

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, May 24, 2012 was called to order by Councilmember Amber Waldref, Chair, at 12:30 p.m. in room 140 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

PRESENT

Commissioner Todd Mielke, Vice Chair (arrived at 12:36 p.m.)
Commissioner Mark Richard (departed 2:02 p.m.)
Councilmember Ben Stuckart (departed 1:54 p.m.)
Councilmember Jon Snyder (departed 2:27 p.m.)
Councilmember Amber Waldref, Chair
Councilmember Chuck Hafner
Board Member Michael Fisk, DC
Board Member Bob Lutz, MD, MPH
Board Member Susan Norwood, EdD, RN
Mayor ProTem, City of Cheney, Mike McKeehan (for Mayor Tom Trulove)

ABSENT

Commissioner Al French
Mayor Tom Towey
Mayor Tom Trulove

CITIZEN INPUT

- Bart Mihailovich, Spokane River Keeper Organization, Spokane County, spoke against coal transportation through Spokane County.
- Caroline Pickett, Spokane County, spoke about pertussis and diphtheria vaccines and ergot poisoning.

CHAIR REPORT – Councilmember Waldref (12:40)

Mayor ProTem Mike McKeehan, who is attending the meeting for Mayor Tom Trulove, who represents the City of Cheney, was welcomed to the meeting.

Chair, Councilmember Waldref, reviewed the coal transportation discussion from the May 24, 2012 Board of Health meeting and noted the request from Councilmember Stuckart for a letter that expresses the Board's interest in an EIS study in Spokane County.

Commissioner Mielke requested the Board invite the Spokane Regional Transportation Council (SRTC) to present to the Board on the coal transportation proposal because of their years of work and resources spent studying the ability to make the City of Spokane a freight hub.

Councilmember Waldref will not be attending the June meeting. Commissioner Mielke will lead the meeting, which will include the conclusion of the Health Equity reports.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT – Joel McCullough, MD, MPH, MS (12:48)

Pertussis (Whooping Cough) Update

Washington State is currently experiencing epidemic levels of pertussis. There are approximately 1,700 cases this year compared to 150 cases the same time last year. Spokane County has 47 cases with 27 confirmed, 1 probable and 19 suspect compared to 4 confirmed cases the same time last year. There have been 6 hospitalizations which include 3 infants, 2 children and 1 adult. There have been no deaths associated with pertussis.

On May 3rd, the Governor made emergency funds available to curb the epidemic with \$300,000 for public awareness efforts. The CDC approved federal funds, originally designated for other immunizations, allowing DOH to purchase an additional 27,000 doses of pertussis vaccines for adults who are uninsured or under insured.

SRHD has produced pertussis education communications to schools, childcare centers, and health care providers. Spokane County will receive approximately 1800 doses of vaccines with the first allocation already received. On May 12th, a pertussis clinic was held at the health district for uninsured and underinsured adults with 200 being served. Work will continue with local pharmacies, Group Health and future pertussis clinics. Epidemiology and cases work will also continue.

Drug Take Back Event

A drug take-back event was held in Spokane Valley on April 28th. Over 400lbs of unwanted or unused medications were turned in. Nationally, 276 tons were turned in. A permanent drug take-back solution is still being developed.

Coal Transportation Update

Gateway Terminal in Whatcom County is the farthest in development at this time. There are 3 co-leads associated with the project: Army Corps of Engineers, Whatcom County, and the Department of Ecology (DOE). DOE is responsible for regional and statewide issues related to the coal train transportation. Public testimony and scoping is scheduled to start this summer. A hired contractor will be responsible for managing public input. A MOU between co-lead agencies show agreement on completing an EIS. At the Executive Committee of the Board, there was a request for the Board to send a letter requesting an EIS for Spokane County.

The Board reviewed the draft letter with Councilmember Snyder asking that active transportation impacts be added to the letter and Councilmember Hafner requesting the addition of noise impacts.

Commissioner Richard recommended approval of the letter in a two-touch format with more information given to the Board before acceptance. Councilmember Waldref requested the PowerPoint presentation from the last meeting be sent to Board members.

Commissioner Mielke requested input from SRTC if the project schedule allowed for input in June.

Councilmember Snyder made a motion to send the letter with the addition of the active transportation impacts included. Councilmember Stuckart seconded.

Mayor Pro Tem Mike McKeehan asked about voting abilities for alternate Board members. SRHD Attorney, Mishelle Wolkey, stated no designation for alternates has been made for the BOH; therefore, alternates are not able to vote.

Motion: To send the modified letter from the Board requesting an EIS in Spokane County related to the coal train transportation.

Motion/Second: Snyder/Stuckart

Approved: 8 approved, 1 nay (Mielke)

CONSENT AGENDA

Consists of items considered routine which are approved as a group. Any member of the Board may request to remove an item from the Consent Agenda to be considered separately.

Meeting Minutes: April 26, 2012
2012 Vouchers paid: April 1-30, 2012

Voucher Numbers: #220597 - #B&OMAR12		\$ 649,390.10
Payroll Warrants: #754603 - #754632	Advice Numbers: #DD15997 - #DD16194	638,055.49
Payroll Warrants: #756596 - #756624	Advice Numbers: #DD16195 - #DD16396	620,962.76
	TOTAL	\$1,908,408.35

Motion: To approve the consent agenda including meeting minutes and vouchers as presented.

Motion/Second: Stuckart/Hafner

Approved: Unanimously

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution #12-07 Amendment to the 2012 Fee Schedule with Respect to Solid Waste Handling Facility Permit Fees – David Swink

David Swink, Environmental Public Health Director, recapped the actions requested by the Board at a previous meeting. Staff met with local facilities' representatives to discuss permit fee options and changed the fees to reflect volume of waste. Graham Road Recycling and Disposal, Regional Solid Waste System, Sunshine Recycling and Central Premix attended those meetings. The recommendation is to leave current permit fees in place and institute a new tipping fee on behalf of the Health District that would cover the indiscriminate dumping and other activities not directly related to facilities. Fee would cover the enforcement, maintenance and disposal of solid waste in Spokane County. Tipping fees would be based quarterly on volume at 32 cents per ton or equivalent. The tipping fee would only be charged once on a unit of solid waste as it goes through the system.

Board Member Fisk moved to approve the resolution with fees implemented July 1, 2012. Commissioner Richard seconded the motion. David Swink stated the UTC requires 75 days' notice to place the changes into effect. The motion was amended to state implementation as soon as possible. Commissioner Richard seconded the motion.

Discussion included effects of changing of tipping rates on facility budgets. Russ Menke, Director of Regional Solid Waste System, reported the mid-year implementation would not be a hardship because of ability to adjust tipping fees to reflect changes but, this year the fees would not be adjusted and would be paid for from the general budget. Steve Wolf, Sunshine Disposal and Recycling, recommended implementing the fees January 1, 2013.

Commissioner Richard withdrew his second to the motion due to facilities being required to absorb the cost of the fees this year and the cost of fee increase notifications. He stated his preference for future fee increases to be made prior to yearly budgets.

There was no second on the motion by Board Member Fisk.

Councilmember Stuckart made a motion to approve the resolution with an implementation date of January 1, 2013. Commissioner Richard seconded the motion.

Motion: To approve Resolution #12-07 Amendment to the 2012 Fee Schedule with Respect to Solid Waste Handling Facility Permit Fees with an implementation date of January 1, 2013.

Motion/Second: Stuckart/Richard

Approved: Unanimously

REPORTS

Health Equity Report – Adrian Dominguez (1:55)

Adrian Dominguez, Epidemiologist with the Disease Prevention and Response Division, gave the final presentation to the Board on Health Equity comparing the health of neighborhoods in Spokane County. Kim Papich, Public Information Officer, presented a video of interviews with residents of Spokane County; the neighborhoods lived in, and related health. Based upon the indicators in Spokane County, there are large gaps in the health of neighborhoods. Life expectancy in most neighborhoods is increasing, but the gap between the most affluent neighborhoods and the poorest has increased over the last decades to 18 years. To address health inequity, the social factors presented in the health equity report must be considered. It will take the next 10 to 20 years to address the issues. Discussion about next steps will be discussed at the June meeting.

Councilmember Snyder requested the PowerPoint report be sent to all BOH members. Councilmember Waldref requested the PowerPoint include the entire neighborhood table, which includes all Spokane County neighborhoods.

Board of Health Legal Authority – Michelle Wolkey (2:22)

The report was deferred until month's meeting.

BOARD MEMBER CHECK IN

Health Equity Report Comments – Board Member Fisk

Board Member Fisk commented on his recent trip New Zealand observing that he never witnessed any obese or malnourished natives while visiting one of the islands for 10 days. He noted that when immigrants come to the U.S. their diet and health change drastically. Adrian Dominguez stated his interest in a study to note the changes of immigrants' health after immigrating to the United States.

Spokane County Restaurant Owners' Feedback of SRHD – Commissioner Mielke

Commissioner Mielke met with several restaurant owners in the community about interaction with the health district. Owners commented that health district employees' personalities and attitudes were very positive. Other observations included agency staff not wearing hair nets or inspecting while not in compliance with restaurant health card requirements and the timing of inspections. Commissioner Mielke requested agency staff to be aware of feedback and take steps to work with local restaurants.

Board of Health Website/NALBOH Update – Board Member Lutz

The BOH agenda and materials will be hosted on the BOH website starting in June. Agenda packets will no longer be sent by email to members. In June, an email will be sent with instructions on how to access the website and reset passwords.

The NALBOH Executive Director, Marie Fallon, passed away from pancreatic cancer in April after diagnosis in February. She contributed greatly to the development of SALBOH, which is still moving forward with a meeting planned in June.

BOH Membership in Spokane Regional Transportation Commission (SRTC) – Commissioner Richard

Commissioner Richard spoke with the SRTC about SRHD's interest in being involved on the commission and other committees in terms of developing policy that eventually comes before the Board. Follow up from the SRTC is expected soon.

NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING


The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on June 28, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

APPROVED: 
Board Member Name and Title

Date: June 28, 2012


Recording Secretary

