



Grays Harbor County
Board of Health
PEARSALL BUILDING
2109 SUMNER AVENUE, ABERDEEN, WA 98520

April 28, 2022
Board of Health Meeting

Board of Health Chair Jill Warne deferred to have Board Member Vickie Raines be the Chair of the Board for this meeting.

Board of Health Chair Raines called the meeting to order at 8:30a.m. Board Members Jill Warne and Kevin Pine were also present. The meeting was held electronically through Zoom to allow for social distancing.

Also in Attendance: Jeff Nelson, Environmental Health Director; Mike McNickle, Public Health Director; Dr. John Bausher, Health Officer; Jon Beltran, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney; and Alex Vido, Secretary. Members of the Grays Harbor Public Health Department were also present.

Motion: Board Member Warne moved to approve the January 27, 2022 Board of Health quarterly meeting minutes.

Second: Board of Health Member Pine seconded the motion.

Approval: The minutes of January 27, 2022 Board of Health quarterly meeting were approved unanimously.

Public Health Update – Mike McNickle, Director

- The Behavioral Health Gap Analysis Request for Proposals (RFP) is generating a lot of reviews and we are hoping to find a good contractor/provider.
- Community Health Assessment (CHA) / Community Health Impact Plan (CHIP) process is going smoothly. REDEGroup is gathering their information into a draft document. This process should be completed by the end of June 2022, as stated in the RFP. Once this is complete, a presentation will be given to the Board. The data will be provided to the Board once complete.
- The presumed botulism case had a victim, which was unfortunate. A press release was sent out. There was great collaboration between Public Health, Environmental Health and WCU Extension office to put together information about proper canning procedures.

HB 1152 - Mike McNickle, Public Health Director

- HB 1152
Presentation to BOH
- Mike shared a power point to the Board regarding what the Local Board of Health Composition will need to look like by July 1, 2022.

- The State Board of Health are who drives these rules.
- This bill expands Board membership to include an equal number of elected and non-elected persons and must include a representative of federally-recognized Tribal representative.

Board Member Raines asked about Board membership in regards to the elected and non-elected ratio. She asked if there could be more than three non-elected board members.

Mike McNickle, Director replied, "There is no limit to how many you can have, just limited to the number you must have."

Board Member Raines replied, "The demographics?"

McNickle replied, "Correct"

- Applications will not be solicited until the State Board of Health approves HB1152.
- We will need to expand the Board to include all three Commissioners or one. This will be up to the Board to determine.
 - If all three Commissioners are members, we will need to expand to at least six members so elected members do not consist of the majority.
- A resolution or ordinance changing the composition of the board of health will need to be developed and approved.
- Once rules have been approved by the State, recruitment for new Board members will consist of a posted vacancy notice, applicant requirements, applicant interviews, Board members approve and appoint a new member by majority vote of the Board of County Commissioners.

Board Member Warne asked about one of the requirements for a new member, "They have to have experienced inequity and it can't just be an interested community member? They had to experience something considered not fair? So, we are already in an adversarial position."

McNickle responded, "That is what the rules say and they are going to have to self-identify with health inequity. If asked, they would say what it was"

Board Member Pine mentioned, "I would assume there would be some sort of process or protocol or guidelines to prove that." He continued stating, "In regards to the number of Commissioners, I would be supportive of all three."

Board Members Raines and Warne also agreed with Board Member Pines statement about all three Commissioners staying on the Board of Health.

Board Member Raines mentioned there might need to be seven or nine Board members.

Board Member Warne agreed and when stated seven members by Raines that would be the, "tie-breaker."

McNickle mentioned nothing needs to be decided now but if all three Board members wish to stay on then we can start the process of how big, since we know what the minimum number will be. "Seven members is not unusual and I've seen ones as large as 12, which can be a little big."

Board Member Warne brought up who appoints the Tribal Representative and that it was her understanding that the Tribe will appoint who they want.

McNickle said that was correct and it also depends on if the Tribes want to send a representative together or separate.

Board Member Warne asked for the slides to be sent after the meeting for reference.

McNickle will have Alex, Clerk to the Board of Health send the slides after the meeting.

Health Officer Report - Dr. John Bausher, Health Officer

- Health Department continues to move along as we try to get past COVID.
- We have recovered from our substantial exposure to Tuberculosis and working with the prisons.
- Botulism is rare but he has experienced several in his career and it's a horrific event. He talked about what happens in the organism and its toxicity.

Board Member Warne asked if there was any way to test to botulism ahead of time

Dr. Bausher responded, "You can't really tell it's there but when you make a faulty preparation, usually other organisms are in there and they are doing their thing." He talked about canning properly and what could happen if it's not done right. "If anything smells bad or any distortion in the canning jar, throw it out. Don't take the risk." He went on to talk about organisms in an anerobic an anaerobic environment. "This case involved carrots, it smelled bad and was tasted. If something smells bad, throw it out."

Board Members Raines and Warne were surprised to hear it was carrots and mentioned they first think of canning meats, fish and shellfish when it comes to botulism cases.

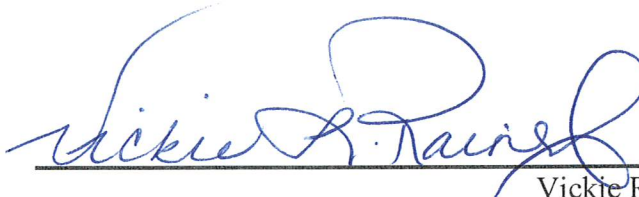
Environmental Health Update – Jeff Nelson, Director

- He added other steps when it comes to canning: recommendations to boil the items before consumption.
- This botulism suspected case is the first in 20 years in Grays Harbor County.
- Environmental Staff went out to the property to properly dispose and label the suspected cans along with Solid Waste. The family were very cooperative.

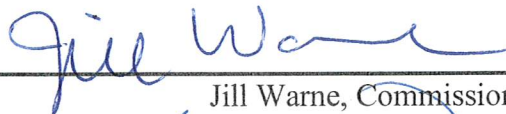
- Still having discussions internally about getting the information out to the public on how to properly can. They are working with Dan Hammock, Public Information Officer.
- Keeping of Animals Rules is one of the basic health and sanitization rules the State is trying to update. The proposed updated rule title is Domestic Animal Waste.
 - This addresses the proper handle and disposal of animal waste.
 - The WAC doesn't directly have an enforcement language but it can be adapted if local enforcement wishes to use this law.
 - The State asked if Grays Harbor would use this rule and Jeff wanted to bring it to the Board. There are other rules without specifically adopting the Domestic Animal Waste rules as Solid Waste will often properly address these rules.
- SmartGov online portal is a challenge but we are trying to get it up and running as soon as we can.
- We've onboarded and are training new staff. We have a great crew and will start ramping up our food inspections.
- DOH issues their annual shellfish growing area review and Grays Harbor County did not have any downgrades. Growing areas will continue as they are.

Hearing no additional public comment, the meeting adjourned at 9:10am.

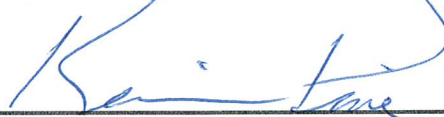
Approved on this 28 day of July, 2022



Vickie Raines, Chair



Jill Warne, Commissioner First District



Kevin Pine, Commissioner Second District

ATTEST:



Alex Vido, Board Secretary