

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

November 9, 2011

7:00 PM

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

MEMBERS

Tony Massa - Warden

Dr. David Curnel – Moses Lake

Richard Stevens – Commissioner

Raymond Kelby – Wilson Creek

Mark Wanke - Ephrata

Carolann Swartz – Commissioner

Tony Gonzalez - Quincy

STAFF

Jeff Ketchel – Administrator

Pattie Anderson – Admin. Services Mgr.

Shawta Sackett - CPH Mgr./Epidemiologist

Dr. Brzezny – Health Officer

Michael Wyman – HD Attorney

ABSENT

Cindy Carter – Commissioner

Troy Ritter – Electric City

GUESTS

Todd Phillips – GCHD

John Lawrence – Lawrence Farms

Lauren McLaughlin - Grant Co. Journal

Sandy Lawrence – Lawrence Farms

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of October 12, 2011 were approved as written (M/S Curnel/Wanke– unanimous).

VOUCHERS

The vouchers for the period ending October 31, 2011 totaling \$124,176.17 (#1 - #8 totaling \$113,781.58 and #9 - #42 totaling \$10,394.59) were approved (M/S Curnel/Kelby– unanimous).

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN’S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS –

George Subway – Mr. Ketchel invited the owners, both by phone and letter, to come speak with the Board regarding their request to re-evaluate the double fee that was assessed on their food establishment permit. The owners were not present at the meeting so the matter was again tabled until possibly later in the meeting if the owners arrived. A motion was made to table any decision (Stevens/Wanke – unanimous).

Composting Variance Public Hearing Announcement – Todd Phillips reviewed what was presented at the last Board of Health meeting regarding Lawrence Farms requesting a variance with regards to their composting permit. Department of Ecology has already approved of the variance and since the Planning Department requires a Conditional Use Permit, the Bureau of Reclamation has also written a letter in support of the variance. A motion was made to approve the variance (M/S Stevens/Swartz – unanimous).

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT - Jeff Ketchel

Q Fever – The Incident Command System (ICS) has now been de-activated. Jackie Dawson, Region 7 Epidemiologist, will be preparing the after action report. Agencies that were involved in the investigation participated in an after action meeting via telephone. The cost was estimated at \$11,000 which would have been much higher had we not had the services of Ms. Dawson.

Algae – The first stakeholder meeting has been held with approximately 12 people in attendance. Attendees included local business owners, Bureau of Reclamation, City of Moses Lake, Washington State Parks and the Health District. Afterwards, the notes from the meeting were sent out and another meeting will be held in December. Mr. Ketchel is anticipating a new policy being brought to the Board in early spring. Mrs. Swartz inquired if public notification and education were discussed. Mr. Phillips stated that these topics were the main focus in the meeting.

October Food Inspections – The October food inspections were included in the Board’s packets. The restaurant inspections are winding down for the year. We have had a strong year in temporary food permits.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT – Shawta Sackett

Royal City Flu Clinic - A flu clinic, which doubled as our Emergency Preparedness exercise, was held at the Royal City High School cafeteria with 198 people being vaccinated, which was less than last year. We had seven nurses and several interpreters. A live remote from a Spanish radio station was also

involved. The Royal City Hospital District helped subsidize the clinic so that patients only had to pay \$5.00 for their flu immunization.

Influenza Prevention – The Health District is working with the schools to promote influenza prevention. Information is being sent home with the students. Thermometers are being delivered to the schools to be distributed to the students as well. Media releases have been completed and labs have been contacted to alert the Health District to those testing positive with the flu.

Mr. Gonzalez asked if there were any new TB cases, and there has not been.

ASSESSMENT REPORT - Jeff Ketchel & Shawta Sackett

Food Deserts in Grant County – A power point presentation was given on Food Deserts in Grant County. A food desert is where there is no access to a super market to purchase affordable, healthy food. In addition, the ability to purchase healthy food decreases in the winter. There are approximately 17,000 Grant Co. residents located in a food desert which is about 19% of the population. Other information provided was that there are more people in poverty in Grant County, more uninsured residents and 5% of them have no transportation. Only 7% of farms sell food for consumption.

In Ephrata, a coalition has been formed to pursue ideas as to what can be done about these issues. Also an issue is teaching residents on how to prepare certain foods. Ephrata is also going to develop community gardens, which are already located in Moses Lake.

Food banks and what they provide was also discussed. Many do not have refrigeration so fresh fruits and vegetables spoil.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Jeff Ketchel

A couple of items added to the Administrator's report will be Health Officer salary and to set a public hearing next month to adopt the 2012 budget.

2012 Budget Presentation – Mr. Ketchel presented the 2012 proposed budget. The handout is included in the book of minutes. The budget reflects staffing re-classifications, the 5930 money being cut, the MVET monies being included and data from past years showing how the funding has changed. Flexible dollars is the most critical for the District and the budget reflects a 28% cut of flexible funds.

The 2012 budget includes using \$53,000 of the fund balance to balance the budget and will sustain current staffing and capacity. Prior to the 2013 budget preparation, the District will analyze revenue trends and make appropriate long range plans for the future.

A motion was made to hold a Public Hearing next month to adopt the 2012 budget (M/S Stevens/Swartz – unanimous).

Health Officer Salary – Mr. Ketchel prepared a salary survey of Health Officer's in Lewis, Yakima, Chelan-Douglas and Kittitas Counties. The average salary was \$116.03/hr. Since Dr. Brzezny has arrived in 2001

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he has not had an increase in his hourly wage. Mr. Ketchel recommended the Board approve an hourly wage of \$100.00/hr. which has been included in the budget. A motion was made to approve the hourly wage at \$100.00/hr. effective January 1, 2012 (M/S Curnel/Wanke – unanimous).

Mr. Gonzalez and Mr. Wanke gave accolades to Dr. Brzezny for his dedication and stated that we are very lucky to have him.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

Influenza – There has been little activity regarding influenza.

Pertussis – There have been no new cases since the last meeting, however, we are still not out of the woods. The Tdap immunization is now being recommended to pregnant women, because if the mother is protected, then she will pass on the antibodies to the baby which will protect the baby at birth.

APHA Conference – Dr. Brzezny was invited to the conference in Washington, D.C. and presented his information on the Pertussis outbreak. The presentation is on-line if anyone wishes to view it.

Chicken Pox – There has been a suspect case reported and also possible shingles. Flexible dollars are used for this type of activity.

Other Updates - There is a new pneumonia vaccine that is being used for children which will provide them with longer protection.

Executive Session - An executive session was held at 8:39 to last 5 minutes regarding union negotiations. At 8:44 the meeting was re-opened.

OTHER BUSINESS – None

With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. (M/S Stevens/Curnel – unanimous).

Tony Massa, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Pattie A. Anderson, Clerk of the Board