

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING ROOM
SEPTEMBER 18, 2007**

I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 P.M. by John Beitzel, Chair.

Present: John Beitzel, Chair
 Camille Scott, Vice Chair
 Michael C. Chapman
 Michael V. Doherty, Jr.
 Stephen P. Tharinger
 Jeanette Stehr-Green, M.D.

II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Dr. Jeanette Stehr-Green moved to approve the agenda. Mike Chapman seconded and the motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 21, 2007 MEETING

Steve Tharinger moved to approve the minutes. Camille Scott seconded and the motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ron Browning spoke to the Board regarding his concerns with health insurance and affordable coverage now and in the future.

V. OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. Dr. Thomas Locke, Health Officer, introduced Janina Staub, a 5th year German medical student who is spending this month working at Port Angeles Family Medicine. She is attending the Board of Health meeting to learn more about the U.S. Public Health System.

- B. Department of Health Press Releases – Beef Recall. – Dr. Locke reported this is a multi-state, multi-county outbreak and Clallam is one of the counties affected. This form of *E. coli* takes only a very small amount of bacteria to produce illness and is found in ground beef. This outbreak subsided with the withdrawal of the meat from the market place. Cooking ground beef to 155° will inactivate the *E. coli*.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PHAC) REPORT

September 14, 2007 Advisory Committee Meeting Report. Dr. Locke reported the Committee has a number of issues to bring to the Board of Health, possibly in October. They spent the last

couple of months focusing on rebuilding the Committee, getting new members and orienting them. They were very interested in the Public Health Standards Audit Scores, done in 2002, 2005 and will be done again in 2008.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. On-site Sewage Code Revision Process Update. Andy Brastad, Environmental Health Director, reported he is still accepting comments on the draft. He has received a number of comments on the internet which his department is reviewing. Two issues have come up as important to resolve before the draft comes to the BOH:

- requiring an inspection of the septic system at the time of property transfer
- how we locally license on-site septic system providers.

The On-site Septic System Manage Workgroup will reconvene next Monday evening, September 24, to discuss these two issues. By next month, Andy hopes to have a final form draft ordinance to bring to the BOH.

B. Environmental Health Grant Funding Update. Andy reported part of the requirements of EH is to implement the inspection program, enhance the database to ensure we have complete records of all septic systems, develop a system to send reminders to homeowners about their systems, and identify all systems in the marine recovery area and fix the ones found not working.

Andy reviewed the grant request activities over the past few months in an attempt to get funding to carry out these mandates:

- June – submitted to ecology a list of projects to implement WRIA 18 watershed plan – not funded
- July – submitted an application to a different section of Ecology to provide do-it-yourself septic system training to homeowners – not funded
- August - notified from DOH we are getting continued funding on existing management plan implementation
- End of September – DOH expects to award four or five grants, on a competitive basis, specifically for the marine recovery area from the East County Line to Bagley Creek
- October – Ecology Centennial Grant Application is open

VIII. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

A. West Nile Virus: “New Direction” in Washington State Emergency Response Plans. Dr. Locke reported Washington State was able to “dodge the bullet” for another year and did not have an outbreak similar to Idaho’s 2006 experience. The State of Washington plan envisions a five-stage response. At the fifth level, when things are the worst, killing the mosquitoes can reduce the number of human cases. This year the Governor’s office announced that State funding would be available for adult mosquito eradication efforts in the event of an emergency, based on specific criteria. Widespread

use of insecticides is controversial and would likely be opposed by several different groups.

- B. Public Health Emergency Preparedness: Federal Cuts Looming. The buildup of federal funding to support emergency preparedness has reached its peak and is now dropping off. There will likely be a loss in capacity as we lose funding. In terms of staff, we have budget ½ fte for local emergency response coordinator. Christina Hurst fills this role with the other tasks being divided among existing staff. We are likely to lose staff at a regional level. In a recent national survey, 19% of local health departments consider themselves highly prepared for an emergency; 77% consider themselves as having made improvements but have major gaps in response capability. Federal funding has not matched the deliverables required. A 20% per year reduction in federal funding is expected in the next year.

IX. HEALTH DIRECTOR'S, PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

Olympic Peninsula Health Fair – Training Exercise. Dr. Locke reported on this simulated mass vaccination event. The vaccines offered were adult diphtheria/tetanus vaccine booster dose or diphtheria/tetanus with the addition of pertussis. The Medical Reserve Corp Volunteers were the initial screeners. Over the course of 5.5 hours 192 people were vaccinated, 113 with the new pertussis vaccine and 79 with diphtheria/tetanus. In an actual mass vaccination plan, we would need to vaccinate everyone in Clallam County as rapidly as possible. Dr. Locke commented that exercises of this type, using real vaccines and volunteers, are much better training opportunities than tabletop exercises.

X. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE

XI. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

XII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Browning asked Dr. Locke if he has statistics regarding a lack of care for the uninsured population. Dr. Locke responded that the most recent statistics are in the 2003-2004 BRFSS survey available on the County website. Mr. Browning also reiterated his earlier concerns.

XIII ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Jeanette Stehr-Green moved to adjourn the meeting. Camille Scott seconded and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 P.M.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED THIS _____
DAY OF _____ 2007.

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

John E. Beitzel, Chair

Camille Scott, Vice-Chair

ATTEST:

Patricia Richards, Clerk of the Board

Howard V. Doherty, Jr.

Michael C. Chapman

Stephen P. Tharinger

Gary R. Smith

Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, MD