

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 17, 2004**

**I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. by Stephen P. Tharinger, Chair.

Present: Stephen P. Tharinger, Chair  
Michael C. Chapman, Vice Chair  
Howard "Mike" V. Doherty, Jr.

**II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Mr. Chapman moved to approve the Agenda as written. Mr. Doherty seconded and the motion carried.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Rene announced that the two blanks on the first page of minutes were "decay" and "Streptococcus Mutants". Andy Brastad asked for two changes in the VIII. Environmental Health section in paragraphs one and two. Rene made notes and will change the original document. Mr. Chapman moved to approve the minutes from January 20, 2004 as amended. Mr. Doherty seconded and the motion carried. Mr. Tharinger abstained.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary Meyer came to see if any recommendations had been made about having Xylitol as an alternative to fluoridation. She said that she spoke to Dr. Locke before this meeting and found out there had not been a Public Health Advisory Committee meeting yet to have a discussion. Her plan is to attend the next scheduled Public Health Advisory Committee at which time Cyndi Newman, Oral Health Coordinator for Clallam County, will give a presentation to the PHAC about Xylitol.

Vicci Rudin  
was present on behalf of the League of Women Voters regarding the transition of Environmental Health from DCD to HHS.

**V. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

The February meeting was rescheduled to Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, which was also cancelled because most of the presenters were not available. The next regular meeting will be March 5<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-2:00 in the Health & Human Services Conference Room.

**VI. HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

A. HHS/DCD Memorandum of Understanding re: Environmental Health JoAnne Dille presented the Board of Health with the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed by herself as the Health & Human Services Director and Rob Robertson, Director of Community Development and Dan Engelbertson, County Administrator. JoAnne said the memorandum covers the sincere intent of both directors to work in a partnership to insure that all functions of the department are adequately met to best serve the public.

The agreement is broken into sections that outline what each department will support and shall be reviewed and renegotiated at the end of 2004 and changes will be made as necessary.

Mr. Chapman commended the cooperation between JoAnne and Rob.

## VII. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. 2003 Year End Report and 2004 Goals. Andy Brastad presented the Revenue Comparisons for 2003 (predictions vs. actuals). He explained that the reason the predictions were off had to do with the grants. He said that we are still fulfilling all of the obligations of their grant contract, but in some cases we have decreased expenditures which results in decreased revenue because we weren't able to get out and do as much as we predicted. In the fee supported programs, actual revenues exceeded what was predicted, so those types of programs are close to 100% fee supported.

Andy presented the report for accomplishments in 2003 and goals for 2004. The department is down 1 FTE, which is the O&M position. It is partially funded through June but then that will go away. Janine Reed has switched over to Food Service and is sharing her time between the two programs. We will be looking for stable funding for the O&M position. With what is being generated by current fees, it looks like the program can support 2 Onsite Field positions, 1 O&M position, 2 Permit Techs, Andy's time, Dr. Locke's time and the vehicles, cell phones and other supported necessities. Andy will be preparing to present that to the Board.

Mr. Tharinger had a concern about O&M just getting up to speed, and then staff were pulled off to cover other programs. His concern was the program being left without full staffing with as much focus the community has on it. Andy said that the issue is his highest priority and will put together a package of information and schedule some time with the Board about how we might fund this position in the very near future.

Mr. Tharinger also asked about where the department was with the O&M procedures. Andy said that an Ad Hoc committee has been meeting regularly and making progress. The meeting last month received positive feedback from the presentation Andy gave on where the program may be heading. They are also going over the types of information together that they will want to gather through the inspections.

Andy reported that the Food Service Program: Food Inspections are now on the website. They are working out some bugs, but it is currently running. Farmers market is coming up soon and program staff will be working on how to deal with all of the things that go along with that (may involve some policy making).

Drinking Water Program: The department continues to have agreements with the State Department of Health to do Group A & B sanitary surveys. Looking at updating more lab equipment. Ecology is looking at having new indicators for water quality investigations in marine waters, so we will be needing to update the lab to be able to monitor for things like "Entrococci".

Solid Waste Program: We are implementing the new Solid Waste Regulations from the state. We are in the process of updating our new local County Code. We will be presenting our latest draft at the next Public Health Advisory Committee meeting. Then we will be looking to bring it to the Board of Health in April.

Moderate Risk Waste Program: We set a new record with our Collection Event for the number of participants (over 700). That went very well and will expect to do something similar in 2004.

On-Site Program: Probably the biggest issue to deal with. We are working with the Permit Center concept and organizing how it is going to work.

Water Quality and Watershed Planning Programs: Val and Ann have set a good work plan and continue to accomplish their goals. The 18 Plan should be finishing up in 2004.

Other Programs: Developed a West Nile Virus workgroup. WNV may enter our area this year, so we will be more involved in that in 2004. Bioterrorism, School Safety, Shellfish Biotoxin are all being worked on by very competent staff and continuing to move forward.

The Board commended Andy and his staff for doing a great job during so much change.

## VIII. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

- A. 2004 Legislative Session – Public Health Issues. Dr. Locke reported that HB2787 is moving through the Legislative process. It will be a significant benefit to all volunteer clinics (in Clallam County there is 1 in PA and 1 in Sequim) and aid us in recruiting people to work there. The number of volunteer clinics in Washington is growing quickly. Locally, Steve Moriarity submitted a longer draft of this Bill (which dealt with other issues as well) to Lynn Kessler's office and her office took it from there. Locally we stay active in testifying on this Bill and our Representatives have been pushing it. JoAnne added that this may also allow practicing physicians to volunteer.

Dr. Locke asked the Board if they were interested in having him draft a letter of support for the Bill. Mr. Tharinger said that it may be better by calling due to the time constraints. Mr. Doherty said that he had mentioned it to our Representatives and left a packet of information for them, about a week ago.

The Smoking Bill (which restricts smoking in public places), the Torte Liability Legislation are still technically alive and a few smaller Bills are also surviving the process.

- B. Clallam County Board of Health Expansion – Bylaws Development and Nomination/Application process. Dr. Locke attached an example of the Jefferson County Bylaws to the Board's packet for review. We will have to draft a set for Clallam County and Dr. Locke's hope is that we have a draft ready for consideration by the newly appointed Board of Health. Some of the language in Jefferson's would be different such as the appointment process. The main thing is the conduct of business.

Dr. Locke asked the Board if he could work on a draft for Clallam County and circulate it to the County Attorney and anyone else who might weigh in on it, for review. He added that there are not many examples available in the state. There were only two others when Jefferson County developed theirs.

Mr. Tharinger asked about the timeline that we are working with. He said that the process for member applications will be done through the Commissioners Office. The Hospitals and Cities will try to come to a consensus to nominate a single person from each (1 from combined hospitals and 1 from combined cities). If they are not able to come to a consensus, the Board of Clallam County Commissioners will choose from the options. The Public Health Advisory Committee will review the applications for the "At Large" positions and recommend up to 3 people per opening to the BOCC. Dr. Locke added that the BOCC may want to have interviews of the "At Large" members.

Mr. Doherty asked if Tribal Members were being recruited. Dr. Locke said that we are actually pushing to get tribal representation on the PHAC, but it may be an overlap in jurisdiction to have them on the Board of Health although the "At Large" positions could be applied by anyone interested.

JoAnne, Dr. Locke and the Board discussed writing a document about the Board of Health and the PHAC so that people know what they are applying for. Dr. Locke will talk to Trish in the Commissioner's Office. We will be using the County's regular application process, and Trish will adjust the Board application to specify Board of Health or Public Health Advisory Committee. Dr. Locke and JoAnne will talk to Trish about the media release for recruitment for Board/Committee members. JoAnne also suggested advertising with something larger than a public notice for recruitment. Mr. Tharinger was concerned that advertising both together may create confusion. After a discussion, they decided to advertise recruitment to the Board/Committee together.

- C. Avian Influenza Update. It is spreading in Asia. There have been some outbreaks in the U.S. The strain is a highly pathogenic (kills high percentage of birds it infects) and effects domestic and wild birds. Humans have a very low transmissibility rate to the current virus. There have only been 28 diagnosed cases in humans so far, of which 20 died. If humans do catch it, it is very serious. It is a primitive virus, genetically unstable. Another difficulty is that there are certain species such as pigs that are susceptible to the human flu and the bird flu, so the viruses can mix together and trigger global pandemics.

We will be in surveillance mode. This will be among the things considered from travelers from Asian countries. It is the most serious natural threat of the moment.

- D. Bioterrorism in the News – Ricin in Washington D.C. Dr. Locke included information in the Board's packet. He reported that the Ricin is very easy to make. The ingredients are readily available. It is a plant derived protein toxin. The toxin is highly lethal, but mostly in an injectable form, which is not a very good terrorist agent in any large scale. Ricin is however, hard to detect that someone has been exposed until they are sick and at that point, a lot of the toxicity is irreversible. Dr. Locke said that he has not heard of anyone falling ill from the exposure in Washington D.C.
- E. FYI – Governing Magazine Article on Access to Health Care: Public Health Section. Dr. Locke wanted to alert the Board to this article (also available online). The article was almost entirely devoted to healthcare crisis in the U.S. It is a public health review of what is going on all over the country and a history of decisions past.

Dr. Locke said it is the hope of many that if Legislators carefully consider these issues, they will prioritize these basic public health services.

**IX. OTHER**

A discussion between staff and the Board about where to hold further meetings of the Board of Health: Mr. Chapman suggested the Board of Commissioners Meeting Room for more space. This will be discussed further at the next Board of Health meeting in March.

**X. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE**

**XI. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

**XII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Doherty moved to adjourn the meeting of February 17, 2004 at 2:55 pm. Mr. Chapman seconded and the motion carried.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY  
OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2004.

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

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Stephen P. Tharinger, Chair

ATTEST:

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Michael C. Chapman, Vice Chair

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Rene A. Leonard, Clerk of the Board

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Howard V. Doherty, Jr.