

Board of Health Meeting MINUTES
Wednesday, June 2, 2021
Via Zoom

Members Present:

Owen Robinson
Matt Martin, DDS
Amanda Ball
Joe Briggs
Ray Geyer, DO
Tom Moore

Staff/Visitors Present:

Trisha Gardner–Health Officer, Carey Ann Haight–County Attorney, Melanie McKinzie Swartz–Office & Accreditation Coordinator, Albert Grobe, PhD–Environmental Health Division Manager, Sandy Johnson–Superfund Site Coordinator, Erik Haivala–Preparedness and Community Planner, Joey McDermand–Accountant, Sarah Cozino–PHEP Program Manager, Ben Spencer–Communications and Privacy Officer, Jordan Crosby–Ugrin Alexander Zadick, P.C, Alexander Irvine, Jordan Lynch, Alisa Challenger, Christy Buttler Nelson, Margarita Alimonda, Lacey Konen (Drew), Kelsey Whitaker, Angela Langer, Laura Chouinard, Samantha Burke, Laurie Glover, Rachel Brener, Caleen Tacke, Mark Leo, Jenn Rowell, Nicole Girten, Brittany Budeski, Penny Paul

Mr. Robinson called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m. A quorum was present.

Agenda Items #1 and #3 were taken out of order.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Approve Minutes from June 2, 2021, BOH Meeting: Mr. Robinson

Mr. Briggs moved to approve the minutes as recorded. Mr. Moore seconded the motion. There were no public comments on the motion. With all board members voting in favor, the motion carried.

2. COVID-19: Trisha Gardner

Ms. Gardner provided the COVID-19 Report.

- Cascade County Statistics
 - 9,271 – Cases
 - 179 – Active cases
 - 82 – New cases
 - Case Rate – 14 per 100,000
 - Positivity Rate – 6.3% (as of May 25, 2021)
 - 19 – Breakthrough cases
 - 39% (25,586) – Eligible population fully vaccinated
 - 16 – Variant cases identified
 - 14 – variant of concern
 - 2 – variant of interest
 - Variants of high consequence have not been identified in the United States.
- CDC – www.vaccine.gov
 - New website to find local locations for COVID-19 vaccines.
 - Includes local contact information and links to online scheduling.
- COVID-19 testing continues in Cascade County provided by Alluvion Health and local health providers.

- CDC updated their recommendations for fully vaccinated individuals. “Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.” Those with underlying health conditions or weakened immune systems may need to continue taking all precautions.
- CCHD COVID-19 Vaccinations
 - All three COVID-19 vaccines (Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson) are available on site.
 - Walk-in vaccination clinics were held on May 20th and May 21st for 12-17 years age group.
 - Vaccinations will be offered at the Great Falls Public Schools (GFPS) Sports Physical clinics and the Farmers’ Market.

Totem Beverages Litigation Update: Ms. Haight

Mr. Robinson advised the Board would be going into executive session. Ms. Haight made note of the reason for the executive session, “...[it] is consistent with Montana Code Annotated §2-3-203(4)(a).] to discuss litigation strategy.”

Mr. Robinson opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments.

The Board went into executive session at 12:24 p.m. and returned at 1:07 p.m.

Mr. Robinson advised attendees the Board discussed litigation strategy and no action was taken during the executive session.

3. Family Health Services Report: Caleen Tacke

Ms. Tacke provided an Oral Health Program year-end report.

- Program History
 - The program was first proposed and piloted during the 1977-1978 school year.
 - The program was delivered to 2nd and 5th graders at GFPS over 3 weeks in 20-minute daily sessions.
 - Dental screening for 176 5th graders were provided to determine the amount of gingivitis present in students. Preliminary data reflected 42.3% of students had no gingivitis present.
 - Upon completion of the 3-week dental education classes, 93% of the students had no gingivitis.
 - Students were also screened at the end of 90 days, 83% of students still had no gingivitis.
 - Another screening took place in 1984 with a random sample of 269 students in the 10th grade.
 - Of those students who had participated in the 5th grade Oral Health Program, 61% remained gingivitis free.
 - Of the students who had not participated in the Oral Health Program, only 36% were gingivitis free.
 - The study reflects the positive impact on the oral health of children in the pilot program.
- Today’s Program
 - The Oral Health Program is now provided to all public schools in Cascade County, two parochial schools, seven Hutterite colonies, Head Start, and the Deaf and Blind School.
 - Educational classes are delivered in the 2nd and 4th grades as five (20-minute) lessons.
 - A one-time (30-minute) lesson is provided to each Kindergarten classroom in February (National Dental Children’s Health Month).
 - Visual dental screenings are provided for all students in the 1st, 3rd, and 5th grades. Screenings are administered by 20 local volunteer dentists.
 - The program provided dental information and supplies to 5,446 students in Cascade County during the 2020-2021 school year.

4. Environmental Health Report: Albert Grobe, PhD

Dr. Grobe provided the Environmental Health Division Report.

- 27% - Licensed establishment inspections completed. Inspections are taking longer than normal as sanitarians are spending more time following-up with establishments to ensure compliance and correct deficiencies.
- 100 – Septic permits issued compared to 72 at this time last year.
- The division is inundated with Plan reviews for new businesses and businesses updating/remodeling.

Septic Variance Request – Molly Wilson

Ms. Brusky reviewed the septic variance request with the Board and recommended approval. Mr. Briggs moved, “...that the Board of Health approve the variance requests from the Cascade County Septic Regulations, specifically Circular DEQ-4, 8.1, and Circular DEQ-4, 8.5 to allow the Eco-John WC32 model to be installed as a new septic system to handle both gray water and black water if installed and operated in accordance to the recommended approval criteria.” Dr. Geyer seconded the motion.

Mr. Robinson opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments.

Mr. Robinson called for a vote on the motion. With all board members voting in favor, the motion passed.

Septic Variance Request – Tiberius Smith

Ms. Brusky reviewed the septic variance request with the Board and recommended approval. Mr. Briggs made the following motion, “ I move the Board of Health approve the variance requests from Cascade County Septic Regulations, specifically Circular DEQ-4: 8.1, and Circular DEQ-4: 8.5 to allow an Eco-John WC5 model to be installed as a new septic system to handle both gray water and black water if installed and operated in accordance to recommended approval criteria.” Ms. Ball seconded the motion.

Mr. Robinson opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments.

With all board members voting in favor, the motion passed.

Septic Variance Request – Keith Bennett:

Ms. Johnson reviewed the septic variance request with the Board and recommended approval. Mr. Briggs moved, “I move the Board of Health approve the requested variance from the Cascade County Septic Regulations to allow the proposed replacement drainfield to be less than 100 feet from the 100-year floodplain based on the documentation provided indicating the trench bottoms will be more than 2 feet above the Base Flood Elevation and more than 100 feet from surface water.” Dr. Geyer seconded the motion.

Mr. Robinson opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments.

The motion passed with all board members voting in favor.

5. Superfund Site Report: Ms. Johnson

Ms. Johnson provided the Superfund Site Report.

- Black Eagle Site
 - The County Commissioners met to discuss two additional land uses (ski hill and Amphitheater) proposed for addition to the conceptual land use plan proposal developed by Water and Environmental Technologies (WET) for Operable Unit 2 (OU2, Smelter site). After much consideration, the Commissioners opted to not include the new proposals in the draft land use plans. Factors that led to the decision included:
 - Proposals would require re-zoning of the land.

- The draft proposal is a conceptual document to provide Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO) a sense of what the community would like to happen with OU2, being mindful of low cost/maintenance scenarios (golf course and archery range) managed by local clubs.
 - The amphitheater proposal does not align with Superfund Site timelines and would require the area to move from OU2 into the Black Eagle residential yards (OU1). The County does not want to interfere with the OU1 clean-up timeline.
 - The Commissioners liked the concepts and hope developers might consider other locations in the County. The proposals may be an option once OU2 is remediated.
- Neihart
 - The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been in contact with the private landowner regarding the Consent for Access Agreement for the Carpenter Creek Road bridge replacement. The landowner is agreeable to signing the document. The Environmental Protection Agency will then replace the County bridge to enable hauling of contaminated soil to the repository site.
 - Neihart clean-up could potentially start in 2022.
 - DEQ and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will hold a public meeting in July or August to advise the community what is occurring on site and future work projects.

6. Prevention Services Report: Ms. Cozino

Ms. Cozino provided the Prevention Services Report.

- 0 – Influenza cases
- Enteric illnesses are increasing which is common for this time of year.
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
 - 136 – Chlamydia cases compared to 455 this time last year.
 - 67 – Gonorrhea cases compared to 248 this time last year.
 - 11 – Syphilis cases compared to 24 this time last year.
- 2 – Salmonella cases

7. Administration Report: Ms. Gardner

Ms. Gardner provided the Administration Report.

- Finance Report
 - The County fiscal year ends June 30, 2021.
 - CCHD is closing out several grants ending June 30, 2021. All invoicing has been submitted.
 - A number of Family Health Services State grants are moving to the federal fiscal year. The Board will see changes to grant funds in next month's report.
 - CCHD budgets are complex due to different grant periods that include the federal fiscal year, the County fiscal year, May – April grant year, and October – September grant year.
- Administration
 - Employees assigned to full-time COVID-19 response are returning to normal job duties.
 - Staffing
 - 1 – Registered Sanitarian position open
 - 1 – Communicable Disease Public Health Nurse position open
 - Ben Spencer was hired to fill the Communications and Privacy Officer position.
 - CCHD will hold Employee Appreciation Day mid-June.
 - The second round of reviews for the 2022 budget occurs on June 10, 2021.
 - The agency is resuming offsite training. A number of employees will attend Summer Institute in July.
 - Legislative Changes - HB 121 and HB 257

- The new laws change the authority of the Board of Health and Health Officer. Approvals previously authorized by the Board of Health and Health Officer will now go through the local *governing body*.
- The Interlocal Agreement currently in place between the City and County does not define the *governing body* for the Board of Health/Health Department as required by law.
- Mr. Briggs sent notification to the County Commissioners, Health Officer, County Attorney, City Commissioners, and City Planner to establish a working group to address the new requirements.
 - He requested (in the short-term) a letter be signed by the City and County designating the County as the governing body.
 - Next steps to address the changes in law include:
 - Updating the Interlocal Agreement between the City and County to designate the *governing body* as the County for the following reasons:
 - It would be problematic for the City to have jurisdiction at the County level.
 - Current funding structure of the Health Department and Board of Health.
 - 75% funded by the County/25% funded by the City
 - Employees of the Health Department are County employees
 - Liability coverage for Health Department/BOH is paid from the County budget
 - County Attorney provides counsel for the Health Department/Board of Health
 - Updating the BOH By-Laws.
 - The vacant Board position has been noticed on the County’s website.

8. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

9. Member Comments

There were no member comments.

Adjournment

*Mr. Robinson called for a motion for adjournment. Dr. Martin moved to adjourn and Mr. Briggs seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at **1:08 p.m.***

Respectfully Submitted,

Owen Robinson – Chair

Date