

KITSAP COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

April 5th, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 11:20 a.m. The recording equipment was not fully operational; therefore, the meeting was not taped.

1. Minutes (March 1, 2005)

The minutes were approved as circulated.

2. Director's Report

Dr. Lindquist reported that there has been some discussion on what to do with the Austin Drive building. The District owns the building, which is situated on an acre. The 0.8-acre parcel next to the building is still under quitclaim deed conditions that limit the use of that property to public health functions. Dr. Lindquist discussed possible options for the old building, including demolition of the building, leaving it standing, or selling it though the appraised value is low. Dr. Lindquist expressed his concern regarding liability issues and employee safety, since the water quality lab is still housed at this facility.

Dr. Lindquist then reported that the Kitsap County Coroner has expressed interest in the property. Dr. Lindquist feels that locating the coroner's office at this site would qualify as a public health function, especially since the coroner's office provides collaboration and data supporting the District's work with health indicators, which utilizes death data. After much discussion, the Board agreed that a good partnership with the coroner's office would allow for the more efficient use of existing assets. The Board authorized Dr. Lindquist to move forward with working with the coroner on this option.

Dr. Lindquist then reported that a citizen might request a Board of Health hearing to appeal action taken by the District regarding an on-site sewage issue. The current Board of Health regulations require that the entire board must be in attendance to conduct the hearing. Discussion followed about possible hearing dates. Dr. Lindquist will submit options for possible hearing dates to the Board members via email and arrange for the hearing based on Board member feedback.

3. West Nile Virus Prevention Plan for 2005-6:

Dr. Lindquist advised the Board on the current West Nile Virus Prevention Plan. He reported that currently there are no West Nile Virus cases in Washington State; however, he does assume that the virus is present in the mosquito population here. The District, under this prevention plan, will provide public education on proven strategies to prevent West Nile Virus in humans. Dr. Lindquist reviewed those strategies including removing mosquito breeding environments like free standing water, putting on full coverage clothing at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active, and using insect repellents that contain Deet. Discussion followed.

4. Review of Hood Canal Environmental Health Concerns:

Dr. Lindquist introduced Keith Grellner, Assistant Director Environmental Health Division. Mr. Grellner reviewed and distributed written summaries of the Environmental Health Issues for Hood Canal and the Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program. He reported that due to the large fish kills in the south end of Hood Canal in 2002 and 2003, Congressman Dicks and Governor Locke funded the Puget Sound Action Team, Hood Canal Coordinating Council, and the United States Geological Service to develop and lead a response effort, which is called the Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program. The goal of this program is to determine the sources/causes of the low dissolved oxygen levels and then to work to develop and implement corrective actions to restore/protect adequate oxygen levels. The Health District has been actively involved with this program since its inception because, based on

literature reviews only, the "Preliminary Assessment and Corrective Action Plan" developed by this group estimates that onsite sewage systems contribute 60% of the nitrogen sources to Hood Canal. This estimates assumes that all onsite sewage systems in Hood Canal watershed discharge 30-70% of their total nitrogen input to Hood Canal each year. However, the District's own monitoring data for the south end of Hood Canal so far show that the near-shore marine water stations meet state fecal coliform standards for intertidal marine waters. More science-based work needs to be done, and the District continues to conduct ongoing monitoring and continues to work with property owners regarding proper operation and maintenance of onsite sewage systems and/or repair failing systems.

Mr. Grellner expressed concern that there are several different bills relating to the Hood Canal dissolved oxygen problem and onsite sewage operation and maintenance being proposed and debated during this legislative session. Two such bills, HB 1458 and SB 5431, both contain significant and costly requirements aimed at local government to develop and implement prescriptive onsite sewage operation and maintenance programs above and beyond existing rules. He expressed concern that these bills, which would be expensive for local government to implement, would not fully address Hood Canal's dissolved oxygen problem. Therefore, Mr. Grellner requested the Board of Health approve the following recommendations:

1. Support the use of sound scientific methods to determine the causes and sources of Hood Canal's low dissolved oxygen problem.
2. Support the use of sound scientific methods and proven/demonstrated technologies to identify and, where necessary, correct failing or polluting onsite sewage systems.
3. Support the continued and adequate funding of local onsite sewage and water quality programs to prevent and correct environmental health problems.

After much discussion the Board requested that the District keep them informed and notify them regarding any significant findings. The Board also asked District staff to provide the board members with copies of the bills discussed earlier.

Mayor Kordonowy moved to accept the District's recommendations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Endresen. Commissioner Angel made a friendly amendment recommending that the language in recommendation #3 be modified by deleting the words "and adequate". Mayor Kordonowy and Commissioner Endresen accepted the amendment, and the motion was approved unanimously.

5. Status Report of Rule Revisions to Onsite Sewage Systems

Jerry Deeter, Director of Environmental Health reported on the rule revisions being considered by the State Board of Health to Chapter 246-272 WAC which regulates all onsite sewage systems under 14,500 gallons. He advised the Board that there are three major changes in these draft rules:

1. Requirements for product registration
2. Technical design, installation and operation requirements
3. Local management planning/operation and maintenance

He stated that the draft rule will not have a major impact in Kitsap County as many of the design, installation and operation and maintenance requirements are already addressed in our current onsite sewage regulations. However, from a statewide perspective, there are several changes that cause concern, including: increased minimum land area requirements for residences using onsite sewage systems and public water; drainfield size increases for some sites based on changes in soil classification; and the increased costs to local public health jurisdictions due to the local management plan

requirements. There is proposed funding for this activity in 2SHB 1458, which is currently moving through the legislature. Discussion followed.

Mr. Deeter requested that the Board approve the following recommendations:

1. Support the proposed Onsite Sewage System Draft Rule as currently written.
2. Support the Development and implementation of the Local Plan for enhanced management of onsite sewage systems in marine counties (2SHB 1458) only if funding is provided through the Legislature.
3. Continue to support the Health District in its effort to ensure that onsite sewage systems are designed, installed, and maintained properly through the approval of good sound regulations, which provide the highest level of protection for both the environment and public health.

Mayor Kordonowy moved that the Board of Health adopt the Health District's recommendations. The motion was seconded by Council Member Arends and approved unanimously.

6. Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Dr. Lindquist introduced Kelly Chatwood who is the Health District's new public health educator working on suicide prevention.

ADJOURN

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 12: 30 p.m.

Commissioner Patty Lent, Chair
Kitsap County Board of Health

Scott W. Lindquist, MD, MPH
Director of Health

Board Members Present: Mayor *Kim Abel*, Commissioner *Jan Angel*, Council Member *Carol Arends*, Commissioner *Chris Endresen*, Mayor *Darlene Kordonowy*, Commissioner *Patty Lent*, Councilmember *Mike Short*

Staff Present: *Kelly Chatwood, Eva Crim, Elaine Croteau, Jerry Deeter, Keith Grellner, Scott Lindquist, M.D., Heidi Lund, Suzanne Plemmons,*

Public Present: *Julie McCormick, The Sun; Patrick Lucas, Port Orchard*