BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday, January 26, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Blankenship, Fran Bolt, Johnna Exner, Mike Manus, Wes McCart, Steve Parker, Shirley Sands, Karen Skoog

MEMBERS ABSENT: City of Republic

STAFF PRESENT: Dale House, Judy Hutton, Kelly LeCaire, Sandy Perkins, Matt Schanz, Alyssa Spradley, Logan Worley

GUESTS: Brian Benson, Marty Brown, John Conner, Katie Dunn, Andrew Engell, Bruce Perkins, Leah Schuldheisz, Susan Swanbeck

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Chair Wes McCart called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M. A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made by all.

GROUP B WATER SYSTEMS PUBLIC HEARING: The Group B water systems public hearing began at 10:03 A.M.

Matt Schanz explained the driving forces for this consideration. The Washington State Board of Health adopted significant changes to the Group B drinking water systems rules under Chapter 246-291 Washington Administrative Code (WAC). Group B water systems are small public water systems that service 3-14 residential connections or non-community systems that serve less than twenty-five (25) people per day. Examples of facilities that are served by these types of water systems include churches, campgrounds, fire halls, camps, bed and breakfasts, small businesses, and small community developments served by their own water system.

The new rule requires a more stringent approval process for new systems but eliminates on-going monitoring requirements. The new rule includes provisions to allow for local adoption and modification of the rule.

Northeast Tri County Health District (NETCHD) is pursuing a local rule adoption as there can be direct benefits to water system owners and users within Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties. The proposed local rule is substantially based on the minimum requirements contained within Chapter 246-291 WAC, without adding additional requirements, while allowing greater flexibility.
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The benefits of adopting a local rule include:

- A provision that allows for individuals who have demonstrated knowledge, the ability to submit design reports for straightforward new and expanding Group B systems. Under the State rule, all design reports must be completed by a professional engineer.
- A provision that allows treatment for contaminates for new and expanding water systems. Under the State rule, new sources that exceed maximum contaminate levels cannot be approved, thereby preventing water system approval.
- Only requiring on-going testing for those new water sources that require treatment to remove contaminates.

Wes McCart noted that the public hearing was published in area newspapers. Wes asked for staff comment. Hearing none, the hearing opened for public comment.

Bruce Perkins, resident of Chewelah, said the 2013 regulation included an annual operating permit and he asked if the operating permit was no longer an issue. Matt Schanz said the annual operating permit is no longer included within the proposal. Bruce asked if there will be a specific operating permit for systems requiring treatment. Matt said no, but there would be a monitoring schedule that would be established dependent upon the contaminant of concern and the treatment method selected. Bruce asked if the purveyors will be reporting to NETCHD on a basis to be determined later. Matt said yes, that is correct. Bruce said Group B systems go up to fourteen (14) connections, but the proposed regulation is for 3-9 connections, is that correct? Matt said for design requirement provisions, yes. The regulations still address those water systems from 10-14 connections, but during that design approval process they must be designed to meet Group A water system standards. Bruce asked if that includes over ten (10) connections. Matt said yes, 10-14 connections. Bruce asked if the Department of Health (DOH) would be looking at the 10-14 connection systems. Matt said yes, but basically as a Group A water system. The premise behind that is, is that based upon the population that those systems may serve, it is very likely that they are either on that cusp or will very shortly be a Group A water system and thus requiring those more stringent design standards. Wes asked Bruce if he had comments or only questions. Bruce said he mainly wanted clarification. Bruce was initially opposed the previous regulation when it included annual operating permits. He said at one time or another, NETCHD was going to have a memorandum of understanding with DOH, with DOH providing NETCHD up to $20,000 in funding to run the program. Bruce asked if the program is going to be based on the fees for the system review by NETCHD or is there going to be pass-through money from DOH. Wes said that is yet to be determined. There are no fees with this regulation currently. The proposal that will be in front of the Board later in the meeting will be whether to sign the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and receive the $20,000, but that is a separate decision.

Susan Swanbeck, Ruby Creek Lodge Bed and Breakfast located on the Pend Oreille River put in a Group 3 water system. Susan started by saying that the process was not enjoyable. She showed the Board the considerable volume of documents that were the design workbook and guidelines for the Group B water system, including engineering documents that cost her over $6,000 to put in.
Susan Swanbeck felt that additional requirements seemed to be never ending. Multiple water tests from several different labs had to be done, all of which came back fine. Testing the well located near the river also had to be done. Since there wasn’t proper equipment in the State of Washington to do the test, Susan had to send to California to get the equipment to run a water test that showed nothing. She was required to put a covenant on her well stating there would be nothing within 100 feet of the well-head. Susan noted that said had an existing shop and a pump-house nearby. Susan was told the out-buildings were okay. When she questioned why the buildings were allowed since the guidelines stated otherwise, again she was told that was okay.

Susan felt that every time she turned around she had to spend more money. She did note that everyone she worked with was nice, but they seemed confused and uncertain of what the real guidelines were. Once everything was finished, the cost to put in the water system was $40,000. Susan went on to say that if she had known this when she started, she would have never opened a business in Pend Oreille County and feels that people need to be aware of what they are up against. Pend Oreille County needs restaurants in that area, but if they would be required to go through this kind of a process, it's not going to happen. Wes McCurt asked if "they" she is referring to is DOH. Susan said yes. Wes asked how many connections and rooms are in her bed and breakfast. Susan said one (1) connection with five (5) rooms. Matt Schanz said it is considered transient accommodation and bed and breakfast. Susan said the process took one year to complete, 2015–2016. She said she should have asked what a Group B water system entailed and reiterated that she likely would not have opened a business if she knew what she had to do. Wes said the attempt to adopt local rules is to make the process cheaper and easier. This Board has been a little bit upset with the way the State developed the original rules and that is why this Board is considering adoption today. Susan said she appreciates that and hopes for the next person that it works very well.

Wes asked for additional public comment. There were no additional comments from the public.

Mike Manus moved and Steve Parker seconded the motion to close the public comment on the Group B water systems and extend the hearing into the meeting at the appropriate agenda point. Motion carried.

The public comment portion of the Group B water systems public hearing concluded at 10:15 A.M.

**DESIGNATION OF 2017 BOARD OF HEALTH:** Appointments to the Board of Health of Northeast Tri County Health District for 2017 were read into the record. Ferry County Board of Commissioners have appointed Commissioners Mike Blankenship and Johnna Exner; Pend Oreille County Board of Commissioners has designated Commissioners Mike Manus and Karen Skoog; Stevens County Board of Commissioners have appointed Commissioners Wes McCurt and Steve Parker; Mayor Fran Bolt was appointed by the Town of Marcus; the City of Newport appointed Mayor Shirley Sands. An appointment from the City of Republic has not been received.

**REPORT FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Steve reported that the Nominating Committee recommends Mike Blankenship as 2017 Board of Health Chair. The Board members concurred.
Mike Blankenship took over as Chair of the meeting.

Steve Parker reported that the Nominating Committee recommends Karen Skoog as 2017 Board of Health Vice Chair. The Board members concurred.

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:** Wes McCart moved and Steve Parker seconded the motion to approve the minutes of November 30, 2016. Motion carried.

Mike Manus thanked Kelly LeCaire for the excellent job she does on Board minutes. Steve Parker said he was thinking that himself as he went through the minutes.

**CORRESPONDENCE & INFORMATION:** There was no correspondence.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCES:** No public appearances were pre-registered.

**ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO AGENDA:** There were no changes to the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Bruce Perkins stated that the Group B water systems regulations are very good and he is in favor of adoption.

Johnna Exner arrived at the meeting at 10:20 A.M.

**MODIFICATIONS TO LEASE AGREEMENT FOR NEWPORT OFFICE:** Matt Schanz talked about the agreement to modify the commercial lease agreement for the NETCHD office building in Newport owned by Leo Robinson. The original lease agreement from August 25, 2009 stated that the lessee is given the option to purchase said property at any time during the first ten (10) years of the lease, or until December 31, 2019. The purchase price, if exercised during the first year shall be $700,000. After the first year, an additional 3% of the prior year’s option payment shall be due, i.e. $721,000 ($700,000 plus $21,000) during second year; $742,630 ($721,000 plus $21,630) during the third year; and so on, and continuing for up to ten (10) years.

The lease agreement modification to the entire option to purchase paragraph shall be modified to include the following key changes:

- NETCHD is hereby given an option to purchase the property for a period of twelve (12) months starting from the date this modification agreement is signed.

- The parties agree that the option purchase price shall be established by a single appraisal and paid for by NETCHD. The parties agree that Leo Robinson has the right to refuse to sell for the appraised price.
• If the parties agree on the appraised price, NETCHD shall be able to exercise the option to purchase the property at the appraised price. It is also agreed that during the term of the option period, the parties may mutually agree upon a purchase price at a lower price, based upon an additional appraisal and an average price based on the two (2) appraisals.

Mike Manus said initial conversations with Leo Robinson included obtaining three (3) appraisals. Due to the expensive cost of appraisals, Leo agreed that one (1) appraisal was adequate, providing he had the right to refuse the price. Mike M. feels that it makes more sense to purchase the building if the price is right. Matt Schanz noted that the Pend Oreille County appraised value for 2017 for the building and property is approximately $406,000. Since NETCHD cannot make that purchase, we would have to work with one of the three (3) counties to bond-out and make the payments to that county. Karen Skoog asked about appraisal costs. Mike M. said one quote received for a commercial appraisal was between $2,500 and $5,000 and thinks we should proceed. He has no idea what purchase price will be acceptable to Leo but reiterated that if it came in low, he could refuse to sell. Matt said that is a reasonable expectation. At a subsequent meeting, we can decide if we want to have that appraisal done. Karen asked if it would be better to get that homework done ahead of time. Wes McCart said all we are doing right now is modifying the lease.

Karen Skoog moved and Steve Parker seconded the motion to approve the agreement to modify the commercial lease agreement as described and the Board Chair will be changed to Mike Blankenship. Motion carried.


Wes McCart moved and Mike Manus seconded the motion to approve Resolution 01-2017: Adopting Regulation No. 01-2017 – Group B Public Water Systems Regulation. Motion carried.

Karen thanked Matt, Wes and all who worked on this. Matt said the task force worked on this very extensively. The benefits of that group of people coming together to discuss, debate and revise some of the wording helped us at the staff level considerably. The formation of the task force most certainly helped in this process. Karen agreed that it was a good process and it’s something for us to recognize and can be used in the future.
GROUP B WATER SYSTEMS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: Wes McCart moved to authorize the Board of Health Chair to sign the Group B Water Systems Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Health (DOH). Matt said the MOA included in the Board packet is not the actual document by which to sign. The process would entail NETCHD submitting the approved Resolution 01-2017 along with our local rule to DOH. Upon that receipt, DOH would send out that finalized MOA between DOH and NETCHD to include the statement of responsibilities of which are included within this draft document. That would allow for NETCHD to receive the $20,000 through our DOH consolidated contract to support work to implement this rule. Steve Parker noted that we don’t really have the agreement to make the motion to approve. Matt said this is an example template document. Karen Skoog asked if the motion is to authorize the Chair to sign the MOA when it is complete. Wes said yes, that is correct. Mike Manus seconded the motion. Wes assumes the MOA is similar to the template and suggested the Board Chair have the attorney review the MOA and notify Board members of any significant changes. Karen asked if there was a reason to not have the MOA modified already. Matt said it was a procedural process through DOH as described above. Steve said he is not comfortable without having seen the actual document to be able to look at the specifics and authorize the signature. And since there isn’t a time consideration with the MOA, and this template is subject to a draft coming back to us to consider as a Board. Mike Blankenship said as Chair, he would prefer to sign a MOA that all Board members have agreed upon. He asked if there is a time constraint or can it be done at the next Board meeting for approval. Matt said there is not a time constraint, it would be upon DOH receiving our local rule. The only benefit would be having those dollars right now would help as we go through that implementation process that will begin next week. Matt said if need be, we can present the finalized document to the Board for consideration at the next meeting. Steve said he appreciates that. Wes said he trusts the Chair to know that if the agreement changes substantially or if an issue came up that it would be brought back to the Board. Karen asked if the motion should be modified to include review by legal counsel. Mike B. said he will personally make sure each Board member sees it before it is sent to DOH. The Board concurred that there was no need to amend the motion. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 02-2017: AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT:

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Grants/Fees:

Revenue

Group B Public Water Systems – Department of Health Funds $20,000

GRAND TOTAL REVENUE $20,000

Amendment Expenditures:

Expenditures

Salaries and Wages $15,000

Benefits $5,000

GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES $20,000
Wes McCart moved and Karen Skoog seconded the motion to approve Resolution 02-2017: Authorizing the General Fund Budget Amendment as described on the previous page. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 03-2017: AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT:

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Grants/Fees:

Revenue
Spokane Regional Health District – Tobacco & Marijuana Program $18,250
GRAND TOTAL REVENUE $18,250

Amendment Expenditures:

Expenditures
Salaries and Wages $14,000
Benefits $4,250
GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES $18,250

Wes asked what this additional revenue would bring the contract total to. Dale House said the current contract with Spokane Regional Health District is $60,000.

Karen Skoog moved and Wes McCart seconded the motion to approve Resolution 03-2017: Authorizing the General Fund Budget Amendment as described above. Motion carried.

NETCHD CHARTER/BYLAWS MODIFICATIONS: Matt Schanz talked about the formation of the task force this past summer of 2016. Members of the task force are: Mike Blankenship, Lou Janke, Wes McCart, Mary Selecky, Karen Skoog, and NETCHD Management Team. One of their assignments was to review the existing NETCHD Charter and determine what needed amending. Board members received the revised document for consideration. Mike B. asked task force members if they had any reservations about the document. Wes feels the process was good. He noted that the modified document does not by any means delete the original charter from January 1977, it is more in-line with what we are doing now. Wes thanked everyone that provided input. Mike B. talked about Article VII – Expenses: Ordinary expenses, such as meals, lodging and travel expenses incurred by the members of the Board in their duty to represent the Health District may be allowed as authorized. This type of expense shouldn’t be a burden on a county, such as travel to Olympia to lobby for NETCHD. Matt added that at the time the decision was made by the Board to discontinue paying for meals and mileage for Board members coming to a Board meeting, the city/town representatives at that time felt that it wasn’t an issue. We also didn’t want city representation missing because of an inability to travel and wanted the ability to allow that if requested. Shirley Sands asked about Article III – Membership – Section 2.: If a city representative misses more than three (3) consecutive meetings, the rotation automatically passes to the next city on the rotation. Wes said the ability to attend electronically was added.
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Steve Parker referred to Article VI – Sessions – Section 3. Voting: a) An affirmative vote from one county commissioner of each respective county is required for decisions relating to regulations, fee schedules, budget or budget amendments. Steve noted that from previous discussions, he is still uncomfortable and disagrees with one commissioner vote, to bring taxes or fee increases to county citizens. Wes McCart said the task force discussed this subject at length. Wes said there is a responsibility when you sit on this Board to have those discussions with your board of commissioners that are not present, prior to making a vote. The same is done with Martin Hall where essentially, we have just one commissioner approving that budget. The hope would be that commissioner is taking his responsibility appropriately by making sure everyone is comfortable with the budget prior to voting. That is also done at Tri County Economic Development District (TEDD), Rural Resources and many others. Steve said we have had that discussion as a board. Steve appreciated the fact that it was deliberated, taken seriously and discussed. Steve added that again, for the record, without imputing anything as far as we have a dysfunction on the Board, he thinks the years have shown that we have done a thorough job of discussing and debating those things. He has continued concern if there was a situation where a commissioner decided on their own to do something at a Board meeting, there is no recourse. Steve said even though that is the case on other boards etc., maybe we need to think about correcting that in the future. Wes said the opposite of that could happen when voting on fees etc., and one member of the Board could veto the entire proposal. Wes said all of this was discussed by the task force at length. He restated that internally amongst a single board there was that hope that you would have those tough discussions and you would be united in that vote, but if you were not, it would not impede the functions of this Board. That is how the task force came to the decision. Steve reiterated that he appreciates the thoroughness of the discussion, but it is going to compel him to not support this.

Wes McCart moved and Mike Manus seconded the motion to adopt the Northeast Tri County Health District Charter and Bylaws amended revision: January 26, 2017. Steve Parker opposed the motion. Motion carried.

Steve added that he appreciates the good work done in completing the document and said everything else was great. Mike Blankenship appreciates Steve’s point of view and said it was a hard discussion and difficult to work through. Steve said his board of commissioners have those conversations and does not have a concern about the present composition of their board and doesn’t have any real concerns with this Board in the way that we conduct business. He noted that it did happen one time in four (4) years, and that is remarkable. Steve thinks of twenty (20) years in the future when he makes these kinds of decisions.
PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST POLICY: Matt Schanz asked for Board direction regarding the current public records request policy. It somewhat relates back to a recent comprehensive public records request received by NETCHD that extended to all Board members and their role as it relates to NETCHD. This prompted the discussion about the complexity of public records requests and the difficulties that agencies can find themselves in through responding to those requests. The current policy states that the administrator is the public records officer. Matt said he is fine with that because what it speaks to is that if further clarification is needed, we are to consult our legal counsel in how best to respond. Cities and counties are likely very well versed in trying to respond to the requests and typically that is done through respective legal counsel through a contracted attorney or county prosecuting attorney as them being defined as public information officer. Karen Skoog said Pend Oreille County has a team comprised of the auditor, prosecuting attorney and information technology director. Matt asked the Board what the best methodology for response would be for us as a district, leave it the way it is or assign our legal counsel to be the public records officer. Alison McGrane provided the following response: “With regards of who handles public records, I think it makes sense to have someone within the agency handle this and consult us with questions. The reason being, it’s helpful to have someone who is in charge of public records who knows the ins and outs of the entity and they know who to contact in each department and who handles that sort of information for the agency etc. We are always available if needed to answer questions. So I think that’s the best role for us.” Wes McCart is fine with leaving the administrator as public records officer as stated in the current policy. Wes suggested having the administrator attend higher level public records training. Mike Manus said there also needs to be a designated person when Matt is gone, so you don’t miss the five (5) day window. Karen recommended all employees having at least the basic level of training as well because public records requests can come in very unobvious ways, but they are still valid. Matt said perhaps all staff could attend training from the Municipal and Research Services Center (MRSC). There is a great deal of complexity on how you deal with this and the various forms of media, texts, etc. Matt is in full support of increasing his knowledge base and probably needs to be ongoing as well. It makes sense to have division directors in community and environmental health receive training also and be the primary backup, since most of the requests are going to be directed towards one of those departments. Wes said the policy doesn’t necessarily need to be changed, it is just a matter of good management practices and our desire that he would carry those out.

RESOLUTION 04-2017: GRANTING AUTHORIZATION FOR SURPLUS OF NORTHEAST TRI COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT PERSONAL PROPERTY: Matt Schanz clarified that there are no current plans to surplus the following items. They have reached full depreciation and may be surplused in the future.

- 2009 Ford Escape VIN # IFMCU93G89KB65497
- NEC Telephone System – Newport Office

Steve Parker moved and Karen Skoog seconded the motion to approve Resolution 04-2017: Granting Authorization for Surplus of Northeast Tri County Health District Personal Property as described above. Motion carried.
STAFFING UPDATE: Matt Schanz talked about staffing changes in 2016 including the administrator and environmental health director. Matt is very pleased to have Alyssa Spradley on board as environmental health director. The position of environmental health specialist III in the Pend Oreille County office remains open until February 10, 2017. We advertised extensively locally as well as nationally and have received some good applicants. We will be contacting Personnel Committee members to put together an interview team.

Sandy Perkins joined NETCHD in the fall of 2013 and will be retiring next month. Matt said “I am going to miss Sandy greatly. She has been truly a God-send to our agency at a time where we went through a lot of changes and program changes. I will forever be grateful that she was there with us during that time.” Sandy appreciated the opportunity to serve these counties. She has had a good learning experience here and was glad to have been able to help through some difficult times. Matt added that Sandy leaves us in a much better place than when she came. Matt felt the best approach in Sandy’s replacement was to look internally. Judy Hutton applied for the position internally and will take over the role of community health director after February 23, 2017. Judy will continue to work in the Republic office on Mondays and the remainder of the week she will be commuting to the Colville office. Right now, pending the Foundational Public Health dollars, we have elected not to backfill the Ferry County position until we know the outcome.

There will be another opening for an environmental health specialist in the Colville office sometime this spring due to retirement.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: APPEAL – BUDGET – PERSONNEL: Chair Mike Blankenship made the 2017 committee appointments as follows:

- Appeal Committee: Johnna Exner, Mike Manus, Wes McCart, City of Republic
- Budget Committee: Mike Blankenship, Mike Manus, Wes McCart, Shirley Sands
- Personnel Committee: Mike Blankenship, Fran Bolt, Steve Parker, Karen Skoog
- Task Force: Mike Blankenship, Lou Janke, Wes McCart, Mary Selecky, Karen Skoog, NETCHD Management Team

REVIEW OF 2017 MEETING SCHEDULE: The March 15, 2017 meeting will be changed to March 22, 2017, due to scheduling conflicts. The November meeting will likely be changed at a later date.

The Board of Health of Northeast Tri County Health District 2017 meeting schedule was reviewed, revised and approved as follows:

- Wednesday, January 26, 2017 – Annual Meeting, Stevens County
- Wednesday, March 22, 2017 – Regular Meeting, Stevens County
- Wednesday, May 17, 2017 – Regular Meeting, Pend Oreille County
- Wednesday, July 19, 2017 – Regular Meeting, Ferry County
- Wednesday, September 20, 2017 – Regular Meeting, Stevens County
- Wednesday, November 15, 2017 – Regular Meeting, Stevens County
EXECUTIVE SESSION PER RCW 42.30.110 (g): The Board adjourned into executive session at 11:32 A.M. for ten (10) minutes per RCW 42.30.110 (g).

The executive session concluded at 11:42 A.M.

Wes McCart moved and Mike Manus seconded the motion to adjust the compensation of the health officer contract for Dr. Samuel Arzis for 2017 to $38,304 annually and have staff prepare a resolution to amend the budget appropriately to bring to the next Board meeting for signatures. Motion carried.

CHAIR REPORT: The Board Chair had no report.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS REPORT: Mike M. asked about the potential mumps case in Newport. Sandy Perkins said the person in that case resides in Priest River, Idaho.

Wes said legislation for funding Foundational Public Health is out in the Legislature.

Wes talked about ongoing issues surrounding ambulance services and the problem being Medicaid reimbursement rate for those services is about 25% of the actual cost. Wes said on the House-side, Representatives Joe Schmick, Shelly Short and Kristine Lytton sit on the Health Care Committee. They are very concerned and are working very hard on this issue. They discovered that a bill was passed to direct the Health Care Authority (HCA) to work with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in 2015, and for whatever reason, that agreement is not complete. They are trying to figure out what needs to happen to get that negotiation to occur so that reimbursement rate increases. Wes indicated that this looks promising and he will keep everyone updated as things progress.

Mike M. said Pend Oreille County currently has American Medical Response (AMR) at ten (10) hours a day and are looking to increase to twenty-four (24) hour coverage in the southern part of the county. The northern portion is currently taken care of by Fire District #2. They are trying to establish parameters to see what it is costing them for the twenty-four (24) hour coverage so they can come forth with a potential agreement. Short of the ten (10) hours per day currently, it is the fire districts that are performing the service in Pend Oreille County, who have the legal authority to transport.

Wes reported that the regional director is attending the Eastern Washington Council of Governments (COG) meeting tomorrow in Davenport for the regional Emergency Medical Services (EMS) council. Wes encouraged all county commissioners to attend or at least one commissioner from each county. He indicated that if Stevens County were to have a paramedic available, there are no licenses available in Stevens County for a paramedic to even be available to ride in an ambulance. Wes said these committees are advisory to the county commissioners. The idea is to get all county commissioners involved so that no one has the same problem that Pend Oreille County has had. The goal is to make sure that at least one license in each category is available.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT: There was no health officer report.
COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT: Sandy Perkins submitted the community health report as follows: Influenza arrived in our counties having made an early appearance in Ferry County at the end of October, 2016. As of January 18, 2017, there has been one (1) death each in Pend Oreille and Stevens Counties attributable to influenza (influenza A). Two (2) long term care facilities have experienced outbreaks of respiratory disease which were investigated by staff in Colville. Joanna Johnson, our new staff person is skilled in this type of investigation as well as utilizing advanced epidemiological practices to improve our response to those facilities. The outbreaks were due to a combination of respiratory illnesses including influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV). A flu shot may still protect you from the flu, it’s not too late. If you are ill, please cover your cough, wash your hands often and stay home!

It is with great pride to report that our WIC client experience survey showed that WIC clients across our four (4) clinic sites report that their experience participating in our WIC program is top-notch!

Judy Hutton who has so ably provided public health nursing services from our Republic office will be stepping in as the new community health director. Judy will continue to maintain a presence in Ferry County providing some services in the Republic office as well as participating in the Ferry County Health Coalition.

In an effort in getting information and interest from the public on vaping, a survey was sent out to all food establishments and is on the NETCHD website. Of responses received, almost 77% were in favor of the process to move forward. Angie Jones is doing outreach by working with youth drug coalitions to talk about vaping. Matt Schanz said at the next Board of Health meeting we will discuss scheduling an opportunity for the public to provide input at each of our counties with Board of Health meetings.

Judy spent time at the Curlew Job Corps doing education about the transmission of mumps and what they need to do. So far, there has been one (1) confirmed case with the possibility of a couple more we are looking at in Ferry County. We had the near scare in Newport and so far, none in Stevens County. We have been providing a lot of information to health care providers about appropriate testing, answering a lot of questions on the phone and sending news releases to media. Sandy reported that over 350 children in Spokane have been excluded from attending school due to the outbreak, and since our counties are among the lowest immunization rates in the state, if it comes to a school, there will be exclusions. An exclusion is for twenty-five (25) days since the LAST new case, meaning it could be a month or more of school missed. School nurses are reviewing records to identify those children and staff who may not be vaccinated. Matt Schanz said our goal has been to prepare health care providers, pharmacies and school districts for a potential outbreak so that if it happens, everyone is prepared.

Sandy noted that today we are looking at chickenpox in Newport, which is also a vaccine preventable disease that can trigger the same kind of exclusions from school for those unvaccinated children.

Sandy indicated that an email was sent out from a community college to students and their families about meningococcal disease, which sent us all into a panic because that is a bad thing. We contacted the college and corrected their information. The college should be sending out a new email with accurate information about what the diseases some students have and what the risks are for transmission.
ADMINISTRATION REPORT: Matt Schanz submitted the administration report as follows: We are pleased to have hired Alyssa Spradley as environmental public health director on January 3, 2017. Alyssa comes with over nine (9) years of progressive experience specific to environmental public health, both as a staff person and in a supervisory role. She has worked previously with Maricopa County Public Health in Phoenix, Arizona; Jefferson County Public Health in Lakewood, Colorado; and most recently for Panhandle Health District in Sandpoint, Idaho. We are excited about her joining the Health District.

After a century of effectively preventing death and illness and increasing the quality of life of our residents, the public health system faces the dual challenges of a severe funding crisis and a change in nature of preventable disease and illness in our state. Public health officials and local leaders have defined a set of core services that government must provide in all communities in our state. To maximize return on investment and ensure that these core services are available statewide, DOH and local health jurisdictions are looking at how services are currently provided and developing new models for how we deliver them. A proposal is being developed for the Governor and 2017 Legislature to implement the framework for a 21st century public health system in Washington. The proposal is part of a multi-year plan and will include a funding request to address some of the most critical gaps in core services at the state and local level. These funds at the local level would be aimed at communicable disease investigation and response, and chronic disease prevention. This proposal will be the center point of the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) legislative agenda and is supported by the Governor’s budget 2017-2019 for over twenty (20) million dollars aimed at assisting local health departments.

One of the driving forces behind our recent transition to phase out family planning services at NETCHD was that there were far fewer individuals who did not have health insurance, thus enabling them services through area medical providers. As congress and the new administration contemplate the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, the loss of the law without a viable alternative will have impacts such as:

- The rate of uninsured will rise back from 5.8% to a projected level of 13.5
- More than 600,000 lower-income individuals who gained coverage through Medicaid expansion would lose coverage. In the tri-county area, this amounts to 6,911 individuals
- The number of individuals enrolled in qualified health plan in the tri-county area would be reduced by 1,494
- Federal subsidies (tax credits and cost share reductions) would be reduced by $4.45 million dollars to the tri-county area

Matt expects that task force members will continue to meet periodically through the coming year.

Within NETCHD, we have an aging building that we own in Colville that needs some repairs and windows being the most paramount. I believe they are the original windows. Most of the seals around the windows are ruined and some are separating from the frames, with the only thing keeping them from falling out are plastic outside rails. Based upon an initial bid received is $15,000, which would come out of the designated fund. The environmental health division in the Colville office is needing a minor remodel of approximately $2,500 to reconfigure a counter to provide improved service.
Stable sources of state dollars have been diminishing since 1999. Those levels of state support have created critical gaps in our core services which are chronic disease prevention, education and communicable disease. Matt Schanz noted that NETCHD has reached the end of the undesignated fund balance. As we enter 2018, we won’t have the luxury of having dollars to tap into to balance the budget. The Governor has approved of twenty (20) million dollars per biennium to assist public health, which is critical. If members feel strongly about it, Matt would appreciate carrying that message to our senators.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT: Alyssa Spradley submitted the environmental health report as follows: The onsite wastewater program had an overall 21% increase in permits issued and 28% increase in applications received, as compared to the previous year. The largest growth area was the applications submitted for Stevens County, with a 38% increase from the previous year. The overall trend from the last five (5) years is a 33% increase in applications and 15% increase in permits. We well exceeded the projected 229 applications with the actual number coming in at 328 with additional applications for repairs to existing systems.

The temporary food program had a 23% decrease in number of events, resulting in a 17% decrease in funds collected. Approximately 56% of the temporary food applications were inspected. This is consistent with the previous year.

A calculated 95% of required food establishment inspections were completed. The number of food establishment permits decreased slightly to 285, which is three (3) less than 2015.

Alice Campbell, NETCHC inspector, acquired two (2) grants from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) totaling $5,500. These funds will be used to evaluate our food safety program through a self-assessment and will also allow for additional continuing education.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) began this January, 2017 with a groundwater study and mapping for the presence of uranium. They have acquired funding from DOH and USGS to complete the 1 ¾ year project. NETCHD is assisting in providing existing well data and our understanding of the distribution of uranium found in our three (3) counties. Once completed, USGS will publish the results to be available to the public via the project webpage and through a USGS science base data release.

NETCHD is working as an advisor with the National Park Service (NPS) to develop a Mosquito Action Plan and Surveillance Protocol around Roosevelt Lake. This is to address the growing concerns about very large mosquito populations and the increase in West Nile virus activity.

Alyssa provided the Board with a copy of the Letter Health Consultation – the Valley School Silica Exposures Update prepared by DOH under a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). They are still waiting for air sampling results.

Matt indicated that a draft letter to the NPS in under first round review. Our initial reaction to the mosquito survey was it didn’t address taking care of mosquito. It was really kind of reactionary and basically only take action when the disease comes.
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January 26, 2017
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ACCOUNTS: Attached to these minutes are benefits and payroll amounts from December 5, 2016 through January 5, 2017; and voucher amounts from December 7, 2016 through January 18, 2017.

ADJOURNMENT: Board Chair Mike Blankenship adjourned the meeting at 12:06 P.M. The next regular meeting of the Board of Health of Northeast Tri County Health District will be on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 in Stevens County.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Samuel A. Arztz, M.D., Health Officer

By
Kelly D. LeCaire, Executive Secretary

Mike Blankenship, Chair
Northeast Tri County Health District

The following voucher/warrants are approved for payment:

2016

General Fund:

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| Payroll    | November    | $83,335.63 | 12/5/2016 |
| Payroll    | December    | $83,792.26 | 1/5/2017   BOH 01/26/2017 |

Total: $283,386.88