



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 10, 2015

1) 3:32 p.m. Call Meeting to Order

In Attendance: Sandra Romero, Chair; Bud Blake, Vice Chair; Cathy Wolfe, Commissioner; Don Sloma, Public Health and Social Services Department Director, Dr. Rachel Wood, Health Officer and Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board of Health

Chair Romero called the meeting to order.

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

Vice Chair Blake moved to approve the January 13, 2015 and the February 10, 2015 meeting minutes. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2) Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board - none

Department Items

3) Description: Approval of amendment to the Lewis County Contract for 2015 Health Officer Services

Don Sloma, Public Health and Social Services Department (PHSS) Director, described a contract between Thurston County and Lewis County which provides Health Officer Services to Lewis County. Mr. Sloma requested an approval of an amendment to this contract to provide Health Officer Services to Lewis County for the time period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for a maximum compensation of \$38,612. The Contract requires eight hours per week of Health Officer Dr. Rachel Wood's time. Each year these services and hours are evaluated before considering continuation of the contract. **Vice Chair Blake moved to approve amendment No. 1 to the Lewis County Health Officer Services contract for the time period of January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 for a maximum compensation of \$38,612. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

4) Description: Agriculture, Public Health and Thurston Thrives

Chris Hawkins, the PHSS Department's Active Healthy Communities Coordinator, presented information on Agriculture and Public Health explaining how the ways we grow food can impact our community's health. Agriculture is a vital part of the community and with improved practices and support can be an even greater contributor to our community's health by providing nourishing food and maintaining environmental quality such as clean air, clean water and

reduced waste. Mr. Hawkins noted additional information will be presented as follows: “Agriculture and Healthy Food Systems” by Karen Parkhurst of the Thurston Thrives Food Action Team, the Thurston Regional Planning Council and the Thurston Food System Council; “Agricultural Practices and Health”, specifically “Antibiotic Resistance” by Lucia Wyss speaking on behalf of Food and Water Watch; and “Groundwater Sampling in Pattison/Lake St. Clair Area” by Art Starry, PHSS Environmental Health Division Director and Gerald Tousley, Hazardous Waste Specialist III. Mr. Hawkins then reviewed the Thurston Thrives Environment Action Team Strategy Map explaining and discussing the strategy to Educate Public, Promote Alternatives, Regulate and Ensure Compliance on Hazardous Waste; and the strategy to Protect and Restore Groundwater by educating and promoting activities by the County, local jurisdictions, LOTT, PUD, state agencies, etc. He explained, as part of the PHSS Environmental Health Education and Outreach Program, information is provided to the community at home and garden centers regarding how to recognize lower hazard products such as safer and healthier growing information under the name Common Sense Gardening. These educational materials explain that individual growing practices can make a difference in personal and community health. Mr. Hawkins also explained improved practices include reduced use of toxic chemicals such as pesticides. He stated the County is already taking steps through its Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy to reduce its use of hazardous products to a minimum in its operations. He then shared the Thurston Thrives Food Action Team Strategy map describing and discussing the strategies for Food Production and Food Policy that look for ways to encourage practices that provide more support for farming and agricultural use of lands in the county such as the Bountiful Byway; increase number of school and community gardens; and increase volume of produce from local farms. Mr. Hawkins noted the Thurston County Comprehensive Plan Health Chapter identifies community gardens and increased institutional purchase of food more directly from farms as important ways to boost community health. He noted the newest garden Bucoda Community Garden, being constructed by Bucoda Improvement Club, is opening soon. Information regarding community gardens can be found at www.thurstoncommunitygardens.org. Mr. Sloma provided clarification regarding the nine Thurston Thrives Action Teams’ strategy maps explaining they are blue prints of how we get to the Action Teams’ goals to advance our community’s health. All of these strategy maps, and additional Thurston Thrives information, can be found at www.thurstonthrives.org.

5) Description: Agriculture and Healthy Food Systems

Karen Parkhurst of the Thurston Regional Planning Council, Thurston Food System Council and the Thurston Thrives Food Action Team gave a presentation explaining how food production relates to health and a healthy community. She described the work and goals of *Sustainable Thurston*, which is an effort of Thurston Regional Planning Council in partnership with many others in the community. Ms. Parkhurst stated *Sustainable Thurston* (ST) by definition is: “A sustainable community will enhance the quality of life, foster economic vitality, and protect the environment while balancing our needs today with those of future residents.” She shared a number of priority goals: create vibrant centers, corridors, & neighborhoods; preserve environmentally sensitive lands, farmlands, forest lands; create a robust economy through sustainable practices; protect and improve water quality; planning and acting toward zero waste; ensure that residents have the resources to meet their daily needs; support a local food system to increase community resilience, health, and economic prosperity; move toward a carbon-neutral community; maintain air quality standards, water supply and opportunities. ST work groups

included a Local Food Systems group that looked at food not only grown locally, but purchased locally and consumed locally. She stated Thurston Thrives (TT) was built on ST with the same holistic, sustainable approach but added and emphasized health aspects. Ms. Parkhurst explained how ST's approaches equal TT health aspects, such as: vibrant centers, corridors and neighborhoods equal more physical activity; robust economy through sustainable practices equals air quality, water quality and "greener" business; preserve resources lands, local food systems and reduce waste equals healthier food, sourced locally and more affordable, opportunities to "grow you own food" and the "don't toss food" message. Ms. Parkhurst referenced the Food Action Strategy map emphasizing strategies on Food Production and Food Policy. She explained the TT Food Action Team originally looked to partners who were doing the same type of work around agriculture and food. They then joined with the Asset Building Coalition Food Hub; coordinated with Local Food Systems Council, as well as supporting other community partners and efforts. Ms. Parkhurst discussed: Agritourism Zoning which removes barriers for agricultural businesses; allows for country inns, farm stays, farm stands; helps them be successful; all of which brings more local healthy food available to the community. She explained out of these efforts came the *Bountiful Byway* a scenic route promoting Agritourism in rural Thurston County. Ms. Parkhurst discussed the Food Systems Council a non-profit group connecting producers and markets such as hospitals and preserving resources lands. She then discussed the development of Gardens such as GRuB, Kiwanis' Gardens, School Gardens and many any other garden projects throughout the County. Mrs. Parkhurst discussed Enterprise for Equity work: their "Agripreneur" program; food related non-agricultural programs, which support small businesses; and partnering on GRuB's Veterans Gardens. She described the Voluntary Stewardship Program that is addressing the challenges of having a vibrant agriculture community and protecting our environment. She discussed the Thurston County Food Bank's efforts: the Gleaning Program; teaching people to cook produce; and institutional buying. She then discussed many other projects, programs and players going on in our community. Mr. Parkhurst noted beyond food there are many projects supporting non-food agriculture such as forestry and nursery, walk and roll school programs, Thurston County bicycle map, etc. She summarized her presentation stating through the work of both Sustainable Thurston and Thurston Thrives it was learned dividing all of the various subject matters does not work. They are all connected and needed in order to have a healthy thriving community with good healthy food and people, by creating a thriving agriculture, sufficient housing and a community where people can rely on their next meal. Ms. Parkhurst expressed her appreciation of the community and the work by all of the partners in the community recognizing the connection of food and agriculture. She noted the challenge of bringing resources together in a meaningful way and the need to communicate to each other and policy makers about what is happening in the community and where we need guidance. She expressed her appreciation of being able to continue the discussion and work of Sustainable Thurston through Thurston Thrives with the added health aspect. Ms. Parkhurst noted the new Farm Map, a product of the South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust, is now available. Chair Romero thanked Mr. Parkhurst for the comprehensive presentation. She noted the Thurston County Fair which takes place at the end of July, show cases many locally grown foods, local source beverages and honey; and supports 4-H and Future Farmers of American (FFA). Commissioner Wolfe noted a fundraiser for the Thurston County Fair is being held by the Thurston County Fair Foundation Annual Dinner and Auction on March 21st. (See item 6 for additional information)

6) Description: Antibiotics in Livestock Feeding

Lucia Wyss, a Community Educator and an Evergreen State College Student, spoke on behalf of Food & Water Watch. Food & Water Watch is a non-profit organization based out of Washington, D.C., with 16 field offices across the country, which advocates for common sense policies that will result in healthy, safe food and water that is sustainable, that corporations are held accountable, and that government works to protect the public. Ms. Wyss asked the Board for support on two Bills: the Prevention of Antibiotic Resistance Action in the Senate, S. 1256 and the Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act in the House, H.R. 1150. She then gave a presentation that was put together by Food & Water Watch to inform the public about the increasing threat of antibiotic resistance being bred in factory farms. Their goal is to educate the public in order to drive lawmakers to act. Ms. Wyss shared statistics of antibiotic use in the United States for agriculture and human medicine. She described and discussed how the practice of using antibiotics in factory farms fuels the development of antibiotic-resistant (AR) bacteria; how the AR bacteria can spread to humans; and how AR bacterial infections have become increasingly common causing concern that some antibiotics no longer work to treat sick people. Ms. Wyss discussed the Food and Drug Administration's release of drug company guidelines in late 2013 in an attempt to limit some uses of antibiotics in factory farming. She discussed the challenges of correcting the use of antibiotics in factory farms such as lack of public awareness; powerful opposition from special interests; and the need to gain public support in order to spur action. Ms. Wyss discussed the proven success of European Union's ban of using all antibiotics for growth promotion in 2006. She also noted Denmark the second country to implement such a ban has been successful also. Ms. Wyss encouraged everyone to get involved by calling and writing representatives and senators; and to connect with our communities by coming to together to pass local resolutions. A Food & Water Watch *Save Antibiotics For Medicine, Not Factory Farms* fact sheet was distributed. Additional information is available at www.foodandwaterwatch.org. The Board thanked Ms. Wyss for attending and the information.

Don Sloma noted the Thurston County Fair Foundation will hold an Annual Dinner and Auction on March 21, 2015 at 5:30 P.M. at the Thurston County Fairgrounds at a cost of \$35 per person and \$50 per couple. All proceeds are to be donated to the Thurston County Fair.

7) Description: Ground Water Sampling in Pattison/Lake St. Clair Area

Art Starry, PHSS Environmental Health Division Director, reviewed the results of past ground water sampling efforts in the Pattison Lake and Lake St. Clair areas. He then explained that a new sampling study is being planned. He described the planned public outreach efforts which would include working with the County Public Information Officer and the City of Olympia. Mr. Starry presented a draft of the letter that will be sent to area residents informing them of the follow-up study and requesting permission to retest their well. Mr. Starry then described the study that will entail re-sampling approximately 40 wells in Pattison Lake and Lake St. Clair areas that were found to be contaminated by pesticides in the mid 1980's. In 1984 fourteen wells tested positive for one or all of the following chemicals: ethylene dibromide (EDB), 1,2-dichloropropane (1,2-DCP) or 1,2-dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP). EDB and 1,2-DCP which are suspected carcinogens and all three chemicals can cause liver, kidney and nervous system disease. In 1989, twenty four wells tested positive and seventeen wells exceeded

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) drinking water standards. As a result of the contamination, hundreds of wells were abandoned and a public water supply was brought into the area. Follow-up monitoring in 1999, 2000 and 2001 found that contamination levels had declined greatly since the wells were first sampled. Calculations indicate that the pesticide concentration should now be below the safe drinking water standard. This new study will determine if these assumptions are correct. Mr. Starry noted a final report will be compiled at the conclusion of the study and will be presented to the Board. The cost of the study is \$35,376 and will be funded 100 percent by a Department of Ecology grant with an end date of June 30, 2015. A 2001 Project Summary handout was presented with additional information about the groundwater contamination, pesticide use in the area and the past water quality testing and monitoring results. Mr. Starry answered questions regarding the content of the proposed letter to area residents. Mr. Starry and Gerald Tousley, the PHSS Hazardous Waste Specialist III, provided clarification regarding the contaminated water from private wells being acceptable for lawn watering, irrigation and other non-human needs, but not for human consumption.

Mr. Starry noted this work helps implement the Thurston Thrives Environment Action goal of keeping water clean by providing a strategy that helps protect drinking water and assuring that water contaminants are kept below levels of concern. It aligns with the Thurston County Strategic Plan Environment and Health goals by identifying actions and indicating where resources can be used to help protect ground and surface water resources. The Board thanked both Mr. Starry and Mr. Tousley for the presentation.

8) Board of Health Members' Health Related Activities and Accomplishments –

Commissioner Wolfe reported on:

- LEAD Thurston County Health Day – Thurston Thrives presentation
- Editorial Meeting – Thurston Thrives discussion
- Mental Illness and Justice System meeting

Chair Romero reported on:

- Olympia Regional Clean Air Agency (ORCAA)
- LOTT meeting
- State-wide Bee Keepers Association monthly meeting
- Sidewalk Fundraiser dinner
- Family Support Center Tour
- Coffee Chats – Yelm, Lacey, Rainier; ORCAA presented
- Thurston Council for Children and Youth meeting

Vice-Chair Blake reported on:

- Veterans' Agriculture Project meeting to be held on March 16th

9) Director's Report –

Don Sloma reported on:

- Veterans' Assistance fund program –

- In an effort to provide one stop shopping for our Veterans the program is now operating three days a week, Tuesday through Thursday, at the new Lacey Veterans

Service Office located at the offsite South Puget Sound Community College campus in Lacey. Services are still offered at the Public Health and Social Services Department location on Lilly Road on Monday and Friday, and additional times as needed. Camo2Commerce also provides services out of the Lacey location.

- In 2013 a Veterans' Conference was held where representatives from various service providers came together to strengthen the network that supports Thurston County's Veterans. Another conference is to be held in June. Vice Chair Blake requested Camo2Commerce be included in the conference.

Mental Health –

- The Regional Support Network (RSN) is receiving positive feedback from the jails in the City of Olympia, Thurston County, and Mason County that are served by the recently expanded Community Integration Offender program. The newly added services provide intensive case management and supportive housing services to individuals who are homeless and those coming out of the jail.

Housing and Community Renewal –

- The City of Tumwater received 10 applications for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) 2015 Funding totaling approximately \$1.9 million. There is \$838,000 available for programs.
- The last steps in the HOME Consortium application process were completed; it will be available in March.
- Final preparation and release of the Community Investment Partnership (CIP) 2015 Application was completed.

Immunization rates improvement project update:

- Group Health Foundation funded project to improve immunization rates in local schools
- Thurston County has the highest exemption rates in Washington State
- Working with local schools to improve record keeping to provide more accurate records.

Public Health message - update on mechanisms to amplify communicating the public health message:

- Website hits have increased, most have been mainly environmental health food program information, well and septic information, lawn care; vital records; and infectious disease
- Health Matters Column - articles on cold and flu, pot edibles and food safety
- Blog posts
- Facebook page – spent \$50 to increase visibility for one week, which generated a large increase in engagement

April is Public Health month – the 2015 theme is *U.S. the Healthiest Nation in One Generation*

April is Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention month:

- April Board of Health meeting agenda planned to include topics around Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- Health Matters column about ACEs hoping to print on March 31st

10) Health Officer's Report –

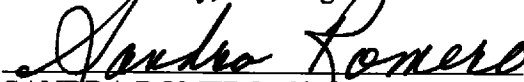
Dr. Rachel Wood reported on the following:

- ◆ Expressed appreciation of community providers' questions and communication when presented with a patient that has a rash type illness, how to determine if it is measles or not, and working with the State Department of Health (DOH) and the State Laboratory for testing.
- ◆ PHSS is developing a way to video monitor patients with an infectious disease, such as Tuberculosis, that are required to take their medications under observation by staff. This is known as Direct Observed Therapy. Video monitoring would allow the patient to be observed without staff or patient having to travel to or from the outskirts of the County.
- ◆ Emergency Preparedness – recently worked with a local medical provider with a patient who appeared to possibly have anthrax, which was not the case, but it provided an opportunity to practice a bioterrorism investigation, and to work with the DOH and the State Laboratory.
- ◆ Dr. Wood trained with local health care partners at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in Anniston, Alabama to respond to an all hazard event with multiply casualties. She expressed her appreciation of the opportunity to obtain the valuable training and the opportunity to work with local health care providers and improve communication.

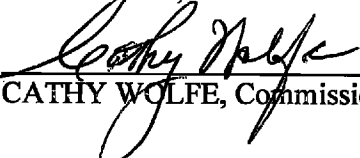
11) Adjournment – Vice Chair Blake moved to adjourn the meeting of March 10, 2015. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 P.M.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Thurston County, Washington


SANDRA ROMERO, Chair


BUD BLAKE, Vice Chair


CATHY WOLFE, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: April 14, 2015

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.