

BOARD OF HEALTH

June 8, 2016

7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Mr. Massa with the following members and staff present.

MEMBERS

Tony Massa – Warden

Carol Nordine – Electric City

Mark Wanke – Ephrata

Cindy Carter – Commissioner

Tom Harris - Quincy

Dr. David Curnel – Moses Lake

Richard Stevens – Commissioner

Carolann Swartz - Commissioner

STAFF

Katherine Kenison - HD Attorney

Darcy Moss – Admin. Services Mgr.

Dr. Alex Brzezny – Health Officer

Todd Phillips - E.H. Mgr.

Theresa Adkinson – Administrator

Cassandra Herdrick – Health Educator

ABSENT

John Glassco – Soap Lake

GUESTS

Chuck Graaff – Royal Organic Products

Thad Schutt – Royal Organic Products

ADOPTION OF AGENDA – A motion was made to adopt the agenda as presented (M/S Wanke/Curnel - unanimous).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - The minutes of May 11, 2016 were approved as written (M/S Stevens/Harris - unanimous).

PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN'S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS - None

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT – Mr. Phillips

Coordinated Prevention Grant (CPG) - Bringing back funding and how the funding is allocated in the solid waste program will continue to be explored as discussed at the last board meeting. The Department of Ecology plans to ask legislators about funding for this program. Mr. Phillips will continue to keep the Board updated throughout the process.

Site Hazardous Assessment Grant (SHA) – This grant is used to score contaminated sites to determine order of importance to be cleaned up. The sites vary from gas stations, spills and other chemical leaks. The money can also be used to pay for time spent investigating homes associated with Elevated Blood Level cases. Last year the funding was lost, but this year we received an unexpected \$8,000.

Royal Organic – On February 3, 2016 the Health District received a complaint regarding large amounts of litter blowing off the Royal Organic Products site. On February 9, 2016 Mr. Phillips and two representatives from the Department of Ecology went to the site and observed large amounts of litter on a farm field near the site. On March 8, a letter was sent to Royal Organic with a two week deadline for clean up of the litter and to address an excess leachate issue that was also found during the site visit. Royal Organic began picking up litter, but were not able to meet the two week deadline. On April 18 another site visit was made and discussion was held with Mr. Graaff about a reasonable timeframe to clean up or face permit suspension. Mr. Graaff agreed that May 31, 2016 was a deadline that could be met. On May 13 a notice was sent to ROP informing them that if the May 31, 2016 deadline was not met, the permit would be suspended. Two more site visits were made on May 23 & 31. Clean up was not completed by May 31, 2016 so ROP's permit was suspended. Royal Organic has been in violation for eight days because they received feedstock after the Health Officer suspended their permit. Per Ordinance 2003-3, the facility could incur fines of \$1,000 per day.

Multiple letters, pictures, a site map and timeline were distributed to the Board. The site for this composting facility is around 100 acres and contains a large asphalt pad with passively aerated static piles and the rest of the area is covered with windrows of product curing.

Discussion was held on what can be done moving forward to clean up the site.

Mr. Graaff stated that the waste with the garbage in it was received 2 years ago and has been curing in windrows. He also stated that they have not been able to meet the deadlines because they need mint to blend in with the product that is already there to create product. If the permit is suspended they will not be able to produce product and the problem will not go away.

Mr. Schutt stated that they are not longer accepting the food waste from Portland that was brought to the site two years ago that had the garbage in it. Last year they put a screen along the fence to help catch the blowing garbage. He stated that they have gone back to the suppliers to reiterate what is acceptable waste. They have been picking the paper material out of the waste and sending waste back to suppliers. He also stated that although it may seem look like a lot of garbage, out of the large amount of waste that is brought in, it is not very much. Chicken wire was placed on the fence and fabric with small mesh was put over the product to try and contain the garbage from blowing onto neighboring property. Mr. Schutt explained that if their permit was suspended it will not help, but likely hinder the process.

Mr. Graaff also stated the machine they were using broke down and then there were high gusts of wind and that is when the garbage blew. They are looking into getting a machine similar to a huge vacuum to catch the garbage that has been blowing away. He said nearly 50 percent of the 100 acres is cleaned up and they could have the rest of it cleaned up by the end of the year, but they can't do anything on windy days.

Discussion was held.

Royal Organic has continuously been out of compliance despite letters from the Health District. They would need to have a clearly defined plan for cleaning up the site going forward for future operations with specified timeframes.

Discussion was held regarding the appeal process and a possible variance. Mr. Phillips stated that he has spent a large amount of time on this issue.

A motion was made to suspend Royal Organics operating permit indefinitely based upon the Health Officer's findings of non-compliance and recommendation that the permit be suspended (M/S Wanke/Curnel – unanimous).

Other Updates - Two public water systems were having issues last month. One is continuing to have a low water pressure issue and the other has a boil water order in effect and is not back to full operation yet.

COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT – Mrs Adkinson

Changes to HIV Case Management in Grant County - The Department of Health is requesting proposals to take a regional approach for the HIV case management working with our high risk clients. Confluence Health has shared interest along with another organization. Grant County Health District will no longer be the lead agency for the case management of these clients. Our Health Assessment Coordinator, who currently does the case management, gave her notice and will no longer be with GCHD after the 1st of July. A request has been put out for a social worker who might be interested in doing contract work for the case management. This would allow someone locally to continue to assist the clients. This would be the best way to serve these clients for the next six months until the regional approach takes effect. There are currently 30 clients being case managed in Grant County.

Tobacco and Vape Compliance Checks - The Grant has been initiated for this program. Part of this work will be youth tobacco and vapor compliance checks at Grant County businesses. The rates of selling tobacco products to minors in our area have increased. Completing the compliance checks will give us a baseline for the sales rates to youth in our county.

Immunization Contract Site Visit - The Department of Health made a site visit to our office. The representative looked at the vaccine storage process, temperature logs and vaccine inventory for compliance. The Health District receives \$20,000 for this program and we have already spent approximately \$70,000 this year. Going forward we would like the focus to be increasing the county's immunization rates and clinic site visits.

Other Updates - The City of Soap Lake is being recognized for their downtown improvements and received the Walkable Washington Innovation award. The City of Soap Lake had previously received a \$143,000 grant for park improvements. The Health District has been working with the city and will continue to work with the city on improvements.

ASSESSMENT REPORT - None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – Mrs. Adkinson

Staffing Update - Mrs. Adkinson introduced Cassandra Herdrick. Cassandra has a master's in Public Health and was recently hired as a Health Educator I. She will be working the tobacco and childhood obesity programs.

Angie Castro was also been hired as a six month temporary Health Educator I and will also be working the tobacco, SNAP Ed and marijuana prevention programs.

Stephanie Dowland, Assessment Coordinator, has given her notice of resignation. We will be posting for her position soon for an assessment coordinator II or III, depending on the experience and credentials of the person hired for the position.

The Nurse and Nurse Manager positions have not yet been filled. Ads have been placed online and in several newspapers in the area.

GCHD Strategic Plan - The Health District will be hiring a facilitator from the Spokane Regional Health District to develop a strategic plan based on the NACCHO model. This is one of the pieces of the accreditation that needs to be completed and is set to begin this fall. There will be a series of meetings to set goals and a vision for our agency. Mrs. Adkinson would like to have a Board member participate in the process. The goal is to have a plan ready and brought to the Board for approval in December.

Other Updates – Mrs. Adkinson and Mrs. Phillips attended the WSALPHO spring meeting with other public health peers.

HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT – Dr. Brzezny

Seasonal Influenza Epidemic Over - In the past two or three weeks there have been very few cases. A media release was sent out two weeks ago to providers announcing the influenza season has ended. Press release was provided to Board members.

Suspect TB Cases -There were four reports last month and three additional this month. We are investigating two reports. One has TB, but it is not in the lungs therefore not a public health risk.

Mosquito Control in Grant County – Mosquitoes are becoming a big issue in Grant County. Dr. Brzezny stated that the Board has a responsibility to address these emerging threats. We should work with communities that are not covered under the mosquito district. In the future it is likely that we will see more diseases transmitted by mosquitoes.

Other Updates - There is a new whooping cough case and suspect mumps cases. There were two cases of e-coli related to Gold Medal flour, one in Grant County and one in Spokane County.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs. Carter asked about clarification on the time frame when applying for a temporary food permit. Mr. Phillips stated that per the current food ordinance, applications must be paid for ten working days or postmarked twelve working days before the event or the applicant will be subject to a late fee. A letter was sent to over 70 temporary food vendors previous to June 1 when this part of the ordinance went into effect.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m. to executive session according to RCW 42.30.110 to last 10 minutes regarding potential litigation. The public meeting was reopened at 8:53p.m.

ADJOURNMENT - With no other business , a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:53p.m. (M/S Wanke/Carter – unanimous).

Tony Massa, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

Darcy Moss, Administrative Services Manager
Clerk of the Board