



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 December 11, 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 Emmie San Nicolas, 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 December 11, 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 October 9, 2012 regular meeting, October 9, 2012 Public Hearing and November 13, 2012. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. Motion carried. Madame Chair Romero commented on how very thorough the minutes were from October 9th and November 13th, 2013.

3:35 p.m.) Presentations

Septic Summit/Regional Septic Work Group Update

Art Starry, Environmental Health Division Director give a brief update and follow-up on the Septic Summit, and the work of the Regional Septic Work Group. At the June's 2011 "Septic Summit", the Board of County Commissioners and policymakers from Lacey, Olympia and Tumwater learned about issues related to high densities of septic systems in the northern Thurston urban areas, such as the impacts to groundwater, surface waters, and Puget Sound.

A variety of maps were displayed during the presentation to help illustrate the problematic areas. Mr. Starry explained that septic systems in high density urban areas including surface and groundwater can lead to the loss of shellfish harvesting areas, drinking water problems, and impact water recreation and swimming beaches. Information shared revealed the areas within the urban growth areas of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater that have an elevated level of ground water nitrate concentration in which ground water is adversely affected due to land use activities largely served by septic systems, as well as stream water particularly in the Chambers Creek area, a tributary to the Deschutes River. Mr. Starry also pointed out areas in the lower portion of Henderson Inlets and Nisqually that was closed for shellfish harvesting in the past due to septic system concerns.

In addition, recent studies through the Department of Ecology have identified septic systems as being significant pollution sources. A total maximum daily load study conducted by the Department of Ecology looks at different watersheds that implicated septic systems as possible pollution sources. Mr. Starry reported that there are nearly 13,700 septic systems within the cities and urban growth areas of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater. These septic systems generate some three (3) million gallons per

day of sewage. While properly designed, constructed and maintained septic systems can provide a safe and reliable way to treat and dispose of sewage, there are areas in Thurston County where they pose public health and environment problems.

These impacts have caused concern for many years, degrading groundwater quality and affecting the health of local lakes, streams, and inlets. Efforts to address septic system pollution in established neighborhoods have had limited success and have often been met with resistance. Summit attendees found that while local sewer plans state that sewer service should be provided within the urban growth area, there is no strategy to identify areas where septic systems pose the greatest problems and should be converted to sewer. Summit attendees also found only one city has a funding mechanism and incentive program to help convert problem systems to sewer.

As a result, because this has become a public health issue, the Thurston County Public Health Department has been assigned to lead the group. The primary goal is to establish criteria for indicating priorities for conversion with limited resources, financial needs, and how public health benefits can be achieved. Also, staff will review the septic and sewer conversion process to review the water quality and substantial cost concerns and develop a work plan in conjunction with GeoData to identify priority areas for conversion, barriers to conversion, and possible solutions for addressing those barriers. More information will be shared when available.

Environmental Health Division Overview

Art Starry Environmental Health Division Director gave an overview of the Environmental Health Division of Thurston County Public Health and Social Services. The Environmental Health Division protects the public from health risks associated with the physical environment acting under the authority of the Thurston County Health Officer and the Thurston County Board of Health. The division achieves desired outcomes using approaches including education and outreach, permitting and a variety of enforcement methods. Environmental Health has 35.4 FTE and an annual budget of approximately \$5.3 million. Environmental Health is funded by a complex array of fees, grants, contracts, fund transfers, and the county general fund.

The Environmental Health Division consists of six (6) major program areas:

- Food and Environmental Services program assures that food service establishments, schools and water recreation facilities are safe and meet public health standards.
- The Laboratory analyses drinking water and surface water samples for bacteriological contaminants and nitrates.
- The Solid and Hazardous Waste program permits solid waste facilities, responds to complaints and works with the public and our partners to assure that solid waste and hazardous materials are properly managed.
- The Surface and Ground Water Program conducts ground and surface water monitoring and oversees monitoring and maintenance of septic systems throughout Thurston County.
- The Drinking Water, Land Use and On-site Program evaluates development and land use proposals to assure that they meet public health standards for wastewater management, water supply and solid and hazardous waste management. It further assures that public water supplies are safe and provides technical assistance to the public.
- Education and Outreach staff within the Healthy Environment Action Team develops education and information programs on a variety of topics, from septic system monitoring and maintenance to integrated pest management.

Sammy Berg, Food & Environmental Services Program Manager, presented scenarios and examples of how Environmental Health plays a key role in a person's "Typical Day".

The Board thanked staff for the information.

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

Department Items

- 3) **Approval of Amendment No. 1 to the Mason County Contract to provide 2013 Health Officer Services**

Don Sloma, Public Health & Social Services Department Director, reported that this is an amendment to the 2012 Contract between Thurston County and Mason County appointing Dr. Diana T. Yu, as the Local Health Officer for Mason County. Amendment No.1 will provide Health Officer Services for the time period of January 1, 2013 through November 30, 2013 for a maximum compensation of \$47,489. The Contract requires 8 hours per week of Dr. Yu's time. Each year these services and hours are evaluated before considering continuation of the contract. The contract expires November 30, 2013 the date Dr. Yu has announced her retirement.

Vice Chair Valenzuela moved to approve and sign Amendment No.1 to the Mason County Contract to provide Health Officer Services for the time period of January 1, 2013 through November 30, 2013 for a maximum compensation of \$47,489. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- 4) **Approval of Resolution H-7-2012 Appointing Alternate 2013 Thurston County Local Health Officers**

Don Sloma, Public Health & Social Services Department Director, announced that beginning in 2000, the Board of Health has formally appointed alternate Health Officers to serve should emergency situations arise when the primary Health Officer, Dr. Diana Yu, or other primary local health officer appointed by the Board of Health for Thurston County, is not available due to illness, vacation, etc. Resolution No. H-7-2012 retains Rachel Wood, MD, MPH, Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, James Edstam, MD, MPH, John Bausher, MD, and Steve Standaert, MD, MPH as alternate Health Officers for 2013. The appointment of an alternate local Health Officer shall be activated when contacted to act in the capacity of the Thurston County local Health Officer by the following individuals: the primary local Health Officer for Thurston County, the Director of Thurston County Public Health and Social Services, or the Chair of the Thurston County Board of Health. The Board shall be immediately notified in the event an Alternate Health Officer is appointed.

Vice Chair Valenzuela moved to approve Resolution H-7-2012 appointing Rachel Wood, MD, MPH, Alan Melnick, MD, MPH, James Edstam, MD, MPH, John Bausher, MD, and Steve Standaert, MD, MPH as alternate Health Officers for 2013. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5) **Board Members' Reports** – by passed

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

- ◆ **Impact of Recent Changes re: Alcohol and Marijuana Use**
 - Result of change in alcohol sales availability and passage of Initiative 502;
 - Already seeing up-tick in alcohol use among youth;
 - Seeing barriers to drug alcohol treatment options.
- ◆ **Reprieve in Syringe Exchange Program**
 - Received a six (6) month contract for HIV Prevention-Syringe Exchange Program Services from the Washington State Department of Health for the January - June time period of 2013;
 - No confirmed contract amount, but we expect it to be similar to the January - June 2012 amount of approximately \$45,000.
- ◆ **Infection Control – Olympia City Hall**
 - Request for advice and assistance with “campers” in front of City Hall;
 - Department is participating in the Jan 24th Point-in-Time Homeless Census.
- ◆ **New Name for Personal Health Division**
 - Wanted a name that more accurately describes the work the Division does;
 - Beginning in January, name will be changed to “Prevention and Disease Control Division”.
- ◆ **Baby Quilts Donated**
 - Thirty-six (36) quilts donated by a religious organization, who wish to be anonymous, that is dedicated to community service and teaching their children “service”;
 - Olympia organization, interested in helping mothers and babies, wanted to contribute to the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Program;
 - Important to them that they not receive recognition for their work.
- ◆ **Health and Human Services Comp Plan Chapter**
 - Reminder that the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the Health and Human Services chapter in the plan;
 - Will be considered at today’s public hearing.

7) **Health Officer's Report**

Dr. Yu was not in attendance – No Report

8) **Election of 2013 Board of Health Officers**

Chair Romero nominated Vice-Chair Valenzuela as Chair and Commissioner Wolfe as Vice-Chair for the 2013 Board of Health. Nominations were accepted.

A motion was made by Madame Chair Romero and seconded to approve Vice-Chair Valenzuela as the Chair to the Board of Health for the year 2013. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Valenzuela and seconded to approve Commissioner Wolfe as Vice-Chair to the Board of Health for the year 2013. Motion carried.

2013 Board of Health Officers:

- ◆ Karen Valenzuela – Chair
- ◆ Cathy Wolfe – Vice-Chair
- ◆ Sandra Romero - Commissioner

9) **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:


Emmie San Nicolas, Clerk of the Board

Date: January 8, 2013