

Delta County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

Feb 21, 2023

Board Members

Jeri Roberts (Excused)

Wendell Koontz, Chair

Jo Rosenquist (Excused)

Mike Lane, Vice Chair

Don Chapman

Staff

Greg Rajnowski

Karen O'Brien

Pat Sullivan

Robbie LeValley

Leone Anderson (Absent)

Guests/Public**Call to Order**

- The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Koontz at 3:30 PM.
- Action on the minutes:
 - January 17, 2023 monthly meeting minutes - Don Chapman moved to accept the minutes, Commissioner Lane Second, Unanimous.

Public Health Director's Report

- Financials
 - Karen presented the financial report in Leone's absence.
 - There were no questions on the financials.
 - Don Chapman moved to accept the financials as presented, Commissioner Lane second, Unanimous.
- Department Updates - Karen
 - COVID-19 cases and positivity in Colorado increased slightly last week but hospitalization data shows little change. Overall U.S. cases and hospitalizations are flat. Our 7-day incidence rate per 100,000 as of 2/14 was 25 cases with one hospitalization and no new deaths. However, we did have an outbreak at two residential care facilities since last reporting. Variant XBB1.5 represents 75.7% of all COVID cases in the U.S.
 - Delta County is considered low risk according to the CDC community level and "substantial" community transmission as of 1/17 (this measure is "hospitalization")

focused and there is no clear reason as to why since we did not have a lot of hospitalizations.)

- Our immunization clinic has slowed down but we continue to offer COVID boosters and flu vaccines. Additionally, the state's vaccine bus is still holding clinics throughout the county: 1/6/23 Don's Market, Cedaredge; 1/13/23 City Market, Hotchkiss; 1/18/23 Lions Pavilion., Delta; and, 1/22/23 St. Michael's Catholic Church, Delta.
- The demand for self-administered COVID test kits (curb-side) has slowed but we continue to give these out when requested. We now have a new vendor for rapid PCR testing and will roll this out once we have tested the process. We can give the client results in approximately 20 minutes.
- Influenza influenza-associated outbreaks are increasing slowly with 53 residential care facilities reporting outbreaks in the state. However, hospitalization rates are decreasing. The state reported 2,899 hospitalizations for influenza through the week ending 2/11.
- RSV (Respiratory Syncytial (sin say shal) Virus) Pediatric hospitalization rates remain low. Please note this addition from the meeting - We did have one hospitalization for a 7-month-old.
- Staffing – We recently received applications for the Nurse Manager position and will be conducting interviews. We had a recent resignation from our newly hired Dietitian but hope to fill the position soon with a lead from the state's WIC program.
- Immunization remodel – our immunization room has been unavailable for over three months due to the remodel. We have been diverting clients to our family planning's refill room for administering vaccines; however, it's not very convenient for our senior population as they need to maneuver through the building to get to this room. We are now waiting on plastic lenses for the lighting fixtures and hope to pick these up this week. We should be moving in soon. So far, the Health Department has paid \$3,903.81 from administrative funds for this remodel.
- Questions? Why did we lose the WIC employee? She wanted more hours and a full time opening occurred in Montrose and she was hired. (Less dollars but she lives in Montrose).
- Floodplain Administrator - Karen asked Commissioner Koontz if there was any further development on the assignment of the Floodplain Administrator. Commissioner Koontz responded that he would like to see the duties/job description for that role (Floodplain Administrator). Greg said he would provide this information. (The 6/5/95 BOCC minutes cited the formal vote designating Environmental Health as the Floodplain Administrator.)

Environmental Health Director's Report - Greg

- The Private Burial Ordinance (redline version) was passed out, and has been revised by the County Clerk, Coroner, and Environmental Health (EH) Director and will be ready for the March 7 BOCC meeting. Public announcements have been scheduled for the February 15 and Feb 22 DCI newspaper editions. Application and inspection documents are online for review (began February 20) at: <https://www.deltacountyco.gov/18/Environmental-Health> webpage. EH will be the designated office to provide information to the public. EH Specialists are trained in how to provide site inspection for private burials (much like OWTS). Teri has already placed

this on the agenda for March 7, 2023. The notice for public comment is in the DCI and Teri has placed it on the BOCC's agenda. Robbie asked that Carolyn Ringo (Paonia) be contacted to review the ordinance update. Greg added that Hospice had also been contacted.

Commissioner Koontz asked that we send this out to cemetery board members (via Lindsay Mitchell-PIO) with documentation of contacts made.

- West Nile Virus surveillance efforts are ongoing and efforts are underway to improve coverage in Delta County. The 2022 End of Year report was sent out to BOH and positive response was received by member Rosenquist. The report will be available to the public on the <https://www.deltacountyco.gov/18/Environmental-Health> webpage. The report will be going out to municipal partners to aid in public information and planning efforts. A new educational effort (with the aid of our Community Engagement Coordinator) will begin April 1.
- The OWTS Policy regarding Floodplain, has been reviewed and approved by Chuck Cousino, OWTS coordinator for the state Water Quality Control Division. Issue in dispute was the "infiltrative surface" and definition of elevation of that surface relative to the "base flood elevation" (BFE). *BFE definition* shall be added to the document (requested by Commissioner Koontz). Robbie suggested that adding a reference to floodplain maps would be helpful as well. This will be on the March agenda and sent to engineers for review as well prior to that meeting for feedback. Shiros were brought into compliance after the fact. It is possible that many residences have been permitted but haven't had permits archived with the county. This may be able to be collected as we go through the updated mapping process. Barbara Ball was a floodplain administrator for the county at one time. We've seen some permits started but never completed. The CityWorks process may help with this as well. Lastly, Greg presented the Floodplain Permit lists as requested by Commissioner Koontz for the BOH meeting. Greg said he has historical information prior to his arrival, as well as those he has permitted since taking on the role of Floodplain Administrator.
- The Ranch Exclusion Policy. Ranches are USDA inspected. To sell to consumers, they need a retail food license. To sell to restaurants they need a manufactured food license. This is a redundant process for the source/seller. Therefore, EH has drafted a policy to remove this duplication. The associated policy and cover letter have been reviewed and approved by Troy Huffman, Matt Brandt, and Justin Trubee of the CDPHE Retail and Manufactured Foods programs. This applies only to those selling in Delta County. The fee for retail food is \$195, manufactured food is \$165. This would be a net refund of \$195 for those that already obtained the retail food license, when they become manufactured food licensed. Representative Catlin will be updated with the final policy. This only applies to USDA inspected sellers. Unintended consequences? Only products that end up in other counties would be flagged, and could be a violation in THAT county. They would need to work with that county for licensing. These are annual licenses (Jan-Dec). Preference is to move this approval to the next BOH meeting to avoid any permitting confusion or conflating with land use code discussions. Greg will reach out to concerned ranches. This will be a benefit to ranches in the end and to show continued support of small agricultural producers.

- Meth regs: In 2006- meth regs were adopted by Delta County. These are assigned to EH and CDPHE regulates these contamination issues. These need to be updated to clean up the confusion regarding roles. And because of the meth identified in contaminated areas (like public libraries) recently, it would be good to get these updates to ensure coordination. The benefit of this would be to also require anyone dealing with hazardous materials and potential for contamination to register with LEPC. This could be part of the HAZMAT planning process. Update or eliminate. This will be an up-and-coming issue until resolved.

Adjourn

- The Board of Health meeting was adjourned at 4:48 pm by Commissioner Koontz.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Greg Rajnowski and Karen O'Brien.