



BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes of February 1, 2011

1) **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Attendance: Chair Wolfe, Vice-Chair Romero, Commissioner Valenzuela, County Manager Don Krupp, Department Director Sherri McDonald, and Clerk of the Board of Health Lydia Hodgkinson.

Excused Absence: Health Officer Dr. Diana Yu

Chair Wolfe called the meeting to order.

- a) **Approval of Board of Health Agenda** – Vice-Chair Romero moved to approve the agenda of February 1, 2011. Commissioner Valenzuela seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- b) **Approval of Board of Health Minutes** - Vice-Chair Romero moved to approve the Board of Health meeting minutes of September 28, 2010 a joint meeting with Mason County, January 4, 2011 and January 18, 2011 a special meeting. Commissioner Valenzuela seconded the motion. The motion carried.

2) **UPDATE ON CITIZEN ISSUES** - none

3) **OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD** - none

4) **AIR QUALITY AND HEALTH EFFECTS**

Sherri McDonald, Director of the Public Health and Social Services Department, introduced Judy Bardin, an Environmental Epidemiologist with the Washington State Department of Health. At Vice-Chair Romero's request Ms. McDonald explained that an Epidemiologist is trained in epidemiology which is the study of diseases. She then introduced Mark Goodin with the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency one of the regulatory authorities in the State. Ms. McDonald explained on December 21, 2010, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a moratorium on new biomass facilities and interim regulations. The moratorium was passed in response to increasing citizen concerns in Western Washington regarding environmental and siting issues for biomass facilities which are not addressed in the Thurston County Code. Ms. McDonald and Ms. Bardin gave a presentation which focused on the health concerns associated with air quality degradation from a number of sources and information specific to various biomass processes and their air quality health impacts. The National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are standards established by the US Environmental Protection Agency Clean Air Act which apply to outdoor air throughout the country. Primary standards are designed to

protect human health and secondary standards are designed to protect public welfare such as domestic animals. In response to Chair Wolfe's and Commissioner Valenzuela's questions Ms. Bardin provided additional information regarding the criteria used to set NAAQS Standards and the possibility of either the annual or daily Standards being lowered this year. Chair Wolfe questioned if "cause of death" information from death certificates can provide information in the research of air pollution and health effects. Ms. Bardin and Ms. McDonald addressed the question stating the "underlying cause of death" information from death certificates is used in research. At Chair Wolfe's request they also provided additional explanation of measurements of air pollution levels. Ms. McDonald discussed briefly biomass air pollutants; air emissions from biomass combustion and other possible biomass by-products; and air quality concerns about biomass fuel transportation. She reminded the Board the Clean Air Act regulatory authority in Washington State is the Washington State Department of Ecology and the Olympic Regional Clean Air Agency. Ms. McDonald noted the presentation was to discuss basic air quality concerns and health effects from industrial biomass facilities. She stated there are additional times scheduled to talk to the Board about specific biomass facility proposals and biomass concerns. Vice-Chair Romero requested clarification of who has authority of biomass solid waste. Ms. McDonald stated air is delegated to several regional air quality authorities in the state; water is regulated by Department of Ecology; but authority over solid waste biomass brings up many questions to be discussed at a future meeting.

Due to time restraints, Chair Wolfe requested the remaining items on the agenda be suspended. She also requested an additional Board of Health meeting or briefing be scheduled to further discuss the air quality and health effects topic after various other meetings on the same topic have been held. She thanked Ms. McDonald and Ms. Bardin for making a very complex subject interesting and informative.

Art Starry, the Director of the Environmental Health Division, addressed the Board to provide a brief clarification regarding possible criteria that would initiate an environmental review by Department of Ecology regarding biomass solid waste. Commissioner Valenzuela stated that for her the presentation has triggered many more questions than answers such as local government review response to any proposal that could have negative impacts on human health and land use.

Ms. McDonald will work with Don Krupp to schedule an additional meeting and/or briefing as needed to answer the Board's additional questions.

Chair Wolfe asked if there were any additional questions before adjourning the meeting.

Ms. Harriet Ammann a toxicologist previously with Washington State Department of Health Environmental Health programs, Department of Ecology air quality programs and Spokane Waste Facility risk assessment programs addressed the Board expressing her concern that types of materials to be used to produce fuel be seriously considered in review of any biomass plant proposals.

Fran Prescott a concerned citizen of Mason County addressed the Board expressing her concern regarding types of wood, dry versus wet that would be used in biomass plants.

Chair Wolfe invited all to attend a public meeting on the biomass topic on Monday night, February 7th.

5) **DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC PLAN** – suspended from agenda

6) **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

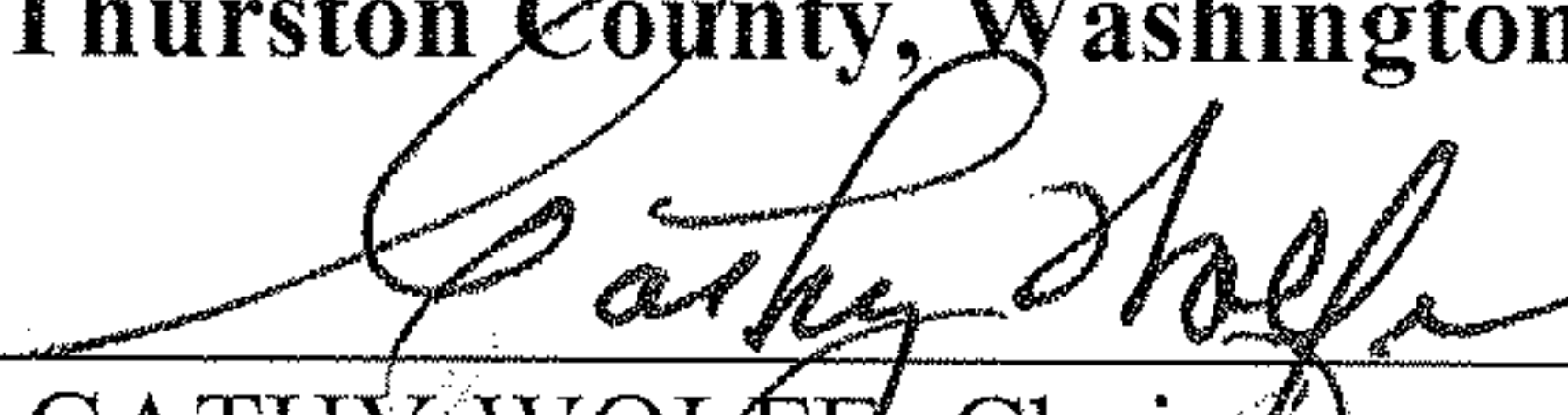
Sherri McDonald stated the Department is the process of compiling documents for submittal to the Washington State Department of Health for a Public Health Standards review which are due mid February with review results expected back in early April.

7) **HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT** - none


8) **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Wolfe adjourned the meeting.

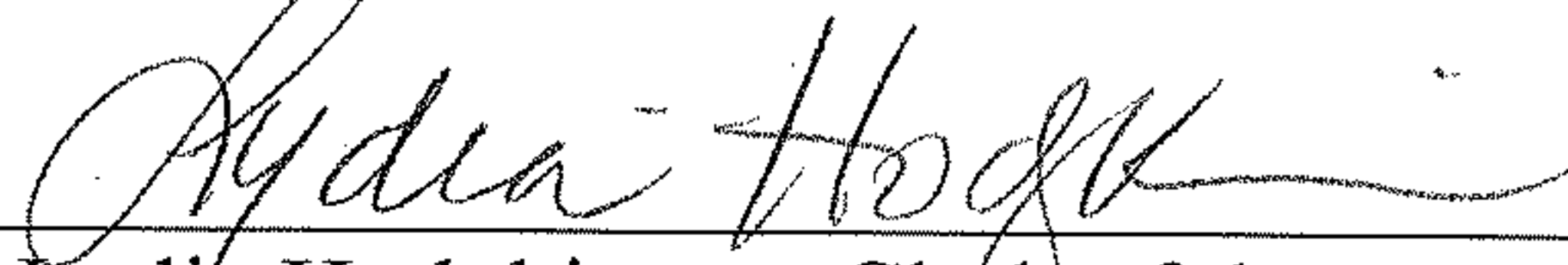
BOARD OF HEALTH
Thurston County, Washington


CATHY WOLFE, Chair


SANDRA ROMERO, Vice-Chair


KAREN VALENZUELA, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: March 8, 2011