

**BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTE SUMMARY**

May 14, 2014  
3:00 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jeff Burrows  
Paul Carlson  
Rena Harding  
Dr. Michael Turner

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Chris Taggart, Minutes  
John Palacio RCEH  
Dan Hooten RCEH  
Carol Calderwood  
Judy Griffin, PHN

**Staff absent:** Dr. Wayne Chilcote

**Guests Present:** JT Montgomery and Joni Montgomery.

April 09, 2014 draft minutes:

**Michael made a motion to approve the April 09, 2014 minutes as read. Paul seconded the motion. All voted "aye". (4-0)**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

Health Officer:

Carol Calderwood stated that there is nothing to report. Things are going well with the patients affected by the closure of the Big Creek Medical Office.

Public Health Nurse:

Judy Griffin handed out her statistics. LuAnn has been working on a water safety clinic with Search and Rescue at Riverview Park and Jean has been working on a healthy lifestyles clinic. The office is doing a lot of webinars and mandatory trainings will be held this next summer/fall.

Michael asked why immunizations are up. Judy said people are prepping for next year. Their office is working hard with WIC to review immunization records to keep them current. They offer immunization shots 5 days a week. Judy said polio world-wide is coming to light again and it will be an issue getting those countries immunized. Michael said there are certain religions and people who feel immunizations are not good. Summer is polio season and suggested that she get a blurb in the local paper, including the history on polio and state that the vaccine is only good if people use it and get immunized. Judy agreed.

RCEH:

John Palacio gave his statistics hand out and reviewed. Site evaluations and site visits are up and septic installs are down but will pick up.

There are 44 ground water monitoring sites are up and running but a lot of those have already failed. Subdivision numbers should go up again in the near future. RCEH now has a part time employee training staff for subdivision review.

Farmers Markets have started and significant rule changes are now in effect. Honey producers now have to get a permit. Honey used to be exempt from licensing from food processing. Egg producers are still exempt from licensing as long as boxes and processing is kept very clean and cold. Baked goods, jams and jellies are also exempt from licensing. He is trying to keep in constant contact with the Market leaders.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### 875 Bowman Road:

Dan explained his site visit on May 1<sup>st</sup> and the tank level was approximately a half inch below the tank top. Today it was down 16' below the top of the tank. Neighbors have seen owner dump buckets of something somewhere but Dan cannot prove that yet. Normally, seepage should just run into the tank and dissipate, but it does not. It still semi works but not properly. Jeff said he spoke with County Attorney Dan Browder who said the paperwork has been done and sent to Beaverhead County. Beaverhead County said they sent it to John Palacio last Thursday but John had not received it yet. Jeff expressed his frustration with the County Attorney's office and the amount of time it has taken to process this.

Joni Montgomery, neighbor, spoke about the process being slow due to having so many agencies involved and handed out a copy of the compliance order, which has been in effect for over a year. When she reviewed the initial complaint and the compliance order, it lists all regulations the occupants are in violation of. The Board of Health has the authority to pump the tank on a regular scheduled basis and the Board of Health has the authority to do that and it should be done. NO fines or fees have been implemented nor charged. Ground water should be tested for contamination as well. If there is a lien placed on the property to reimburse pumping costs, let's do it. Jeff said all matters and suggestions must go through the County Attorney's office. Joni said if a fine of \$10 a day was charged, and this has been going on for 310 days, perhaps a new septic could be installed with that amount of fine money. It is a definite health risk. She then asked if the County order a port a potty at a minimum. Jeff said a court order is required and that process has been started and is being followed, it is unfortunately very slow. Joni said it is not right for the owner to dump raw sewage on the ground. Michael said he is frustrated as well but a fire cannot be lit under the County Attorney's office to move any faster. He suggested that Joni speak with the County Attorney directly and also suggested that she place this item on a Commissioners agenda. Renae asked why this hasn't been turned over to MDEQ. Dan explained that RCEH has independent regulations that must be followed. Joni thinks the County needs to pick up the tab to fix the immediate health problem which should be the utmost important issue. Dan said perhaps he should visit twice a week and check the levels of the tank. There are no trespassing signs posted so he knocks on the door. And if no one answers he can look at the tank but cannot walk around entire property. Joni again requested that the tank be pumped immediately

JT Montgomery said one of the most important things here is that these folks (occupants) do not own the house. They are not paying a mortgage and is not sure the owner is covered by the soldier sailor act. The occupants should be required to move out. Carol Calderwood stated that she has the authority, via the County Attorney, to condemn. Joni again said let the RCEH staff use their authority to get the tank pumped.

### Update on Luby Lane

Dan said the Luby Lane issue is now closed. The septic was installed, inspected and passed last month. MDEQ has been notified to investigate other complaint received pertaining to ashes being placed/dumped.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### Letter of Support – Performance Grant – Public Health Nurse

Judy explained the proposed Strategic Plan and that time is of the essence to submit for this grant. The grant submittal deadline is Friday May 16, 2014. She requested a letter of support from the Board of Health, which is a requirement. The grant would be for \$15,000 right away and an additional \$10,000 by next June 2015. Also, a grant stipulation is to include the Community Needs Assessment for Marcus Daly Memorial Hospital. Jeff asked about the Strategic Plan and asked Judy to explain some of her goals and language used. Judy explained that her office really narrowed the application goals down to have a starting place, but any item can be revisited in the future. Judy explained that this is a planning grant and future accreditations are going to get stricter. With this grant, her office can accomplish many things which have been sitting due to lack of funds. Judy said she should know if her office receives the grant by June 3, 2014.

**Paul moved to have the Board of Health sign the letter of support, supporting the grant application. Michael seconded the motion.** Discussion: Renea requested to abstain from voting. Public comment: none. **Paul, Michael and Jeff voted Aye, motion passed 3 in favor, 1 abstention.**

#### Dog Bites, Quarantine Rules and Regulations – Public Health Nurse

Judy said there was a dog bite incident recently and the dog owner shot the dog in the head instead of following the quarantine rules and regulations. Lori handed out the letter explaining this situation. She then explained her process upon a dog bite: she contacts the dog owner after 10 days to see if a vet has signed off on the quarantine. This particular owner said he shot the dog and threw it over a cliff. Some changes or a new form should be required. She spoke with Ron Holton in Sheriff's office. Ron said the form is in duplicate of three form, it has been in use for years and would be very expensive to change it. The form does not even include an item which states that the Sheriff actually talks to the dog owners. Her fear is if the dog is disposed of and another animal gets into it thus spreading rabies. Where does that leave the public health nurse office, leave the form as is, and make notes as to what she is told by the dog owner or what. Carol explained that the form needs to reflect that the officer does in fact inform the dog owner before they (dog owner) takes any action, and that they (dog owner) is responsible for costs and requirements. Jeff asked if there is a statutory law requiring that a dog is required to get checked for rabies. Judy said if there is a huge issue with duplicating forms and the expense of these forms, would it behoove her office to pay for having the statement placed on the forms. Lori again asked what the liability of the public health nurse is if a dog is shot. Michael asked what would be wrong with giving dog owners a copy of the dog ordinance. Jeff said that statutory requirements for a vicious dog limits the Board of Health. Discussion ensued about all the loop holes within the County Ordinance. Judy said a lot of the responsibility of making an on-site decision about the dog is or can be made by the Sheriff. Carol said Lori just needs to make detailed notes when a dog is shot. Jeff suggested working with Sheriff's office to see if a compromise can be met pertaining to the triplicate form to meet the public health nurse's needs. Lori said the majority of the dog owners are honest and want to comply but there are a few who are not. Paul suggested looking at other counties throughout the state to see how dog bites are handled. Consensus of Board of Health was to have the public health nurse office work with the Sheriff's office.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** none.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** none.

**NEXT MEETING:** June 11, 2014

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

**Michael made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:27 PM. Paul seconded the motion. All voted "aye". (4-0)**