BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, November 12, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lou Janke, Mike Manus, Wes McCart, Brad Miller, Karen Skoog, Kathleen Turpin

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Blankenship, Elbert Koontz, Steve Parker

STAFF PRESENT: Samuel Artzis, M.D., Dale House, Kelly LeCaire, Alison McGrane, Sandy Perkins, Kay Scamahorn, Matt Schanz, Dave Windom

GUESTS: Bruce Perkins, Brenda Parnell

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Chairman Mike Manus called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M. A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made by all.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES: Brad Miller moved and Karen Skoog seconded the motion to approve the minutes of September 16, 2015, regular Board of Health meeting. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION: A thank you note to Bryan Hunt was included.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES: No public appearances were pre-registered.

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO AGENDA: Mike Manus requested an executive session following staff reports to discuss a personnel matter per RCW 42.30.110 (g).

1115 MEDICAID WAIVER: Dave Windom stated that the Health Care Authority (HCA) and the Federal Government will be negotiating what the 1115 Medicaid waiver will entail. Dave has concerns about several areas.

FAMILY PLANNING: Dr. Artzis reported that residents from the rural training track from Providence Mount Carmel Hospital have been hired to work in the Northeast Tri County Health District (NETCHD) family planning clinic every Tuesday afternoon. Dr. Artzis or Dr. Waters will serve as preceptor. Dr. Artzis reminded Dave that they still need a contract. Dave said it is being reviewed by legal.

MARIJUANA FUNDING: As a provision of state legislation in 2015 related to Initiative 502, the Department of Health (DOH) is required to develop and implement a marijuana/tobacco youth prevention plan. The letters of intent are due on November 20, 2015. The funds will be distributed to nine (9) communities within each defined Accountable Communities of Health (ACH) Region. Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) will be the recipient of the grant for Adams, Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane and Stevens Counties as Better Health Together (BHT). Dave said tobacco funds were not handled very well by SRHD in the past.
LANE MOUNTAIN SILICA: Matt Schanz asked for comments regarding the Letter Health Consultation – Valley School Silica Exposure Status Update prepared by the Washington State Department of Health under a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). The health consultation was initiated in response to the request of the Valley School District (VSD). Matt noted that the Board of Health previously chose not to sign the letter of support for additional studies done on potential impacts from silica sand at VSD properties. Matt noted that the letter is still in draft form.

Brenda Parnell arrived at the meeting at 10:15 A.M.

After reviewing the results of a silica analysis done by the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (LNI) Laboratory on a subset of PM10 filters collected at the VSD, they found that all but one (1) filter exceeded the Washington State acceptable source impact level (ASIL) of 3 micrograms per cubic meter for crystalline silica. However, this ASIL is based on data from respirable particulates, which have a cutpoint of four (4) microns in aerodynamic diameter (PM4). Since the only data available for review has an aerodynamic cutpoint of PM10, they cannot conclude the concentration of respirable silica (PM4) that students and staff may be exposed to. Additional sampling is recommended for the school. The draft Letter Health Consultation recommended that the school limit outdoor activities for students and staff on windy days. DOH is working with ATSDR to assess the feasibility of conducting the additional sampling through ATSDR’s Exposure Investigation program. Results from the LNI Laboratory show that PM10 concentrations on VSD property are two (2) to three (3) times higher than those measured on the south side of Lane Mountain Company (LMC) during the summer. There is no silica ambient air monitoring data from this area other than the retrospective analysis of forty (40) Federal Reference Monitor (FRM) filters for silica by LNI.

Wes McCart asked that Commissioner Dashiell receive a copy of all correspondence. Wes thanked Matt for keeping the Stevens County Commissioners informed, but feels that DOH should be doing that as well. Wes indicated that LMC Manager Joe Scates seems to think that the monitors assessed were on the plant site, not at the school. Matt said to his knowledge, the filters/monitors were federal reference monitors placed on the VSD properties. As stated in the letter, forty (40) filter samples that were looked at and taken over a period of time were from the VSD property. Matt said he will verify which monitors were assessed and will notify the Board. Wes said since this is still in draft, he wants to make sure that the filters tested were in fact on VSD property.

Matt has had phone conversations with the VSD superintendent regarding whether the silica being picked up is crystalline silica. He reiterated that further study needs to be done on how much is making its way from LMC and/or how much is coming from the highway/road dust. Matt indicated that the Letter Health Consultation is addressed to the VSD because they requested DOH’s assistance. Karen Skoog said the letter is technical and difficult to read and the recommendations refer to lower concentration during the winter which is kind of vague. Karen went on to say that knowing how counties are with liabilities, the comparisons and this entire issue are going to be interesting. Matt said in terms of wind pattern, ATSDR did go back and do a comprehensive wind analysis including wind speed and the time of year, etc.
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Wes McCart said this is part of a much larger discussion that we need to have. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) mining operation is part owner of the land and the entire issue has switched with BLM trying to take control. He said it is unfortunate that this is happening at the same time.

Mike Manus said we need to be very cautious when dealing with growing children. Matt Schanz talked about the exposure investigation that would address impact to the school, if there is one and what kinds of mitigation would be necessary. It is very important to get more information to make an informed decision. Mike M. said it is important to note that Joe Scates wasn’t in favor of ATSDR but his boss was. He feels that more data is needed to make a good decision and information may put to rest potential issues for Valley residents. Dr. Artzis feels that an exposure investigation is needed and that it may indicate that LMC is doing what they need to be doing. Matt will continue to keep the Board informed.

RESOLUTION 04-2015: GRANTING AUTHORIZATION FOR SURPLUS OF NORTHEAST TRI COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT PERSONAL PROPERTY: The following equipment has reached full depreciation and may be surplused:

- Computer Server # 00168-271-984-985

Brad Miller moved and Karen Skoog seconded the motion to approve Resolution 04-2015: Granting Authorization for Surplus of Northeast Tri County Health District Personal Property as described above. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION 05-2015: AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT:

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**GRAND TOTAL REVENUE** $65,000

Budget Amendment Expenditures:

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**GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES** $65,000

Karen Skoog moved and Wes McCart seconded the motion to approve Resolution 05-2015: Authorizing the General Fund Budget Amendment as described above. Motion carried.
RESOLUTION 06-2015: AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET AMENDMENT: Dave Windom reported that NETCHD will receive a reduction in medical insurance premiums due to 64% of NETCHD staff participated in the wellness program. Except for some revenue changes and a reduction in solid hazardous waste funding, most of the funding remains the same. $247,720 will need to come from the fund balance in 2016. Dale House said there will be approximately $265,000 in the undesignated portion of the fund balance at the end of 2015. Wes McCart said the Budget Committee met several times and went over the budget very carefully. Karen Skoog thanked the Budget Committee members.

Wes McCart moved and Brad Miller seconded the motion to approve Resolution 06-2015: Adopting the 2016 Budget in the amount of $2,209,500 to include the following:

- 3.5% cost of living increase for staff
- No medical insurance premium cap increase
- County contributions remain the same as 2015
- Fund balance usage = $247,720

Mike Manus noted that the 3.5% cost of living increase for NETCHD staff is very much warranted. Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Chairman Mike Manus appointed Mike Blankenship, Steve Parker and Karen Skoog as members of the Nominating Committee. The Committee members will bring nominations for the 2016 Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Health to the Annual Meeting of the Northeast Tri County Health District Board of Health in January, 2016.

NORTHPORT LEAD SCREENING: Matt Schanz reported that property owners in the Northport area were offered soil sampling. Arsenic and lead levels were found in all fourteen (14) of the properties tested. NETCHD recently held a blood lead screening clinic in Northport that was very well attended by children and adults. In the past, there had been a very low turnout. The test results from our testing were much higher than expected. NETCHD advised those folks to see their healthcare provider for additional testing and follow-up. Sandy Perkins explained that the capillary blood draw screening process that NETCHD used can be inaccurate. The testing done by a healthcare provider using larger levels of blood is much more accurate. Those results are showing some elevations, but not to the magnitude as the initial screening done by NETCHD. Brad Miller asked by what means is it determined how it gets from the ground to a person and can it come through plants/vegetables. Matt said in a root crop, yes it can which is why it is recommended as a precaution to wash everything good. Since we had quite a few exceedances, we had to decide whether we should talk with those folks or wait for further confirmation. We didn’t want a time lag with parents and kids with elevated levels. NETCHD interviewed three (3) families and asked them about their activities etc. and advised them to have further sampling done.
Matt Schanz indicated that lead can be present in source water. On November 14, 2015, copper and lead samples were taken from the Town of Northport water supply and the levels were way below thresholds. Matt noted that we are still trying to obtain more test results of those that received follow up testing from their healthcare provider to compare verified results. So far there are no exceedances, which makes us wonder why there were the initial exceedances. There was more discussion about the capillary blood draw method that NETCHD used and how there can be inaccuracies with that method. Dr. Artzis added that there can be problems with the collection of the blood, how you wipe the tube down and could also mean that the machine is inaccurate. He feels that the problem is with the machine and is asking DOH for a different machine.

Wes McCart asked if the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) paid us for any of this work. Sandy Perkins did ask them and was told that they didn’t have funds. Matt said we were asking if there really were exceedances, could they pay for water testing, etc. and if exceedances are on property that weren’t part of the designated cleanup, can people go back now and have them pay for testing and remediation. Wes said the Department of Ecology (DOE) has been after EPA and Teck Cominco to ‘dig a little deeper’ on the monetary aspect as this can’t be ignored. Wes said their answer is that they don’t have the money.

Dr. Artzis said we will complete our study, do more testing, and follow this through so we can get it right. He praised Matt and Sandy for the way they immediately took charge of this. He went on to say that this is a good example of public health doing the right thing, especially for Northport residents. Sandy noted that there were close to sixty (60) people that came for the screening.

CHAIRMAN REPORT: Mike Manus reported that a marijuana shop is wanting to open in Usk. They went before the planning commission where it was denied because of public outcry. The issue had to do more with the location of the store rather than what the store actually was.

In coordination with the Critical Access Hospital Network and Better Health Together, Pend Oreille County is applying for grant funding for Pend Oreille County to work with the Pend Oreille County Health Coalition. Mike M. explained that the grant is for diabetes, exercise, and obesity which we are already working on. He will keep the Board informed.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS: Karen Skoog said it will be interesting to see what happens with issues regarding marijuana etc. She talked about the marijuana initiative that Washington State voters passed, powers of the federal government and state and local control.

Lou Janke reported that the City of Colville is receiving a $50,000 grant from Ecology from PM10 and will be used for parts for sweepers etc. The City of Colville has two (2) new PM10 qualified sweepers to replace the ones that were destroyed in the street shop fire. Sand being purchased for winter is cleaner sand, which should also help with air quality. Wes asked about the relocation of the PM10 monitors. Lou said they are located on the fire station in Colville.
Brad Miller is glad that we have an approved budget. He said we are going to have to come up with something different. Pressure needs to be put on the legislature to fund public health. Brad stressed that we cannot keep doing what we are doing in terms of the fund balance. He went on to say that it took a lot of years to build the reserve and it will be gone in one year.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT: Dr. Artzis had no report.

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT: Sandy Perkins reminded everyone to get their flu shot. She reported that the flu is in Spokane.

Colville staff have been working hard to incorporate a new model for the provision of family planning services as previously discussed. Sandy is really glad to have the clinic set up with the residents.

Staff worked in conjunction with the Washington chapter of the American Association of Pediatrics to bring a seminar to the tri-county area to encourage medical providers to perform developmental screenings on all infants and children to improve the early identification of and intervention for developmental delays. The program is called Great MINDS – Medical Homes Include Developmental Screening and was delivered “in person” at Providence Mount Carmel Hospital and available to hospitals and clinics in Ferry, Pend Oreille and Lincoln Counties on September 28, 2015. Over fifteen (15) providers attended. Hopefully this will contribute to an increase in routine developmental screening that could identify delays sooner so that early intervention might begin.

Connie Jensen, our registered dietician for the WIC program in the Colville office was offered a full-time position with Spokane Regional Health District. Mary Sandall who had worked for us before was willing to come back and needed no training.

Schools within the tri-county area were required to report the immunization/exemption status of their students by November 1, 2015. This information is important as it is one of the best ways to determine immunization coverage in an area as well as indicating locations that might be more susceptible to the outbreak of vaccine-preventable diseases.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT: Matt Schanz reported that the community of Curllew is served with on-site sewage systems, many installed prior to public health standards governing construction and placement. These systems are located on small lots which make repairs difficult. The soils are extremely permeable (limiting treatment of wastewater), located near the Kettle River, and many are located within the floodplain. There has been a long standing effort to provide a community sewer system in Curllew. Just recently, the advertisement for bids for the construction of a community wastewater collection, treatment system and side sewer project was published and are due December 1, 2015.
Matt Schanz reported that when NETCHD first established the on-site sewage system loan program to help people repair their failing on-site sewage systems, we received two (2) streams of funding from Ecology, one from grant dollars with no obligation to repay and the other was loan dollars with an obligation to repay. The program was set up and approved by Ecology by which replacement of failing systems would first be done using grant dollars from Ecology and by which the property owner would repay the amount gradually over time. NETCHD was to set those dollars aside to protect ourselves from defaults when we tapped into the Ecology loan dollars. Another reason it was set up this way is that we would gradually build up capital to fund our own self-supporting loan program. Ecology recently notified us that their approval of this process was in error of how they could approve the program and that NETCHD would need to spend matching amounts of grant and loan dollars. We currently have two (2) systems that are being replaced under the loan program which we will approve. But as of right now, until we work out a solution, we cannot approve any other loans under this program.

In response to concerns about water quality of Deep Lake in Stevens County, the Washington State Department of Ecology published the “Deep Lake Water Quality Monitoring Study” in September, 2015. Subsequent to the release of this study, NETCHD was asked by Stevens County Commissioners to conduct a file review of on-site sewage systems located immediately adjacent to Deep Lake. The area of focus were those lots located between the shoreline and surrounding roadways (i.e. lakeside of main access roads). The following is a summary of the information derived from this review:

- **130** homes are served by on-site sewage systems. Of those systems:
  - **105** have permitted on-site sewage systems
  - **78** of those these systems were installed between 1969-1994 under a regulatory system that focused on wastewater disposal utilizing gravity flow systems
  - **27** have been installed since 1995 (a date that is representative of regulatory requirements that focus on long term treatment to protect public health through the utilization of systems that provide better treatment on sites with limitations)
  - **25** homes are served by on-site sewage systems of which there is no record of a permit. These systems were either installed prior to permitting requirements in Stevens County or installed without the benefit of a required installation permit.

- **17** homes are connected to a community sewage system (a large on-site sewage system regulated by the Washington State Department of Health) that share a common drainfield located near the Wilderness West Resort building.

- **Within the focus area, there are 36 undeveloped lots**

NETCHD has seen a marked increase in the number of campylobacter illnesses reported. From 2004-2014, the average number of cases investigated per year was seven (7). To date in 2015, twenty-one (21) cases have been reported and investigated. Campylobacter is one of the more common causes of diarrheal illness in the United States. Most people who become ill get diarrhea, cramping and fever that lasts about one week. In the cases investigated, the most likely exposures were animal contact (7), food (5), and water (1). The remaining cases could not be linked back to any known exposure.
Matt Schanz reported that during the short session, the following legislation as it relates to environmental public health, may be proposed:

- The Department of Agriculture is watching for legislation that will impact pesticide use on marijuana as well as implement quality and testing standards. The convergence of medical marijuana and recreational marijuana may lead to industry pushing to more products, more infusion technologies and standards (regulated by the State Liquor Control Board).
- Managing raw milk is an expensive program with inspections and testing and is increasing in demand. The Department of Agriculture was funded through this biennium for expanded raw milk program and will be requesting funding to enhance and continue raw milk regulatory program.
- Ecology is developing strategies (which may result in a legislative request) to resolve the $62 million shortfall in the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) account resulting from plummeting oil prices. NETCHD has received notification that our Site Hazard Assessment Grant will be significantly reduced.
- Ecology is working on implementation of the Governors Executive Order on Greenhouse Gas – The Carbon Rule. There is a short timeframe to have a rule in place and it will impact large industrial facilities and landfills with emissions. The Rule is in concept now, but will be drafted soon.
- House Bill 1464 transfers public water system financing from the public works board and Department of Commerce to the Department of Health. This is an efficiency Bill that saves money and streamlines the process. It was stalled in committee last year and will be reintroduced.
- There has been some discussion that the recent deaths of two (2) children falling into septic tanks could prompt legislation, perhaps even some operations and maintenance requirements.
- We may see legislation around the use of crumb rubber in play areas due to concerns about possible health effects that has resulted in the removal of some synthetic football field turf in Washington State.
- We are anticipating something coming forward in the House regarding the Group B program.

Matt said a lot of work is occurring at 49 Degrees North with the development of the Alpine Glades Subdivision, part of which is showcasing the development. They want to offer limited food service but do not have water or sewer etc. The Appeal Board Members (Mike Blankenship, Lou Janke, Mike Manus, alternates Elbert Koontz & Kathleen Turpin) will receive a waiver request on how they will mitigate those requests. Matt feels that they have limited their food services. This is very significant as they are on a tight time-frame for platting. They want to plat in March, 2016 and are working through the onsite sewage system permitting process. With plat approval to sell lots, they may need to change their proposal of how many lots they want to sell.

**ADMINISTRATION REPORT:** Dave Windom talked about the preparation that went into the budget for 2016. The Budget Committee has been working through both the revenue and expense side for several months now. We expect flat funding for the most part with some decrease in the solid waste program. We have enough reserves to get through 2016 but funding becomes a serious issue for 2017.
Dave Windom reported that with the fires ending, we’ve begun the process of after action reviews of NETCHD response to fires and lessons learned. Some things we’re working on will be the continuity of operations plan and standard operating procedures for dealing with our most likely events.

Dave recently traveled to Wenatchee to speak to the Upper Columbia Ambulance Association to discuss the 1115 Medicaid Waiver and what it may mean for emergency medical services (EMS) crews as well and looking at the possibility of using EMS for more prevention work. The barriers arise primarily from being able to be paid for prevention work as this currently isn’t chargeable in Medicaid or Medicare. Prevention by EMS crews may be able to bring down the cost of care by reducing hospital trips.

Dave led a panel discussion at the Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA) along with Better Health Together (BHT), Brenda Parnell from Ferry County Memorial Hospital and Barry Kling from Chelan Douglas Health District on the role of Accountable Communities of Health (ACH) in the rural areas. He brought forward the work being done by the Pend Oreille Health Coalition as a model by which counties may be able to more directly influence health outcomes by building “mini-ACH’s.” This model looks at the resources already available in the county, formalizes relationships between those partners and begins to build an organization that has immediate action items as well as becoming a 501(c)(3) organization that is capable of receiving funds. He is currently working with BHT to write bylaws and begin the non-profit incorporation paperwork.

Dave reported that NETCHD is down to 22.3 FTE. The retirement actions of last summer are complete and he feels that we will remain stable for at least the near future.

The Washington State Department of Health proposed 2016 legislative agenda items were included in the Board packet.

Dave completed a survey of east side local health jurisdictions (LHJs) looking at what other districts are projecting for funding and their outlooks for the future. 55% are projecting reduced budgets next year with the remainder projecting level budgets, although 88% are projecting reduced revenues for 2016. Over 50% of the LHJs predict shortfalls of greater than $100,000, and 25% project greater than $200,000 shortfalls. When asked if there is a funding crisis forthcoming, 57% said they are already in a funding crisis and that at the very least it’s a moderate threat which will force more layoffs, and 25% felt it threatened the existence of local public health. The mood among administrators is not optimistic.

NETCHD received a public records request for all vouchers dating back to 2010. The request came from a company that wants to take our data and use it for commercial purposes to merge with their data. Dave sent them a request and hasn’t heard from them. Wes McCart noted that when you receive a public records request, you don’t have to create a document to meet the request if you don’t have it already in the form they are requesting.
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Dave Windom provided information on Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) funding. The technical workgroup of which Dave has been a part for three (3) years now has been reactivated. At the WSPHA meeting, Secretary Wiesman reiterated his desire to move FPHS forward which would look at funding sources as well as opening the RCW’s to look at local public health governance. Given the level of concern about funding among the administrators on the east side, Dave is certain this will be a topic that will come up at the county leadership meeting in November, 2015. Wes McCart talked about the importance of bringing everyone together as they do for the roundtable discussions held at Stevens County. Dave said the steering committee will meet by webinar and phone for the most part. Mike Manus asked if Matt Schanz and Sandy Perkins would also be involved. Dave said a number of different models have come out and ACH will have a piece of these things as well. Mike M. would like to see a sub-committee formed with a representative from each county to meet in between the meetings, relating to the changes and the direction of NETCHD staff. Wes said this is huge. Dave said with this moving forward, everyone wants a voice, especially east side administrators. It was decided that Mike Manus, Wes McCart and Brad Miller will be on the sub-committee.

Dave talked about the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation program Washington Health Gaps Report – “What’s driving health differences across the state and how can those gaps be closed”? Dave said our counties are the worst counties on the map likely due because of access and income. Mike M. said hospitals are taking on a much bigger role than they ever have. Brenda Parnell said Ferry County Memorial Hospital is looking at how they can work with the community to take care of the community and will be meeting with stakeholders to look at funding for a consultant to look at how and what Pend Oreille County is doing.

Dave and Mike M. will be attending an Injury and Violence Prevention Seminar in Seattle on November 13, 2015.

Dave and Mike M. will be meeting with the owner of the NETCHD Newport building in December, 2015 to negotiate reducing the rent.

PAYROLL & VOUCHERS: Attached to these minutes are benefit amounts for October 5, 2015; payroll amounts from October 5, 2015 through November 5, 2015; and voucher amounts from September 16, 2015 through November 4, 2015.

EXECUTIVE SESSION PER RCW 42.30.110 (g): The Board adjourned into executive session at 11:45 A.M. for twenty (20) minutes per RCW 42.30.110 (g). An additional ten (10) minutes was requested at 12:05 P.M. The executive session concluded at 12:15 P.M. Chairman Mike Manus stated that no action was taken.
ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Mike Manus adjourned the meeting at 12:16 P.M. The next annual meeting of the Board of Health of Northeast Tri County Health District will be on Wednesday, January 20, 2016 in Stevens County.

Respectfully submitted,

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

By Kelly LeCaire, Executive Secretary

Mike Manus, Chairman
Northeast Tri County Health District

The following voucher/warrants are approved for payment:

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