BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING
Wednesday, January 28, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Birch, Mike Blankenship, Mike Manus, Wes McCart, Brad Miller, Steve Parker, Karen Skoog

MEMBERS ABSENT: Elbert Koontz, Kathleen Turpin

STAFF PRESENT: Samuel Artzis, M.D., Victoria Eveland, Kelly LeCaire, Alison McGrane, Sandy Owen, Matt Schanz, Dave Windom

GUESTS: Alison Carl White, Mike Baker, Bruce Perkins, Joe Scates

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

INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made be all.

DESIGNATION OF 2015 BOARD OF HEALTH: Appointments to the Board of Health of Northeast Tri County Health District for 2015 were read into the record. Ferry County Board of Commissioners have appointed Commissioners Mike Blankenship and Brad Miller; Pend Oreille County Board of Commissioners has designated Commissioners Mike Manus and Karen Skoog; Stevens County Board of Commissioners have appointed Wes McCart and Steve Parker; the City of Colville appointed Mike Birch as representative and Nancy Foll as alternate; Elbert Koontz was appointed by the City of Republic. The Towns of Metlakatla and Cusick chose not to appoint a representative. The next town on the rotation for Pend Oreille County is Ione. The Town of Ione appointed Kathleen Turpin.

REPORT FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Dorothy Bergin, Brad Miller, and Karen Skoog made up the Nominating Committee. Brad Miller reported that the Nominating Committee recommends Mike Manus as 2015 Board of Health Chairman. Karen Skoog reported that the Committee recommends Mike Blankenship as Vice Chairman. The Board concurred with the recommendation.

Newly elected Chairman Mike Manus took over the meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Mike Blankenship moved and Wes McCart seconded the motion to approve the minutes of October 29, 2014, Regular Board of Health Meeting. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION: A letter was given to the Board from Shirley Sands thanking Board Members, Dave Windom and Health District staff for their dedication and service. Wes McCart asked that a letter of thanks be sent to Board Members that served on the Board.
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PUBLIC APPEARANCES: No public appearances were pre-registered.

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO AGENDA: Wes McCart asked that a personnel item be added to new business.

BETTER HEALTH TOGETHER: Alison Carl White presented an overview of Better Health Together. Better Health Together promotes the health of our region’s residents through collaborative action to make Washington the healthiest state. The purpose is for better health and wellness for our region with a focus on all elements of health; better care for individuals through improved care coordination, service integration, and collaboration between community providers; and reduced costs to individuals, families, employers, and tax payers. Alison talked about performance based contracting in the child welfare system as an opportunity to improve child and family outcomes in Eastern Washington. In December, 2014 Empire Health Foundation signed a contract with the Department of Social and Health Services to serve as the network administrator for the following eight (8) counties: Adams, Ferry, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman. This approach will launch in Eastern Washington in spring 2015 and eventually will be applied statewide.

Mike Blankenship left the meeting at 9:45 A.M.

There was discussion about different needs in cities versus rural communities. Mike Manus thanked Alison for considering and representing rural areas.

Dr. Artzis arrived at the meeting at 10:00 A.M.

GROUP B SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP: Matt Schanz presented a letter written to Representative Shelly Short from the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Division of Drinking Water in response to questions raised during the Group B Water System Summit held in Colville on October 27, 2014. Since a number of the questions raised were legal in nature, DOH requested the advice of Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Janis Snoey. The AAG Snoey addressed issues heard at the summit, “including whether local health departments can issue waivers, what the relationship is between local regulation of small water systems and obligations of local government under the Growth Management Act (GMA), and whether DOH has authority to establish in regulation a standard for public water system source capacity.” The letter goes on to say that “the Group B water program is intended to provide local health departments with flexibility to adopt local rules that fit local circumstances without sacrificing the public health protection objectives of the state’s Group B rule.” DOH stated that the AAG “legal analysis and answers to local officials’ questions supports our current course of action.”

“Ms. Snoey concludes that local health departments can develop local rules that enable them to issue waivers from state standards, including waivers allowing an applicant to install treatment to overcome too much arsenic or other contaminants in the well, providing certain conditions are met. She also concludes that adoption of a local Group B rule does not trigger a local government obligation to ensure consistency with locally adopted plans and development regulations, and that we can establish source capacity standards.”
Wes McCart said if you read the detailed report, the very thing the AAG used to argue saying it is not GMA conflict each other. Wes said Stevens County has been sued enough and are not willing to take that on. Matt Schanz said he would resend the entire legal analysis by the AAG to the Board. Matt noted that we have to meet minimum requirements and can set our own program that best fits our needs. The requirements are similar to what was there before. Dr. Artzis added that we can make things better for our local people and asked Wes why he feels that this is a bad thing. Wes said we can do it on our own without the rule and he would like to wait and see how it plays out. Wes said if water does not meet the water quality standards, you can still get there through issuing a waiver. Matt said that would require a significant amount of legal analysis and would put us way out on a limb if we issue waivers without an adopted local rule. Wes said it needs fixed legislatively and would cost many thousands of dollars in legal fees. Steve Parker said we can’t do it in a way without approval from the State. Dave Windom talked about the four (4) criteria for water treatment through RCW or adopting a local rule in order to relax the treatment. Brad Miller asked if we adopted a local rule and it doesn’t work out, can we choose to discontinue using the rule. Dave said yes we can. Dr. Artzis asked about people waiting for us to get through the process and give them an answer. Matt said there is a situation in the Colville area that is high in arsenic and is waiting on us to make a decision. The only way we could allow them to treat is if a local rule is adopted. Outside of that, Matt doesn’t think we have the legal authority to issue a waiver. Matt said there are local implications that we will see over time including the potential that this could affect development. Mike Manus said more research needs to be done and would like legal review with discussion at the next meeting.

**SOLID WASTE REGULATION:** Matt talked about the few comments he received on the proposed solid waste ordinance. There are some things that we will lose if we don’t adopt by reference. He used an example with large scale composters that aren’t required to give financial assurance. Matt said if we feel that is necessary, we can ask for that. The penalty provisions cover us and are absent from the State rule. Wes talked about WAC 173-350-700 Permits and Local Ordinances. Matt said these are under constant review and changes. A finalized ordinance will be presented during a public hearing at the next meeting.

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: APPEALS – BUDGET – PERSONNEL:** Chairman Mike Manus made the 2015 committee appointments as follows:
- Appeals Committee: Mike Birch, Mike Blankenship, Mike Manus, Alternate Kathleen Turpin
- Budget Committee: Mike Manus, Wes McCart, Brad Miller
- Personnel Committee: Elbert Koontz, Mike Manus, Brad Miller, Steve Parker, Karen Skoog

Karen Skoog suggested that the Budget Committee meets before the April, 2015 meeting.

**REVIEW OF 2015 MEETING SCHEDULE:** The Board of Health 2015 of Northeast Tri County Health District meeting schedule was reviewed and approved as follows:
- Wednesday, January 28, 2015 – Annual Meeting, Stevens County
- Wednesday, April 15, 2015 – Regular Meeting, Pend Oreille County
- Wednesday, July 15, 2015 – Regular Meeting, Ferry County
- Wednesday, October 21, 2015 – Regular Meeting, Stevens County
EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board adjourned into executive session at 10:25 A.M. for ten (10) minutes per RCW 42.30.110 (i). The executive session concluded at 10:35 A.M. No action was taken.

VALLEY SCHOOL AIR QUALITY: Matt Schanz reported that the Health District staff recently met with representatives of Lane Mountain Silica and the Valley School District. The meeting focused on efforts to further characterize airborne silica concentrations near the school and the potential public health impact.

Dating back to the 1990’s, there have been concerns expressed about health impacts. Matt said periodically there are citizen driven complaints. There have been ongoing discussions with the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Ecology (DOE) and what we know about the public health impact if any. The process shows information gaps that prevent us from saying that we know what impact there is on the school.

Recently DOH and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) are evaluating this issue. Matt talked about silica and where the air quality issues are coming from and what part is making its way to the school. ATSDR is a federal public health agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and have offered to analyze and review existing data and also provide more detailed review. ATSDR have stated that they won’t do the review unless there is a desire and support from the local level. Matt presented a draft letter addressed to ATSDR on behalf of the Board. The letter talks about public health concerns expressed by members of the public about airborne silica concentrations near the Valley School. It states that though efforts have been made to help characterize some of the existing particulate data, the amount of crystalline silica and the origin of the fine particulates within the school grounds are unknown. ATSDR has offered to consider sampling in the Valley area to help further define the origin and characterize the silica content of the particulate matter. The draft letter goes on to say that the Health District supports the efforts as additional information that will help develop public health recommendations for the area. The letter talks about the importance of discussion between the Health District, Valley School District, and Lane Mountain Silica to gain input and insight. Matt noted that along with the quantitative analysis, it will be important to understand the qualitative aspects relating to the potential health impact.

Matt said the Health District receives complaints from parents and our opinion is that we would support the endeavor to get more information. The benefit is that we will have more definitive information to provide. But with that there may be implications to what happens depending on what they find. Matt noted that the Valley School superintendent was unable to attend the recent meeting held at the Health District. Dr. Artzis said from a previous meeting, he feels that the superintendent understands what this means.

Joe Scates, Lane Mountain Silica Manager talked about previous experiences with DOE and DOH. He said there probably is crystalline silica at the school but doesn’t see where the exposure to children at minimum times per day is a risk. Joe said there are guys that have been working at the plant for 30-40 years with no health issues. He went on to say that the samples are taken at the plant, not at the school.
Steve Parker said it is good that some of this is being addressed. The driver in this situation is random phone calls from parents of children. It is gratifying but unique that an agency said they needed a local written desire to become involved and wondered why this is different from similar situations. Matt Schanz said ATSDR is not a regulatory entity and that is why they are asking for local support. From an air quality standpoint, air quality rules say 150 ug/m3 is the threshold. Lane Mountain Silica has not exceeded that amount. In 2008, there was a revision to the air quality rule adding three (3) micrograms per cubic meter of crystalline silica to monitoring thresholds. This does not apply to Lane Mountain Silica as they are grandfathered in unless they were to expand their business. The intent is to see if there are some health impacts from crystalline silica when they exceed that amount and what does this mean for the school. Dave Windom said money spent on monitoring and surveillance could be spent on paving that would reduce particulates. Steve would like to see studies on health effects from silica exposure. Wes McCart asked about money spent on monitoring. Wes said it sounds like this will happen no matter what and they will still have to pay for their monitoring. Joe Scates said Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) monitor Lane Mountain Silica employees. Matt said this is not just about the workplace as it also involves the Valley School. Matt said another benefit to having this review done will provide scientific analysis. Joe said it is difficult to compare a person monitor to an air quality monitor.

Mike Manus talked about the Valley School District and thought it was interesting that they have put new schools in the same location and didn’t move them. Brad Miller asked about the background on presence of silica on school grounds. He said the product must exist throughout the area, not just on school grounds. Brad would also like some background information on potential implications to employees. Joe said one employee working in the sacking shed was over exposed in 2014. MSHA was notified. This had been the first case since 2009. All employees wear a respirator but they are tested as though they don’t have one on. Wes said the monitors aren’t there and the information they are analyzing at best isn’t going to give us an answer. Dr. Artzis asked Wes how he knows that. These are legitimate questions coming from parents of families about whether their children are safe. Dr. Artzis asked why this is any different than if it was lead. Wes said if we looked at everything, we will find something. Wes reiterated that he doesn’t think this test will give us the answer. Dr. Artzis said at least we have tried and could inform the Valley School Board that we did try. Wes said based on conversations here the monitors are not there. Dave said we don’t know how we are going to sample it. Matt talked about filters and what they may do. Brad asked if there is a cost to us. Brad noted that he agrees with Dr. Artzis. Brad added that these kinds of things can be driven by an agenda. Dr. Artzis feels that everyone needs to be in agreement. Steve said at some point, we have to assume some level of risk to live. He asked how sure we want to be and at what risk? Steve also wondered why the school expanded and didn’t relocate. Wes said you also want to make sure there is community support. Wes doesn’t think there is enough support right now. Mike Manus asked Joe how he feels about the draft letter to ATSDR. Joe sent the letter to his boss and he thinks it is okay. Joe said our footprint is driving a lot of it and mentioned reducing their tailings.
Joe Scates asked Matt Schanz how many different regulatory agencies have contacted the Health District. Matt said Ecology, DOH and ATSDR ask about the status of where we are at with this and he has asked the agencies to include Lane Mountain Silica in the conversations. Joe added that Lane Mountain Silica is just trying to survive the business. Mike Manus said the review from ATSDR could possibly reduce the complaints. Dr. Artzis talked about the increase in complaints during summer months when big winds come up and those are times when there are valid concerns. Joe asked where the data would go if the review is done. Matt said it would be given to agencies involved and would be available through the public disclosure policy.

Steve Parker moved and Karen Skoog seconded the motion to table the discussion until more information is obtained. Motion carried.

Brad Miller noted that this is not an emergency. He said the information is good but has concerns that this isn’t just focused on an outcome driven basis. Karen asked about data from illness related to silica. Dave Windom said it is not a condition that gets reported to health departments. Dr. Artzis said through electronic medical records it would be difficult as data would be limited and you would have to do specific demographics.

Wes McCart said this letter doesn’t tell us exactly what the study entails including how and where sampling will be done. Wes said Joe asking about where the data will go when it’s done and would it be subject to public disclosure is a fair question. Matt said he will get more information. DOE claims that they are not involved because it is not an air quality violation issue. Joe noted that DOE is making Lane Mountain Silica have the filters. Matt said DOE does have that authority. Matt reiterated that DOE has declined to participate. Wes asked if DOH was involved. Matt said DOH has solicited the assistance of ATSDR as they are the experts on these types of exposure investigations. Matt will send the detailed reports to the Board. Karen asked about financial risk. Mike Manus said everyone is thinking about financial implications but we are almost in a situation that we have to look at this from a health point of view because that is our capacity right now. Dave said the sooner we find out what is going on locally the better. He is concerned that we could be accused of knowing something and not doing anything about it.

RECESS: There was a brief recess at 11:30 A.M.

RECONVENE: The meeting reconvened at 11:35 A.M.

RESOLUTION 01-2015: UPDATING FEE SCHEDULE FOR NORTHEAST TRI COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES: Matt said this is continuation of past conversations. Initially there was discussion of reaching a 50% threshold for fee recovery and at the last meeting it was settled on a 60% threshold for adjusting fees in onsite sewage and the food program. Matt provided the Board with the proposed fee amounts with the adjustment needed to meet 60% fee recovery for onsite sewage and food; a description of the proposed fee changes based on 2013 year end expenditures and revenues; and fee comparisons from other local health jurisdictions in Eastern Washington and the Idaho Panhandle.
Matt Schanz proposed adding a new fee of $150 for New Public Drinking Water Well Site Evaluation. He explained that there has always been a fee, but the District was reimbursed from DOH and that will no longer happen. He noted that even with the proposed adjustments, the District is still at or below average with fees. Wes McCart talked about the bottom line projection of the 10% extra from a 50% fee recovery to 60%. Wes said he is concerned about raising fees. Wes said the Health District has a financial problem. He has received phone calls from some of the cities and towns regarding our request for public health funding. Wes is also concerned about what will happen to food establishments. The unemployment rate in the tri-county area is 10.9%. Wes would like this entire discussion referred back to the Budget Committee and have them meet as soon as possible to come up with a comprehensive solution. Matt said that is difficult for us to deal with when food establishment renewals must be sent out in February, 2015. Matt said you might as well take until the next year to make a decision. We have had this conversation before and we keep on digging ourselves further and further behind. He reiterated that when looking at the comparisons we are still at or below average. Matt understands there is a cost of doing business. Wes said he looks at the bigger picture. Wes talked about county budgets and what counties are paying and it comes back to a whole discussion happening at the state level that is what’s basic health and what’s not. Dave Windom said this is foundational health. Dave talked about county contributions and what this Board decided about keeping fees lower. Steve Parker said he is in favor of biting the bullet this year and taking a more comprehensive look at the model. He noted that numbers are down in restaurants, temporary food establishments, and onsite sewage permits. Steve said he would rather reexamine the commitment that was made years ago than increase fees on a shrinking population. Mike Manus said the increase to a food establishment that didn’t require an additional inspection is $10. Matt said if we don’t take some action now, we will have to address how we can keep staff on the books to perform services that we are statutorily required to do. Karen Skoog said this is not a new discussion. We have unfortunately gotten into a habit of letting things go on and on. Karen said it makes sense to have the Budget Committee delve into it deeply. However, she is concerned about the timeline for food renewals. Matt said food establishment renewal notices will go out in two (2) weeks and if we don’t make a decision today, the permits would remain the same as the existing fee schedule until next year. Dave reminded the Board that they had decided that we would bring proposals to the Board in July, with discussion in October, and consideration for approval in January. That has given us six (6) months to look at this. A decision needs to be made. Mike Manus noted that the cost of doing business has increased everywhere. Karen said it would seem that a food establishment would possibly pass that cost on to the consumer. Karen asked about onsite and who that cost would be passed on to. Karen asked if the Board could possibly make a decision on food now and ask for more research on septic. Matt said onsite septic starts now also. Matt said he has tried to put together all of the information that he possibly could think of and doesn’t know what other information that he could put together. He said we are at the point to where we need to make some decisions in terms of the budget standpoint with staffing in going forward.
Wes McCart asked what the difference would be if we change the increase to a 50% fee recovery rather than 60%. Matt Schanz said he presented the 50% fee recovery to the Board at the last meeting and was asked by the Board to bring the 60% for proposal. Matt gave the Board the adjustment needed to meet the fee guidance policy of 50% fee recovery. Matt went through each proposed increase and clarified that a sewage permit violation fee is equal to the permit fee. Wes said the guidance policy target was 50% fee recovery. Wes went on to say that we have a financial situation coming at us next year. Wes said we can make it through this year but this is not sustainable. He doesn’t think that $50,000 can get us out of the hole and would not solve all of our problems, that the problems are bigger than that. Matt said that would be $50,000 that would not need pulled out of the reserve fund. Wes said he could support going to 50% fee recovery now, but would not support going to 60% fee recovery. Karen Skoog noted that past discussions regarding the guidance document were quite involved and the document was established as a guidance document only, not a policy.

Brad Miller said this Board has been talking about this for a long time. This Board has given Matt different directions and asked him to come up with different documents and he has done that. Brad said the main reason why we don’t get anything done is the way this Board pontificates. Brad said it’s time that we step up to the plate and actually do something. A lot needs done to get next year’s budget to work. The additional $50,000 will help considerably.

Brad Miller moved and Karen Skoog seconded the motion to approve Resolution 01-2015: Updating Fee Schedule for Northeast Tri County Health District Environmental Health Services at the adjusted rate of 60% fee recovery for sewage permits and the food program. Mike Manus stated that Mike Blankenship said before he left the meeting that he would support a 50% fee recovery but would oppose 60%. Brad Miller and Karen Skoog voted in favor of the motion. Mike Birch, Mike Blankenship, Wes McCart and Steve Parker opposed. Motion failed.

Karen Skoog moved and Brad Miller seconded the motion to approve Resolution 01-2015: Updating Fee Schedule for Northeast Tri County Health District Environmental Health Services at the adjusted rate of 50% fee recovery as follows:

**SEWAGE PERMITS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Family Residence or &lt;1,000 gpd</td>
<td>$560</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,000 – 2,000 gpd</td>
<td>$690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,001 – 3,000 gpd</td>
<td>$825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,001 – 3,500 gpd</td>
<td>$955</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major Revision of Approved Design</td>
<td>$160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-Inspection</td>
<td>$80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design Correction</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Site Inspection</td>
<td>$185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewal</td>
<td>$55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repair Permit</td>
<td>50% of permit fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soil Evaluation</td>
<td>$160</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waiver Request and Processing Fee</td>
<td>$130</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Except Class A Waivers)</td>
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FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

Pre-Opening Inspection $80
New Owner – No Remodeling $30

Operation Without a Permit – (Plus Plan Review and Permit Fees)
Temporary Food Service $115
Food Establishments Equal to permit fee

Permit Fee
Simple Menu $100
Moderate Menu $150
Complex Menu $205
First Follow-up $70
Second Follow-up $105
Re-Inspection $170
Administrative Conference $170

Mobile Units
Permit $85/unit
Commissary – Unless Already Licensed $85

Temporary Food Establishment
Low Risk Temporary $25
Moderate Risk Temporary $65
Reoccurring Low Risk $45
Reoccurring Moderate Risk $85
Late Fee – Application Received Less Than 5 Days Before Event $30

Food and Beverage Worker Permit
Food Regulation Variance $135
(except for requests with pre-approved mitigation criteria)

(NEW FEE) PUBLIC DRINKING WATER
New Public Drinking Water Well Site Evaluation $150

Bruce Perkins, former environmental health director for Benton-Franklin Health District asked if we needed a public hearing to raise fees. He said state law required Benton-Franklin to have a public hearing to raise fees. Dave Windom said no we do not.

Wes McCart asked for clarification on the proposed new fee for a new public drinking water well site evaluation. Matt Schanz said we were reimbursed $150 by DOH through a Joint Plan of Responsibility (JPR). We no longer have a JPR but still want to be able to perform that service. If we don’t set a fee and discontinue doing them, the fee would be more if done by DOH and we could respond to requests faster locally. Our local desire is to continue providing that service.
Wes McCart said he pulled a Group B report off the internet to put in the capitol facilities plan and found that the most recent data was over a year old. Wes wants to make sure that the counties are able to get current data. Matt Schanz said the new Group B reports in the database were subject to discussion. Initially DOH didn’t have the staff to keep up on this and have since been able to do so for new Group B systems.

Mike Manus called for a vote on the motion to approve Resolution 01-2015: Updating Fee Schedule for Northeast Tri County Health District Environmental Health Services as described. Mike Blankenship, Mike Manus, Brad Miller and Karen Skoog voted in favor of the motion. Mike Birch, Wes McCart and Steve Parker opposed. Motion carried.

**PERSONNEL ITEM:** Wes McCart said he would like an evaluation done by the Board on Dave Windom at least annually and maybe every two (2) years. Brad Miller said in all of his years on the Board, he doesn’t recall the Board doing that. Vicki Eveland said the administrator evaluation is typically done by the health officer. Wes asked that Board Members at least be given a copy of those evaluations.

Dr. Artzis left the meeting at 12:15 P.M.

**CHAIRMAN REPORT:** Chairman Mike Manus had no report.

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS REPORTS:** Board of Health Members had no reports.

**HEALTH OFFICER REPORT:** Health Officer Dr. Artzis had no report.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT:** Dave Windom reported that the Health District budget for the coming year is flat in county contributions, state dollars are down somewhat and we are expecting some slight increase in fee-for-service. Even though it is flat, it really is a reduction because inflation eats up 3%, health insurance has gone up and retirement contributions went up 2%. This means a reduction in spendable revenue of $100,000 in just those three (3) items. The budget includes spending from the reserve to meet the shortfall. Whether it is fee-for-service or program spending, the more we maximize revenue and keep costs contained, the less we will have to tap the reserves. The District has done a great job on the expense side but now need to concentrate on the revenue side. We will be getting into the details of our BARS program reporting and ensuring that we will appropriately and recover costs.

Dave recently attended the State of Reform conference and the one consistent message with everyone involved – hospitals, insurance companies, public health and health care delivery all agree that change is coming but we don’t know what that entails for certain. We can prepare for change and give ourselves the ability to be adaptable. We will be updating the strategic plan with a focus of “how do we position ourselves to adjust to change?” Dave is sending some of our staff to community health worker (CHW) training as it’s agreed in most circles that much of the work in the Accountable Communities’ of Health will be done by CHW’s. Dave said he would rather our staff be trained and not needed than this role taken by someone from a regional office somewhere. Community health will have the largest transformation. Environmental health will probably not see much change since most of its role is defined in regulation.
Dave Windom said the Health District has been working with the hospital, the tribe and others in Pend Oreille County to build our own local county version of an Accountable Community of Health. He explained that the idea is that we would rather set the standard ourselves than have one forced on us. If this model works, it can be exported to Ferry, Stevens and other rural counties. Dave said we have had several meetings and are moving ahead with non-duplication of service, integration of behavioral health with health care and looking for sustainability of our local health care systems.

Jim Sayre has given notice of his intent to retire this summer, 2015. Jim is a fixture in Pend Oreille County that’s well known and respected in the community and will certainly be missed. The position will initially be opened up in-house. The intent is to keep that position in Pend Oreille County to keep the service local and responsive.

Dave reported that the current FTEs still stand at 23.5. He submitted a report on financial information for the year 2014. The Health District ended 2014 under budget by $22,897.

Dave provided information from the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) and the 2015 Legislative agenda. Information included HB 1647 that pertains to improving access to reproductive health; HB 1645 regarding E-Cigarettes; and HB 1538 encouraging the safe practice of public health nurses dispensing certain medications. He provided a summary of the findings of the Foundational Public Health Services Policy Workgroup, which was formed to create a vision and recommendations for how to ensure that a foundational set of public health services are available statewide.

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT: Sandy Owen reported that Ebola preparations have been scaled back to the preparation for the potential monitoring of citizens who might be returning from the Ebola-affected countries in West Africa.

The Health District sent two (2) separate memos to local health care providers (HCPs) alerting them about influenza that included the preliminary reports of the vaccine being less effective than hoped for against the H3N2 virus and the importance of prescribing antiviral medications to reduce the severity of the illness and to reduce transmission. Tamiflu is a prescription medicine used to treat the flu (influenza) in people who have had the flu symptoms for no more than two (2) days. Sandy said the District has been busy tracking the availability of Tamiflu.

Additionally, information was sent to local HCPs in regard to the spread of measles that originated when a young, unimmunized woman became ill at Disneyland. The woman traveled to visit friends and family in Washington State subsequently spreading measles resulting in forty-five (45) cases, as of January 20, 2015 including Washington State. The tri-county area and Spokane County have seen an increase in possible mumps cases as well.
In 2014, the community health division followed up on the following:

- Chlamydia 149 Cases
- Gonorrhea 11 Cases
- Herpes Simplex 6 Cases
- Hepatitis B 6 Cases
- Hepatitis C 130 Cases (mostly chronic)

The supplemental nutrition program for Woman, Infants, and Children (WIC) continues to serve a caseload of 1,140 pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women and their infants and children providing nutrition and health education as well as referrals to other supportive services to help improve family health. The clinic in Springdale has proven to be a success providing WIC services further south in Stevens County thanks to space provided by the NEW Health Community Clinic.

Work continues on the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Activity Plan for the MCH Block Grant. The areas of focus are increasing the rate of breastfeeding of infants at the six (6) month old mark, decreasing smoking in pregnant women and increasing the use of developmental screening to identify developmental delays in infants and children early so that intervention can begin as soon as possible which improves the outcomes. Early Learning Alliance was newly formed in the tri-county area and is providing additional collaborative partners to do this work.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT: Matt Schanz provided the Board with a review of 2014 in the following programs:

**Onsite Sewage Permits — 256 total 2014** (11 fewer than 2013)
- Ferry County 39 (same as 2013)
- Pend Oreille County 48 (16 fewer than 2013)
- Stevens County 169 (up 5 from 2013)

**Short Plats Reviewed — 27 total 2014** (up 9 from 2013)
- Ferry County 2 (7 in 2013)
- Pend Oreille County 2 (1 in 2013)
- Stevens County 23 (10 in 2013)

**Food Worker Cards — 2,027 total 2014**
- Increased 17% (1,688 in 2013)

**Food Establishments Permitted — 298 total 2014** (11 fewer than 2013)

**Temporary Food Establishments Permitted — 864 total 2014**
- 23% Decrease (1,124 in 2013)
- Most significant was drop in Pend Oreille County
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The Health District works with county solid waste managers and their consultants in monitoring closed landfills. Matt Schanz explained that in the post-closure phase, maintenance and monitoring must occur to ensure environmental safety for at least a twenty (20) year period or until the site has stabilized. As the closed landfills each their twenty (20) year mark, we will actively work in 2015 with solid waste managers in each county to determine if each facility has reached a point on stabilization and have little or no settlement, gas production or leachate generation. If the site has stabilized, monitoring for these indicators can discontinue.

PAYROLL & VOUCHERS: Attached to these minutes are benefits and payroll amounts from November 5, 2014 through January 5, 2015; and voucher amounts from October 29, 2014 through January 21, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Mike Manus adjourned the meeting at 12:37 P.M. The next regular meeting of the Board of Health of Northeast Tri County Health District will be on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 in Pend Oreille County.

Respectfully submitted,

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

By Kelly D. LeCaire, Executive Secretary

Mike Manus, Chairman
Northeast Tri County Health District

The following voucher/warrants are approved for payment:

**2014**

**General Fund:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Voucher #</th>
<th>Through</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>14975</td>
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**Payroll**

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<td>$96,050.72</td>
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<td>$97,262.28</td>
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