

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 August 11, 2010 7:00 P.M.

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

MEMBERS

Tony Massa – Warden
David Curnel – Moses Lake
Gerald Sands - Electric City
Richard Stevens – Commissioner
Heidi Schultheis – Ephrata

Tony Gonzalez – Quincy
Cindy Carter - Commissioner
Carolann Swartz – Commissioner
Raymond Kelby – Wilson Creek

STAFF

Jeff Ketchel – Administrator
Dr. Brzezny – Health Officer
Carol Schimke - Program Facilitator

Pattie Anderson – Admin Services Mgr
Jim Whitaker - Attorney
Jerry Campbell – EH Director

ABSENT - None

GUESTS - None

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of July 14, 2010 were approved as written (M/S Curnel/Stevens – unanimous).

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT –

Food Inspections on Website Update - Letters have been sent to the food establishments informing them of the upcoming postings of food inspection scores on the Health District website. We have received no phone calls from any establishments and in some businesses they have posted our letter.

The website is currently being developed and will include a searchable database. A demonstration of the website will be presented at the next Board of Health meeting.

Strategic Plan Update - A document is currently being drafted which will then be presented to community focus groups.

Nurse Vacancy Update - The vacant position of a PHN II has been filled by Melissa Gonzalez who is currently working on her Master's Degree.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT - Carol Schimke

Quarterly Report - Ms. Schimke presented the quarterly report which included the following programs: MCH, Immunizations, Communicable Disease Control, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR), Tobacco Prevention, and Fit for Life. A copy of the report is in the book of minutes.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT – Jerry Campbell

Monthly Report - The Board received the monthly report for July inspections.

Quarterly Report – Mr. Campbell presented the quarterly report which included the following programs: Water, Food, Sewage, Solid Waste, Vector, Chemical and Physical Hazards, Living Environment, Epidemiology and Well Delegation. A copy of the report is in the book of minutes.

Royal Camp Sewer Lagoons - In the late '70s the Irrigation District built sewer lagoons for a few of their employees. In 1984 more residences (15) in the area wanted to connect to the lagoons, in which they were given permission.

Last year the lagoons were deemed unacceptable by the Department of Ecology. In order to continue using the lagoons, they needed to be upgraded which proved to be cost prohibitive. The Irrigation District decided to just upgrade only their facilities.

The other 15 residences need to make their own repairs in order to remain in their homes. Currently, 13 homeowners have contacted the Health District to make their repairs. The Irrigation District is planning on discontinuing service in January of 2011.

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Septic Failure - Royal City Business - The Health District received a complaint that sewage was being discharged into the canal by a business located outside of Royal City. The District investigated and confirmed the report.

The Health District is working with the business to remedy the situation. Currently, the public restrooms have been closed. There is more organic material waste in a business so the business needs to measure their waste strength and proceed accordingly.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

Salmonella - There have been no secondary cases related to the outbreak at the Gorge.

West Nile Virus - There was one possible case of West Nile Virus. The first test result was positive but a subsequent test was negative.

Suspect Meningitis - There were a few possible meningococcal cases being reported. There is bacterial meningitis and enterovirus. There were two positive enterovirus cases reported. Meningitis cases appear to be on the rise.

Influenza Like Illness - There are new viruses appearing in the U.S. One is the H3N2 which is also included in the seasonal vaccine along with the H1N1 from last year. A child tested positive via rapid test in July for Influenza A. A specimen was sent to the Public Health Lab for further testing with the results being negative.

It is now being advised to start vaccinating individuals as soon as Providers receive their influenza vaccine. The Health District's role this year will focus more on linking the public to other facilities to receive their flu vaccination.

TB Suspect Case - There are currently no active TB cases. However, three cases were investigated during the month of July.

Advisories - Within the past month the Health District has issued pollution and heat advisories.

Hepatitis A Outbreak in Colorado - There were some individuals in Grant County who ate at the food establishments responsible for the Hepatitis A outbreak in Colorado. The Health District is working with the individuals and providing them with immunizations and prophylaxis.

Rabies Exposure - There has been a possible bat exposure. The bat flew into the woman's face, then she then swatted it to the ground and crushed it with a rock. Consequently, the bat was unable to be tested and the woman is receiving post exposure prophylaxis.

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VOUCHERS

The vouchers for the period ending July 31, 2010 totaling \$186,719.65 (#1 - #4 totaling \$116,146.86 and (#5 - #49 totaling \$70,572.79) were approved (M/S Carter/Sands – unanimous).

OTHER BUSINESS – Mr. Gonzalez inquired about the employee who recently lost her spouse. Mr. Ketchel informed the Board that she was back to work.

Executive Session - An executive session regarding a personnel issue was called at 8:15 p.m. to last approximately 10 minutes.

The public meeting was reconvened at 8:25 p.m. with no decisions being made.

With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. (M/S Stevens/Kelby - unanimous).

The next meeting is scheduled for September 8, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Works meeting room in Ephrata.

Tony Massa, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Alexander Brzezny, M.D., Health Officer