



## 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 October 11, 2011

#### 1) CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

Chair Wolfe called the meeting to order. Chair Wolfe requested the agenda be amended with Item 6 being heard before Item 4 to accommodate Vice Chair Romero's need to leave at 4:30 to attend a Puget Sound Partnership meeting.

- a) **Approval of Board of Health Agenda** – Vice Chair Romero moved to approve the agenda of October 11, 2011 as amended. Commissioner Valenzuela seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- b) **Proclamation** – Child Health Month: Proclamation to be presented with Thurston County Healthy Child Weight Initiative item.

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

#### 3) OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

**CITIZEN:** John Youmans a resident of the Covington subdivision, District 1

**ISSUE:** Approval of Resolution H-3-2011 requiring public sewer hook-up and Resolution H-4-2011 adopting a moratorium on on-site sewage systems in Woodland Creek Estates and the Covington subdivision.

Chair Wolfe noted that the September 27, 2011 public hearing held to receive comments and testimony on the proposed resolutions was closed and the Board is prepared to take action on the resolutions today. She stated comments will be heard but they will not be considered as part of the official record, therefore will not be considered in the Board's decision. Mr. John Youmans stated he is disconcerted and disappointed that the Board chose to ignore a petition signed by 100% of Covington Subdivision home owners to revise the proposed resolutions. Mr. Youmans requested on behalf of other subdivision property owners that the Board either vote no on the resolutions or at least table their decision until the resolutions provide some level of financial certainty for the home owners. Romero requested clarification from staff regarding a proposal to include language in the resolutions stating a cap on costs to the home owners. Sherri McDonald stated the financial portion of this construction project is not part of this resolution and is being heard by the Board of County Commissioners. The cost in reference is a \$6,640 in LOTT and City of Lacey sewer hook-up fees. Chair Wolfe stated when this project first started there was an estimated cost of \$44,000 to homeowners and with much effort over the last several years this cost has been capped at \$6,640. Mr. Youmans noted that there is no language in either proposed resolutions stating the capped dollar amount. Richard and Donna Monohon, and Gabriel Brannon Covington Subdivision homeowners did not testify but were present in

support of the subdivision neighbors. Don Krupp, County Manager noted the goal is to under spend the project which will translate into additional savings to the homeowners.

**4) APPROVE RESOLUTION H-3-2011 REQUIRING PUBLIC SEWER IN WOODLAND CREEK ESTATES AND COVINGTON AND APPROVE RESOLUTION H-4-2011 ADOPTING MORATORIUM ON ON-SITE SEWAGE SYSTEMS**

Art Starry Environmental Health Division Director provided a description of the two resolutions being presented: Resolution H-3-2011 requires that all residences, buildings and other properties that discharge sewage within the Woodland Creek Estates and Covington neighborhoods connect to public sewer and abandon their on-site sewage systems when sewer becomes available in accordance with the schedule established by the Health Officer; and Resolution H-4-2011 adopts a moratorium on accepting permit applications, and the issuance of permits for the repair, expansion or installation of on-site sewage systems on properties in the Woodland Creek Estates and Covington neighborhoods.

Mr. Starry provided a follow up to Mr. Youmans comments stating at the October 6, 2011 Board Briefing the County Public Works Department the fees were discussed and it was agreed to cap the fees at \$6,640. Any formal action in this regard needs to be done by the Board of County Commissioners as the financial authority. Mr. Starry stated that Public Works is working with the City of Lacey and Lott to provide this assurance to homeowners. Vice Chair Romero stated a desire to include language in the proposed resolutions. Don Krupp the County manager suggested, and the Board agreed, to pass the resolutions with an amended motion to approve Resolution H-3-2011 with an inclusion of language stating "it is the understanding of the Board of Health that the Thurston County Board of County Commissioners intends to establish a cap of \$6,640 per sewer hookup".

Mr. Starry then provided a history of the proposed resolutions. He explained that the Board of Health needs to adopt a resolution to require that property owners abandon their on-site sewage systems and connect to sewer when it becomes available. A resolution is needed to comply with the Thurston County Sanitary Code and help assure that the project is completed on schedule. The requirements for converting on-site sewage systems to sewer are stated in Section 5 of Appendix A of Article IV of the Thurston County Sanitary Code and are reflected in the proposed resolution. In addition, Mr. Starry stated on September 27, 2011 the health officer submitted a letter requesting that the Board of Health adopt a moratorium on accepting applications and issuing permits for the installation, repair or expansion of on-site sewage systems in these neighborhoods. The moratorium would prohibit newly installed or expanded on-site sewage systems in the Covington and Woodland Creek Estates subdivisions that would add to the pollutant load in Woodland Creek and Henderson Inlet. In addition to imposing a moratorium, this resolution requires Environmental Health staff to work with the owners of failing on-site sewage systems to identify appropriate interim measures for temporary sewage system repairs or other corrective measures pending the availability of the public sewer. The H-4-2011 moratorium is valid for 6 months at which time the Department would come back to the Board of Health to request a renewal of the moratorium.

Mr. Starry stated at the September 27, 2011 public hearing six people testified at the hearing, including four who provided written comments. People voiced concerns about the cost of the project and questioned whether their septic systems cause significant pollution in Woodland Creek. Other people suggested changes to the proposed resolutions and asked that the county and LOTT guarantee that the sewer project improves water quality in Woodland Creek. After the Hearing other comments, a petition and an email were received. He has been corresponding with these individuals. The public comments were considered at a Board of Health briefing on October 6, 2011.

Commissioner Valenzuela requested clarification that this action is being taken not because of failing septic systems but due to the septic systems inability to perform, based on soil type and property proximity to Woodland Creek. Mr. Starry stated this is true and that under current standards this density of lots would not be allowed on these soil types. Commissioner Romero commended staff and all involved that worked so hard to obtain grants and loans to help reduce sewer hookup fees. She would like to see in the future environmental retro fitting costs be covered. Chair Wolfe and Commissioner Valenzuela thanked staff for all of their efforts in this project. Mr. Starry thanked the Board for their support in this project.

**Vice Chair Romero moved to approve the resolution H-3-2011 requiring public sewer in Woodland Creek Estates and Covington with an addition of item number 26 that there is an understanding of the Board of Health that the Board of County Commissioners will establish a cap per hook-up not to exceed \$6,640. Commissioner Valenzuela seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

**Vice Chair Romero moved to adopt resolution H-4-2011 adopting a moratorium on on-site sewage systems in Covington and Woodland Creek Estates. Commissioner Valenzuela seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

## **5) THURSTON COUNTY HEALTHY CHILD WEIGHT INITIATIVE – CHILDREN’S HEALTH MONTH**

Vice Chair Romero read a Proclamation claiming October 2011 to be “Child Health Month”.

Chris Hawkins, Public Health & Social Services Active Healthy Communities Coordinator addressed the Board and gave a presentation providing a background and update on the Healthy Child Weight Initiative. Mr. Hawkins explained Thurston County Public Health & Social Services (PHSS) began to work in 2008 with a broad group of stakeholders on a project aimed at preventing childhood obesity in our community. The Healthy Child Weight (HCW) Initiative began as a collaborative effort of PHSS Chronic Disease Prevention and WIC program. The focus of the HCW project in 2008 was to assist health care providers, namely pediatricians and family practice physicians, in carrying out the guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics with regard to assessment and treatment of childhood obesity. In 2009, the focus was to follow through on suggestions from the forum, summarize the findings of the first year into a strategy, and report to the Board of Health. In 2010, PHSS sought to formalize the advisory work group by forming the Healthy Child Weight Coalition, composed of members of the original advisory group plus key local government officials including the

Board of Health, school district superintendents and parks and recreation department representatives, as well as youth-serving organizations and health care providers. Mr. Hawkins acknowledged Coalition Member Joe Wall of Providence St. Peter Hospital Administration, Family Practice Residency who was present.

Mr. Hawkins explained that late last year the Coalition focused on a joint activity for 2011 - to create a community campaign to reach out, and provide information to parents of children up to 10 years old and their families, schools and other care providers about ways that they could help ensure kids have every opportunity to achieve a healthy weight. A handout containing details about the Grow Happy Kids 7-5-2-1-0 Campaign was presented to the Board. A Grow Happy Kids 7-5-2-1-0 Program Banner was displayed. The banner has been displayed at many promotional events. Dr. Yu is to take the banner to other local governments to promote additional participation in the program. Mr. Hawkins acknowledged Scott River, with City of Olympia Parks and Recreation, for his participation with the Program. Mr. Hawkins also acknowledged Vickie Larkin, Assistant to Commissioner Cathy Wolfe and Danielle Westbrook, Assistant to Commissioner Valenzuela for their campaigning to reach more Thurston County schools with the 7-5-2-1-0 Program. Mr. Hawkins discussed a pledge form that participating families complete which allows them to commit themselves to completing the 7-5-2-1-0 actions. Christine Neer, a parent of Tumwater School District Michael T. Simmons Elementary students, William and Elora, spoke in appreciation of this program. Ms. Neer had read Dr. Yu's newspaper article about the 7-5-2-1-0 program and joined the campaign. She invited the Board to attend Michael T. Simmons' Community Night held annually. Mr. Hawkins explained staff will review the results of the kick-off activities at the next Coalition meeting later this month. Commissioner Valenzuela commended Mr. Hawkins for his hard work and dedicated. She also expressed her frustration with the environment of foods being offered in public schools and noted this issue is being discussed by the Coalition. Mr. Hawkins encouraged the Board Members to complete a pledge form committing to following at least 5 steps. The Board thanked Mr. Hawkins, other staff, Ms. Larkin and Ms. Westbrook for their hard work.

## **6) THURSTON COUNTY CHILD IMMUNIZATION RATES FROM THE NATIONAL IMMUNIZATION SURVEY**

Marianne Remy, Coordinator of the Public Health & Social Services Immunization Program, gave a presentation on the Immunization Program which focuses on "Reducing vaccine preventable diseases among children by helping to assure availability of immunizations". Ms. Remy reviewed and discussed with the Board immunizations children need at each year of life and which immunizations are required for school age children. She also discussed childhood diseases that are preventable with immunizations. Dr. Yu provided a follow-up on the Back to School Immunization Free Clinic held at the Olympia Group Health on September 17, 2011. She stated over 100 children were seen; over 180 shots were given to children ages 3 – 14 years of age. Dr. Yu thanked Group Health staff and the 30 MRC volunteers that made the clinic possible. Ms. Remy stated for additional immunization information to either visit the Department website or call.

**7) DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Sherri McDonald noted the Secretary of the Washington State Department of Health, Mary Selecky will visit the County on October 31, 2011 to meet and discuss with staff what is happening on the county level. A draft agenda for this meeting was given to the Board.

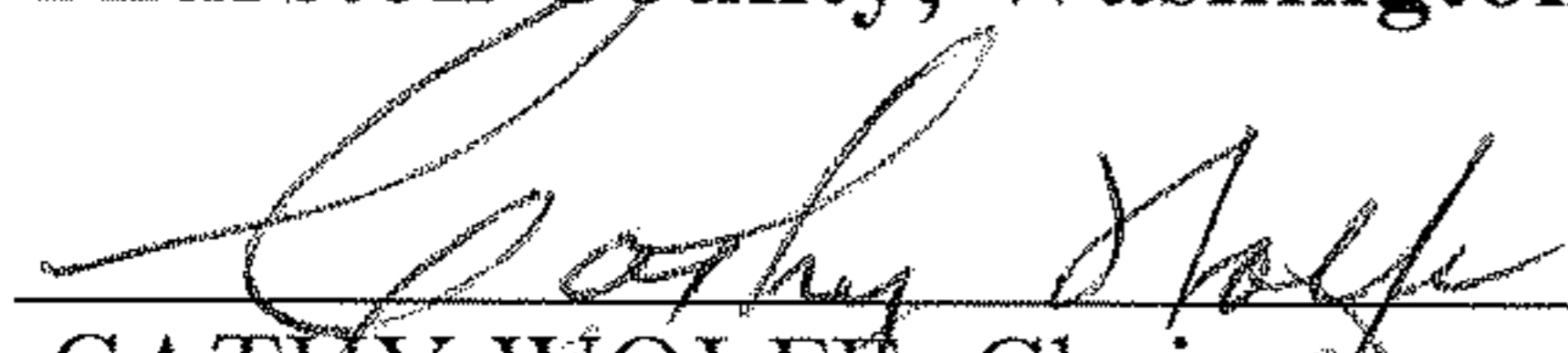
Ms. McDonald gave an update on the proposed Tobacco Free Campus project. Staff is still working on a detailed implementation plan and policy to be reviewed and considered by the Board.

Ms. McDonald noted the Department continues to work with the Thurston Regional Planning Council on the Sustainable Thurston work. The Health & Human Services panel paper was submitted 2 weeks ago.


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

**Meeting was adjourned.**

**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Thurston County, Washington**

  
CATHY WOLFE, Chair

  
SANDRA ROMERO, Vice Chair

  
KAREN VALENZUELA, Commissioner

**ATTEST:**

  
Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

Date: 12/6/11