



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 of May 10, 2011

1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Attendance: Chair Wolfe, Vice-Chair Romero, Commissioner Valenzuela, Department Director Sherri McDonald, Health Officer Diana Yu, 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 May 10, 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 March 8, 2011 and March 22, 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

Citizen Bill Pilkey expressed strong concerns regarding infection control, staff incompetence and hospital care experienced by a family member at Providence St. Peter Hospital in December of 2010.

4) ACTIVE SENIORS HEALTH CONFERENCE AND 2011 WASHINGTON STATE SENIOR GAMES

Dr. Diana Yu noted there will be an Active Seniors Health Conference on Saturday, May 28th at the Olympia Senior Center. The conference is to encourage participation in and provide information for the 2011 Washington State Senior Games being held July 21 – 24, 2011. To register for the conference call Providence-St. Peter Hospital or go to the Senior Games website. Jack Kiley, President of the Washington State Senior Games addressed the Board. He commended Dr. Yu for her drive and coordination of the conference. Mr. Kiley provided an overview of the Senior Games and described several of the events which include: Archery, Basketball, Badminton, Bowling, Cowboy Action Shooting, Cycling, Dance, Golf, Pickleball, Pool/8-Ball, Power Lifting, Race Walking, Racquetball, 5 & 10K Runs, Shuffleboard, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Table Tennis, Tennis, Track & Field and Volleyball. Those 50 years or older interested in participating in the 2011 Senior Games can call (360) 413-0148 or visit “pugetsoundgames.com”. The Board and Dr. Yu thanked and commended Mr. Kiley for being the driving force behind the Senior Games.

5) NOTICE FOR DELINQUENT SEPTIC SYSTEM OPERATIONAL CERTIFICATES

Art Starry provided a background and description of the Septic System Operational Certificates Program. Approximately 11,000 septic systems in Thurston County are required to have renewable operational certificates. These certificates establish maintenance, monitoring and inspection requirements that help assure septic systems are properly operated and maintained, and that inspections are performed that lead to the identification and correction of septic system problems and failures. All 6,700 septic systems in the Henderson Watershed Protection Area are required to have operational certificates, as are another 3,900 systems located elsewhere in the county (complex and community systems, and those serving food establishments or schools). Mr. Starry noted approximately 380 septic system owners have failed to renew their operational certificates as required by Article IV of the Thurston County Sanitary Code. At least three written notices that state the program requirements and the consequences associated with failing to comply with them have been sent to the owners. These owners have failed to have their system inspected or to do the maintenance or repairs needed to renew their septic system operational certificates. Septic systems with expired operational certificates become “non-conforming” under the sanitary code. In order to return a non-conforming system to conforming status, the septic system owner must do the following things as required by Article IV:

- Have the sewage tanks pumped and submit a report to the Health Officer
- Have the on-site sewage system inspected by the Department to verify that status of the system and confirm it is not in failure
- Pay all past renewal fees and a county field inspection fee (currently \$395)
- Complete all other inspections, maintenance, and monitoring requirements that are requirements of the operational certificate

Mr. Starry stated for most of the 380 non-conforming systems, three years has passed since the date that the system was due for inspection. Operational Certificate renewal notices will be sent to the approximately 216 septic system owners within the Henderson Watershed Protection Area. In addition, notices and invoices will be sent to 161 septic system owners in the county-wide operation and maintenance program who failed to renew their certificates during the last renewal cycle. Mr. Starry presented examples of the draft notices and invoices to be sent to homeowners. Once authorized by the Board of Health, Environmental Health staff will begin sending approximately 50 non-conforming system renewal notices every two weeks until the owners of all the past due non-conforming systems have received notices. At Commissioner Romero’s request Mr. Starry provided an explanation of the consequences of a homeowner failing to renew their certificate. He explained septic Systems classified as non-conforming risk other permit approvals being withheld until the certificate is renewed. Certificate renewal assures a septic system is working properly, avoids any additional renewal fees and untimely delays during future building projects or property sales. Commissioner Romero requested wording be revised to be more direct in the Initial Notice Renewal Letter. Vice-Chair Valenzuela requested a typographical error correction on the Non-Conforming Notice Renewal Letter. **Commissioner Romero moved to authorize the Environmental Health Division to initiate mailing of non-conforming system operational certificate renewal notices. Vice-Chair Valenzuela seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

6) THURSTON REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY PLAN: HEALTH PANEL

Chair Wolfe commended Sherri McDonald for her outstanding overview explanation of the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development Project at the first Health and Human Services Panel meeting held on May 9th. Ms. McDonald provided the Board Members with the May 9th meeting agenda packet, the outcomes of the first meeting including homework and the schedule for upcoming meetings. She then explained the background of the Health & Human Services Panel. The Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC) and its 29 partners have begun a process that will result in development of a regional vision and regional plan for sustainable development. Development of the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development will be overseen by the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development Task Force (RPSD-TF), which will serve in an advisory role to the Thurston Regional Planning Council. Supporting the work of the task force will be a set of Expert Panels. The objective for each of these Panels is to generate a white paper that articulates research and recommendations which will then be presented to the RPSD Task Force. The Panels' work will go on to inform each of the 3 phases of the RPSD public engagement process. The Public Health & Social Services (PHSS) staff will lead the Health and Human Services Panel. PHSS staff will co-lead the Housing Panel, and participate on the School Siting and Design, Water Infrastructure, Food Systems, Land Use, Climate Change, and Transportation panels. At Commissioner Romero's request Ms. McDonald discussed the process of inviting individuals to participate on the Health and Human Services Panel. Ms. McDonald noted she will keep the Board informed of the Panel's progress.

7) DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. McDonald stated the new online training for Food Worker Cards is now available for Thurston County workers. The online training was developed by Tacoma Pierce County and is available in seven languages. Thurston County will continue to hold face-to-face classes at the Courthouse. The online fee is the same fee of \$10.00.

8) HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

Dr. Yu stated she attended and participated in the C.A.R.E (Communities Are Responding Everyday) Clinic held in the Tacoma Dome on Saturday, April 30th. The Clinic included Medical Reserve Corps volunteers also.

Ms. McDonald discussed a thank you letter received from The Olympia Free Clinic Board of Directors thanking her for allowing the board and committees to use meeting rooms at the Lilly Road Building over the past year. The letter stated they are working towards opening a free clinic in late April at a downtown Olympia location.

Co-Chair Valenzuela questioned if in the capacity of the Health Officer would Dr. Yu assist Mr. Bill Pilkey in navigating the system regarding his family member's negative experience at Providence St. Peter Hospital. Dr. Yu stated she would contact Mr. Pilkey to discuss his experience and assist him in communication with hospital staff. She also stated that as the Health Officer she does provide this type of assistance to the community when she is made aware of an issue.

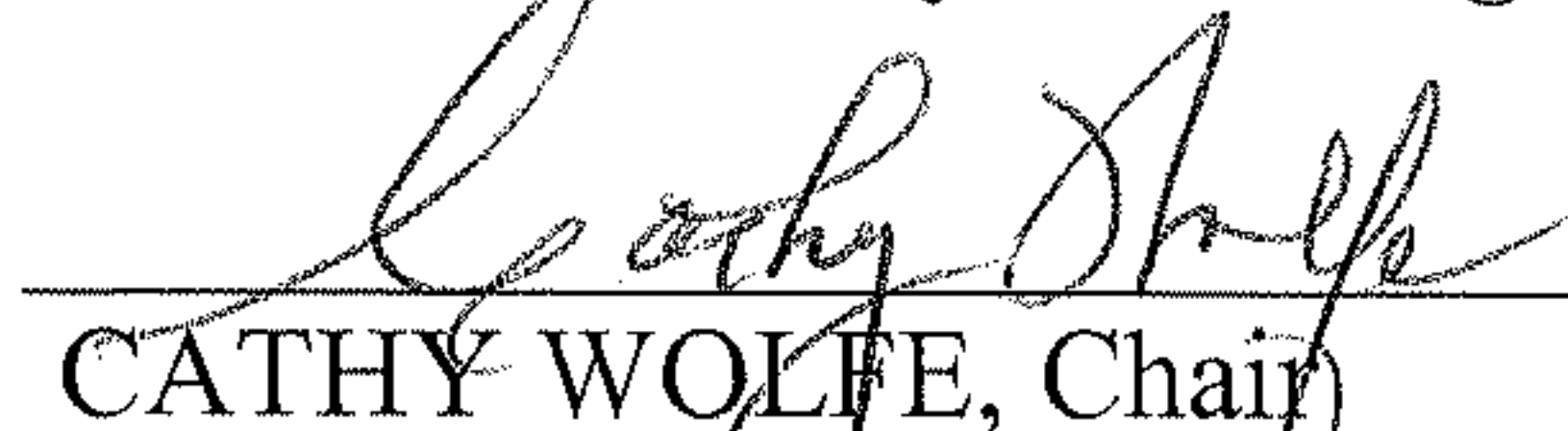
Dr. Yu noted there has been an increase in TB cases in the last few months.

Commissioner Romero noted the Mayor of the City of Tenino has concerns with failing septic systems in a specific area of Tenino. She questioned how an Environmental Health Division (EH) investigation is initiated. Art Starry, the Environmental Health Division Director, explained there is a complaint system in place for the public to file complaints regarding properties they are concerned about and EH staff investigates these complaints. He also noted staff is currently working with the City of Tenino on a sewer conversion project. Mr. Starry will have Steve Peterson the EH Program Manager contact the Mayor to discuss his concerns further. Commissioner Romero also questioned what would trigger an EH investigation for a meth bust in the same area of Tenino. Mr. Starry stated in the instance of a meth bust after their initial response law enforcement would trigger an EH investigation. EH staff would then investigate the health related safety of homes as per regulations.

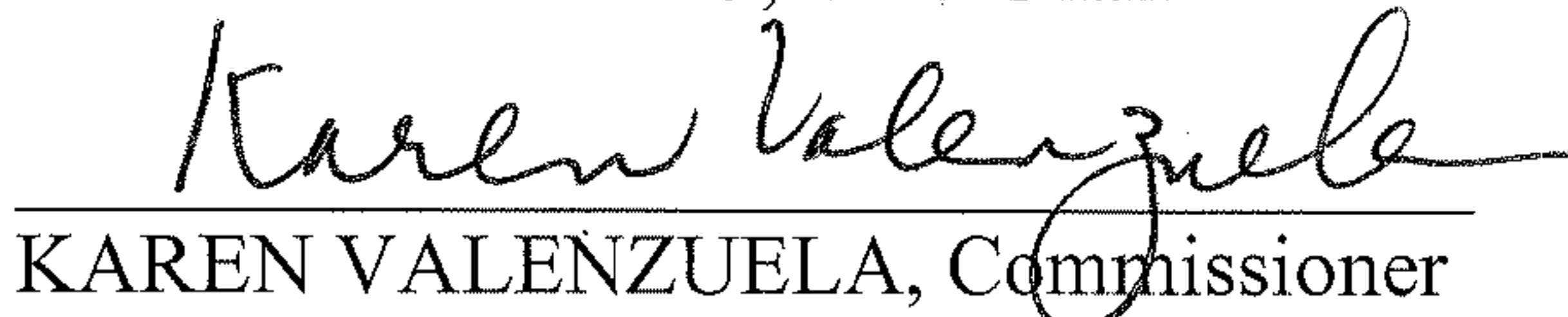
9) ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Romero moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Valenzuela seconded the motion. The motion carried.

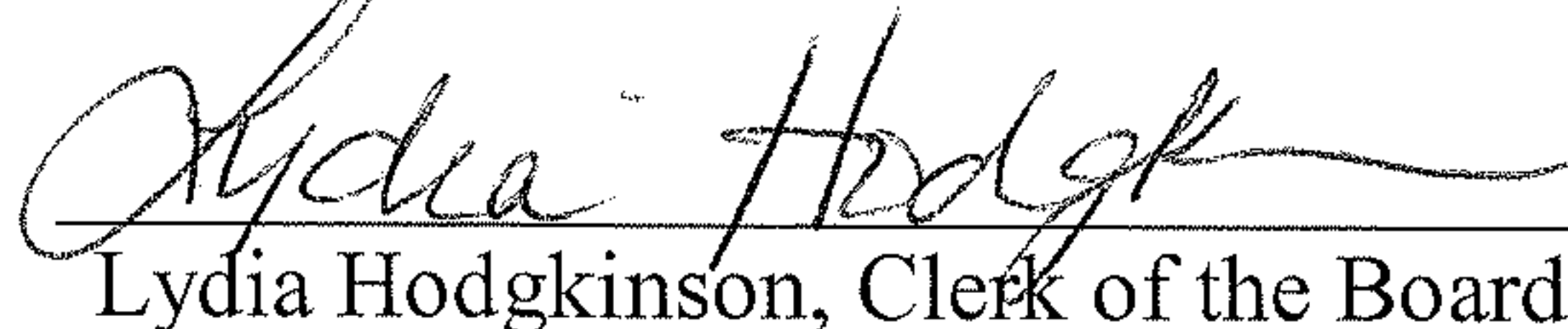
BOARD OF HEALTH Thurston County, Washington


CATHY WOLFE, Chair


SANDRA ROMERO, Vice-Chair


KAREN VALENZUELA, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: June 14, 2011