

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING ROOM
FEBRUARY 20, 2007**

I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 PM by John Beitzel, Chair.

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

II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

- Andy Brastad requested to add an update for the On-Site Management Committee under Environmental Health Director's Report.
- Jeanette Stehr-Green requested Iva Burks give an update on I-901 under Health Director's Report.

Jeanette Stehr-Green moved to approve the amended agenda. Mike Doherty seconded and the motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2007 MEETING

Jeanette Stehr-Green moved to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2007 Board of Health meeting. Camille Scott seconded and the motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A. Dr. Eloise Kailin asked the Board to consider obtaining preservative free flu vaccine for small children. She requested a letter be sent notifying health providers in Clallam County of the presence of elevated copper levels in the Port Angeles public water system. She recommended that information regarding this problem be enclosed in monthly bills to the City of Port Angeles water customers; and restaurants, public eating places, and the ferry be notified of this problem suggested they make bottled water available to the public. She also recommended that parent be alerted that fluoridated water should not be used to reconstitute baby formula.
- B. Bill Eaton, Academic Vice President at Peninsula College, Executive Director for the Center of Excellence and a founding member and on the Board of the British Columbia Center for Coastal Health introduced himself and conveyed to the Board his interest in putting together a consortium to study cryptococcus, cryptosporidium and giardia. In the future, he will be contacting members of the Board of Health regarding this subject.

V. OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. February 2007 Agreed Order re: Port Angeles City Water System. Dr. Tom Locke referred to correspondence he received from Denise Lahmann, of the Washington State Department of Health, regarding the City of Port Angeles water system. She answered the questions posed at the Board of Health January meeting. The new agreed order requires that a quarterly notice be sent to water system users advising them that the water does not fully meet treatment standards. The Department of Health does not consider notification to occasional users

necessary. The new water treatment facility planned in conjunction with the Elwha Dam removal will have state of the art filtration and corrosivity control.

- B. Consumer Notification re: Inadequately Treated Surface Water. Dr. Locke will take responsibility to notify local health care providers of the specific health risks associated with partially filtered surface water. These involve extra precautions for individuals with serious immune deficiency problems.
- C. Seasonal Influenza Update. Idaho and Oregon are experiencing widespread outbreaks of influenza and Washington state is experiencing regional outbreak activity. The big messages to the public are: #1 – it is never too late to vaccinate and #2 – besides immunization hand washing, hand sanitizers, and respiratory etiquette are the best ways to prevent flu.
- D. British Columbia Sewer Problem. Commissioner Doherty requested the Board of Health empower the Public Health Officer to send a congratulatory message to the Province of British Columbia for their talks to solve their sewer problem.
- E. Medical Professionals In The Community. The BOH agreed to ask Gary Smith, the Hospital representative on the Board, to carry an oral message to the Olympic Medical Center urging them to continue their negotiations with the Olympic Medical Physicians family practice group and reach a solution to keep these experienced medical professionals in the community.
- F. Veterans' Administration. Gary Smith advised the Board of the Veterans' Administration's agreement to staff a mid-level practitioner one day a week at the Coast Guard Station, two days at the hospital, one day at the Elwha, and one day for home visits. There will be a meeting at the Veterans' Center at 4:30 P.M. today to make the official announcement. The BOH empowered the Public Health Officer to send a congratulatory note to the principals involved thanking them for these negotiations with the VA.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PHAC) REPORT

Iva Burks reported on the February 9, 2007 PHAC meeting:

- Norma Turner was elected Chair and Dr. Allen Lapin was elected Vice-chair,
- Dr. Eloise Kailin discussed her concerns about Port Angeles water,
- Larry Howard spoke to the Committee regarding electronic patient health records,
- the Fee Schedule Increase Proposal covering Public Health and Environmental Health was discussed. The Committee endorsed the Environmental Health Fee Schedule and will further review the Public Health Proposal at their March meeting.
- The Committee went on record and is sending letters to their three representatives in Olympia stating they endorse the Parent Child Assistance Program and would welcome its expansion into Clallam County.

VII. HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I-901 Update. Iva Burks reported there have been three "third complaint" letters sent out to businesses, none are fraternal organizations. There has been no response from any of the three businesses. The next step is for the Health Department to meet with law enforcement agencies to discuss whether they would be interested in issuing citations.

VIII. PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT ACTIVITIES

Not present.

IX. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

- A. Drinking Water Safety Issues – Copper, Crypto, and Other Contaminates. Dr. Tom Locke discussed the issue of potential cryptosporidium in the Port Angeles water. Cryptosporidium is

a naturally occurring parasite that is resistant to chlorination. It can be present in surface water and can only be effectively removed by filtration. The Port Angeles water supply is drawn from collectors under the Elwha River. Although some natural filtration does occur, it is insufficient to meet federal and state standards for ground water under the influence of surface water. The risk of “crypto” exposure is very small for most people, and, if exposure occurs, it is unlikely to cause illness in people with healthy immune systems. Cryptosporidiosis can be a serious problem for people who are immunosuppressed (such as with AIDS or chemotherapy). People with immune deficiencies are advised to take special precautions with unfiltered surface water. Boiling will reliably kill “crypto” and micro filtration units will also remove it. Bottled drinking water can also be used.

Copper is an essential human nutrient but increased levels of copper in water or food can cause gastrointestinal tract irritation. Copper levels are increased in drinking water when “corrosive” water comes in contact with household copper pipes. Corrosivity of water is influenced by a variety of factors. The amount of copper in drinking water can be reduced by flushing household pipes’ copper in the morning before using the water. The highest levels of copper are present in water that has been sitting in the pipes overnight and in hot water pipes.

B. Legislative Update: Public Health Funding Bills, Universal Health Care Access Proposal, Other Health Legislation.

1. Dr. Locke reported that HB1825, the Public Health Funding Bill, had its first public hearing. A broad-based alliance (known as the Public Health Roundtable) is advocating for this bill and includes the Washington Health Foundation, State Medical Association, and Association of Counties. \$100 million per biennium is the funding recommended by the Joint Select Task Force. The Governor’s budget proposes an additional \$20 million in public health funding. Dr. Locke noted the BOH has gone on record in support of this bill and encouraged Board members to advocate for this bill if given the opportunity.
2. HB2012, co-sponsored by Kevin Van de Wege, was reviewed unfavorably by the Jefferson County Board of Health. Currently, on-site sewage system components need to be evaluated and approved at a national or state level. Manufacturers of a septic system denitrification device are seeking exemption from this regulation.

Camille moved to express concern regarding HB 2012 to our representatives in a letter from the Clallam County Board of Health stating public health is not addressed by having individual jurisdictions review. We don’t have the capability or the consistency to review these systems, it should be done at the State level and we support the State review. Jeanette Stehr-Green seconded and the motion carried.

X. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR’S REPORT

A. Legislative Update. Andy Brastad reported the public health agencies are tracking approximately 103 bills of which one-third are environmental health related. A number of these are regarding shellfish and septic systems.

1. HB1928 & Senate Bill 5778 require local health jurisdictions to submit annual reports to the State Department of Health on the progress of shellfish downgrades.
2. HB1595 would expand the local health jurisdiction’s responsibility to form a shellfish protection district for both point and non-point sources. The bill would address shellfish growing areas where the water quality is currently meeting standards but there is concern that it may be threatened. If the water quality is deteriorating it can be designated a shellfish area of concern, and a shellfish protection district could to be created. This bill would provide \$1 million to be distributed among the 12 Puget Sound Counties.
3. HB1650 would require inventorying all on-site septic systems and having an inspection process for cities with populations greater than 31,000. This would be the cities’

responsibility. Any systems outside of a marine recovery area would have to be found. It is estimated there are about 20,000 on-site sewage systems in Clallam County with records on 11,000 of them.

4. HB1355, SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) Analysis – includes health issues along with environmental issues in the SEPA analysis. The definition of “health” include human health considerations of physical, mental, economic, social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease.

- B. On-site Management Plan Work Group. Andy distributed a draft of the “plan” which is approximately 70% complete. At the Work Group’s next meetings, discussions will focus on enforcement and funding of this program. The final draft of the “plan” is expected to be ready in April 2007.

XI. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE

XII. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Eloise Kailin spoke regarding the problem with water in Port Angeles and the sampling of water in the shellfish areas.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

John Beitzel adjourned the meeting at 3:40 P.M.

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED THIS _____
DAY OF _____ 2007.

CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Jeanette K. Stehr-Green, M.D.

John E. Beitzel, Chair

ATTEST:

Patricia Richards, Clerk of the Board

Michael C. Chapman

Howard V. Doherty, Jr.

Stephen P. Tharinger

Gary R. Smith

Camille Scott, Vice Chair