

**KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Special Meeting**  
**May 31, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Mayor Greg Wheeler at 10:30 a.m.

Chair Wheeler acknowledged that the Kitsap Peninsula is home of sovereign Indian nations, namely the Suquamish and Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribes.

**CONSIDERATION OF HEALTH BOARD MEETING FORMAT FOR THE DURATION OF THE DECLARED STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR COVID-19**

Mr. Keith Grellner, Administrator, said the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the board meeting format for the remaining duration of the declared state of emergency for COVID-19. Mr. Grellner provided an overview of the state of emergency guidelines, Open Public Meetings Act rules and Governor Proclamation 20-28.15, which prohibited in-person public meetings during the state of emergency. He noted a new proclamation 20-28.16 will go into effect tomorrow that rescinds the allowance of public meetings to occur fully remotely. He said, if the Kitsap Public Health Board wishes to continue meeting remote-only, they will need make a formal action statement to adopt a remote-only meeting schedule contingent upon the existence of the state of emergency still being in effect.

Mr. Grellner said there is still community spread of COVID-19 in Kitsap County. The current documented rate of infection in Kitsap is 200 cases per 100,000 over the last 7 days, though it is widely acknowledged that public health is likely only capturing 20% of cases or less due to at-home testing. Most people do not report results from these tests.

Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, and Mr. Grellner recommend the board continue to meet remote-only in virtual format through the June 7 regularly scheduled board meeting and as long as the state of emergency is still in effect, to protect the health and safety of board members, guests and Health District employees.

Commissioner Rob Gelder said he is fine extending the remote-only format through the regular June meeting, but feels it is the board's responsibility to be more accessible at future meetings.

Mayor Becky Erickson said she agrees with Commissioner Gelder and said it is time to send a message of positivity to the public and offer more ways of public engagement. She said offering in-person meetings and testimony is necessary.

Councilperson Kirsten Hytopoulos said she supports the public health's recommendation to continue meeting remotely. She added that the Bainbridge Island City Council is meeting in person.

Mayor Rob Putaansuu said he supports the board not being gathered but allowing a public space for public testimony.

Chair Wheeler said the Bremerton City Council decided to wait until July 20 to meet in person. He said he will follow the recommendation provided by the Health District.

Commissioner Gelder said the motion is too open ended and would like it to be more specific. He noted the public can mask and socially distance at their own discretion.

Councilperson Hytopoulos said she feels the board is more accessible to the public online, though she noted there are some equity issues that arise by only meeting virtually.

Commissioner Charlotte Garrido said this is the health board being advised by public health professionals and she supports professional health expertise.

Commissioner Ed Wolfe said he also supports the public health recommendation.

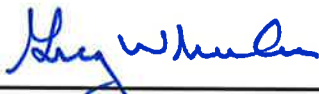
Mayor Erickson moved and Mayor Putaansuu seconded the motion to allow the Kitsap Public Health Board to meet in a hybrid (in-person and virtual) format beginning August 1, 2022, and meet remote-only until that point. Mayors Erickson, Putaansuu and Wheeler and Commissioners Garrido, Gelder and Wolfe voted yea. Councilperson Hytopoulos voted nay. There were no abstentions. The motion passed.

Commissioner Gelder noted the first hybrid meeting would be in September, since the board doesn't meet in August.

There were no further comments.

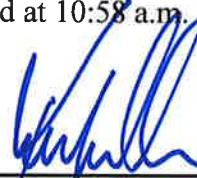
## ADJOURN

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.



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**Greg Wheeler**  
Kitsap Public Health Board



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**Keith Grellner**  
Administrator

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

**Board Members Absent:** *None.*

**Community Members Present:** *See attached.*

**Staff Present:** Angie Berger, *Administrative Assistant, Administration;* Keith Grellner, *Administrator, Administration;* Sarah Kinnear, *Community Liaison, Chronic Disease Prevention;* Gib Morrow, *Health Officer, Administration.*

**Kitsap Public Health Board Meeting (Virtual Attendance)**

<b>Webinar ID</b>	<b>Actual Start Time</b>	<b>Attendee Count</b>
861 8605 2497	5/31/2022 10:15	21

<b>NAME</b>	<b>JOINED BY PHONE</b>
Angie Berger (she / her)	none
Becky Erickson	
BKAT	
Charlotte Garrido	
Cheryl Klotz	
Ed Wolfe	
Gib Morrow	
Greg Wheeler	
June Swinney	
Keith Grellner	
Kenneth Klein	
Kirsten Hytopoulos	
marci burkel (she/her)	
Michele Moen - Kitsap Emergency Management	
Mychal Walz	
Rob Putaansuu	
Robert Gelder	
Sarah Kinnear	
Stephanie Browning	