

# Virginia Environmental Health Association

## BULLETIN

Spring 2011



### *Message from the President—Preston Smith*

*VEHA held elections in Fall, 2010 and Preston Smith was elected as our new President. Here's his first inaugural message to the Bulletin!*

As your President I would like to offer you a glimpse of my life and some insight as to how I became involved with VEHA.

Prior to my employment with the Health Department I worked in the private sector as a licensed water and wastewater treatment plant operator and environmental specialist. I began my employment with the Virginia Department of Health with the Division of Shellfish Sanitation as a shoreline surveyor. I worked in that position for approximately 5 years. I was then hired as the Marina Technical Consultant for the Office of Environmental Health Services. In 2003 I was selected to become the Marina Program Manager and have continued in that position. VEHA was introduced to me during my initial employment with VDH and I have been participating in VEHA and attending the workshops since 1998.

My education includes a B.A. in Environmental Studies, Masters of Planning with a concentration in Environmental Planning and a Masters of Public Administration. Sheri and I have been married since 1994 and we have two girls Haley and Sheridan. My only hobby is doing what my wife tells me to do and chauffeuring my girls.

Since becoming your President I have witnessed the broad range of responsibilities that come with the job, including the promotion of the association and the associated benefits of membership along with participating with other board members to comment on laws and regulations that affect the environmental health of the Commonwealth. I am particularly proud of the workshop planned for April 22 at the Ted Constant Center on the Campus of Old Dominion University. Ed Dunn, Environmental Health Manager, Piedmont Health District and Chris Gordon, Environmental Health Food and Dairy Consultant have been hard at work developing a program that is not only engaging but offers attendees continuing educational credits. As a supporter of continued training and realizing the

need for a strong environmental health association, I encourage all environmental health specialists, technical consultants, environmental health managers and our private sector colleagues to attend.

In looking forward, one of VEHA's goals concerns professional development of environmental health professionals. In pursuit of this goal, Chris Gordon, on behalf of VEHA, has partnered with the National Environmental Health Association to allow us the opportunity to offer the Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS) exam to our membership during the April 22, 2011 workshop. For those of you who are interested in taking the exam at a latter day please contact a VEHA Board Member for assistance with obtaining the study materials.

VEHA is here as a resource for you. I encourage all to take advantage of such an organization which strives to better our field and support the membership. Hope to see you all at the April 22, 2011 workshop!

# THE VEHA SPRING EDUCATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

Friday April 22, 2011 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Ted Constant Convocation Center

4320 Hampton Boulevard, Norfolk, VA 23529

(434) 392-3984 to RSVP or [ed.dunn@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:ed.dunn@vdh.virginia.gov)

- 7:30AM-8:00AM **On-site Registration for REHS/CP-FS**  
Room adjacent to main conference center  
Contact [christopher.gordon@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:christopher.gordon@vdh.virginia.gov) or 804-840-0114 for info.
- 8:00AM-12:15 **REHS/CP-FS Exams**
- 8:00AM-8:45AM **General Educational Session Registration and Continental Breakfast provided**
- 8:45AM-9:00AM **Opening Remarks**  
Preston Smith, VEHA President
- 9:00AM-9:55AM **Keynote Address**  
Professor A. James English Jr. REHS  
Director EH Programs, ODU College of Health Sciences
- 9:55AM-10:50AM **Vibrios in the Marine Environment—Human Health Concern**  
Professors Howard Kator and Kimberly Reece, VIMS
- 10:50AM–11:05AM **Break (snacks provided)**
- 11:05AM-12:00PM **Navy Environmental Health**  
LCDR Stacy Kwak MSC, USN and LT Jefferson Moody, MSC, USN
- 12:00AM-1:15PM **LUNCH (buffet provided)**

**FOOD TRACK**

**ONSITE TRACK**

1:15PM-2:15PM

**Industry Perspectives: Dented Cans**

Georgiann Miller  
QA Manager, Sysco

**Biological Waste Water Treatment**—lecture and tour at HRSD WWTP at Virginia Initiative Plant located at 4021 Powhatan Avenue in Norfolk, VA-Sam Ghosn, Plant Manager, PE.

2:15PM-2:30PM

**Break**

2:30PM-3:30PM

**USDA Summer Lunch Program**

Gary Hagy, Director-DFES

+ + + +

**Please R.S.V.P. to Ed Dunn at [ed.dunn@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:ed.dunn@vdh.virginia.gov) or call 434-392-3984 by Friday April 18, 2011.**

**Workshop Fee:** MEMBERS \$20, \$10/half day & STUDENTS, NON-MEMBERS \$40, due at sign-in. Please pay by check or exact currency.

**0.5 CEU will be awarded for full participation at the workshop for a cost of \$25 paid to ODU**

**2 hours CPE for DPOR OSE recertification will be awarded by VEHA for afternoon Wastewater Track.**

**3 hours CE for Food Safety Program awarded by VEHA for morning and afternoon track.**

**Directions/Parking Info:** <http://www.constantcenter.com/directions/>

# *Update on Virginia Food Safety Taskforce—2011 Planning Meeting*

*Catherine Cummins, REHS*



The Virginia Environment Health Association is a voting member of the Virginia Food Safety Task Force, and a representative attends their quarterly meetings. The purpose of the Task Force is to guide and promote an integrated statewide food safety and defense system that protects public health. In order to achieve this purpose, Task Force objectives include the following:

- To foster communications between all stakeholders;
- To facilitate the adoption and implementation of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Code; and
- To promote food safety and defense education.

During the October 2010 meeting of the group, Catherine Cummins, the VEHA representative, gave a presentation on our organization, inclusive of our goals and purpose. This was done as part of an initiative to help the various Task Force members have a better understanding of the organizations that comprise the group. During this meeting they finalized the distribution of the latest poster that was created using FDA grant money (see attached). This poster has been distributed statewide as an electronic document, with plans to use the remaining money for printing of copies for distribution. The poster was created using grant money, and like all of the posters created by the Task Force is copyright free and can be duplicated and used by anyone.

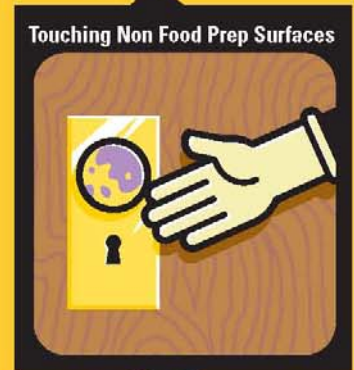
In addition to a presentation by USDA regarding their activities in Virginia, the March 2011 meeting of the Task Force was dedicated to discussions regarding the composition of the group, and possible changes that may be necessary to the organizations guidance document (by-laws), which was originally drafted in 2001. Additional discussions involved uses for future grant money, focus areas for meetings and how the meetings are conducted, and similar issues. Our VEHA representative serves on the Executive Committee for the group, and will be involved in these planning activities. For additional information on the organization please visit their web site at <http://www.virginiafoodsafetytaskforce.org>.

*Knowledge is the Key to Food Safety....pass it on!*

# Food Safety and Glove Use



Dirty hands are just as bad as dirty gloves. Wash hands often.



Since contaminated gloves can carry as many germs as bare hands, proper glove use is essential!



For more information visit <http://virginiafoodsafetytaskforce.org>

## Update on General Assembly Actions—2011



**Food Safety**—like all short sessions, this was a lively year for the GA and food safety in particular. A total of three bills relating to food safety were brought before the House this year; HB1927-Marshall (requiring restaurants to post inspection results); HB1940-Pollard (expand Title 35.1-26 exemptions to include 501(c)(3) organizations); and HB2124-Poindexter (adjusting restaurant license fees). All but one bill (HB1940) died in subcommittee and were not reported out. HB1940 was passed by both houses of the GA and approved by the Governor on March 24 with an effective date of July 1, 2011. This new law will expand the current exemptions (food booths at fairs and youth athletic concession stands) identified in Title 35.1-26 to now include ‘organizations that are exempt from taxation under §501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that hold occasional fund-raisers for the duration of the event at which food is prepared by such organization and is offered for sale to the public’. It is important to note that because this new exemption was placed under section 26, it is not an automatic exemption for these entities. Instead, each individual county, city, or town will have to adopt a local ordinance exempting these organizations. Currently nine municipalities in Virginia have adopted only the ‘youth athletic exemption’, one municipality has only adopted the ‘fair food booth exemption’, and nine have adopted both. In a final note, although HB1927 was not reported out, it was passed by with a letter to recommend additional study and consideration. The Office of Environmental Health Services will be working with stakeholders over the coming year to review the issue before next year’s session.

**Water & Wastewater**—While there were several significant changes to the Code of Virginia passed by this session’s General Assembly, unlike several recent years this session was largely a record of things that didn’t happen to the onsite sewage and water services programs. Several introduced initiatives that failed to pass one or both houses include:

HB 2048, which would have required a state license for anyone establishing an ice plant or offering to sell ice, was not reported.

HB 1340, which would have attempted to protect groundwater by enabling localities located in regions of karst geology to prohibit the application of biosolids (termed “sewage sludge”), also was not reported.

HB 2260, which would have provided for certain licensing exceptions for well water systems providers under the DPOR Board for Contractors, did not report out.

SB 1277 would have made momentous changes in the review and approval process by

VDH of PE-designed onsite sewage systems—including reduced frequency and thoroughness of any review that might lead to permit denial, a restructuring of the appeal process to eliminate VDH and DEQ input, and limitation on any basis upon which the Commissioner could uphold an appealed denial. This bill was not reported.

HB 2492 would have significantly reduced the requirements for professional operation and maintenance of alternative onsite systems installed prior to 2010; current and proposed regulation includes those systems under O&M schedule. This bill did report out.

SB 374 would have provided a waiver for some individuals from the requirement for written examination in order to qualify for a DPOR license to install alternative onsite systems. This bill did not get reported.

HB 2185 would have required the submission of private-sector site evaluations and designs for every onsite sewage permit application (with exceptions for low-income citizens) and greatly reduced the frequency and thoroughness of VDH field review of these submissions. Currently, owners may apply for a sewage permit either with private sector soil work or without, paying VDH staff to conduct the site work. While this bill was not reported, its committee chair has requested that the state health commissioner provide a report to the Assembly detailing the logistics of making such a privatizing transition, and essentially a “business plan” for accomplishing this aim in as swift and orderly a fashion as possible.

Two bills of note that were reported out and did pass include:

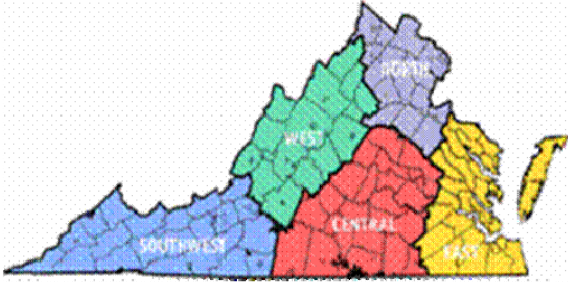
HB 1943 prohibited the establishment of no-discharge zones for sewage in the Chesapeake Bay, and limited those potential zones to the extent of the major tributaries emptying into it (signed by Governor on 3/16/11; effective date—7/1/11).

HB 1626 provides that owners may elect to voluntarily “upgrade” their onsite systems to improve public health and environmental protection without complying with all requirements of VDH for effluent quality and system design; this is similar to previously-enacted “repair waiver” legislation that allows similar flexibility for failing systems. However, this provision is for non-failing systems and, unlike “repair waivers”, does not require that upgraded systems be brought into full compliance at the time of a future property transfer.. VDH is currently developing an implementation policy to capture the meaning of “upgrade” and how the new law will function in the agency process. This bill has an “emergency clause,” meaning that it will become effective immediately upon signature by the Governor. (signed by Governor on 3/23/11; effective date—3/23/11).

And there’s always next year!

# Virginia Environmental Health Association

109 Governor Street  
Richmond, VA 23219



**Virginia Environmental Health Association**

[www.veha.org](http://www.veha.org)

## VEHA Membership Application

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

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (H) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( W ) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Employment: \_\_\_\_\_ Government \_\_\_\_\_ Academia \_\_\_\_\_ Student  
\_\_\_\_\_ Industry \_\_\_\_\_ AOSE/CPSS \_\_\_\_\_ Retired

Employer (or University if student): \_\_\_\_\_

Any relevant credentials: (ie., REHS, CPSS, CFSP, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

### Please check the class of VEHA Membership you wish to apply for:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Active** Any person who is employed full time in the field of Environmental Health as an EH professional or in a similar capacity or in related educational activities, or any person registered in the Commonwealth of Virginia as a Registered Sanitarian, Registered Environmental Health Specialist or any other registration officially recognized by the National Environmental Health Association. **Annual Dues: \$20.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Associate** Any person who has had, and maintains, an interest in Environmental Health, or has retired from service in Environmental Health. **Annual Dues: \$20.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Student** Any full time student working towards a degree in Environmental Health or a related field. **Annual Dues: \$5.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Supporting** Any individual employed in a responsible position in an enterprise serving, or directly related to the Environmental Health field. **Annual Dues: \$50.00**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Sustaining** Any company, corporation, or association of such firms with a general interest in and desire to contribute to the objectives of the Association. **Annual Dues: \$100.00**

Mail to Susan Miner, VEHA, 1126 Professional Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23185