



## 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 October 9, 2012

#### 3:50 p.m.) Call Meeting to Order

**In Attendance:** Sandra Romero, Chair; Karen Valenzuela, Vice-Chair; Cathy Wolfe, Commissioner; Don Sloma, Public Health & Social Services Department Director; Art Starry, Environmental Health Division Director; and Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Chair Romero called the meeting to order.

- ◆ **Approval of the Board of Health Agenda:** Vice Chair Valenzuela moved to approve the agenda for October 9, 2012. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- ◆ **Approval of Board of Health meeting minutes:** Vice Chair Valenzuela moved to approve the Board of Health meeting minutes from August 14, 2012. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### 3:55 Presentations

##### Presentation Postponed: Septic Summit/Regional Septic Work Group Update

Due to the length of the regular Board of County Commissioners meeting this presentation was postponed to a future Board of Health meeting agenda.

##### Scatter Creek Aquifer Septic System Management Project and Advisory Committee Appointments

Art Starry, Environmental Health Division Director, gave a background, summary and timeline of the Scatter Creek Aquifer Septic System Management Project. A handout was provided. The Scatter Creek aquifer is a shallow, unconfined, and extremely vulnerable ground water supply. The aquifer serves more than 1000 public water systems and single-family wells and is the sole source of drinking water for more than 18,000 area residents. Septic systems and land use activities within the aquifer recharge area are polluting the Scatter Creek aquifer, resulting in violations of drinking water standards, increased public health risks, and water quality degradation of Scatter Creek and Chehalis River. Preliminary results from a numerical ground water model indicate septic systems, the principal means of sewage disposal in the area, pose a significant public health risk to the aquifer. Thurston County Public Health and Social Services received a grant that provides resources so we can evaluate the risk posed by septic systems to the Scatter Creek aquifer and work with area stakeholders to develop options to address the risks. Chair Romero requested clarification for the public and Mr. Starry responded regarding the concern of high nitrate levels in the Scatter Creek area drinking water. Vice Chair Valenzuela questioned the possibility of removing nitrates from the drinking water. Mr. Starry stated it is possible but expensive; therefore it is better to work toward prevention. He then described the process to convene a citizens advisory committee that will review the scientific data and help staff formulate long-term sewage management options using a numerical ground water model.



The committee's recommendations and options will be brought to the Thurston County Board of Health and Health Officer for consideration. A variety of means were used to notify the public about this project and solicit members for the citizen advisory committee. Eleven (11) people completed applications to be committee members. The list of applicants and recommendations were submitted to the Thurston Board of Health for their consideration. The citizen advisory committee will begin their work later this fall. Mr. Starry then introduced Jane MountJoy-Venning an Education and Outreach Specialist with the Environmental Health Division. Ms. Venning read the list of applicants' names and credentials. The first committee meeting will be November 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Rochester School District office. The Board Members were invited to attend. The Board and Ms. Venning thanked the Advisory Committee applicants. **Vice Chair Valenzuela moved to appoint the Scatter Creek Septic Aquifer System Management Project Citizen Advisory Committee. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

- 1) **Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board** - None
- 2) **Follow-up on Citizen Issues** - None

### **Presentations – continued**

#### **Community Transformation Grant in Thurston County**

Deborah Allen, the Personal Health Division Director, gave a brief description and background on the Community Transformation Grant (CTG). In the last quarter of 2011, Washington State Department of Health (DOH) was awarded the Grant from the federal Public Health and Prevention Fund, a part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). DOH had applied for this funding in concert with local health departments across the state. The goal of the funding is to create increased access to opportunities for active living, healthy eating and tobacco-free living in lower income areas of Washington's counties. Thurston County Public Health & Social Services (PHSS) Department is part of a five-county Healthy Communities Hub in Central Western Washington where a total of approximately \$250,000 per year of grant funds is shared among three main counties. The local action plan for the grant supports implementing Safe Routes to School projects in North Thurston Public Schools, establishment of community gardens, and promotion of tobacco-free campus policies with local governments, among other chronic disease prevention activities. Ms. Allen and Don Sloma, PHSS Director addressed the Board Members' questions regarding distribution of ACA funding. Ms. Allen also addressed the Board Members' requests for additional clarification regarding how the CTG Hub was formed and distribution of the grant funds. Ms. Allen introduced Chris Hawkins, the Active Healthy Communities Coordinator. Mr. Hawkins gave a presentation describing the source, purpose, implementation structure and responsibilities of the Washington State Community Transformation Grant; an overview of current action plan for the Central Western Washington Hub; discussed Year 1 accomplishments of the grant in Thurston County; and what is to come in Year 2.

The regular Board of Health meeting was paused to hold a scheduled Public Hearing.

#### **4:35 p.m. – Public Hearing – see separate minutes**

The purpose of the hearing was to receive testimony on a resolution to renew a moratorium on accepting or issuing septic system permits within the Woodland Creek Estates and Covington neighborhoods. The moratorium was established in 2011 in conjunction with another resolution that



requires all residences, buildings, and properties in these neighborhoods to connect to public sewer to protect public health and abandon their existing on-site sewage systems

#### **4:40 Presentations -continued**

##### **Community Transformation Grant in Thurston County**

Mr. Hawkins continued with his presentation providing additional information on the following projects and events: Community Gardens, Safe Routes to Schools, Tobacco Free Living including Tobacco-free campus policies. Vice Chair Valenzuela requested additional information on Mason County's Smoke Free Policy and questioned if it includes all properties such as city parks. Mr. Hawkins will research and provide the information to the Board at a later date. Deborah Allen noted all of the projects discussed are solely funded with the \$80,000 Community Transformation Grant. The Board thanked Ms. Allen and Mr. Hawkins for the presentation.

##### **Department Items**

#### **3) Board Members' Reports**

##### **a) Board Members reported on public health and social services involvement:**

##### **◆ Commissioner Wolfe:**

- Attended Senior Services Lunch, North Thurston Lunch, Olympia Foundation Lunch - all related to the health of the community.
- Attended the Domestic Violence Regional Justice Center two-day conference
- Regional Health Improvement Collaborative update – along with Don Sloma and Christina Hulet work continues on the Collaborative
- Earth Economics gave a briefing on the value of Ecosystem in Thurston County. They will give the same presentation at the October 16<sup>th</sup> Board of County Commissioners

##### **◆ Vice-Chair Valenzuela:**

- Commented on the Earth Economics presentation
- Participated in the Annual Thurston Conservation Tour

##### **◆ Chair Romero:**

- Held a Coffee Chat in Lacey with Nadine Romero, the Thurston County Hydrogeologist, on the topic of Climate Change.
- Participated in TCTV taping in Lacey (98503) of the Lacey Rotary project - a trail and viewing platform on Snack Lake.
- Met with local Farmers in the Gate Belmore area of the County regarding odor issues with manure spreading.
- Attended a Safeplace auction on October 5<sup>th</sup>
- Attended Safe Kids Coalition Environmental Task Force Workshop
- Commented on the Earth Economics presentation

#### **4) Director's Report - Don Sloma Director reported on the following items:**

- ◆ Blue Green Algae found in Black Lake and Clear Lake with elevated toxin levels. Provided tips for lake areas where algae blooms are present.



- ◆ Ward Lake is now clear of blue green algae and is open.
- ◆ This year's WasteMobile was held September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at Black Lake Fire District stations. 227 residents brought in over 5 tons of household hazardous waste for disposal.
- ◆ Water Lab – Interviews held October 8<sup>th</sup> for the biologist position. Hopeful position will be filled shortly and the lab will resume normal operations. Lewis County and LOTT labs have provided assistance during this interim period. He noted it appears LOTT is no longer considering the possibility of expanding their water testing capabilities.
- ◆ On October 10<sup>th</sup> the WA State Board of Health will conduct hearings to consider two amendments: 1) relatively minor amendments to the Food Service Code; 2) significant revisions to the regulations that govern Group B water systems which would require substantial revisions to our sanitary code with a proposed implementation date for the Group B rules is January 31, 2014.
- ◆ Back to School immunization clinics – three clinics were held at the Rochester Middle School, Yelm Middle School, Group Health in Olympia. A total of 467 vaccinations were given. Clinics were run with the assistance of the Medical Reserve Corps and promoted through school nurses in Rochester, Yelm, Olympia and North Thurston schools. Since May, a total of 673 Pertussis immunizations have been given and a total of 600 volunteer hours.
- ◆ Flu Vaccine - Reminder to the public to get a flu vaccine. Vaccine is available at most pharmacies. There are no low cost public clinics planned.
- ◆ Housing Program - staff recently met with Commissioner Valenzuela; work is being done on clarifying roles and responsibilities of the Homeless Coordinator, Home Consortium Board and Housing Program Staff. The new Housing Program Manager Gary Aden, Mark Freedman and Mr. Sloma will be doing a round of “meet and greet” visits with Housing providers in the community.
- ◆ HUD has notified the Department that the requirements for Community Development Block Grant entitlement have been met, but need to complete one more legal requirement.
- ◆ Meningitis outbreak – gave an update on outbreak status. It does not appear any pharmaceutical lots have been distributed in Washington, but situation is being watched closely; local health care providers and other community partners have been provided with information and guidelines.
- ◆ Pertussis cases update - have not seen any cases in a couple of weeks, 80 total for the year.

5) **Health Officer's Report** – Dr. Yu not present; Mr. Sloma reported under the Director's report.

Vice Chair Valenzuela commented on two public health related articles in a recent issue of the Parade Magazine: 1) vaccination rates in unvaccinated school age children; and 2) Hepatitis C. Mr. Sloma noted CDC has now adopted new screening recommendations for Hepatitis C. The Infectious Disease Program staff is looking into the new recommendations and the impacts for the Department. The Board will be provided with the information at a later date. Mr. Sloma noted information regarding immunization rates in the County will be brought to the Board at a later date.

In regards to Mr. Sloma's Water Lab update, Chair Romero, as a member on the LOTT Board, commented that the discussion by LOTT to expand their water testing lab capabilities was considered only as a possible cost savings and reduction of duplicate services in the County.


6) **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Valenzuela moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

BOARD OF HEALTH  
Thurston County, Washington

  
SANDRA ROMERO, Chair

  
KAREN VALENZUELA, Vice Chair

  
CATHY WOLFE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

  
Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: December 11, 2012