

**CLALLAM COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS' MEETING ROOM
JUNE 19, 2007**

I. ROLL CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 P.M. by John Beitzel, Chair.

Present: John Beitzel, Chair
Michael C. Chapman
Stephen P. Tharinger
Jeanette Stehr-Green, M.D.
Gary Smith

II. AGENDA REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Steve Tharinger moved to approve the agenda. Gary Smith seconded and the motion carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF May 15, 2007 MEETING

Mike Chapman moved to approve the minutes. Steve Tharinger seconded and the motion carried.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Linus Heydon, Sequim resident and Consulting Aquatic Biologist working in the field of constructed wetlands to clean contaminated waste water since the 1980's, wanted to be sure it is entered in the records that the constructed wetlands is a viable means of cleaning septic tank water before it goes into a leach field or contaminates the ground water.

V. OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- A. Hantavirus Press Release. Dr. Locke reminded everyone that the deer mouse that carries this virus is widespread on the Olympic Peninsula. Infected mice shed the virus in their urine and feces. As it becomes aerosolized, people can breathe it in and acquire the infection. There are specific guidelines people should follow when performing their "spring cleaning" that are discussed in the press release.
- B. Public Comment Notes From May 15, 2007 Meeting Re: On-site Sewage Management Plan. The unofficial "notes" distributed in the Board's packets were furnished by Sound Resolutions Cascadia Consulting Group for reference only.

VI. PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PHAC) REPORT

Dr. Locke reported on the June 8, 2007, PHAC meeting.

- There were several individuals testifying at the meeting urging the PHAC to become more involved in the problem of youth obesity.
- Andy Brastad spoke at length regarding the On-site Sewage Management Plan and the process for updating the Clallam County On-site Sewage Code.
- At the request of the PHAC, Dr. Locke's report focused on the standards for public health practice, describing their evolution over the past decade and how they are used to assess the performance of state and local health jurisdictions.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Public Hearing: Clallam County On-site Sewage System Management Plan. Andy Brastad reviewed the Plan's progress to date. Part of the Washington State On-site Sewage Code, WAC 246-272-

0015, requires Puget Sound Counties to develop a written plan that provides guidance to local health jurisdictions regarding on-site septic system management. The WAC also requires the plan be approved by the local Board of Health following a public hearing and be submitted to the Department of Health by July 1, 2007. Environmental Health used an open, public process to develop the recommendations that went into the plan. The Division established a broadly representative work group, held 10 public work group meetings, two public work shops, and last month gave a special presentation to the Board of Health to provide information and answer questions. Environmental Health staff has given presentations to the Conservation District Board, Conservation District Citizens' Workgroup in the Dungeness, Cooper, and Matriotti Creek area, the Clallam County Planning Commission and Port Angeles Realtors Association.

The plan contains the recommendations of the workgroup and strategies to meet the requirements of the state law. The plan seeks to be proactive in achieving effective management of on-site waste treatment for the county while being mindful of keeping the costs affordable for homeowners.

Comments have been received up to the start time of the Board of Health meeting and the Board has not had the opportunity to fully review them all. Andy recommended the Board approve the plan as submitted by the workgroup to comply with June 30th deadline for submission. The Board of Health is free to amend the plan in the future as new proposals are put forward.

John Beitzel opened the public hearing. Following public comments from a total of 12 people, Mr. Beitzel closed the public hearing. A number of comments concerned specific applications of plan recommendations and how they would apply to individual landowners. Dr. Locke reminded the Board and those testifying at the public hearing that the purpose of On-site Sewage (OSS) Management Plan was to identify areas of concern and propose specific solutions. It is not an enforceable ordinance. A revision of the Clallam County OSS Code is underway. This Code, along with the comparable State OSS Code, constitute the laws that regulate individual systems. The codes allow for individuals to seek waivers and variances to accommodate site-specific circumstances while still meeting the intent of State and Local Codes. The OSS Management Plan recommends certain changes be made to the local on-site code. The Board will need to approve or modify these changes when it considers the OSS Code revision in the months ahead. Dr. Locke suggested that this code revision process will allow ample opportunities to address enforcement issues, waiver requests, and the appeals process.

Dr. Jeanette Stehr-Green moved the Board of Health approve the Clallam County On-site Septic System Management Plan with the realization that there will be additional modifications over time. Gary Smith seconded and the motion carried.

VIII. HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- A. Emergency Preparedness Exercise, June 12, 2007 – Simulated Regional Foodborne Disease Outbreak. Iva Burks reported the exercise with Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap Counties, involving a foodborne *E. coli* outbreak went well and provided valuable training in National Incident Management System (NIMS) response.
- B. I-901. Iva announced the Tobacco Coordinator will be leaving the County July 6th. Letters #1 and #2 (noting a complaint and requiring a compliance plan) continue to be sent to non-compliant establishments. However, no Letter # 3 (detailing enforcement action) has been required.

IX. PROGRAM MANAGER'S REPORT

No Report

X. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT

- A. Pond Scum 2007 – Policy Issues Regarding Cyanobacteria Monitoring in Recreational Waters. Dr. Tom Locke reported various popular recreational lakes throughout the State

have been experiencing increasing problems with cyanobacteria. Year-by-year we are moving in the direction of a more formal surveillance systems for lakes and other recreational water sources at risk for cyanobacteria-related contamination. Health concerns related to cyanobacteria-produced toxins were discussed. Materials about model surveillance programs begun in Oregon and Vermont were included in the Board's packet. Currently, Clallam County is in passive surveillance mode. If we get a report of health concerns related to ingestion of water with heavy concentrations of blue green algae, we will gather samples and have it tested. Traditionally, pets and livestock are at greatest risk. Neighboring Jefferson County has experienced high levels of cyanobacteria toxins in two popular lakes -- Anderson and Leland.

- B. 2007 Cross Borders Emergency Preparedness Conference Report. Dr. Locke attended the fourth annual meeting of British Columbia and the State of Washington concerned with enhanced preparedness and cross borders cooperation. This year the Cross Borders Mutual Aid Agreement that allows emergency medical workers in border area communities to do cross border assistance was finalized. There was discussion regarding preparation for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games to be held in Vancouver. A surge of visitors are expected in the border areas and British Columbia and Washington state are trying to assure that they are prepared for worst case scenarios. A side project of Dr. Locke's is to get the Health Officers of Washington State working more with their counter parts in Canada. To this end, they are working to organize a Cross-borders Health Officers meeting in the fall.
- C. 2007 West Nile Virus Response Planning: Criteria for Use of "Adulticidal" Mosquito Control. Washington is preparing for the probable return of West Nile Virus this summer. If the State follows in the path of Idaho, we could have a very serious outbreak. Idaho was hit heavily last year with 996 identified cases with 23 deaths. Because of that, Idaho went to Stage 4 of West Nile control, killing adult mosquitoes. This is in the Washington State plan, most likely to be implemented in the urban areas. No cases of West Nile Virus have been reported in Washington so far this year. The peak time for reported cases is in September.

XI. ACTIVITIES CALENDAR UPDATE

XII. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Jeanette Stehr-Green suggested the Board of Health talk with Camille Scott to discuss scheduling a BOH meeting in Forks in the near future.

XIII PUBLIC COMMENTS

A gentleman inquired into the status of the bacteria found in the courthouse basement. Joel Winborn and Jim Jones are the contact persons for information regarding this.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Jeanette Stehr-Green moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 3:18 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