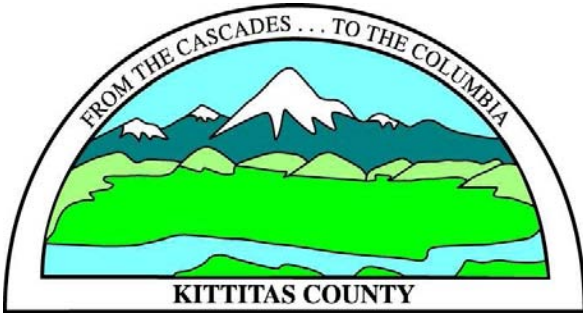


# PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## KITTTAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH Minutes

Thursday, October 18, 2007  
Commissioners' Auditorium  
10:05 a.m.

**PRESENT:** **Board Members:** Rich Elliott, Commissioner Mark McClain, and Dr. Don Solberg, Vice Chair.  
**Kittitas County Public Health Department Staff (KCPHD):** Public Health Administrator Cathy Bambrick, Health Educator Sarah Bedsaul, Community Health Services Director Bonnie Corns, Clerk II Amanda Davis, Health Officer Dr. Mark Larson, Clerk of the Board Susan Merrill, Environmental Health Director Sage Park, Environmental Health Specialist II James Rivard, and Environmental Health Specialist II Kodi Still.

**ABSENT:** Commissioner David Bowen and Commissioner Alan Crankovich

**OTHER ATTENDEES:**

Margaret Condit, Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC)  
Nicole Garinger, Central Washington University (CWU) student

Dr. Solberg presided as Vice Chair and called meeting to order.

**MINUTES:**

**Motion 10-01: Commissioner McClain moved to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2007 Board of Health meeting while noting that he was not at the meeting. Dr. Solberg seconded. All approved. Motion 10-01 carried.**

**INTRODUCTIONS:**

Cathy Bambrick provided introductions to three people.

1. Rich Elliott, as the new community Board of Health member, was asked to introduce himself. Mr. Elliott said that he has worked 20 years with the Fire District, 10 years in SeaTac and 10 years in Ellensburg; and that he has been active in medical education, communicable disease work, and infection control.
2. Amanda Davis, KCPHD's Administrative Clerk II: Cathy Bambrick said that Ms. Davis was raised in Wenatchee, was a CWU Marketing Program graduate, and that her grandmother had been a Kittitas County Treasurer.
3. Kodi Still, KCPHD's Environmental Health (EH) Specialist II in food safety and vector work: Cathy Bambrick said that Ms. Still was a CWU graduate in Public Health Education, had interned with KCPHD in food safety, and filled a new position as EH had expanded its food safety program (after the number of required inspections had increased to two per year).

Margaret Condit as a member of BOHAC was introduced. A CWU student in Public Health was introduced as observing the Board. And Sarah Bedsaul, KCPHD Health Educator, was introduced.

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES/ISSUES:**

**Staff award and certification:** Cathy Bambrick announced that Sarah Bedsaul had just received a statewide award as *WA State Public Health Association Emerging Public Health Leader*. Ms. Bambrick described how Ms. Bedsaul had been nominated by KCPHD for her leadership in the local community and with other local health jurisdictions (LHJ), and nominated specifically for her work in tobacco prevention, child care gardens, workplace wellness, school food policy, walk-to-school day for 400 elementary children, assistance in writing the Shape Up grant, and help in causing the drop in the adult smoking rate in Kittitas County by one-half. Ms. Bambrick stated that this is a statewide honor and only one person in the State per year receives this award.

**Commissioner McClain asked that a press release be issued; and Dr. Solberg stated that Ms. Bedsaul's award was doubly noteworthy as not many in Kittitas County receive state recognition.**

Cathy Bambrick also recognized James Rivard for his week-long training and successful certification in *Hazwoper*, Hazardous Waste and Emergency Response, which qualifies him to do inspections of the moderate risk waste facilities in Kittitas County.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Cathy Bambrick announced two Department of Ecology (DOE) community meetings on the exempt well issue (e.g., whether DOE will enact a moratorium on the drilling of new, exempt drinking water wells):

1. On October 24 at 6 p.m. in Cle Elum; and
2. On October 25 at 6 p.m. in Ellensburg.

Ms. Bambrick said Public Health staff will answer any questions on approval processes for public water systems regarding water quality and safety of water sources.

**CONTRACTS:**

**DSHS Cover All Children Outreach Program Agreement #0763-28769:** Cathy Bambrick said this DSHS agreement extends from November 1, 2007 through June 30, 2009; its purpose is to identify and contact parents of WA resident children who are potentially eligible to receive medical program benefits (Medicaid); and has a contract maximum of \$4,200 (based on a rate of \$75 per child enrolled). In answer to Dr. Solberg's questions, Ms. Bambrick said that compensation from DSHS covers work already done by KCPHD staff on behalf of Medicaid clients through WIC and First Steps.

**Motion 10-02: Rich Elliott made a motion to approve the Director's signature on the DSHS Cover All Children Outreach Program Agreement #0763-28769; Commissioner McClain seconded. All approved. Motion 10-02 carried.**

**DEPARTMENT UPDATES/ISSUES (continued):**

**Health Officer update:** Dr. Larson provided updates on three matters:

1. **Environmental Health:** There is no incidence of West Nile virus (WNV) in the Kittitas County (in either birds, other animals, or humans) and it is the end of the mosquito season. Dr. Larson said that nine horses in Yakima County had contracted WNV; they were horses which had not been vaccinated. Yakima County does not do mosquito-trapping. Sage Park said that no positive mosquito pools were found statewide. **Dr. Solberg and Commissioner McClain asked about outreach to immunize horses in Kittitas County, and asked how often horses need to be vaccinated; and Sage Park will find out.** Cathy Bambrick and Sage Park said that KCPHD would need to conduct its own survey regarding vaccinations as data is not collected by the veterinary association.

2. Influenza: Dr. Larson reported that many providers have received the adult flu vaccine but not the child flu vaccine as of yet (as it is first shipped to the State). On October 15, providers on the Westside are scheduled to receive the vaccine.
3. Congress to attempt override of Bush's veto of SCHIP (State Children's Health Insurance Program): Dr. Larson explained that it looks like there will not be enough House votes to override Bush's veto of the expansion in the children's health insurance program (the state-run, federally-funded program) and another version will be brought up by Congress. Dr. Larson explained the insurance program (i.e., which provides health insurance for children whose families earn too much to qualify for Medicaid yet not enough to afford private health insurance) and the current expansion plan. Dr. Larson said that the current 62 enrollees in the program in Kittitas County will continue to receive insurance through 2009 based upon the carryover in funds from last year and this year; but no more people will be able to enroll in the program.

**Staffing update:** Cathy Bambrick said:

1. Sage Park has resigned as EH Manager upon one and a half month's notice. Her position was posted upon receipt of her letter of resignation. Ms. Bambrick reviewed Sage's accomplishments during her time as manager of the division.
2. Sheila Gallagher resigned after six months as the department's accountant to take a job at CWU. Ms. Bambrick mentioned Sheila's accomplishments. Ms. Bambrick said a new accountant had been hired, Amber Simon, and listed her qualifications.
3. Colleen Riley's position has been eliminated as of December 31, 2007 due to a 21% decrease in 2008 bioterrorism funding and the current 2007 overbudgeting in bioterrorism (BT). Cathy Bambrick said that BT funding will continue to decrease over time and will also go to urban rather than rural areas.

**Solid waste program:** Sage Park reviewed the status of policy development and staff training in the solid waste program within EH.

Policy development:

1. Files have been reviewed and there is a lack of facility-operation plans and permits are currently loosely-written. Work is under way to write detailed permits to ensure safe solid waste facilities. Ms. Park stated that there is the need for written procedures to specify whether materials can be left in the county landfill and cited a recent example where written procedures did not exist over whether asbestos-containing material could be left (or not) at the landfill. Ms. Park mentioned the Louis Gibson Wood Waste Facility as another example whereby evidence is missing related to an emergency fire suppression plan. **Commissioner McClain advised staff to work with the Prosecutor's Office which has the statutory authority to initiate letters and steps for dealing with permitting problems.**
2. Sage Park said that state law requires permits to be issued and maintained for five years and Kittitas County's current practice is to reissue permits every year. Ms. Park wants to develop a policy to reflect the current practice.
3. Ms. Park said another policy to be written concerns the appropriate number of inspections that should occur each year (for example, for inspections on wells to ensure well heads are in good repair).
4. **The solid waste ordinance to permit solid waste facilities is out-of-date and it will be revised and updated by the next BOH meeting.** Ms. Park said EH is looking to increase fees for permitting solid waste facilities as such permitting work requires many weeks of review; and recommended charging by an hourly fee. Ms. Park cited costs charged by other entities. Commissioner McClain mentioned looking at permitting fees through the County's General Fund as the County would be charged for solid waste permits. **Cathy Bambrick said the initial application fee but not all the permit fees will be presented at the November 29<sup>th</sup>**

**BOH meeting.**

5. Sage Park said that there are some issues concerning the new Material Recovery Facility (recycling facility across from the county transfer station) and she will work with the Prosecutor's Office over these items. Issues relate to the need to notify Public Health prior to operation and whether the facility is exempt from permitting. **Cathy Bambrick and Sage Park said that the 1999 Ordinance, which relates to this matter, will be updated and presented at the November BOH meeting.**

Rich Elliott mentioned that CWU is considering building a fuel/heating facility to burn wood waste; and Sage Park said that EH should have a part in the permitting process as EH monitors what is or is not burned.

Staff training:

1. James Rivard will need to become certified in landfill operations training in order to independently inspect landfills and transfer stations; currently inspections of the solid waste landfill facilities are conducted by Kittitas County staff with direct supervision by Department of Ecology (DOE). DOE will continue to work with EH over the next 2 years until EH staff are trained and certified.

Dr. Solberg said he was sorry to hear that Sage Park was leaving.

**Community Health of Central Washington (CHCW) and its implementation and funding:** Cathy Bambrick said that CHCW is acquiring office space which will take a year to remodel; most staff have been hired (with two current full-time physicians and one still to be hired); and CHCW has received its federal funding as of September 1<sup>st</sup>. As far as the community effect, Ms. Bambrick spoke about how the Yakima Valley Farm Workers have pulled out of the school sealant program, including October clinics and CWU student dental care. To fill the resultant gap, Christie Waddington has found another dental provider; and Dr. Maples has offered a nurse to assist the sealant program.

Dr. Larson said CHCW has been working collaboratively with the local medical community.

**Permit Center software update:** Cathy Bambrick said that, after seven years of development, the county purchased software for all permit centers and implementation began last week in preparation for full implementation by January 1, 2008. The program will enable parcels to be viewed for current permits, violations, etc.; and will increase the quality of customer service. Web-based services to the public will be available in one year.

**BUSINESS:**

**Request to set public hearing to revise Public Health Fee Schedule for 2008 fees:** Cathy Bambrick requested that a joint Board of Health and Board of County Commissioners public hearing be held to revise Public Health fees for 2008.

**Motion 10-03: Commissioner McClain made a motion to approve the request to set a joint Board of Health and Board of County Commissioners public hearing to revise Public Health Fee Schedule for 2008 fees on November 29, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.; Rich Elliott seconded. All approved. Motion 10-03 carried.**

**The Board of Health meeting in November will occur upon the conclusion of the public hearing.**

**EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES:**

**Flu clinics in Cle Elum and Ellensburg:** Bonnie Corns described the mass flu vaccination clinics occurring in October, 2007, which are also being conducted as exercises for the department's emergency response plan (SNS plan). Participants include Kittitas County Search and Rescue (to direct traffic) AREA/RACES, RSVP, CWU EMT students and staff, community volunteers, Cle Elum's Senior Center, the owner of the Grand Meridian Theater, and the Red Cross. The clinics have a drive-through method of vaccine delivery to promote social distancing as a practice for any emergency where Public Health would not want the general public to gather en masse in order to reduce the spread of illness. It is the first time in WA State that drive-through clinics have been operated.

Ms. Corns said the Cle Elum clinic occurred on October 16 when over 100 flu shots were given; and the Ellensburg clinic will occur on October 23.

**Commissioner McClain said it will be good to conduct drive-through clinics a few more times in the future. BOH members recommended that the clinics be advertised to the community as *avant garde* events given that they are the first of their kind in the state; and to particularly advertise the rationale behind the drive-through format and to use clinics as another opportunity to talk about pandemic flu. Discussion occurred over current advertising and reporting.**

**Fiorito Pond's blue-green algae bloom:** Cathy Bambrick and Sage Park described the incidence of high levels of toxic blue-green algae in Fiorito Pond. WA State Department of Health notified EH on September 20 about the high levels of algae bloom; DOE sent a sample to DOH for lab testing. Public Health staff took immediate action by asking WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife to work with them, creating and posting signs at the lake's site, and issuing a public press release. Initial levels of toxic algae were 55 and normal levels should be 0.5. Sampling for a second time showed toxic levels had decreased to 8.8; a third sample has not been taken due to funding restraints. Signs remain posted until another test is performed.

Discussion occurred over potentially severe dangers to fish, animals, and humans if the toxin gets into one's system. Discussion also occurred over the need to locate a source of funding to sample algae blooms and for equipment. **Dr. Solberg recommended delegating surveillance to local kayak groups and hiking clubs who could recognize and report algae outbreaks.**

Sage Park mentioned a second call related to an algae problem on Upper County national forest land but where the algae had already decomposed although the smell was still bad.

**Motion 10-04: Commissioner McClain made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Rich Elliott seconded. All approved. Motion 10-04 carried.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.

**Next Meeting: The next Board of Health meeting will be held on November 29, 2007 in the Commissioners' Auditorium upon the conclusion of the joint BOH and BOCC public hearing (which will begin at 10:00 a.m.).**

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Alan Crankovich, Chair of the Board of Health

Cathy Bambrick, Public Health Director  
Kittitas County Public Health Department

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Susan Merrill, Clerk of the Board of Health