



BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes of March 8, 2011

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Attendance: Chair Wolfe, Vice-Chair Romero, Commissioner Valenzuela, County Manager Don Krupp, Department Director Sherri McDonald, Health Officer Diana Yu, Environmental Health Division Director Art Starry and Clerk of the Board of Health Lydia Hodgkinson.

Chair Wolfe called the meeting to order.

- a) **Approval of Board of Health Agenda** – Vice-Chair Romero moved to approve the agenda of March 8, 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 February 1, 2011 and February 15, 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

Bill Pilkey, citizen, addressed the Board requesting an opportunity be given for the public to ask questions of presenters at future Board of County Commissioners' meetings. Mr. Pilkey expressed concerns regarding items at the March 8th Commissioners' meeting about earthquake faults in Thurston County and concerns around health care in our nation.

4) APPROVE IPM PRESCRIPTION FOR CONTROL OF INVASIVE PLANTS AT GLACIAL HERITAGE

Art Starry the Environmental Health Division Director gave a brief introduction of the request to approve the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) prescription for Control of Invasive Plants at Glacial Heritage Preserve. Black River-Mima Prairie-Glacial Heritage Preserve is located in southern Thurston County, southwest of the town of Littlerock. Mr. Starry introduced Nature Conservancy Program Manager Saunders Freed and Project Manager Casey Dennehy. Mr. Freed addressed the Board providing a history of the woodland management of Glacial Heritage Preserve. Mr. Dennehy addressed the Board describing the proposed chemical which does not harm native grasses and gave a history on herbicides used in the past. The IPM Prescription for the Control of Non-Native Grass was developed by the staff of The Nature Conservancy, who has been instrumental in the management and restoration of Glacial Heritage Preserve for more than 15 years. The prescription is consistent with the Thurston County Parks and Recreation Departments Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) that was approved by the County's Pest and Vegetation Management Advisory Committee. The Board

thanked The Nature Conservancy for their work and partnership. Patrick Soderberg a Hazardous Waste Specialist with the Department's Solid and Hazardous Waste Program addressed the Board explaining that the IPM policy requires proposals to apply pesticides to be approved by the Board of Health. Board approval is also required to use a pesticide that fails the Department's review process. The criteria used for review is: 1) the pest and vegetation problem has been assessed, and control is deemed necessary; 2) the use of the pesticide is a necessary element of the integrated pest and vegetation management prescription; and 3) the risk to public health, ground water, and the environment is determined to be minimal. Mr. Soderberg reviewed the IPM checklist completed by the Thurston County Pest and Vegetation Management Advisory Committee (PVMAC) that showed how the proposed prescription compares to key elements in the county IPM policy and the recommendations from the Committee. The Committee concludes the prescription is consistent with the county policy and recommends its approval subject to the special mitigation measures included in their comments. The special mitigation measures suggest The Nature Conservancy apply the prescription for up two applications per year for the next two years (a total of four) with County approved soil testing for groundwater concerns beyond the two years. Commissioner Romero asked if the Audubon Society is included in the review process regarding the prescriptions effect on birds. Mr. Soderberg stated one member on the Committee represents the Audubon Society. The Board expressed concerns about groundwater contamination and requested a monitoring plan be added to the IPM Prescription if pesticides are applied after year two. They also requested well log information from the site be reviewed by Nadine Romero the County's Hydrogeologist. The additional requested information shall be presented at a special Board of Health meeting on March 22nd at which time the Board will take action on this issue.

5) COMMUNITY HEALTH INDICATORS AND DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Sherri McDonald gave a presentation and referenced handouts on Community Health Indicators and Determinants of Health which included descriptions and data for Thurston County. In 2010 the Department identified a basic set of indicators that broadly describe community health. Ms. McDonald explained that indicators highlight public health issues that contribute to leading a longer, healthier life such as physical activity or the reverse premature death and disability such as tobacco use. Indicators were selected using criteria that included: the health behavior, condition or issue is modifiable; a connection exists to current work or interests of the Department; address common local data requests; and evidence-based policies or programs exist to address the topic. Commissioner Romero requested and Ms. McDonald provided further explanation of 2009 data regarding the percentage of adults that smoke versus their yearly household income. Ms. McDonald explained that research has shown that one predictor of whether or not a person smokes tobacco is their income. A person of lower income is more likely to smoke than a person of higher income. Ms. McDonald discussed the key aspects of Determinants of Health and the Inequities in Health. She noted indicators are available online and will be updated annually. The role of determinants of health and how they relate to health improvement will also be referenced. Ms. McDonald gave options for the next steps to be taken and funding challenges. These indicators will be used in the development of the Health and Human Services chapter of the county Comprehensive Plan and the Health Panel white paper for the Thurston Regional Planning Council Sustainability grant. Chair Wolfe informed the Board about the work of the Safety Net Council work that has led to a pilot project wherein medical providers will take people as patients

that have lost basic health coverage to provide primary medical care. Commissioner Romero requested and Ms. McDonald provided an explanation of what issues are included in “Environmental Public Health”. Commissioner Romero noted she would like to see built environment and dental issues included in “Environmental Public Health” along with food, groundwater, and solid waste discussions. Chair Wolfe asked Dr. Diana Yu’s and Ms. McDonald’s opinions on what is the most alarming issue that comes to mind from the presented data. Dr. Yu stated working with community partners to stop tobacco use in the community which she feels will have the biggest impact for the future health of our community; focus on nutrition and physical activity; and maximize access to care. Ms. McDonald stated she agrees with Dr. Yu with the inclusion of environmental health protection which is directly connected to human health. The Board’s priorities are not determined yet, but being worked on. Commissioner Valenzuela expressed interest in public health behaviors, built environment and system behaviors obtained from restaurant and foodborne illness data. Dr. Yu stated that presently foodborne illnesses are not adequately reported. Dr. Yu also pointed out that home assessment programs to determine exposure to asthma triggers have been funded in the past, but funding for these programs no longer exists. Ms. McDonald stated the goal for all is to narrow the priorities to a level of doable issues.

6) **STRATEGIC PLAN** – Suspended to the next meeting agenda.

7) **HEALTH OFFICER’S REPORT**

Dr. Yu shared the following with the Board:

- 1) There is an outbreak of the Norwalk virus in a local adult facility. This virus is spread person to person which can be minimized with proper hand washing and no bare hand to food contact by using gloves, tongs, etc.
- 2) Newspaper articles are now being submitted to a Tacoma newspaper.
- 3) On March 31st the Department will be holding a practice exercise using a NACCHO Advanced Practice Centers (APC) product handling a simulated disease outbreak using Medical Reserve Corps volunteers and staff. Thurston County is one of eight sites in the nation to complete a practice exercise using the product.

8) **DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Sherri McDonald noted at a March 2, 2011 Board briefing the Board directed staff to proceed with planning a Tobacco-Free Campus. They also requested a list of suggested staff for membership on a planning committee. Ms. McDonald presented a memo containing suggested staff. She is waiting for additional names from Executive Management Team members for any vacant spots and asked the Board for additional names as desired. The Board requested additional smoking staff be included on the committee. Ms. McDonald will contact Chair Wolfe for additional names. The first objective of the committee is to examine the current Smoking Policy and suggest changes to the Board.

Ms. McDonald presented a draft letter to be addressed to local farmers for the Thurston County Healthy Retail Project. The project, in coordination with the Washington State Department of Health, involves increasing access to healthier foods at two convenience stores in Thurston County low-income neighborhoods. The memo is requesting interest to sell a small amount of produce in the

stores. The store owners would provide a small amount of counter space and the farmer would be responsible for discarding over-ripened produce. Ms. McDonald noted there is a very small amount of funding to help support the retail stores with advertising. The Board expressed a strong interest in the project and agreed to sign the letters once prepared. Commissioner Romero expressed a desire to have a staff member on a group she leads called the Agri-tourism Group. She will have her Aid Lisa Paribello contact Lesley Wigen the Department's Public Health Nutritionist on the Healthy Retail Project.


9) **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: _____