes and supplies as well as always asking if there was anything that needed doing and stepping up to the plate.

I encourage all members to support the organization and provide feedback to the president or board members on issues, suggestions or questions you may have. Please volunteer to help out in any way you can regardless of it being short or long term.

Finally I have posted the various presentations in a Dropbox* for members to view and provided contact information should you choose to network further with these individuals. I will send out an email to all the membership with the invite to the Dropbox.

*Two of the presenters - Guillermo Orquiz from USDA and Elizabeth VinHatton are not permitted to share their presentations due to proprietary issues within their departments. However, I have posted several forms that Mr. Orquiz discussed in his presentation for you to view. Also, Justin Balls presentation from Google was not downloadable to the Dropbox.

Sincere thanks,



Cecelia M. Garcia, NMEHA Past President