



To Protect and Promote the Health and the Environment of the People of Kittitas County

KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH Minutes

Thursday, January 15, 2009
Commissioners' Auditorium
10:00am

PRESENT: Board Members: Alan Crankovich, Mark McClain, and Rich Elliott.

Absent: Paul Jewell and Dr. Don Solberg

Kittitas County Public Health Department Staff (KCPHD):Cathy Bambrick, Candi Blackford, Amy Diaz, Holly Duncan, Mark Larson, Linda Navarre, Robin Read-Ochoa, Melissa Schumaier, Kodi Still.

Chairman Alan Crankovich called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

First item of business was to approve and amend the Vice Chair position. Up for nomination was Dr Don Solberg.

Motion 01-01: Amend and Approval of Vice Chair Dr Don Solberg. Mark McClain moved to amend and approve the appointment of Dr. Don Solberg as Vice Chair and his continuance as a member of the Board of Health for an additional three year term to end in December 2011. Alan Crankovich moved to second. All approved. Motion Carried to amend and approve the appointment and continuance of Vice Chair Dr. Don Solberg.

Minutes:

Motion 01-02: Approval of December 18, 2008 minutes. Rich Elliott moved to approve the December 18, 2008 meeting minutes. Mark McClain second. All approved. Motion carried to approve the December 18, 2008 meeting minutes.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

There was not a representative of BOHAC present at the meeting. Cathy updated that at the last meeting of BOHAC the group discussed the budget and staff layoffs and reviewed the school inspection form. The BOHAC members were supportive of these two issues.

CONTRACTS AND AMENDMENTS:

State of Washington Department of Ecology and Kittitas County Health Department: Struck from agenda as it was not received back from authorization process.

Community Health of Central Washington: Children with Special Health Care Needs Program

Contract: Struck from agenda as it was not received back from authorization process. Will put this contract through BOCC for agenda session first due to reimbursement issues.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES/ISSUES:

Health Officer Update: Dr. Mark Larson updated that we have not yet peaked on influenza in Kittitas County; this normally occurs at the end of January into February. He noted that we are still advocating for the influenza vaccine and will push the vaccine even harder next year here in the health department. Dr. Larson referenced a Seattle Times article about Tamiflu resistance which was a back up drug for influenza. Now a very large number of strains of influenza are resistant to Tamiflu. What seems to be happening with the drugs we have for infectious diseases is that the virus or bacteria figure out how to get around the drug. Now the backup drug for influenza including a pandemic influenza is resistant to influenza strain due to overuse. Dr. Larson discussed the "Google Flu" website that shows influenza activity in the country and allows you to map what is happening with this. We are just now starting to increase on influenza in Washington state. There is still another drug for influenza treatment called Relenza, but discussed this is not as easily administered because it is an aerosol. Dr. Larson reviewed the "Google Flu" website and noted that it was important and cost effective to have county employees immunized.

Dr. Larson gave an update on the salmonella outbreak that is related to peanut butter and that the product to the health department's knowledge is not in Washington state. Also, he gave update on the NACCHO grant noting we were one of two locations to get this grant nationwide. The health department is currently working on getting ready for electronic health records and working in conjunction with the hospital.

Commissioner Mark McClain asked how much it would cost to vaccinate the employees, whether there was any grant money for this and questions about how to track status. Cathy Bambrick stated that it would be about \$10,000 to vaccinate all county employees and that there was no grant money available for this. Dr. Mark Larson noted that with the NACCHO grant we will be able to track immunization status. There was discussion on how to provide influenza vaccine and some questions of possibly running an emergency exercise to vaccinate county employees in 2009 and that the health department should start working on putting this together for next year as well as putting out a survey to see who in the county would get vaccinated if it was paid for by the county.

Rich Elliott asked Dr. Larson about cases of norovirus in the county. Dr. Mark Larson updated that there were multiple cases (20+) of probable norovirus and there were multiple hospitalizations from this; only a few cases had been confirmed. He noted that prevention of the virus comes from good hand washing. Dr. Larson also commented that this is the same thing that is on cruise ships and how the cruise ships deal with it is to quarantine the patient for 72 hours, but it is difficult to quarantine people that are not in a confined area.

Update on Washington State Department of Ecology, Exempt Well Program and Community Meetings for Permanent Rule:

Permanent Rule: Cathy Bambrick gave updates on these projects. The hearings for the permanent rule were released. The first hearing was in Cle Elum on February 11, 2009 at the Walter Strom Middle School and the second was in Ellensburg on February 12, 2009 at the Hal Holmes Center. Both of these hearings were handled by Department of Ecology. Cathy discussed changes in the rule regarding data requirements. The first change was reporting daily data versus aggregate totals from three to four month increments. Commissioner Mark McClain had concerns with the language change in terms of how data would be reported. Second, a section was added that does allow 5,000 gallons a day regardless of the size of the lot. It also does not clearly identify a 40 acre threshold, as the previous rule did. There is new language that "an average rate of use of 125 gallons per day per acre up to a maximum of 5,000 gallons per day" allows up to 40 acres but they could not put that into WAC. There was discussion and questions regarding the amount of water and the parcel size from the commissioners. The third change for the county is that we are way behind on the comment letters and they will become more generic.

Ground Water Study: Cathy updated that this is going really well and the advisory committee is meeting again on Friday at the Chamber of Commerce and they have almost scoped out the study. Beginning in February the BOH will start receiving information regarding the recommendations of the advisory committee.

Commissioner Mark McClain wanted to know if the health department has any language for the current scope of work and recommendations to see what the draft looks like. Cathy noted she will get them a draft.

Hydrogeological Assessment Requirements: Cathy noted the issues with this. First, the health department needed a template for people to follow and our consultant Kevin Lindsay is drafting this for us and reviews are set for Friday for the health department. Then the Department of Ecology and Kittitas County legal counsel will have an opportunity to look at it too. Cathy informed the board that what we did not have was a threshold for when a more advanced/thorough hydrogeological assessment will be required. Mark McClain noted that he thought it was around rivers.

Meter Programs: Cathy updated that this program is currently held up in legal. Currently we have badger meters being installed. The health department is putting together a Request for Bids for the electronic data portion of the meters and there was discussion in regards to what will happen with the data that is collected. The department will have to retrofit all residential connections that have been installed since July 8, 2008. It was also noted that the plat note was changed as of July 8, 2008 to the new language.

Requirements for CDS: Updated information about sworn statement from developer and is currently in the prosecutor's office.

BUSINESS/DISCUSSION:

West Nile Virus Discussion and Review of Emergency Response plan: There was one case of West Nile Virus (WNV) in a horse in Kittitas County. The health department believes we will have more cases next year and would like to re-visit the emergency response plan that was approved in 2008. There was also discussion regarding the horse involved and where it was located and how it may have potentially contracted this disease. There was discussion about how to prepare for WNV in 2009 and possibly doing preemptive larvaciding. Cost was a big part in the discussion and how to locate where to perform the larvacide strikes also came up. The health department will be communicating with other cities in March and April to see how they handle this type of situation. The health department will bring more information in April.

On Line food Inspections: Kodi and Melissa went over the advantages for having the inspections online.

Advantages to posting online: Allows public to choose places that are compliant, holds restaurants accountable and promotes safe food handling practices, encourages restaurants to fix reoccurring violations and allows the public to see what the health department is doing to keep them safe.

Concerns for online inspection reports: Health inspector having a bad day, inspector having bias reports and the thought it may harm small business.

What it will look like: An alphabetic search on top (ABC...Z), and instructional page to the public ending w/ definitions, and each report will include- Name of establishment, address, date of last inspection, list of high risk critical violations observed and whether or not closure or re-inspection is required.

Kodi reviewed an example of an inspection review form with the commissioners and Melissa made reference to Yakima County who currently has food inspections online. The health department has called around to some of the restaurants and surveyed. There were only a couple restaurants that did not want this to happen. The department was given go ahead to post online for a trial run and see how it goes.

School Inspection Policy/Form: Cathy reviewed the policy and inspection form with the board members. Alan Crankovich questioned what happens when a school is out of compliance. Cathy informed the BOH members that a cover letter is sent to the facility with a list of penalties that were

documented informing the schools of the issues and consequences which goes to the administration division.


Motion 01-03: Approval of the Safety Inspection Policy and Procedure. Mark McClain moved to approve the Safety Inspection Policy and Procedure. Rich Elliott second. All approved. Motion carried.

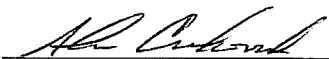
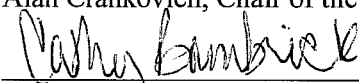
Rich Elliott also added that with the school safety inspections the health department try to schedule those in January/February or March so it does not cross over with the fire inspections which are done in June and July.

Dr. Mark Larson also updated on a raccoon situation in Kittitas County. There was a family which had a pet raccoon which is illegal in Washington State. A couple members of the family had gotten sick. The Department of Fish and Wildlife had gotten involved to assist in confiscating the raccoon for testing. Testing confirmed that the raccoon had leptospirosis, an illness which can be transmitted to people and is especially harmful to pregnant women. Currently one family member was being tested for this. The confiscation of the raccoon was not well received by the family and they sent a letter to the health department which involved some threats; the letter was forwarded to the Ellensburg Police Department. For future issues that involve letters of this sort the health department will forward them to all commissioners as well others needing to be notified.

Chairman Crankovich adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

Next Meeting: February 26, 2009 at 10:00am


Candi Blackford, Clerk of the Board of Health


Alan Crankovich, Chair of the Board of Health

Cathy Bambrick, Administrator
Kittitas County Public Health Department