

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 20, 2004**

I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:38 p.m. by Stephen P. Tharinger, Chair.

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

II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Dr. Locke requested to postpone #V.A. "Findings of Fact....." due to the document not being complete. The Board accepted the request. Mr. Chapman moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Mr. Doherty seconded and the motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Chapman moved to approve the minutes of June 15, 2004 with the spelling changes noted by Dr. Stehr-Green. Mr. Leskinovitch seconded and the motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Beitzel circulated a flyer announcing a Health Fair on September 18, 2004 from 10:00-4:30. There will be vendors providing information, screenings, speakers and lunch. The Public Health Department, the Fire Departments, and other public health agencies will be invited to participate.

V. OLD BUSINESS & INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law – Appeal of On-site Septic Permit SEP2004-00020. Dr. Locke asked that this item be postponed. County Attorney, Chris Melly, is still working on the document and then will need to circulate it between the attorneys involved in the case. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Tharinger agreed to continue this item until such time that the necessary documents have been prepared and reviewed by the involved parties.
- B. Letter from Paul Gruver, WA Licensed On-site Wastewater Designer. Dr. Locke said this letter was requested to be given to the Board as an informational item. Some items in the letter will be addressed in a presentation scheduled to be given at the August Board meeting. Mr. Tharinger asked that Mr. Gruver be notified of next month's presentation.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Virginia Clark thanked the Board for appointing four new members to the Committee. She also wanted to expand on the minutes regarding the Fireworks ban in Clallam County. The Committee is proposing a ban of fireworks by individuals, not by governments or organizations wanting to put on approved and controlled displays. The main reasons for concern are safety, injury and fire. Virginia asked for additional time for discussion on this issue at a later meeting.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Environmental Health Programs Overview. Andy Brastad gave a Powerpoint presentation of the programs, staffing and volume of work that comes from Environmental Health Services. Andy reviewed each program service: food, onsite, groundwater, solid/hazardous waste,

pools, school health safety, permits, water systems, lab services, surface water, shellfish, drug lab investigations, emergency response preparedness, oil spills, vector programs, dead whales on the beach, and other issues that come up miscellaneously. The presentation showed staffing for each program and Andy gave statistics for the volume of work done within each service.

The Board and staff discussed the cross departmental communications between Streamkeepers, Natural Resources and other necessary programs and departments. Andy said that since Environmental Health has moved in with Health & Human Services, that communication has not stopped. It is still necessary and strong.

VIII. HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Update. JoAnne Dille updated the Board on what Health & Human Services is doing. She handed out an overview of the activities in progress. A Regional Agreement with Kitsap and Jefferson for \$18,884 is in the works to enhance the department's surveillance & epidemiology, risk communication, education and strategic national stockpile activities. Through the Department of Health Consolidated Contract Special Projects, \$44,201 will be used to enhance and operationalize HHS's Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Manual and Plan.

IX. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

- A. O&M – A Health Officer's Perspective. Dr. Locke briefed the Board on the regulatory aspect of the program. Local Boards of Health have a statutory duty to enforce state codes for on-site sewage systems. Prior to the 1990s, it was realized that that was not a very good public health strategy. Prevention of system failures required a different approach, more focused on operation and maintenance (O&M) of systems. At the end of 1994, the State Board of Health adopted WAC (246-272-15501(2) that said by the year 2000, an O&M program will be developed where the local health officer shall provide operation and maintenance information to the on-site system owner upon approval of any installation, repair or alteration of an on-site system. A plan would be developed and implemented to monitor all systems and distribute educational materials to system owners.

Clallam County started a taskforce in 1998 to research available options and prepare recommendations for the Board of Health. That report will be reviewed at the August Board meeting.

A statewide standard of O&M did not materialize, nor did reliable/secure funding. Instead, new challenges emerged as marine shorelines have been impacted with non-point pollution, low levels of dissolved oxygen endangering fin and shellfish populations in South Hood Canal and shellfish growing areas have seen rising levels of bacterial pollution.

A statewide Rule Development Committee has completed the updated statewide On-site Sewage System code. The new draft code proposes local responsibility for appropriate O&M activities, but seeks to provide maximum flexibility as to how to achieve this goal. There are some concerns about the new code being inadequate to meet the environmental protection challenges of the 21st century. Eventually it will come down to local boards of health to craft local public health codes and set local O&M priorities.

- B. Board of Health Bylaws: Review of Draft. Dr. Locke would suggest the expanded Board adopt a set of Bylaws. They reviewed a written draft (majority of which is based on standard practice and statute) in their packets. After a discussion and suggested changes by the members, Dr. Locke will incorporate the changes and bring another draft back for review in August.
- C. Region 2 Duty Officer Protocol. Dr. Locke presented a Draft Interlocal Agreement to the Board for a three county Duty Officer. Kitsap, Jefferson and Clallam Counties will share 24 hour, 7 day per week public health emergency response capability. Qualified employees will serve on a rotating after hours schedule to provide a single point of continuous coverage for the purpose of

emergency notification and emergency response system activation. The person will carry a pager to respond according to the predetermined protocols and with anything serious would engage with one or both of the Health Officers of the three county region, who would then take it from there. Creating and maintaining the Duty Officer coverage will be done by the lead county, Kitsap County Health District. Staffing will be apportioned among the participating counties using a population-based formula. Clallam County's staffing responsibility is estimated to be 10 weeks of the year. The Duty Officer's main responsibility will be to triage requests for public health services, provide timely and accurate information, receive and assess emergency related information and record all calls and actions taken.

This document was approved in Worksession by the Clallam County Commissioners. We are waiting to hear from Jefferson and Kitsap for any modification requests. Then signatures will be requested and once we have a signed agreement, plan to begin immediately.

- D. West Nile Virus Activity Update. We are currently in surveillance mode. We are early in the season. The department has sent in some dead birds to the state lab and will be doing some mosquito trapping. Dr. Locke said the Board will be kept up to date as activity occurs.

Mr. Leskinovitch asked why a dryer climate such as California and Arizona would have more cases than a wetter area such as Florida where there are so many mosquitoes. Dr. Locke said that the outbreak patterns have not been predictable. It shows that there are many independent variables that produce higher and lower levels of activity. The weather, the particular seasons and type of mosquitoes are a few factors. The places where there were higher rates last year are now starting to drop off. Birds and humans are starting to get immune. California and Arizona (and unfortunately Washington) are on the growing edge and haven't been hit yet. We look at the other states for predictors for what may happen here.

X. OTHER
XI. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE
XII. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law – Appeal of On-site Septic Permit SEP2004-00020.
- Final Draft of Board of Health Bylaws.
- On-site Presentation.

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Gruver submitted a letter to be included in next month's Board packet.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Tharinger adjourned the meeting of July 20, 2004 at 3:55 pm.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED THIS _____ DAY
OF _____, 2004.

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Stephen P. Tharinger, Chair

Michael C. Chapman, Vice Chair

ATTEST:

Rene A. Leonard, Clerk of the Board

Howard V. Doherty, Jr.

Jim Leskinovitch

John Beitzel

Camille Scott

Jeanette Stehr-Green, M.D.