

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

July 12, 2017

7:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mr. Massa with the following members and staff present:

**MEMBERS**

Tony Massa – Warden

Dr. David Curnel – Moses Lake

Tom Taylor – Commissioner

John Glassco – Soap Lake

Richard Stevens – Commissioner

**STAFF**

Katherine Kenison – HD Attorney

Dr. Alex Brzezny – Health Officer

Darcy Moss – Admin. Services Manager

Theresa Adkinson – Administrator

Todd Phillips – E.H. Manager

Kathleen Nelson – Community Public Health Manager

**ABSENT**

Tom Harris – Quincy

Cindy Carter – Commissioner

Carol Nordine – Electric City

Mark Wanke – Ephrata

**GUESTS**

Thad Schutt – Royal Organic Products LLC

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

A motion was made to approve the agenda as amended (M/S Taylor/Stevens – unanimous).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - The minutes of the June 14, 2017 meeting were approved as written (M/S Curnel/Stevens - unanimous).

**APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS**

The vouchers for the period ending July 11, 2017 totaling \$213,114.85 (#1 - #3 totaling \$126,869.87 and #4 - #15 totaling \$5,834.99 and #16 - #32 totaling \$22,948.30 and #33 - #61 totaling \$57,461.69) were approved (M/S Taylor/Stevens – unanimous).

**PUBLIC FORUM FOR CITIZEN’S COMMENTS AND APPLICATIONS** - None

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT** – Todd Phillips

**Ovenell Soil**- Maps of soil test pit sites were distributed. The tests were completed per their permit. Originally tests were to be completed every three years, but last year after tests showed nitrogen may be rising, it was decided by the Board to have them completed once a year. The recent test results show a potential increase in nitrogen at three test sites. The same (general) test pit sites are used each year. Mr. Phillips requested that the Board decide if Ovenell compost facility should continue to provide soil samples annually or return to tests every three years. He added that Environmental Health staff recommends continuing of annual samples.

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A motion was made to have Ovenell Farms continue annual sampling at the compost facility as part of their permit requirement (M/S Curnel/Taylor – unanimous).

**Royal Organic** - Mr. Phillips and another EH staff member made a site visit on May 30 in response to a complaint. Litter was observed on the site, in the fence and on the edge of a neighboring wheat field. Last Thursday another visit was made and litter was still present and there was little difference since the May 30 visit. Traffic from trucks and wind continues to stir up the litter on the site. Thad Schutt (Royal Organic) was contacted and was told that they would need to clean up the litter that was observed at the site. Mr. Phillips referred to a letter dated December 7, 2016 that referenced the cleanup. He asked the Board if they were in support of proceeding with permit suspension if EH staff finds that progress is not made by next Monday.

Mr. Schutt addressed the Board. He stated that after being notified by Mr. Phillips this week, they immediately started working on the cleanup. The litter along the fence had been picked up weekly, but when mint harvest started, it set them back. Windy conditions also prevented the screening of garbage. He stated they will not be able to pick up litter in the wheat field until after harvest, but thinks that it will be minimal. He also stated that they have proven that they are addressing the issue and making improvements and will continue to work on the cleanup. He has spoken with the complainant and stated that they have been pleased with the cleanup efforts.

Commissioner Stevens asked Thad if EH staff would see progress by next Monday. Thad let Commissioner Stevens know that progress would be made.

A motion was made in support of Grant County environmental health staff suspending Royal Organic's permit if no improvement is made by next Monday, July 17, 2017 (M/S Taylor/Stevens).

**Other Updates** - Wilson Creek's mosquito trapping numbers have increased. The trap near one of the water ways had 409 and the trap in town had 86. They were 100% vector mosquitoes, but none of them tested positive for West Nile Virus.

Dr. Brzezny added that numbers over 1,000 are considered high numbers and because of the wet winter, you can expect more mosquitoes. With the traps showing 100% vector mosquitoes, it shows it is a dominating population.

The State Department of Health contacted GCHD to get information about the rationing of water in the City of Moses Lake.

Mr. Ness stated that he contacted the City and was told that some of the wells were being repaired, which put a strain on the pumps of the wells that were still in operation making it difficult to keep up

Mr. Phillips explained that GCHD's role, with large water systems that are Group A water systems, is to perform a well site inspection before new wells are drilled and the State DOH is the contact for Group A water systems.

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### **COMMUNITY HEALTH REPORT** – Mrs. Nelson

**Program Update** - Recruiting efforts are being made to fill the vacant nurse position. This position replaces Carol, who was a veteran nurse who had been with the HD for over 18 years.

**Other Updates** - The Diamond Project that had been mentioned in previous meetings is being implemented and will regionalize the immunization program over the next year. Our immunization program will likely go to another Local Health Jurisdiction. A meeting was recently held to collaborate with local health care staff for planning efforts focused on increasing immunization rates. Reports and marketing were discussed to address this.

### **ADMINISTRATORS REPORT** – Theresa Adkinson

**Organization Update and Staff Changes** - Mr. Phillips has resigned as Environmental Health Manager and will be taking a position at the state Department of Health. The position will be in a leadership role in EH at the state level. He will be with the Health District until the end of the month. Mrs. Adkinson state that he will be missed. Mr. Ness has been promoted as the new EH Manager. He has been with the Health District for over 18 years. He had been a mentor to other staff and is very knowledgeable in the EH programs, which will be an asset in this position.

Laura Camacho has been promoted to a Program Specialist. With this move, a new Public Health Associate will be hired. Laura will be working primarily in the food program alongside EH staff.

Darcy Moss will be moving from Administrative Services Manager to her previous position as a Program Specialist. We have received applications from qualified individuals for her position and interviews will be conducted soon.

Mrs. Adkinson acknowledged Mrs. Nelson for stepping up and learning various community health programs with the vacant nurse position.

Mr. Phillips stated that he appreciated the Boards support and their continued support of the Health District and its employees.

**Federal Audit** - The audit is close to the end. Cory, GCHD accountant, has spent many hours providing information to state auditors recently.

**Foundational Public Health Funding** - The final amount budgeted by the state for funding was 12 million biennially. Two million will go to the Department of Health. The other 10 million will be distributed to LHJ's throughout the state. The allocations should be made clear by the end of July. Shared services between LHJ's continue to be considered. GCHD anticipates getting some funding, but not enough for a FTE. The Health District will need to demonstrate where those funds will be used.

**Other Updates** – None

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### **ASSESSMENT REPORT** – None

### **HEALTH OFFICER REPORT** – Dr. Brzezny

**Mumps Outbreak** - A summary of the recent mumps outbreak was distributed. Cumulative number of case counts with dates of cases were shown on a graph. In total, there were 45 cases, with the last being identified on May 9. The outbreak started on January 25 and ran through July 3, which was nearly six months. Dr. Brzezny stated that this does not mean that we should not still be vigilant. Fortunately, there were no mumps cases in local schools. Dr. Brzezny thanked the Columbia Basin Job Corp for their prevention efforts and for taking leadership during this outbreak.

Mrs. Adkinson stated that the outbreak costs were over \$10,000. Unfortunately, while staff spent time assisting with the outbreak, they were not able to spend time in grant funded programs, therefore, the grants were not able to be billed as much.

**Pertussis Outbreak** - On June 14 Grant County saw its first case of Pertussis. As of now, there are 31 cases. This puts Grant County as one of the top in case numbers in the state for Pertussis and shows a fast growth with these cases. Of those cases, 13 were in Ephrata and 17 in Moses Lake, with 1 in Warden. All of those cases were school aged children. Clinics are recommending isolation until antibiotics are prescribed. GCHD has been involved with 114 prescriptions thus far. Identifying contacts and high risk individuals for treatment will continue.

**Vector and Zoonotic Diseases Update** - There has been 5 cases of Hantavirus in Washington State so far this year. There are usually 1-2 cases per year. The wet winter has enabled rodents that carry diseases the ability to survive. Diseases like Zika and Dengue also increase with climate change. More counties are also reporting vector mosquitoes. Surveillance and control of these disease will continue.

**School-based Public Health** - Dr. Brzezny discussed supporting schools and enforcing the state law in regards to immunizations. When parents sign the immunization waiver form, there is a potential that the students will not be able to attend school if there is an outbreak and they are not immunized. GCHD plans to have a meeting sometime this fall with Grant County school nurses in preparation for the school year and will continue to work closely with school nurses on public health issues.

**Other Updates** - There were 183 exposures from the recent multi drug resistant TB case. There has only been one individual who had a TB test that converted to positive that could acquire TB. The recommended treatment is antibiotics. The State's desired goal of greater than 90% testing when an exposure occurs, was accomplished. Some elderly people who were exposed, had difficulties getting their test completed because of lack of transportation and mobility.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:** None

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**ADJOURNMENT**

With no other business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:02pm. (M/S Curnel/Stevens - unanimous).

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Tony Massa, Chairman Board of Health

ATTEST:

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Darcy Moss  
Clerk of the Board