

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING ROOM
DECEMBER 20, 2005**

I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:39 p.m. by Mike Chapman, Chair.

Present: Michael C. Chapman, Chair
Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, M.D., Vice Chair
Howard "Mike" V. Doherty, Jr.
John E. Beitzel
Jim Leskinovitch

Excused: Camille Scott
Stephen P. Tharinger

II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Dr. Locke added two items to the agenda under Information Items (*E. coli* Outbreak in Southwest Washington and CDC – Newsletter on Pandemic Influenza) to Informational Items. Dr. Stehr-Green moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Beitzel seconded and the motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Stehr-Green moved to approve the minutes of November 15, 2005. Mr. Beitzel seconded and the motion carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. West Nile Virus Season Wrap-Up. Dr. Locke reported that the West Nile Virus entered Washington state in 2005 but only minimally and with no human cases diagnosed. All positive detections were found in Central/Eastern Washington. Dr. Stehr-Green asked if, due to the positive detections, we will change our monitoring strategies. Dr. Locke said it is unlikely that there will be a need to change our plan – the current surveillance system appears to be able to detect early cases of West Nile Virus activity.
- B. E. coli Outbreak in Southwest Washington. Dr. Locke reported that there was an isolated outbreak of *E. coli* O157:H7 in Southwest Washington caused by a dairy farm illegally selling unpasteurized milk. Currently, 17 cases of this intestinal infection have been reported. One of the most serious complications of this type of *E. coli* infection is a form of kidney failure known as Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS). He was hopeful that the outbreak would be limited in scope due to its source -- a single producer with a small distribution network.
- C. CDC Newsletter on Pandemic Influenza. Dr. Locke handed out the first copy of a newsletter the CDC has begun distributing devoted to pandemic influenza planning. He discussed the pandemic potential of the "bird flu" and presented the weekly map summary update of influenza in the US. This new newsletter will be available quarterly. See www.pandemicflu.gov for current issues.

V. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PHAC) REPORT

Dr. P. Stehr-Green reported that the Mental Health & Substance Abuse Summit, held December 9th at the Olympic Medical Center, went well. The meeting was well attended. There was a good exchange of ideas among summit attendees and a focus on developing viable strategies to improve local services.

Dr. Locke said Mr. Tharinger played a central role in the Summit, explaining the issues the Board of County Commissioners would like to see addressed. These include evidence that proposed programs are effective (“best practices”) and the potential cost savings that increased investment in mental health and substance abuse services might produce.

Florence Bucierka, Health & Human Services Planner, said the goal for submitting a final project proposal is Feb 28, 2006. After it is received by the Board of County Commissioners, it is estimated that it will take up to 100 days before the Commissioners will vote on it.

Dr. P. Stehr-Green also reported that the Public Health Advisory Committee-sponsored walking competition between communities in Diamond Point and Sunland (W-4) has begun. He will keep the Board updated on their progress.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

VII. HEALTH OFFICER’S REPORT

- A. Initiative 901 Implementation. Dr. Locke reported that 64% of Clallam County voters were in favor of this initiative, which took effect on December 8, 2005. Washington’s new indoor smoking law is one of the strictest in the Nation. The new law assigns local health departments enforcement responsibility for preventing smoke contamination of indoor air in public places and places of employment. Local law enforcement officials have the authority to issue citations to individuals smoking in a prohibited area.

Rachel Anderson, Tobacco Prevention Specialist, said she is the person to whom all of the complaints and questions are being referred. The state is taking steps to post more information on-line and Rachel will distribute the information as it becomes available.

Complaints are being logged and a letter is being sent to owners/managers of facilities out of compliance explaining what the law requires of them. Repeat complaints prompt a second letter reiterating the law’s requirements with a discussion of potential penalties. The new law does allow owners/managers to be issued civil infraction citations with monetary fines. The Health Department is not issuing fines at the present time and needs to wait until enforcement issues are clarified by the State Attorney General.

Mr. Beitzel asked if we offer Smoker Cessation Classes. Rachel said we have offered a 7-week course in the past but it has not been well attended. We have worked with local Chemical Dependency Treatment providers to help treat nicotine addiction and encourage people to call the Washington State Quit Line.

- B. 2005-06 Influenza Season – It’s Never too Late to Vaccinate. Dr. Locke said we are starting to see an upswing in influenza cases. There have been a few cases of Influenza A in Washington State. It is looking like this season will follow the typical pattern with increased activity during the holiday season followed by widespread activity after children return to school in early January. Currently we still have flu vaccine in the community and we are encouraging people to get their vaccinations.

Mr. Leskinovitch asked about the live, attenuated, intranasal vaccine. Dr. Locke said this vaccine has not been as popular as expected and attributed this to the unfamiliar nature of the vaccine. Clallam County Health and Human Services has small supplies of live attenuated influenza vaccine in stock. It is licensed for use in healthy people between ages 5-49.

- C. Hood Canal “Joint BOH” Meeting, November 16, 2005. Dr. Locke attended the regular meeting of the Hood Canal Coordinating Council. Jefferson, Kitsap and Mason County Board of Health members attended. About half of the allotted time was taken up by a regional bank promoting an on-site septic system repair loan program. The loans do not

have to be repaid until the property sells, making it an attractive option for homeowners with limited income who are facing expensive repairs of their failing on-site systems.

The project to improve Hood Canal water quality has received special legislative funding. For Jefferson County, most of this extra funding will be used for water quality monitoring. There is no specific plan for another joint board meeting. The Hood Canal Coordinating Council did, however, request that Dr. Locke return and brief the members on the genesis of the state's new on-site sewage law and its expected impact on Hood Canal water quality improvement efforts.

VIII. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Program and Staffing Updates. Andy Brastad reported that the Watershed Planning for the Fairholm Hill West area is in process. The Planning Department is about ready to release the draft plan to the public. The plan supports environmental health services and educational programs for septic system owners. The timeline for this plan is to make it available for public comment next month and to the Board of County Commissioners in the spring for public hearing and possible approval.

Bogachiel State Park is the only site on the West End of Clallam County that has a RV liquid waste dumping area. Therefore, more RV dump stations are needed on the West End. There is a specific recommendation in the plan to look for funding to build an RV dump station which may involve the Board in the future.

Water Quality Staff Position: Five interviews were completed. The interview committee is down to two finalists. References are being checked and a job offer is anticipated in early January.

IX. OTHER

X. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE

XI. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

XII. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Beitzel moved to adjourn the meeting of December 20, 2005 at 2:41 p.m. Dr. Stehr-Green seconded and the motion carried.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED THIS _____ DAY
OF _____ 2005.

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Michael C. Chapman, Chair

Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, M.D., Vice Chair

ATTEST:

Rene A. Leonard, Clerk of the Board

Excused
Stephen P. Tharinger

Howard V. Doherty, Jr.

Jim Leskinovitch

John E. Beitzel

Excused

Camille Scott