



BOARD OF HEALTH

The Thurston County Board of Health has responsibility and authority for public health in both incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County.

Minutes for March 8, 2016

1) Call Meeting to Order

In Attendance: Cathy Wolfe, Vice Chair; Sandra Romero, Commissioner; Tom Stuebner, Public Health and Social Services Department Director; Dr. Rachel Wood, Health Officer; Robin Campbell, Assistant County Manager and Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board of Health.

Excused absence: Bud Blake, Chair; Cliff Moore, County Manager

Vice Chair Wolfe called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Romero moved to approve the meeting agenda. Vice Chair Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2) Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board

Citizen: Ken Morse, septic system designer

Issue: Spoke on applying best available sciences to new County policies and updates of existing County policies

3) Introduction of the new Department Director

Vice Chair Wolfe introduced the new Public Health and Social Services Department Director, Mr. Tom Stuebner, effective February 16th. Mr. Stuebner comes to us from San Francisco, California. His career includes leadership positions in public health at various levels - county, state, federal and international - governmental and non-governmental. The Board welcomed Mr. Stuebner. Mr. Stuebner thanked the Board and expressed his appreciation of the Thurston County community.

DEPARTMENT ITEMS

4) Description: Food Systems and Organizing in the South Sound (Thurston Thrives)

Katie Rains, Executive Director of GRuB and Co-chair of the Thurston Thrives Coordinating Council, addressed the Board. She provided copies of the Thurston Thrives Food Action Team's 2014 Food System Report. She then gave a presentation providing a history of organizing work in the South Sound's Food System which includes: the South Sound Food Summit - 2011; the Sustainable Thurston Plan - 2011 – 2013; the Thurston Food System Council - 2012; Thurston

Thrives - launched in 2013; the Food Action Team and Thurston Food System Council explore a merge and prepare to re-assess mission in new context - 2015; they are now one body representing the food system with a new name, mission and strategies which are to be determined in 2016. Ms. Rains discussed the Sustainable Thurston project which began in early 2011. Their Development Plan for the Thurston Region aims to integrate sustainability into all regional decision-making to achieve a healthy economy, society and environment. Improving and investing in the local food system is an ongoing theme of this plan. Supporting local food systems to increase community resilience, health and economic prosperity which will contribute to the local economy helping sustain local farms and provide residents access to healthy food choices. Ms. Rains discussed finding resources to create a local food system plan and to support development of a regional food policy council. She reviewed the 2014 Food Action Team Strategy Map, noting this map is the process of being updated. She then discussed bringing Thurston Thrives, Thurston Food System Council and the Thurston Asset Building Coalition all together to re-assess the mission and strategies to move forward together. Ms. Rains acknowledged 2015 Contributors on the Food Action Team and the Thurston Food System Council. She then reviewed a Food System Map showing the farming, environment, economic and social inputs. In reference to the Food System Map, Commissioner Romero questioned how the alarming decline of pollinators in our area fit into the map. Ms. Rains addressed the question, noting she is meeting with the Bee Keepers Association the following week. She then discussed the Team's many 2015 Successes. One of the successes is Zero Net Loss – which are partners across the county engaged and working to secure funding collaboratively that will enable our community to invest in farmland preservation. The Board is in support of this collaborative effort. Ms. Rains then discussed the 2016 Priorities which include: ensure that people have enough to eat and prioritize sourcing locally produced foods; educate our community to increase healthy eating; improve food distribution systems; and the Team's desire to build partnerships with the Environment Action Team and the Economic Development Action Team. The Board expressed their appreciation for all of the work put into the success of Thurston Thrives and commended everyone involved since its inception. At Vice Chair Wolfe's request, Ms. Rains provided additional information regarding the Strategy Map updates. Commissioner Romero briefly discussed the Thurston County Bountiful Byway and food services buying locally.

5) Description: On-site Sewage System Management Plan Public Outreach Review

Mr. Art Starry, Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS) Environmental Health Division Director, addressed the Board. He described his presentation which was to provide an overview of the proposed amendments to the 2008 On-site Sewage System (OSS) Management Plan and the public outreach that took place. He would also review and summarize the comments and feedback received from the public about the proposed amendments and review possible future actions with the Board. He explained State law requires Puget Sound counties to develop a written plan to guide management activities for all OSS. PHSS staff worked with community members to prepare the 2008 Management Plan that was approved January 7, 2008. Mr. Starry described reasons why we need to worry about septic systems stating there are approximately 53,000 on-site sewage (septic) systems in Thurston County, discharging an average of 12,000,000 gallons of sewage per day. On-site sewage systems that are failing or functioning improperly contaminate surface and ground water, leading to disease, shellfish downgrades, beach closures, contaminated wells, and low dissolved oxygen levels in marine

waters and algae blooms. Mr. Starry then shared a map showing where septic systems are located throughout the county. He explained the purpose of having a plan is to prevent illness and protect public health by minimizing exposure to and the adverse effects of sewage. A plan also works towards the Thurston Thrives goals of keeping our water clean and restoring water resources by keeping pollutants below levels of concern; protecting ground water quality; help assure wastewater is properly treated and that septic systems are properly maintained; and provides accurate inventory of septic systems. The plan also works toward the Thurston County Strategic Plan by helping preserve and enhance our environment and natural resources by identifying actions that help protect ground, surface water and Puget Sound. Mr. Starry then explained as per State Law RCW 70.118A and WAC 246-272A the plan must state how we will develop and maintain an inventory of septic systems (OSS); identify areas where OSS pose an increased public health risk; identify Operation and Maintenance (O&M) requirements; educate septic system owners regarding their responsibilities to monitor and maintain their OSS; remind and encourage people to inspect, monitor and maintain their OSS; and enforce permit application, O&M, and failure repair requirements. Mr. Starry reviewed the 2008 On-site Sewage System Management Plan and discussed some of the plan recommendations. He explained that many of the 2008 recommendations have been completed and discussed other recommendations that are still in progress or require program improvement. He acknowledged the 14 member Advisory Committee developed to review and update the 2008 Plan and provided information on the committee's processes. The committee met eight times to learn about: the status of 2008 plan recommendations, septic system design and permitting; the current septic system operation and maintenance program; surface water quality Issues - fresh and marine water; ground water quality: overview and Scatter Creek Study; effectiveness and status of current O&M Program; Urban Septic Management Program; and program costs and funding. Mr. Starry then discussed the Committee's 2014 Recommendations which were all unanimously endorsed by the members which included: improve and enhance data systems, O&M requirements, OSS Management Areas, Education and outreach, and strategy for sustainable funding. He discussed the committee's issues and concerns. At Commissioner Romero's request Mr. Starry provided clarification of the Time of Transfer fee stating either the buyer or the seller is responsible for the fee at the time of a sale. At Dr. Wood's request Mr. Starry provided examples of types of OSS systems that are required to have an O&M. He then discussed the public outreach that took place which included materials distributed through the mail; a survey conducted by mail and on-line; three community workshops were held in Olympia, Rainier and Griffin; and information was provided through the PHSS web page, news releases, social media and newspaper articles. He shared public responses, questions and comments which were received by mail, email and the survey. Mr. Starry explained the next steps in this process is to brief the Board of Health with all public responses; and if the Board chooses, to hold a hearing to consider the plan or to consider regulations and charges needed to implement a plan. He noted before any Board decisions are made public hearings will be held for which public notices are required to be sent out. For more information on the plan recommendations, public comments and survey results go to <http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/HEALTH/ehomp/index.html> ; or contact Art Starry at (360)867-2587 or email starrya@co.thurston.wa.us; or contact Jane Mountjoy-Venning at (360)867-2643 or email venninj@co.thurston.wa.us. The Board thanked Mr. Starry for his presentation.

6) Board of Health Members' Health Related Activities

Commissioner Romero reported on:

- ◆ LOTT meeting
- ◆ Bee Keepers Association meeting
- ◆ Nisqually River Council Meeting
- ◆ Met with Liz Davis, Thurston Thrives Coordinating Council
- ◆ Child Care Action Council "Warm Heart Soup Bowl" fund raiser
- ◆ Thurston Thrives Education Action Team and Community Resilience Action Team meeting

Vice Chair Wolfe reported on:

- ◆ Behavioral Health Organization (BHO) meetings

7) Director's Report

Mr. Tom Stuebner shared reasons why he came to Thurston County to serve as the PHSS Director and his first impressions of our community. He stated his theme for public health and social services from beginning to end is all about people. Mr. Stuebner shared a "Public Health and Social Services Model" handout with the Board and described its content. He then provided an update on the following:

- ◆ Thurston Thrives Coordinating Council –
 - New members have been welcomed to the Council: Cynthia Pratt, Lacey City Council; Peter Brennan, Providence St. Peter Foundation; JW Foster, replaces an outgoing local government representative; and Mark Freedman who replaces Dr. Kevin Haughton from the Clinical Care Thurston Thrives Action Team.
 - A new Thurston Thrives website is in prototype form; the Chamber Foundation is looking at various data telling options.
- ◆ Thurston Thrives Action Teams –
 - Climate and Clean Energy work group: developing a new strategy map to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions in our community.
 - Community Design Action Team: 2016 priorities include an analysis of walking conditions along primary trail corridors, how they connect people to housing and transit; a wayfinding sign effort in partnership with Woodland Trail Greenways Association; and, continued support of Safe Routes to School projects.
- ◆ Septic systems and sanitation – he has been attending local city council meetings whose staff are reviewing options for septic system conversion strategies with their city councils; he expressed his appreciation of the fact the jurisdictions are working together for options.
- ◆ Housing issues – on March 18th a \$2.5 million funding opportunity in the form of a *2016 Consolidated Application* will be available to organizations who provide eligible services to apply for funding for affordable housing, homeless housing services, veterans' emergency housing and community investor projects.
- ◆ Volunteer work – in 2015 volunteers donated approximately 4800 hours of work which is equal to \$150,000; these hours include the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) hours and many other volunteers; this is a 70% increase from 2014.

8) Health Officer's Report

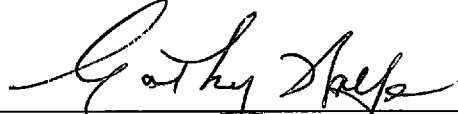
Dr. Rachel Wood reported on the following:

- ◆ Zika virus update – Center for Disease and Control continues working with partners; the greatest concern is the effect the virus has on pregnancy outcomes; CDC has published information on nine pregnant women who traveled to other countries and became infected with Zika and the outcome of their pregnancies; Dr. Wood will continue to update the Board with new information. At the Board's requested she explained the most common transmission of the Zika virus; and noted those infected are not a danger to the general public only to individuals they have intimate relations with.
- ◆ Collaborative effort of vaccination – On March 4th multiple PHSS staff worked with the Snohomish county health department, members of the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO), the Washington State Department of Health and MRC volunteers to screen approximately 127 people to determine if they needed a Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccination; 87 individuals were vaccinated; the vaccine was donated from other parts of the state; event was not an emergency and served as a great exercise and education opportunity about vaccination.

- 9) Adjournment – Commissioner Romero moved to adjourn the meeting of March 8, 2016. Vice Chair Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

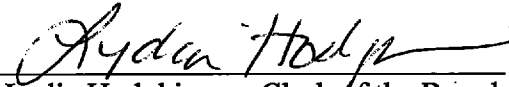
BOARD OF HEALTH Thurston County, Washington

excused absence
BUD BLAKE, Chair


CATHY WOLFE, Vice Chair


SANDRA ROMERO, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: June 14, 2016

Thurston Community Television (TCTV)

The Board of Health meetings are aired on TCTV each week on Sundays at 3:30 p.m., Mondays at 8:00 p.m., Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m., Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., and Fridays at 6:30 a.m. and at 5:00 p.m.