

# PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS

## Final Meeting Minutes: May 9, 2001 Board of Directors Meeting

---

The PAEP Board of Directors Meeting was held at Hidden Valley Resort, Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania as part of PAEP's Annual Conference. President Bill Zemaitis called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. with the following present:

Bill Zemaitis	Rich Pugh	Rich Butala	Merilynn Birchak
Ted Fridirici	Lisa Brozey	Wayne Kober	Joe Musil
Tony Toth	Fred Brenner	Craig Stanley	
Heidi Schneider	Drannon Buskirk	Bruce Hasbrouck	
Bob Hosking	Eric Buncher	Casey Waller	

Prior to the meeting, The Annual Conference Committee held a small meeting to discuss last minute preparation and review moderators for the conference sessions. The PAEP Board of Directors thanks Benatec Associates, and particularly Merilynn Birchak, Robbie Matesic and Casey Waller for their dedicated efforts throughout the planning of the conference. In addition, the Board thanks those individuals who donated their time to make the conference a success.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the following business items: previous meeting minutes, treasury report, 501(c)(3) status, section events, NAEP update, mentoring, 2001 directory, website update, newsletter, PA environmental heritage program, 2001 Annual Conference Update, and the 2002 Annual Conference.

### **Previous Meeting Minutes**

There were no changes to the March Board Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Ted to approve the minutes and Bob seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as previously recorded and will be posted on the web site.

### **Memberships**

Heidi gave an update on the current membership numbers and they are as follows: Students: 23, General: 206, Corporate: 33, Totals: 262

### **Treasury Report**

The Treasury Report was provided by Heidi. There were two payment requests for the period; Farrell Associates, LLC for database management in the amount of \$195.28, Vialog for the phone conference in the amount of \$671.54. Both Payment requests were approved by the Board.

Checking Account balance as of 04/10/01 was \$14,498.72

Inflow as of 05/09/01 was \$6,305.00

Outflow as of 05/09/01 was \$952.09

Checking Account balance as of 05/09/01 is \$19,851.63

Heidi also discussed the contract for Elaine and stated that she would like to provide Elaine with monies in the amount of \$600.00 for operating expenses that Elaine incurs on our behalf. Heidi made a motion to forward this money to Elaine and Rich Pugh seconded the motion. The motion

passed unanimously by the Board.

### **501(c)(3) Status**

Bill gave an update on what he found out about obtaining 501(c)(3) status. He informed the Board that he spoke to Elaine about this topic and she is willing to help move the process forward. It was stated that Elaine knows an attorney that could file on our behalf, costing approximately \$500 for the legal fees plus her costs. Bill provided a brief overview on legal information that he gathered and it was suggested that Bill provide copies of this information to each of the Board members to review prior to the June monthly meeting. Bill agreed that this was a good course of action. Bruce Hasbrouck of NAEP also stated that he will send available information to Bill for review. Discussion was tabled until the next Board meeting. In other related matters, there was a question about our incorporation. Craig Stanley, former PAEP President, stated that in fact we were incorporated in 1985. In addition, he stated that we do have a Federal Tax ID. Existing documentation about incorporation papers and Federal Tax ID will be researched by Ted and Bill.

### **Section Events**

East – Bob Hosking indicated that he plans on holding a program sometime in the spring, possibly focusing on the Lehigh Canal and Lehigh Valley history. A ride on the canal boat should be expected as part of this outing.

Central – Lisa Brozey reported that she plans on having lunch programs on various topics in late spring or early summer. Ted indicated that he is working on developing a NEPA training program for the Central Section. This program would be primarily for lower to mid level experienced employees looking to gain experience in the NEPA process. The Board discussed opening this program up to the entire organization but was met with reluctance from the Central Section. Ted will continue the development of the program and has a draft brochure completed which was presented to the Board informally for review.

West – Eric is working towards development of future programs in the west. Possible topics he identified include career development, employment agency and a wetland nursery tour.

Penn State – No information to report at this time.

### **NAEP Updates**

Due to time constraints, the majority of the NAEP Update was put on hold until the following meeting in June. Ted nominated Rich Butala to be the new PAEP representative for NAEP and will replace Karyn Vandervoort in that capacity. Bob seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the Board. In an unrelated item, Rich offered support to PAEP members whose companies are not fully supporting the organization.

### **Mentoring/Career Center**

Drannon provided an overview of what he would like to do to begin the mentoring program. The Board unanimously approved Drannon's initiatives and requested a detailed proposal from him to specifically address the goals and initiatives of the program. The Board will review the proposal at a future date and revise and refine as deemed fit. Katie O'Toole is continuing her efforts in work on the career center and updates will follow on the web site in future months. Bill reported that Sue Myerov put together a PowerPoint Presentation to market our organization. Bill is working with Sue on modifying and revising that presentation for future use.

### **2002 Annual Conference**

Planning for next year's conference is already underway. The conference is scheduled to be held in the Eastern Section. Bob talked about the possibility to have a joint conference with the Pennsylvania Academy of Science (PAS). The PAS conference is scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> and will be held at Pocono Manor in Mount Pocono, PA.

Bob nominated Kate Farrow to be the next Annual Conference Chair. That motion was seconded by Rich Pugh and unanimously approved by the Board. The Board discussed inviting Kate to the next board meeting to make a formal presentation to the Board concerning planning, themes and organizational strategies. Bill will contact Kate and inform her of the Board's decision and request a brief presentation at one of the following board meetings.

Because of the duration of the meeting, several agenda items were scratched from discussion and will be put back on the agenda the following month. These agenda items included, 2001 directory, website update, newsletter and the PA Environmental Heritage Program. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m. The next board meeting is Tuesday, June 12, 2001 at the Annual Conference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anthony Toth, Secretary and Heidi Schneider, Treasurer

## Post Conference Workshop on Certified Environmental Professional (CEP) Certification

Wayne Kober served as the moderator for this forum and introduced Peyton Doub, CEP from Tetrattech and Bruce Hasbrouck from the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP). The goal of the event was to introduce PAEP members to the concept of certification, how it works, the requirements and the benefits of certification. Participants were encouraged to engage in a question and answer session throughout.

Wayne began the program by noting that the reason he believes we don't have a state certification process is because of the prohibitive costs. Wayne went around the room and asked everyone who currently has a certification to state what it is and who it is with. Because of the beauty of the day and the fact that we are environmental professionals, it was decided to relocate the meeting outdoors to the tree enclosed patio of the conference center. After the group moved outside and adjusted to the falling petals from the Bradford Pear trees, Wayne turned the program over to Peyton for his presentation.

Peyton introduced himself and gave a brief description of his professional background. He then discussed the differences between certification and licensure, noting that licensure is mandated by a government entity such as the state. CEP, on the other hand is voluntary and one can be tested in five different areas of expertise.

Wayne inquired about maintenance of the certification and Peyton responded that there is a continuing education process with a required allotment of credits that are needed. He also stated that they are not called continuing education credits but are similar in nature and function the same.

The initial cost of CEP certification is \$125 dollars and \$125 thereafter each additional year.

Eric Buncher made a point that PAEP, in it's entirety as an organization, should not assume that certification is in the best interest of our professional status. Several members questioned the benefits of the certification and noted that without some type of legislative tie, the certification is not worth the cost. Other points offered include the fact that most other certifications or registrations are based on a minimum qualifying standard where you fulfill the minimum requirements, unlike the CEP where the criteria is based on significant years of experience with upper management experience.

Bruce Haesbrouck was then introduced and he gave an overview of the certification process that was pursued in Florida in an attempt to link the certification with legislation. The reason for this attempt he said was that the Florida Chapter believed that people were performing work without actually being educated and qualified for the job they were performing. In the end, their attempts to create a legislative enactment establishing CEP as a requirement for performing environmental related services was defeated, primarily due to the opposition by the engineering lobby and the lack of financial support to continue lobbying.

The session was adjourned by Wayne Kober at 10:40 a.m., followed by closing remarks by President Bill Zemaitis.