

**KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting
February 4, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Mayor Rob Putaansuu at 12:30 p.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor Putaansuu requested to rearrange the last two agenda items to allow for discussion of wastewater management at the end of the meeting.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Charlotte Garrido moved and Mayor Becky Erickson seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the January 7, 2020, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The February consent agenda included the following contracts:

- 1749 Amendment 12 (2055), *Washington State Department of Health, Consolidated Contract*
- 2054, Peoples Harm Reduction Alliance, Secondary Syringe Exchange

Commissioner Rob Gelder moved and Commissioner Garrido seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda, including the Contracts Update and Warrant and Electronic Funds Transfer Registers. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

HEALTH OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Health Officer Update:

Dr. Susan Turner, Health Officer, provided the Board with an update on public health threats that arose in the last few weeks. She explained that, fortunately, the Health District has received some Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) funding over the past few years, which has helped provide staff time and funding to work on these challenges.

The Health District responded to an oyster-associated foodborne illness outbreak which resulted in:

- closure of a shellfish bed
- 13 ill individuals

- investigation, restaurant inspections, interviews, specimen collection and shipping facilitation
- Giardia implicated as cause

Councilperson Kol Medina asked if Giardia is common in Kitsap County. Dr. Turner explained that Giardia is very common, though rarely associated with an outbreak.

Mayor Putaansuu asked how serious Giardiasis is. Dr. Turner explained that it is mild, but it can last a very long time and is uncomfortable.

Next, Dr. Turner said the Health District issued a restaurant closure in recent weeks.

There was recently an announcement of upcoming PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances) testing of the water wells around Naval Base Kitsap. PFAS are chemicals from firefighting activities using aqueous film forming foam which are associated with health issues in humans.

Health District staff also were notified about and reviewed water fixture lead testing at Bainbridge Island and Bremerton School Districts. The testing was performed by the Washington State Department of Health.

Dr. Turner said flu season is still in full swing. She noted that flu activity was higher than usual for a brief time but has returned to normal levels for this time of year, though she noted flu season is not yet over.

Due to some additional challenges pushing capacity, the Health District activated Partial Incident Command Structure (ICS) to address the following issues:

- **Hep A:** exposure at a residential behavioral health treatment facility connected with the statewide and national outbreak among people experiencing homelessness and/or that use drugs. The case was not a resident of Kitsap County but was residing at the local facility along with residents of Kitsap. Staff have done a variety of activities to mitigate exposure including:
 - Administered 64 vaccinations in a 36-hour period to prevent infection
 - Monitoring six individuals at the facility for 50 days
 - Disinfection activities
- **Mumps** ongoing community transmission, coordination with Navy
- **Coronavirus**

CORONAVIRUS

The Health District has activated full-partial ICS to address coronavirus. Dr. Turner explained that Full-partial ICS means staff will be accessing additional personnel and financial resources at the Health District to provide the best protections to our community. That means that it is likely in the coming days that there may be some less time-sensitive activities of daily work that are not

completed, following the District's Continuity of Operations Plan. Dr. Turner provided several key highlights about the current situation:

1. There are no cases of 2019 novel coronavirus (2019 n-CoV) in Kitsap County and there are currently no persons under investigation (PUI).
 - a. One case of 2019 n-CoV has been identified in Washington, but there is no evidence of the virus spreading in the state.
 - i. There have been as many as 15 PUI at a time being investigated across the state, with 22 tests completed (17 negative, 5 PUI still pending)
 - b. Across the United States there are 11 cases in five states.
 - c. Around world, public health officials are responding to a growing outbreak of 2019 n-CoV centered in China. She said that, as of 8:53 a.m., there have been 20,704 confirmed cases with 20,492 in mainland China, resulting in 427 deaths (all but one in mainland China).
2. The Health District has been working closely with Washington State Department of Health (WSDOH) to monitor the rapidly changing situation.
 - a. Staff are working hard to stay abreast of the many changes in knowledge about infectiousness, medical care, recommended prevention measures for the public, monitoring of travelers, etc.
 - b. Staff are working hard to ensure local healthcare providers, emergency responders, government agencies, tribes, schools, workplaces, local media and members of the public have the best information and guidance available.
 - c. Staff have asked local healthcare providers to screen patients for 2019 n-CoV and immediately report suspect cases to the Health District.
3. Staff want the public to know what they can do:
 - a. People planning to travel internationally should consult the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) traveler website for the latest guidance
 - b. People who traveled to China or had close contact with a confirmed or being investigated case of 2019 n-CoV infection in the past 14 days, and who begin to feel sick with fever, cough or difficulty breathing should call their healthcare provider to seek evaluation.
 - i. The full case definition is very important in order to reduce the volume of evaluations by healthcare providers and especially the ED, especially during flu season
 - c. People can take simple steps to reduce their risk of getting and spreading any viral respiratory infection
 - i. Wash your hands often
 - ii. Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands
 - iii. Avoid close contact with people who are sick
 - iv. Cover coughs and sneezes
 - v. Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces
 - vi. Stay home when sick and avoid close contact with others
 - d. To stay current, there are several resources—because of the swift pace and continuous nature of changes, staff recommend that people refer to the CDC's and WSDOHs websites for the most up to date information.

- i. People who have questions about coronavirus can also call the WSDOH hotline: 1-800-525-0127
- ii. Staff will update KitsapPublicHealth.org with information and resources relevant to Kitsap organizations and residents as staff are able to develop and update these things. The ICS structure should help facilitate this.

Lastly, Dr. Turner said ICS is going to be a big effort for the Health District, consuming a lot of available resources long term. She explained that, if early measures are unable to contain the spread of the disease, there are other measures that can be done to tackle the spread of coronavirus such as social distancing measures. She also noted that a vaccine is being developed, but it could take several months.

She said that she would be happy to provide additional details at the Board's request.

Commissioner Ed Wolfe asked if Dr. Turner has seen anything with similar severity and exposure, such as SARS. Dr. Turner said much is still unknown, however this virus is related to the SARS and MERS viruses, which both have higher mortality rates. She noted that early containment seems effective. She explained that the world is still learning about this virus but know that it can spread person to person. She said it's hard to know what to expect at this point, however, at this point it does not appear to be as contagious as measles. Finally, she said it is still a virus of concern.

Mayor Erickson asked if this is a respiratory infection. Dr. Turner said it is a lower respiratory infection. Mayor Erickson asked how the contact is occurring between the infected and others, for example the 15 individuals being monitored in relation to the confirmed case in Washington State.

Dr. Turner said a person is under investigation when they fit the case definition: exposure to a known case or traveling to Hubei province within last 14 days, or those traveling to china hospitalized for those symptoms. She explained that doctors should report these contacts to public health and then the public health agency will investigate and evaluate who may have been exposed to the individual. Those individuals, along with the case, will be monitored until test results are available. She said there is currently 5-6 days turnaround time for test results.

There was no further comment.

Administrator Update:

Mr. Keith Grellner, Administrator, provided the Board with a few updates.

First, he noted that there was a story in the Kitsap Sun last week regarding proactive PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) testing at Naval Base Kitsap – Bangor. Mr. Grellner said the Health District is involved in this coordinated effort, along with the Navy, WSDOH, Silverdale Water District, and Kitsap County Public Utility District and has been attending meetings. Additionally, Health District staff will attend the Navy's public meetings on February 19 and 20. He said there have been other areas in the state that have already gone through this and have had

to designate alternative drinking water sources, such as Fairchild Airforce Base, Naval Air Station Whidbey Island, City of Issaquah, City of Dupont, and Joint Base Lewis-McChord, have experienced this. He explained that PFAS are found in many everyday items, but there is emerging science that PFAS chemicals at certain levels may cause some negative health impacts. Among other uses, the source of PFAS that is the center of concern with this sampling effort are firefighting foams that were used at industrial-type facilities like military installations and airports. He mentioned that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been considering establishing a max contaminant level for PFAS. He said that the EPA process has been taking a while, so WSDOH has decided to pursue it at the state level.

Next, he informed the Board that the Kitsap Sun printed a story today highlighting the Health District's annual water quality report, which is one of today's agenda items.

On behalf of the Health District, Mr. Grellner will be attending Public Health Day at the legislature on February 5. The main purpose of his attendance will be to advocate for Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) funding, which is the Health District's top legislative priority for this year, as it has been since 2015.

Other bills of significance that the Health District has been working on include SB 6434, which proposes to allow residential home kitchens for the preparation and selling of potentially hazardous food and its companion bill HB 2777. The Health District opposes this bill and advocating against it was also a legislative priority. SB 6434 was removed from the hearing agenda for Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources and Parks committee last week, but HB 2777 has made its way to a hearing in the house committee on local government today. February 7 is the first bill cut-off day for bills not necessary to implement the budget.

Last week Mr. Grellner alerted the Board to some correspondence that he recently sent to Kitsap legislative contingent supporting SB 6451 and HB 2679 which propose a means to partially fund FPHS with a new tax on excessive surpluses of nonprofit health carriers. (defined as funds of any surplus above 400 percent of risk-based capital).

Commissioner Gelder said the County recently wrote an opinion editorial piece for the Kitsap Sun in support of SB 6451.

Mayor Erickson asked for clarification of SB 6451.

Commissioner Gelder explained there are a small handful of nonprofit health care companies in the state. He explained that these companies charge premiums to cover operating costs and maintain reserves and that some of these companies have a surplus far beyond these operating costs. He said the surplus has grown over the past few years to \$4.4 billion. He said there is a reasonable operating amount, and yet a couple of these companies have a surplus that is three or four times the amount needed to cover risk.

Commissioner Wolfe added that the bill is intended to carve out the some of the surplus money for public health in Washington State.

Mr. Grellner said he appreciates the County's support. He pointed out that these companies may find ways to eliminate this money for public health down the road by minimizing their surpluses.

There was no further comment.

2019 SURFACE WATER QUALITY ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Kiess approached the Board and introduced the Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) program manager, Grant Holdcroft. He also introduced all the PIC staff present at the meeting.

Mr. Holdcroft thanked the Board for supporting the PIC program mission to protect public health and the environment through preventing fecal pollution in Kitsap County surface waters. He said this is a new, more concise and visual format for the report that is more accessible to the public, thanks to the contributions of Public Information Officer, Tad Sooter.

Each year, the Health District's PIC program releases an annual report summarizing the previous year's surface water quality monitoring and clean-up work results. The 2019 Annual Water Quality Report has recently been completed and is now available on the Health District website. The report was also included in the packet for the Board's review. The majority of the Health District's water quality monitoring and clean-up work is funded through Clean Water Kitsap, Kitsap County's storm water utility, along with supplemental funds through temporary federal and state grants.

Mr. Holdcroft shared a presentation with a brief overview of the PIC program and presented the background and notable findings of the 2019 Annual Water Quality Report, including but not limited to the following:

- The updated format of the report, to make the report more readable by the general public.
- Ongoing success in the historically polluted Burley Creek watershed.
 - Met standards the last two years in a row, but had never met the standards before
- Impacts of the change to the Washington State water quality standards.
 - The Freshwater Standard
 - Part 1: Annual GMV < 100 FC per 100ML
 - Part 2: Not more than 10% of all samples collected for calculating geomean > FC/100ML
 - The report notes how each stream performed under the state standard based on bacterial levels:
 - Met standard: The stream had low bacteria levels and met both parts of the standard.
 - Met part 1 of standard: The stream had periodic high bacteria levels and failed part 2 of the standard.
 - Failed standard: The stream had high bacteria levels and failed both parts of the standard.

- An overview of stream water quality status, as 65% of all streams met both parts of the bacteria standard.
- A review of our 2 streams which have a Public Health Advisory in place due to elevated fecal coliform bacteria (FC) levels during summer months.
 - Lofall Creek
 - Ostrich Bay Creek

Changes in the standards mean the Health District is unable to track data over time, but staff are collecting new data for comparison moving forward.

Commissioner Gelder asked what happened if the GMV fell between 100-200. Mr. Holdcroft explained that the sample would fail part one but would pass part two of the standard.

Mayor Erickson noted that Poulsbo Creek failed the standards and asked if microbial source tracking (MST) was done on that creek and what was found. Mr. Holdcroft explained that testing has found that human fecal matter to be present, although the source is not yet known. Mayor Erickson said the City of Poulsbo has invested millions of dollars in sewer infrastructure and asked to see MST results on the creek. Mr. Holdcroft said he would share the data with her.

Commissioner Wolfe asked about sewage sniffing dogs. Mr. Kiess explained that dogs have been used in the past but results were not sufficient to continue using.

Mr. Kiess addressed Mayor Erickson's concerns about sewer infrastructure. He explained that sometimes infrastructure can be fully intact however some pipes can be misconnected. Mayor Erickson said the city of Poulsbo has done extensive testing and infrastructure to ensure everything is operating properly.

Mr. Holdcroft explained that MST is a relatively new technology and there is still much to be learned. He said there is not yet a defined standard method for MST analysis, and reminded the Board to take these results with a grain of salt and said to keep asking questions about the test results.

There was no further comment.

REGULATORY OVERVIEW OF WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT IN KITSAP COUNTY

Mr. John Kiess introduced Eric Evans, the new Environmental Health Assistant Director.

At the Board's request, Mr. Kiess and Mr. Evans provided a presentation of the regulatory overview of wastewater management in Kitsap County. The overview included the following:

- Agencies involved with wastewater management;
- Applicable laws and rules pertaining to wastewater;

- The regulatory organizational structure of wastewater management; and
- Pros/Cons of various wastewater management options.

Mr. Kiess explained that wastewater management in the state and county is complicated. He said current regulations lag in science and emerging technologies and take several years to get caught up.

The agencies involved in Kitsap stormwater regulation are Kitsap Public Health District, Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Department of Health (DOH) and local community development departments.

Commissioner Gelder noted that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may be involved occasionally.

Mr. Kiess said there are eight different wastewater treatment plants in the county. He explained that all the jurisdictions deal with wastewater in some capacity, some have wastewater treatment plants and some do not. He said there are pros and cons to municipal sewer systems and wastewater treatment plants.

Mr. Evans said there are 24 Large Onsite Sewage Systems (LOSS) in the county. He shared two examples of LOSS in the county in Port Gamble and Belfair. LOSS are defined by capacity (over 3,500 gal/day) and are regulated by the Washington State Department of Health.

Mr. Evans said Kitsap Public Health works with onsite sewage systems. He said there are approximated 54,000 systems in Kitsap.

There are a few homes in the county that have greywater reuse systems. He explained that there is still a level of treatment required. In Washington, these can only be used in the growing season and need to have a secondary system for the rainy season. He said greywater systems still require a secondary system.

Mayor Putaansuu asked if homeowners with these systems are required to discharge to sewer in the winter months. Mr. Evans explained that if water use is low, it meets the Health District's code. However, if they had higher usage, they would be required to switch over in the winter.

Mr. Evans said composting/incinerating toilets can be used, but regular cleaning and maintenance are necessary by owners. He said they can be expensive (\$2-5,000 per toilet). It's not a cost saving method, but it is a green, environmentally friendly method.

Commissioner Gelder asked what is considered proper disposal. Mr. Evans said they are all different. He has seen incinerator versions that can be disposed in the garbage, but is not familiar enough with the others.

He explained that reclaimed water, signified by purple pipe, decreases demand on limited water sources. It requires treatment plant performance and a separate distribution network, and is regulated by the Washington State Departments of Ecology and Health.

Mayor Erickson mentioned she was at a meeting yesterday where they discussed injection of reclaimed water. She asked if anyone has approached the Health District regarding this method. Mr. Kiess said the Health District hasn't been approached, but there is a method of aquifer storage or recharge, where water goes through filtration to be pumped out as potable water supply. He said this hasn't come to higher level of discussion in Kitsap because we do not have issues of depleted aquifers in the county. He said it is more commonly discussed in eastern Washington.

Mayor Erickson noted there are regulatory burdens coming regarding fish consumption and discharge of heavy metals from larger facilities. She asked if anything different will need to be done to address these. Mr. Kiess said wastewater treatment plants have regulations that must be met and to his knowledge, there are not currently any in county that have any issues. He said all currently meet the standards.

Commissioner Gelder said as permits are renewed, he expects landscape to change over time as far as requirements. Mayor Erickson said that's why her city is looking at injection systems.

Mr. Kiess said, as the Kitsap population grows and as wastewater production grows, changes occur over time. He said we may want to consider how to use less water and reuse water over time.

Mayor Putaansuu said the Board should consider the question: as the population grows in Kitsap, and homes get closer together, how would we be able to change treatment options?

Mr. Kiess provided an example of the City of Bremerton's large investment to address historical combined sewer and stormwater systems that needed to be separated as development increased.

Commissioner Gelder one of big pushes from Association of Washington Cities (AWC), Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) is infrastructure. He said the federal government used to provide a lot more help with infrastructure, but this burden has since fallen on local agencies.

Mayor Erickson said we need to focus on finding new technologies.

Mr. Kiess said if the Board has any questions, they can contact him anytime.

There was no further comment.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

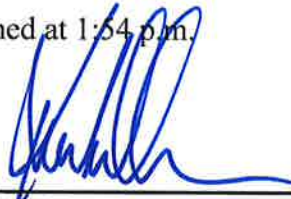
Mayor Wheeler made a comment about Kitsap Lake experiencing water quality issues and closures over the last several years. He said the city has been working with Kitsap Public Health to address these and has a 3-year plan to clean up the lake and try some new improvements. Mayor Wheeler expects the lake to be completely clean in 3 years.

ADJOURN

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 1:54 p.m.



Robert Putaansuu
Kitsap Public Health Board



Keith Grellner
Administrator

Board Members Present: *Mayor* Becky Erickson; *Commissioner* Charlotte Garrido; *Commissioner* Robert Gelder; *Mayor* Kol Medina; *Mayor* Robert Putaansuu; *Mayor* Greg Wheeler; *Commissioner* Ed Wolfe.

Board Members Absent: *None.*

Community Members Present: Lauren Funk, *Peoples Harm Reduction Alliance*; Roger Gay, *South Kitsap Taxpayer*; Monte Levine, *Peoples Harm Reduction Alliance*; Ritu P. Mehta, *Kitsap Resident*.

Staff Present: Amy Anderson, *Public Health Educator, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response*; Leslie Banigan, *Senior Environmental Health Specialist, Water Pollution Identification and Correction*; Angie Berger, *Administrative Assistant, Administration*; Karen Boysen-Knapp, *Community Liaison, Chronic Disease Prevention*; Yolanda Fong, *Director, Community Health Division*; Keith Grellner, *Administrator, Administration*; Jessica Guidry, *Program Manager, Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response*; Grant Holdcroft, *Program Manager, Pollution Identification and Correction*; Karen Holt, *Program Manager, Human Resources*; Renee Johnson, *Environmental Health Specialist, Pollution Identification & Correction*; John Kiess, *Director, Environmental Health Division*; Melina Knoop, *Senior Environmental Health Specialist 2-RS; Drinking Water and Onsite Sewage Systems*; Melissa Laird, *Manager, Accounting and Finance*; Megan Moore, , *Community Liaison, Chronic Disease Prevention*; Newton Morgan, *Senior Environmental Health Specialist, Water Pollution Identification and Correction*; Beth Phipps, *Public Health Nurse Supervisor, Communicable Disease*; Tad Sooter, *Communications Coordinator and Public Information Officer*; Tobbi Stewart, *Environmental Health Specialist, Solid & Hazardous Waste*; Dr. Susan Turner, *Health Officer, Administration*.