



**BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, May 04, 2022**

THIS MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BY REMOTE PARTICIPATION DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark Burrows, Jesse Garrett, Derek Gianukakis, Michael Heath, Wes McCart, Robert Rosencrantz, Pete Daggett, Elbert Koontz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brian Smiley

STAFF PRESENT: Samuel Artzis, Jeanie Beegle, Sonja Moore, Jon Ness, Jessica Roth, Matt Schanz, Logan Worley

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Nancy Churchill, Ferry County; Christina Wagar, Pend Oreille County; Mary Selecky, Stevens County; Cheri Petersen, Stevens County; Kamori Cattadoris, Pend Oreille County

GUESTS: Christina Wagar, Adenea Thompson, Sally Baughman, Andrew Engell – Cathy McMorris Rodgers Office

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Board Chair Wes McCart called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. A quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS: Introductions were made by all.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2022: Michael Heath moved, and Derek Gianukakis seconded the motion to approve the minutes of March 16, 2022. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION: There was none.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES: No public appearances were pre-registered.

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO AGENDA: Modification to “New Business” item “Review and Appointment of Additional Applicants to the Public Health Advisory Board”; correct to reflect that it is a discussion and action item, not just a discussion item.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD RECRUITMENT & APPOINTMENTS: Wes McCart stated that a previous applicant, Caleb Holtzer, will need to be considered for appointment. Caleb Holtzer was put on hold at the March 16, 2022 Board of Health meeting due to uncertainty surrounding his availability. Since the last Board of Health meeting, there has been one additional applicant from Pend Oreille County, one from Stevens County, and one from Ferry County. The following applicants applied to become a member of the Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB):

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Stevens County

Adenea Thompson

- Director of Emergency Management in Stevens County, August 2021 to present
- Current member of the Rotary Club of Colville and Colville Together
- Former Councilwoman of the City of Colville
- Emergency Management County Communications Coordinator – WSU

Ferry County

Sally Baughman

- Former EMT at Idaho Gibbonsville Quick Response Unit
- Former CNA, Ward Clerk, and Medical Assistant
- Business owner in Ferry County

Pend Oreille County

Katie Swain

- Camp Reed Summer Camp Director and Camp Nurse
- Former occupational health nurse and nurse manager at Occupational Health Solutions Inc.
- Former Charge Nurse and Cardiac Intensive Care Unit Nurse at Kootenai Medical Center
- Member of the Eastern Washington Medical Reserve Corps

There was discussion amongst Board members and Matt Schanz regarding applicant Katie Swain, who works closely with summer camps in Pend Oreille County but lives in Spokane County.

Matt Schanz stated the PHAB bylaws do not exempt applicants from outside of the tri-county area or district, and it would be appropriate to appoint an applicant that was involved at the county level.

Matt indicated that Camp Reed is one of the larger camps in the area and many of the programs and services provided by the Health District relate to summer camps.

Some members commented that an applicant from Spokane County does not have as much connection to the public in our three counties as someone who lives and works within them. Additionally, the appointment could create animosity if an applicant from within the three counties applied to the PHAB and no open spots were available.

Michael Heath suggested that Katie Swain be appointed to the one-year term for Pend Oreille County.

Michael Heath moved, and Robert Rosencrantz seconded the motion to appoint Katie Swain to the PHAB for a one-year term representing Pend Oreille County, and Sally Baughman to a one-year term representing Ferry County. Motion carried.

There was discussion amongst Board members regarding applicant Caleb Holtzer and filling the remaining one-year term for Ferry County. With the consideration that Dr. Holtzer works in many programs within Ferry County, it was determined that he was a good fit for the term.

Michael Heath moved, and Derek Gianukakis seconded the motion to appoint Caleb Holtzer to the PHAB in the one-year term for Ferry County. Motion carried.

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Dr. Sam Artzis commented that Caleb Holtzer is very active and involved in the public health of the community and has done extensive work with the Washington State Hub and Spoke Project, which aims to increase access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) and helping initiate the Syringe Services Program within our counties; he believes Dr. Holtzer will be a great asset to the PHAB.

Michael Heath moved, and Derek Gianukakis seconded the motion to approve Caleb Holtzer, Katie Swain, and Sally Baughman for appointment to the PHAB. Motion carried.

Names were drawn at random to appoint for the remaining term positions for the PHAB in each county.

Michael Heath moved, and Derek Gianukakis seconded the motion to certify the appointments of the following applicants and previously appointed PHAB members in the following terms:

Ferry County

- 1 year – Caleb Holtzer
- 2 year – Nancy Churchill
- 3 year – Sally Baughman

Pend Oreille County

- 1 year – Katie Swain
- 2 year – Christina Wagar
- 3 year – Kamori Cattadoris

Stevens County

- 1 year – Leslie Waters
- 2 year – Mary Selecky
- 3 year – Cheri Petersen

Motion carried.

UPDATE ON KEEPING OF ANIMALS RULE: Jon Ness stated the new rule regarding the keeping of animals and domestic animal waste is an update to an existing rule, WAC 246-203-130. The update is currently in draft status and headed to the Washington State Board of Health for final approval. The rule will apply to domestic animals including domestic pets, and livestock in containment areas including CAFOs (Confined Animal Feeding Operations) but does not apply to free-range livestock. Key points of the new rule for the keeping of animals are listed below:

- Domestic animal waste must be collected at intervals sufficient to maintain sanitary conditions in containment areas.
- Domestic animal waste must be handled to prevent deposition, leaching, and runoff to another person's property, surface water bodies used for swimming, shellfish harvesting, or other activity with potential to affect human health.
- Domestic animal waste from non-livestock must be held in a watertight container if stored for more than one day prior to proper disposal.
- Domestic animal waste from non-livestock must be bagged and disposed of as solid waste.

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- Domestic animal waste that is collected and stockpiled for later use or disposal must be sited one hundred feet or more from a surface water body unless the surface water body is protected by one or more control or treatment practices such as a storage pad, cover, structure, et cetera to prevent leachate and runoff.
- Domestic animal waste that is collected and stockpiled for later use or disposal must be sited outside seasonally or frequently flooded areas unless it is used or disposed of prior to flooding.

The updates will allow for local health districts to manage situations where public health is being negatively impacted by the improper keeping of animals.

Matt reiterated that there is already a rule regarding animal handling, WAC 246-203-130, and the changes previously mentioned are proposed updates to the existing rule. The existing rule was utilized most recently in Tum Tum, Washington, where there were disputes between neighbors due to goats and other farm animals being confined within a semi-residential area. Northeast Tri County Health District worked with the Stevens County Conservation District to help the property owners develop a manure management plan and composting plan to combat odor, flies, runoff, etc. Matt said that if the draft rule changes pass, it would allow NETCHD, Board members, and the Public Health Advisory Board to provide input and determine how this rule is implemented within our jurisdictions.

Dr. Artzis stated the goal is to visit the sites and help property owners to properly handle animal waste, without the need to cite property owners or involve outside agencies such as the Department of Ecology.

Wes McCart spoke to a situation in Nine Mile Falls where cats, dogs, and various other animals were being kept in squalor, living in feces and waste. Additionally, a stream ran through the property causing additional health concerns. Wes stated this is a perfect example of what types of situations the rule can apply to and be valuable in handling.

Robert Rosencrantz asked if there is no means under the current rule to address animal waste concerns. Additionally, he expressed concerns that good-intended rules in the wrong hands can produce unintended consequences. He stated that while he understands that Dr. Artzis does not intend to start needlessly issuing fines and citations, it does not prevent others from attempting to do so. He further expressed concerns that the updates to this rule are problematic.

Wes stated the current rule does allow local health jurisdictions to address animal waste issues; however, the updates to the rule will allow for better handling of issues regarding dogs and cats being kept in squalor without proper waste removal and treatment. He stated those who are concerned about the rule change are free to make comments to the Washington State Board of Health to voice those concerns.

Jon Ness said additional information on the draft updates to WAC 246-203-130 can be found at SBOH.wa.gov. Information regarding the rule updates were sent out to Board members ahead of the cutoff for written comments, which was May 2, 2022. There is still opportunity for public comment to the Washington State Board of Health regarding the draft rule changes.

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Michael Heath also expressed concerns about the rule, stating he is concerned that people moving to our counties from larger cities will cause issues for local farmers.

Wes McCart stated there are right-to-farm laws and local ordinances that address right-to-farm which could provide leverage and push back against state laws regarding animal keeping in relation to livestock and farm animals.

Nancy Churchill asked that the PHAB be informed of rule changes in the future.

Wes McCart and Matt Schanz stated that these types of issues are exactly what the PHAB will be involved in and informed of as part of their duties once meetings for the PHAB begin.

STEVENS COUNTY PUD SEPTAGE SITE UPGRADE: Jon Ness stated the Stevens County Public Utility District (PUD) is running out of capacity at their site. The lagoon currently being utilized used to be large enough to meet the need of the County. However, during the pandemic there has been a substantial amount of additional septage coming in and the PUD has been forced to turn customers away.

The Stevens County PUD applied for a grant through Cathy McMorris Rodgers office, for which NETCHD wrote a letter of support. Although the Stevens County PUD was awarded the grant, the project is currently stalled and needs more support.

Wes McCart stated the project is moving forward and engineering is being completed currently.

CHAIR REPORT: No report.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS REPORTS:

Ferry County Commissioner Michael Heath stated he met with Matt Schanz and Jon Ness regarding a water system and receivership issue in Ferry County.

Mayor Elbert Koontz of Republic states they have recently upgraded their water wells, and are currently repairing and updating the water tanks.

Pend Oreille County Commissioner Robert Rosencrantz stated there are efforts to upgrade the sewage system in the town of Metaline. Additionally, they are looking for a new executive director for their counseling services department.

Mayor Jesse Garrett of Kettle Falls stated inspections have been completed on the city's water storage tanks, as well as monitoring water usage. There is currently a project in process to rebuild the city pool. Additionally, he stated the wastewater treatment plant in Kettle Falls does accept septage from outside the area as capacity allows. Interested individuals can contact the Kettle Falls City Hall for more information and to make arrangements.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT: Filling in briefly for Dr. Artzis, Matt stated Covid-19 case counts remain low; however, there is an overall uptick in hospitalizations within the Spokane catchment area and statewide. During this time, NETCHD has worked with local partners to identify safe places for homeless individuals

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to isolate. Flu activity has also remained low, however we have seen increases in influenza A regionally and throughout the state.

Dr. Artzis stated that with fewer regulations regarding masks and gatherings, we expected to see these types of increases with influenza and various other illnesses. Additionally, Covid-19 death rates are continuing to decrease and variants are becoming less deadly.

Dr. Artzis spoke to conspiracy theories surrounding the H5N1 bird flu outbreaks, where conspirators believe the CDC is attempting to come up with another disease to “muzzle our nation” and “keep people under the thumb of the government”.

Dr. Artzis stated that about 6% of all poultry in the United States has been depopulated to contain the spread; this may be negatively reflected in the price of eggs and poultry in the supermarkets. There has been one case of H5N1 in an individual in Colorado, however the individual was directly involved in depopulating infected birds and had excessive exposure.

On the topic of vaccines, Dr. Artzis spoke about the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine which has recently been associated with an increased risk of developing a condition called Gullain-Barre syndrome, which can cause sudden paralysis.

He also stated that there has been an increase in tuberculosis cases throughout the state, with correction facilities experiencing the most cases. Additionally, there is a variety of populations that do not access the medical system; without being able to diagnose and treat these individuals quickly, it is challenging to effectively treat these patients. Unfortunately, tuberculosis is also becoming resistant to treatments that have previously been effective.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT: As submitted in the report provided to Board members.

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT: As submitted in the report provided to Board members.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT: As submitted in the report provided to Board members. Jon Ness highlighted the retirement of Doris Hoffman who works out of the Republic NETCHD office. She is retiring after 28 years of service and will be missed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Wes McCart stated Governor Jay Inslee has signed an order rescinding Proclamation 20-28.10, which required public agencies conducting meetings to offer a remote option in order to remain in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act during the COVID-19 pandemic. Once rescinded, offering a remote option will be encouraged, but not required.

Dr. Artzis commented on the diversity of the PHAB group, and encouraged appointees to voice their grievances and concerns, have good discussions, and agree to disagree without pushing personal philosophies. He further encouraged PHAB members to be open to working through disagreements, stating communication is key and we must be unified, not divided, in our message to our communities.

PAYROLL AND VOUCHERS: Attached to these minutes are benefits and payroll amounts for March 5, 2022 through April 5, 2022; and voucher amounts from March 17, 2022 through April 14, 2022.


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ADJOURNMENT: Chair Wes McCart adjourned the meeting at 10:24 am. The next regular meeting of the Board of Health of Northeast Tri County Health District will be on Wednesday July 20, 2022 in Stevens County.

Respectfully submitted,

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Samuel A. Artzis, M.D., Health Officer

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By _____
Jeanie Beegle, Admin. Office Manager

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Wes McCart, Chair