



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes

Thursday, May 26, 2005
10:08 a.m.

PRESENT: Board Members: Carolyn Booth, Commissioner Alan Crankovich, and Vice Chair Don Solberg, M.D.; and Public Health Department Staff: Administrator Nancy Goodloe, Health Officer Rosalie Miller, M.D., Environmental Health Director John Wolpers, Community Health Services Manager Bonnie Corns, and Clerk of the Board Susan Merrill.

ABSENT: Commissioner David Bowen and Commissioner Perry Huston, Chair

PRESENTERS:

Ted Durfey, Natural Selection Farms, Inc.
John Huffman, Natural Selection Farms, Inc.
Carol Ready, Natural Selection Farms, Inc.
Darlene Frye, Solid Waste and Financial Assistance Program, Department of Ecology (Yakima)
Peter Severtson, Composting/Organics, Department of Ecology (Yakima)

MINUTES:

Motion 05-01: Carolyn Booth moved that the minutes of the April 21, 2005 Board of Health meeting be approved with the correction that the Vice Chair is Don Solberg and not Carolyn Booth. Alan Crankovich seconded. Motion 05-01 carried.

INTRODUCTIONS:

Representatives from the Department of Ecology (Central Regional Office in Yakima) and Natural Selection Farms were briefly introduced in anticipation of their presentation on biosolids application later in the meeting.

UPDATES/REPORTS:

Staffing Updates – Nancy Goodloe

Nancy Goodloe provided an update on the registered nurse position. Nancy said the announcement for the position closes on May 27, two applications have been submitted thus far, and she is hopeful that by the next Board meeting, the Public Health Department (PHD) will be fully staffed.

Public Health Standards Site Visit on May 25 – Nancy Goodloe

Nancy Goodloe mentioned that the standards visit was conducted on May 25. Nancy said that the review went smoothly, and that the two reviewers from the Department of Health (DOH) were greatly impressed with and highly appreciative of our electronic process. In an exit interview, reviewers outlined the department's strengths and opportunities. A report on the visit will be available in mid-September, as well as, a review of DOH programs will occur in November. Chief strengths were: our quarterly reports, the Goals and Objectives Review Instrument (GORI), an identified set of health indicators, and the quarterly assurance (QA) report on the Diamondback investigation. Opportunities for improvement were: expand information on our Assessment webpage, expand

assessment data, complete the communicable disease (CD) manual on policies and procedures for investigating illness, expand GORI to all department programs, and develop a department-wide quality improvement plan.

Don Solberg asked if the review will produce an updated set of standards for our department. Nancy Goodloe responded that the Public Health Department (PHD) will see improvement. Comparison of our department will be made with departments from similar counties as well as with the state's program; and this year's department's self-assessment was more extensive than last year's and built upon last year's favorable report from the reviewers.

Nancy said that Administrative Standards were new for this year's review. Administrative standards covered governance procedures regarding communication with the Board of County Commissioners and Board of Health on budget matters, Human Resources documents, and a technology section). Nancy talked about the significance of administrative standards, highlighting that they provide a baseline measure for all departments and provide the infrastructure for departments to do their work. Increasingly, through the Standards Review process, it is being revealed how there are real differences in the operations of public health departments compared to public health districts. Nancy mentioned that this is expected because governance is self-contained within public health districts.

Don Solberg asked what areas are critical to the Board of Health's mission. Nancy Goodloe responded by saying (1) strengthening assessment (by broadening it, updating it, and expanding assessment data on the website), (2) quality improvement (in department-wide structural and procedural ways), and (3) health indicators (to monitor and set direction). Bonnie Corns also stated that there were no surprises in the reviewers' assessment: the department knew where it was strong and weak.

Quarterly Report, 1st Quarter, 2005 – Nancy Goodloe

Nancy Goodloe introduced the PHD's quarterly report for the first quarter of 2005 by complimenting Rosalie Miller for her contribution; and complimenting the administrative staff for their "phenomenal" work. Nancy highlighted information pertaining to the following endeavors [please refer to "Report Highlights" in the quarterly report in this link: <G:\Quarterly Reports\2005 Quarterly Report\1st Quarter 2005.doc>]:

- ❖ Inclusion of information on the accomplishments of administrative services for the first time
- ❖ The significant and pace-setting work within the region by the department's emergency response staff
- ❖ The Shape Up grant and April, 2005 "Planning for Healthier Communities" workshop
- ❖ The unexpectedly high number of birth certificates issued
- ❖ Fantastic outreach by the Oral Health Access Coordinator, Christie Waddington
- ❖ First Step Visits handled single-handedly by Sharon Smith, R.N. as the program has had a staffing shortfall.

Don Solberg asked if the money for Shape Up was gone and what was the current strategy. Nancy Goodloe said the department had not received the final word regarding the status of Block Grant federal funding, but that it does not look good. PHD has submitted a grant to the Washington Health Foundation for \$50,000, which would allow for another year of funding.

Don Solberg asked if there are any changes related to the Quarterly Report. Nancy Goodloe replied that there are none with the first quarter's report. Future reports will contain quarterly financial information, including budget updates and end-of-the-year reports to the BOH on proposed and actual expenditures. Don said this was a good idea and expressed his preference for a report summary "stating here are the key items" rather than pages of data. Nancy Goodloe suggested the example from the Auditor's Office of monthly graphs tracking projected and actual figures, along with bulleted information. Both Don Solberg and Carolyn Booth said this sounds great.

BUSINESS:

Motion to Set a Public Hearing for June 16 to Adopt the Washington State Food Rules by Reference – Nancy Goodloe

Nancy Goodloe stated that, at the next BOH meeting on June 16, she would like a motion to be passed setting a public hearing to adopt the Washington State Food Rules by reference. Alan Crankovich checked on the Board of County Commissioners' schedule and said it looked good; and Don Solberg said he will be available. Carolyn Booth however will not be able to attend the BOH meeting on June 16.

Motion 05-02: Carolyn Booth moved, seconded by Alan Crankovich, to set a public hearing on June 16 to adopt the Washington State Food Rules by reference. Motion carried.

Kittitas County Health Indicators Resolution 2005-01 – Nancy Goodloe

Vice Chair Don Solberg read the resolution. Nancy Goodloe said, that as directed from the last Board of Health (BOH) meeting, she had made changes in the resolution's language; though the list of key health indicators had not changed from the March meeting. Nancy provided a short history on the health indicators. She stated that they are unlike any from other states; they are modeled after those of Spokane. The Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC), upon review of the indicators, recommended that two new ones on "methamphetamine labs" [under Environmental Health] and "homelessness" [under Quality of Life] be added. The key health indicators were reviewed by staff who made no major changes.

Motion 05-03: Carolyn Booth moved to bring Kittitas County Key Health Indicators Resolution 2005-01 to the floor. Alan Crankovich seconded. Discussion ensued as presented below.

Alan Crankovich asked if the Chair had reviewed it and Nancy Goodloe replied that he had. Nancy said she had sent it to Commissioner Huston and had received no formal information back from him. Additionally, Commissioner Huston had made no comments when Ms. Goodloe saw him on Tuesday, May 24.

Don Solberg said he had reviewed the indicators again and his only concern was how to measure them, and asked if tracking could become part of the indicator. Don said he was concerned with indicators where it is either difficult to acquire data or where no data exists. Don posited that if an indicator like "persons satisfied with their quality of life," [under Quality of Life] is presented with measurement information such as "as surveyed by the Public Health Department every year," that would be fine.

Discussion continued on this subject with suggestions for including how data is measured (i.e., tracked), that indicators be prioritized according to how easy it is to obtain data on them, and that a categorical list be created. Vice Chair Solberg again indicated that he has no problem with the resolution as a policy sheet. Carolyn Booth and Don Solberg both recommended that the information be expanded so that special measures are attached to the list of key health indicators. Don said that it is best to specify the measure of an indicator as much as possible.

Discussion concluded that the categorization of the health indicators information would include:

A = indicator

B = how indicator is measured (i.e., tracked)

C = how many resources are available to measure indicator

D = frequency of measurement (e.g., annually, biannually, etc.): in order to indicate trends without it being burdensome on PHD.

Vice Chair Don Solberg asked if there was more discussion on the topic; there was none. All were in favor of passing the motion. **Motion 05-03 passed.**

Biosolids Presentation by Natural Selection Farms – Ted Durfey and John Huffman

Ted Durfey of Natural Selection Farms gave introductory information on what their company does and how it got started. John Huffman provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Huffman said that his company is environmentally-oriented and biosolids are applied for both irrigated and non-irrigated agriculture. Mr. Huffman presented information on the following:

- ❖ A brief definition of biosolids
- ❖ their involvement in various university research programs
- ❖ soil testing is done to determine biosolids application amounts and rates, to ascertain when application is no longer required, and to avoid any potential for soil toxicity
- ❖ displayed slides showing results of treated versus non-treated acreage
- ❖ soil benefits from biosolids applications versus fertilizers
- ❖ brief information on how exposure to any pathogens is avoided
- ❖ mentioned that municipal and state guidelines exist to monitor and regulate levels of heavy metals in biosolids and in proposed areas of application
- ❖ truck traffic
- ❖ their program quality assurance and compliance with particular regulations (i.e., their voluntary efforts as well as cooperation with local health departments, Department of Health, and Department of Energy)
- ❖ their proposed application area (less than 4000 acres, most of which is primarily non-irrigated rangeland, some of which produces alfalfa)
- ❖ the company's investment in community relations to build community trust.

BOH members asked questions about frequency of application, if application varies by crop type, the difference between biosolids and fertilizer, public safety, toxicity upon application for people and animals, odor problems for neighbors, if the company is invited by the landowner ("yes"), if there are restrictions on when land can later be used for housing development (Department of Ecology [DOE] representatives said "they did not believe there is research on this"), and if there is resistance from surrounding landowners ("no").

John Wolpers spoke to company and DOE representatives about Kittitas County's past history with problematic sludge classification and landfill conditions. John said BOH members were concerned about any potential for clean-up of toxins over the course of the next twenty years. John furthermore stated that with Natural Selection Farms' proposed 4,000-acre application, the BOH has been concerned about monitoring in general and particularly concerned with any application close to residential developments or in areas where growth is occurring. John Wolpers stated that enforcement and monitoring would be done by DOE; and not the local health jurisdiction. John mentioned that Commissioner Huston had helped him draft a letter outlining a larger list of county concerns too.

Nancy Goodloe said that the Commissioners recommend having a public meeting before application of biosolids occurs. John Huffman of Natural Selection Farms reiterated that they follow DOE guidelines and they are happy to have a public meeting on the issue.

Rosalie Miller asked how long it takes to apply, and was told that trucks haul in at a slow rate every day, and that it is necessary to stockpile it too. Application is not done all at once but over several years.

Don Solberg had a list of questions for representatives from Department of Ecology, including:

- ❖ Are there right and wrong ways to operate this process?
- ❖ What is the mechanism for monitoring (including what pre and post-application testing occurs)?

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- ❖ How does monitoring work? What services does DOE offer?
- ❖ Does the DOE oversight person work in the field?
- ❖ How many applicators are licensed for Kittitas County?

Peter Severtson from the Department of Ecology, and recently hired to fill the vacant oversight position in the central region, described the processes by which DOE monitors biosolids application. He stated that DOE performs the following:

- ❖ Pre-application soil testing is mandated by DOE (i.e., checks pre-level of nitrogen)
- ❖ Approval or disapproval of soil test data (including agronomic rate application) which is provided by outside consultants to DOE
- ❖ Periodic inspections
- ❖ One person does monitoring for 7 counties
- ❖ Department of Ecology does NOT do post-application soil testing

Carolyn Booth asked from a resources perspective if it was difficult for one (1) DOE inspector to cover 7 counties. DOE representatives replied: "No."

Alan Crankovich asked if something does go wrong, who has the burden of responsibility: DOE or Kittitas County? DOE representatives answered: "DOE."

John Wolpers asked about the prospect of Natural Selection Farms participating in a public hearing before their application occurs, especially in light of probable public interest, new subdivisions planned in adjacent areas, and truck traffic. Natural Selection Farms representatives said "yes." Nancy Goodloe asked that the company notify John Wolpers about when they will have a public meeting.

Don Solberg thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

DOH Joint Plan of Operation for Group B Water Systems – deferred to June BOH Meeting

Motion 05-04: Alan Crankovich made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Carolyn Booth seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Next Meeting: The next Board of Health meeting will be on June 16 at 10:00 a.m.

Perry Huston, Chair of the Board of Health

Nancy Goodloe, Administrator
Kittitas County Public Health Department

Susan Merrill, Clerk to the Board of Health