

GRANT COUNTY

County Courthouse
P.O. Box 37
Ephrata, WA 98823
(509) 754-6060



HEALTH DISTRICT

1038 W. Ivy Avenue
Moses Lake, WA 98837
(509) 766-7960

BOARD OF HEALTH

April 9, 2008

7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Wanke with the following members, staff and guests present.

MEMBERS

Mark Wanke – Ephrata
Jon Lane – Moses Lake
Raymond Kelby – Wilson Creek
Keith Anstine – Quincy

Tony Massa - Warden
Gerald Sands – Electric City
Cindy Carter – Commissioner
Richard Stevens – Commissioner

STAFF

Dr. Brzezny – Health Officer
Pattie Anderson – Admin Services Manager

Jerry Campbell – EH Director
Jim Whitaker – Attorney

ABSENT

Peggy Grigg – Administrator/PH Director

LeRoy Allison – Commissioner

GUESTS

Randy Bracht – Grant County Journal

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of March 12, 2008 were approved as written (M/S Kelby/Stevens– unanimous).

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN’S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS - None

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PERSONAL HEALTH /ADMINISTRATOR REPORT – Pattie Anderson

Newspaper Bid – The newspaper that has been awarded the contract for publication of our legal ads is the Columbia Basin Herald.

2007 Audit – The State Auditor has been auditing the Health District for a week and a half. An entrance conference was held yesterday (Wednesday) with Mr. Wanke, the Board Chairman present. They should finish up next Monday.

Standards – Yesterday was also the day for the site visit to review the standards documentation. There are a few areas needing improvement, but overall, they were very pleased with our policy and procedures that are currently in place.

Draft Lease Agreement and Interlocal Agreement – This has been tabled until next month. The Commissioner's have not received any feedback from their legal counsel to date.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT – Jerry Campbell

Food Inspections – Mr. Campbell stated that the E.H. Division is right on track for the amount of food inspections that are to be completed.

OSS – There was a motel located in Moses Lake that did an illegal repair of a septic system. The Health District worked with this business and the City of Moses Lake to agree on a schedule to connect to the municipal sewer system.

E.H. Inspection Reports – These were included in the Board's packets.

Plat Review Form – Mr. Campbell again presented the water availability and sewage disposal suitability approval form for new plats. The form currently being used and the proposed form were presented to the Board. This has been discussed at length at several Board meetings.

Mr. Campbell presented an example of a plat application located northeast of Quincy where there is no irrigation water available and is not really farm land. The Planning Department contacted the Department of Health Water Resources and asked them for a comment regarding the development of a 17 lot plat. The response to the Planning Department's inquiry was included in the Board's packet. The DOH's response was "If the developer is allowed to drill 17 wells, the total withdrawal of water for all 17 lots will be 5,000 gallons per day". When you divide 5,000 gpd by 17 wells that leaves 294 gpd per household which is not adequate.

Another example with the same principle was also presented in an e-mail that was sent to Victoria Leuba, Permitting Unit Supervisor, Water Resources Eastern Region, Washington State Department of Ecology. She also stated that if a development had four separate four-plexes each being served by a separate well developed by the developer that in all likelihood withdrawal would exceed the 5000 gpd maximum limit for domestic use under the permit exemption of RCW 90.44.050.

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Mr. Campbell also included a portion of the Campbell & Gwinn court case that related to a 20 lot plat.

The ruling coincides with the statements made by the DOH and the DOE. Copies of these documents are included in the minute's book.

Mr. Campbell had been asked to research what other Health District's in eastern Washington were doing regarding this issue. The counties contacted were Spokane, Chelan-Douglas, Yakima and Benton-Franklin. Of these four Benton-Franklin is not placing any restriction on the number of lots in a subdivision. The other three counties follow the recommendations of the DOH & DOE. The paperwork that Chelan-Douglas gives to clients who are considering land development was also included in the handout that Mr. Campbell provided to the Board. They state that existing lots of record as of March 28, 2002 may withdraw up to 5,000 gpd without a water right. This amount can be shared by up to 4 lots (6 lots if separate irrigation water is available) when the original lot is subdivided. Any project whose need for water is greater will require a Water Right.

There are two questions that Mr. Campbell would like to have the Board of Health make a decision on. Will the use of the revised "Evidence of Availability" form be authorized? Will the Health District recognize 5000 gpd for each project as the limit of water withdrawal?

After considerable discussion which included the wording in the forms, meaning of certain words, name at the top of the form, etc. a motion was made to adopt the new form (M/S Lane/Massa – discussion).

Mr. Stevens reminded the Board that the county was in the process of re-writing their UDC and would probably not be completed until June of 2009. Consequently, the commissioners are not in a position to support the new document. They have instructed the Planning Department to tell developers that problems could arise for land development projects with individual wells as the water source. As they read the law, every single lot could drill a well unless DOE comes in and says they cannot. They are not stating either that there is definitely water available for all of these lots. Mr. Stevens indicated he really does not have issues with the form itself, it is because of the way the current UDC is written.

Dr. Brzezny stated that the real public health issue is the concentration of nitrates in certain areas. This is an issue that will have to be addressed also.

Mr. Whitaker again stressed that the main purpose of the form was to follow RCW 90.44.050, which he has done in the writing of the document, and also to protect the Health District.

Mr. Lane had stated that he would like to make a change in the wording directly under the water availability portion of the document to read: The Grant County Health District **does not review** this plat for the legal availability of water instead of **has not reviewed**.

Mr. Stevens stressed that the Commissioner's only make up a portion of the Health Board and is only stating his view as to why he is opposed to the form.

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Educating the public is critical in advising the public that the Health District is not in charge of the water quantity issues.

This form does not change the way the Health District is signing off on the plats.

Further discussion regarding drilling of wells, permitting of wells, etc. was held. It was stressed again that the vote only changes the form being used, not the issue regarding the 5,000 gpd withdrawal. In response to her question Ms. Carter was told the Health District will continue to sign plats.

It was agreed that the issue has been discussed enough and the vote was taken with the one portion being amended – 5 for and 3 against – motion passed.

Mr. Campbell wanted to make sure his assumption was correct in that he was not to make any judgment about the number of lots in the application – which was correct.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

Meningitis – There have been two cases within the last six months with exposure of family members and healthcare workers.

Listeriosis – Regarding the case reported on last month, some cheese had been located in the refrigerator, which was tested and results were negative, so the source is still unknown. There has been some risk behaviors beyond the eating of the cheese, perhaps the drinking of raw milk or other source. There is another case not related to this case but no tests have been done on any food.

Salmonella – We are currently investigating a couple of cases. These have been linked to the outbreak that occurred last year. Grant County has had an unusually high number of cases within a one year period.

CDC Application – The District has applied for a grant that would allow us to hire an individual to work for us for two years helping with the education of public health and possibly be running a program. There were 172 preliminary applications; we have now been selected as one out of 100 to submit a full application. Dr. Brzezny will keep the Board informed as to the progress of the application. He wanted the Board to be aware that we are actively seeking additional funding through grants, etc.

Upcoming Meetings – Dr. Brzezny will be presenting public health issues at the Grant-Adams Medical Society Association meeting next Monday as well as Big Bend Community College.

Mr. Wanke inquired as to where the meningitis occurred. It was in the Quincy area.

Hepatitis A – Dr. Brzezny reported on Hepatitis A and the circumstances that had occurred recently regarding a possible case. He stressed how we should all be proactive when it comes to the prevention of this disease. Ms. Carter asked if you tested positive once, will you always test positive. Dr. Brzezny said there are two tests. One of them will always test positive if you have ever had it or

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were exposed to it – and you will always test positive in this case. The other case will show if you are testing positive right now and up to six months. You are only infectious for seven days.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

The vouchers for the period ending March 31, 2008 totaling \$156,441.13 (#1-#4 totaling \$132,957.69) and (#5-#57 totaling \$23,483.44) were approved (M/S Stevens/Carter – unanimous).

OTHER BUSINESS – Ms. Carter presented a case where an individual had applied for a building permit in July of 2006 and it expired after one year and then the rates increased on April 1, 2008. The gentleman said that the application does not state that the application is good for only one year.

Mr. Campbell told her that it is on the form in the top right hand corner. Ms. Carter will call the gentleman back and inform him of the location of the statement.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. (M/S Lane/Kelby – unanimous).

The next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Works meeting room in Ephrata.

Mark Wanke, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Alexander Brzezny, M.D., Health Officer