

Delta County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2023

Board Members	Staff	Guests/Public
Jeri Roberts (excused absence) Wendell Koontz, Chair (excused absence) Jo Rosenquist Mike Lane, Vice Chair Don Chapman	Greg Rajnowski Karen O'Brien Pat Sullivan Leone Anderson	John Baier, County Attorney

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Lane at 3:30 PM.
- Action on the minutes:
 - May 16th, 2023 monthly meeting minutes - Jo Rosenquist moved to accept the minutes and Mike Lane second. The minutes were approved unanimously.
 - May 31st, 2023 special meeting minutes - Don Chapman moved to accept the minutes, and Jo Rosenquist second. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Environmental Health (EH) Director's Report - Greg

General:

- **Private Burial:** Private Burial Regulations were under review due to concerns from the Clerk and Recorder's office for the turn-around in tracking paperwork. The short turn-around time and the lack of coordination with those seeking a burial on private land within the time required was intended to be addressed by updating the ordinance.
 - A prior discussion was held regarding the necessity of the ordinance. The conclusion was that state regulations were comprehensive and there was no need to update the ordinance, or even have a county ordinance.
 - County Attorney John Baier stated that the "entirety" of the ordinance was unnecessary, because it was covered in the statute. He stated that an interdepartmental policy may be all that is necessary from the Board of Health's (BOH) point of view. We may need a resolution, but definitely not an ordinance. It is already outdated, the penalty classification has to be updated, and therefore repeal is necessary. A resolution would be warranted in order to outline any of

- the criteria necessary for public fulfillment of the resolution, updates based on the updated statute, and clarify the timelines necessary for the private burial process.
- After consideration of the “interdepartmental policy”, and reviewing the details of what that would look like, it was discovered that while the statutory requirements WOULD be met, the other elements currently in the ordinance that outline setbacks and other details for burial would not be, without something to replace it. These would need a resolution by the BOH, or additional elements added to the Land Use Code that aren’t in there right now. Our municipalities that rely on guidance would have none if we repeal without other guidelines. John recommends that we keep a resolution within the boundaries of part 25 of Colorado Statute, and ensure that it is consistent with the Land Use Code. Statute 25-1-508 allows for the BOH to adopt rules consistent with the state. This board can issue orders and rules for private burial and then educate the public regarding the resolution change and guidelines. This will facilitate coordination through the Environmental Health (EH) program, with a policy that additionally outlines how this is coordinated through other county departments.
 - EH staff will work with the County Attorney to draft the Private Burial resolution, outline anything policy/procedure related in a separate BOH document, create the packet for public information and present this to the BOH.
 - **West Nile Virus:** Greg has met with Cedaredge and Hotchkiss trustees, and we’ve received a lot of media coverage. Shirley has done a superb job with coordinating education and media materials. We have a lot of support from each of the various municipalities to do a good job with prevention. We are getting mosquitos from Delta, North fork, Cedaredge, and Crawford. Orchard City is also contributing to mosquito surveillance (via a volunteer). We’ve been working with everyone on re-educating the public about WNV and clearing up misconceptions around liability with surveillance.
 - **OWTS permits** have slowed and **Retail food inspections** have increased proportionately. With the recent Cyclospora outbreak in the Ouray area we are more vigilant of the impact that these inspections have on the public. New restaurants and mobile vendor’s applications have also increased. Additionally plan reviews have been approximately 28 since the beginning of the year this year.
 - **Update on 6122 Graff rd.:** We’ve provided the residents with the notifications of penalty and we have not yet been able to get in touch with Roxy Pomroy; thus, nothing new has occurred.
 - Commissioner Lane asked if we could prove that they are contaminating the groundwater? Greg answered, not at this point.
 - Greg proposed the possibility of requiring them to pump the septic tank and stated that we’d have to go to court to get an order to do so.
 - Commissioner Lane commented: What is the consequence of the rising penalty? Is this criminal? Greg will investigate this with the County Attorney’s office.
 - Commissioner Lane commented that “We wouldn’t be able to bill this [pumping the tank] to the property owner.” Greg stated “there is an ability to put a lien on the property or with a promissory note to pay off for replacing the system. However, since there is no owner of the property, this is not a current option.” He went on to say that “there is no ability to evict for the violation and there is an ability for the county to recoup costs when the property is sold at the time of sale.” [The Knob case was referred to during the discussion].

Public Health Director's Report

- **Financials** - Leone Anderson

- Leone presented the Payment Approval Report and asked if there were any questions.
 - Jo Rosenquist asked "who is Ann Littman"- Karen responded that she is a coach for training staff, utilizing the CDC workforce development funds.
- Leone presented the income statement and explained that the November 2022 STEPP payment that was pending has finally been received. CDPHE skipped a payment and had a change of purchasing/ordering systems that caused the delay. It generated a whole number of payments that were submitted to collections and the state needed to clear them up.
- Leone presented the grant reporting sheet and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.
- Jo motioned to accept the financials and Don second. The vote was unanimous and the financials were approved.

- **Department Updates** - Karen O'Brien

- **Flooding** – Public Health held an ESF8 (medical partners) meeting on 5/23 to discuss any potential concerns regarding possible flooding. The meeting was not well attended but we did have several hospital partners that identified some emergency preparedness needs, like training, preparedness exercises, and future meetings. Since there is no longer a threat of flooding, we will focus our efforts on these needs and work together with the hospital and other ESF8 partners.
- **West Nile Virus** – "Join the SWAT Team" campaign is off to a great start. Karen acknowledged Greg and Shirley for all of their work in getting this off the ground. We have had radio interviews, training, videos, social media posts, newsletters, etc. Additionally, Greg has been meeting with the municipalities, as stated earlier.
- **COVID-19** – We are not seeing too many cases but the people seeking tests or arriving at the emergency department are really sick. There were no hospitalizations in the last 3 weeks but we did have two COVID deaths in May.
- **Cyclospora** – There have been many Cyclospora cases identified on the Western Slope. Although this is Cyclo season, there are more cases than we would expect to see. There are 84 cases, 66 in the west region as of 6/19. Historically, during the past 5 years, Colorado has between 5 and 40 (mean 19) cases reported statewide in the month of June. This is one of the reasons that local inspections are so important. It allows for knowledge of our suppliers, announced and unannounced inspections, and improved food safety.
 - **Cyclospora** is a GI illness caused by a microscopic parasite from the consumption of contaminated food/water (imported fresh produce: raspberries, basil, snow peas, mesclun lettuce and cilantro. Onset is 2 days - 2 weeks+ after ingestion with an average of 7 days. Symptoms include: watery diarrhea (most common) loss of appetite, weight loss, cramping, bloating, nausea, fatigue, increased gas, vomiting, fever (less common). Antibiotic treatment is recommended.
- **Immunizations** – We will participate in Tri-County Health Network's open house at their extension office in Delta. Our nurses will hold a COVID clinic there for the Karen and Spanish communities.

- **Mpox** – After a lull, there were 3 new mpox cases reported in the Denver area since May 30. Other areas around the nation are reporting some new cases as well (From April 17 to May 5, 2023, a total of 12 confirmed and one probable case of mpox were reported to the Chicago Department of Public Health.) The summer season could lead to a resurgence of mpox as people gather for festivals and other events.
- **Fiscal/Staffing** – We are receiving our new contract renewals for the next fiscal year that starts July 1. We have hired Carina Dalley as our new Community Engagement Coordinator. We currently only have one open job post at this time and it's for a Nurse Practitioner for 3 days a week. This position has been challenging to fill.
- Karen sent information to the BOH regarding a study that included the public health workforce and sources of funding. The funding mix for most public health agencies are about the same, but some counties like San Miguel, receive a substantial portion of their funding from the County.

Adjourn

- The Board of Health meeting was adjourned at 4:32 pm by Commissioner Lane.

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