

Delta County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2024

Board Member	Staff	Guests/Public
Mike Lane, Chair	Karen O'Brien	Angeles Mendez
Wendell Koontz, Vice Chair	Shawn Gardner	
Jo Rosenquist	Leah Rawson	
Dr. Antonio Calderon – excused	Leone Anderson	
Don Chapman	Robbie LeValley	
	Robin Mills	
	Kayleigh Addison	
	Shirley Tatto	
	Alyssa Fritchman	
	John Baier	
	Jason Wilson	

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Lane at 3:30 PM.
- Action on the minutes:
 - June 18, 2024 monthly meeting minutes – Board member Don Chapman moved to accept the minutes, Board member Jo Rosenquist, second. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Public Health Director's Report

- **Financials** - Leone Anderson
 - Leone presented the payment approval report and asked if there were any questions. Karen explained that there are expenses for staff training up to \$7300 that will be reimbursed by West Central Public Health Partnership (WCPHP) under the regional Office of Public Health Partnership (OPHP) Workforce grant. This grant included reimbursement for professional development.
 - With no questions, Board member Jo Rosenquist motioned to approve as presented; Don Chapman second, the vote was unanimous and the financials were approved.
- **Department Updates** – Karen O'Brien
 - **Communicable Diseases**

- West Nile Virus (WNV) – Delta saw its first confirmed case (neuro-invasive) of WNV, individual was hospitalized and now discharged. Karen said Shawn will discuss results from mosquito pools.
- Avian Influenza H5N1 – Karen gave an update on H5N1 as follows: Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) along with Colorado Department of Agriculture and Centers for Disease Control (CDC), reported a total of five human cases of avian influenza in workers responding to the avian flu outbreak at a commercial egg layer operation. There were 3 males and 2 females, ages 18-44 years. CDC has confirmed four of the cases, and one additional case is presumptive positive and pending confirmation at CDC. Workers were culling poultry at a farm in northeast Colorado and exhibited mild symptoms, including conjunctivitis (pink eye) and common respiratory infection symptoms. In early July, there was a human case of avian influenza H5 infection associated with a multi-state outbreak of the virus in dairy cattle. CDPHE reports it has affected 40% of dairy operations.
- COVID - There were 19 COVID cases in June. No new hospitalizations since 6/15. We now have COVID rapid tests available again for the public.
- Vaccines - Meeting with the state's equity team to collaborate on back-to-school immunizations.
- Animal Bites – 8 dog bites reported in the month of June. Four of the dogs were vaccinated, 2 unvaccinated, and 2 unknown. One child is undergoing post exposure prophylaxis since it was bitten by an unvaccinated dog.

○ **Administrative**

- Outreach – Staff attended Old Heritage Days at Confluence; dunks were passed out. The nursing staff attended Immigrant Heritage Festival at the library to inform the attendees of our services.
- The department completed another year of grants with CDPHE. All new budgets have been submitted to CDPHE as we start another fiscal year of grants. We are awaiting two awards: special immunization funding for \$73,408 and ELC 2.2 for \$77,696. We submitted our WIC budget for 2025, this is on a federal fiscal year beginning October 1, and should hear about our award this week.
- Karen and Robin introduced the department's new nurse, Kayleigh Addison.
- The new Health Director, Jacque Davis, will start on August 1.
- Congratulations to Samantha for being signed-off by CDPHE to conduct food safety inspections.

● **Presentation – Latinos in Delta County – Results from Focus Groups about Mental Health**

- Karen introduced Angeles Mendez and Shirley Tatto and explained that their work was made possible by a grant received from CDPHE's Office of Public Health Partnership for \$5,000. Angeles presented the findings from the various focus groups that were conducted and

highlighted several key issues: a significant lack of access to mental health services due to limited availability of bilingual and culturally competent providers. The Latino community also faces high rates of being uninsured, with financial constraints and underutilization of available insurance options. There is a general unawareness about mental health services and resources, compounded by misunderstandings and misinformation about mental health conditions. Additionally, there is a strong cultural stigma surrounding mental health issues, leading to fear of judgment or discrimination and reluctance to seek help. The discussion included strategies to improve access to services, potential outreach and education initiatives, and the importance of reducing stigma through community engagement and support. Karen said that we hope to find other grants to support further expansion of this work and the next steps of connecting to services and finding more Spanish speaking providers. Board members thanked Angeles and Shirley for the great work around this topic.

- **Environmental Health Director's Report**

- **Variance Request** – Shawn provided background on an Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) variance request that was submitted to the department. Due to the nature of the request, it will require a Public Hearing. This will be set for August 20, 2024 at the Board of Health meeting.
 - Address: 237 & 241 Hwy 133 Paonia, CO
 - Owners: Gregory Cody & Sara Samuels
 - Situation: Existing system from the 1950's failed and they need to replace it. The lot is under 0.5 acre (0.39 acre). Lot is outside of Paonia boundaries and would require annexation and considerably greater cost and time to connect to the city sewer line... and that is not guaranteed to be granted.
 - Shawn recited the [Delta County OWTS regulations](#) (1.8.C.):
 - When a proposed variance for a system repair or upgrade would result in encroachment on minimum distances to physical features on the applicant's property or neighboring properties required by the Division, OR where the property is less than .5 acres, the hearing procedures in [43.4.N.2], *Requirements for Variance Consideration* must be followed. Prior to rendering a variance request requiring a public hearing, a public hearing must be held. The hearing must be the subject of a public notice or notice must be sent via certified mail, with a minimum 20-day reply time from the date of mailing, to all adjacent property owners.
 - The owners sent Variance Request Packet and paid the \$250 fee (GovPros ID #474253).
 - Shawn distributed a map of the location & their request to the board members and pointed out that they have an OWTS design that meets regs in every other way.
 - Shawn stated he has a list of the neighboring property owners and will send the notices of the public hearing by certified mail. This will be within the 20 days that is required for serving notice of a public hearing.
 - Shawn stated he will provide the whole Variance Request packet to all board members by email prior to the Public Hearing. A script will be prepared for Commissioner Lane to conduct the Public Hearing. Any attending neighbor will have the opportunity to comment on the variance. The Board will decide on the request and may impose site-specific requirements and conditions it thinks necessary. Assuming the request is granted, Environmental Health will issue a permit.

- **Summary of 6122 Graff Rd** – Shawn provided the following update:
 - **June 11** - Received Order from the Court granting the motion to proceed with all the actions outlined to remove the nuisances:
 - Remove occupants from the property
 - Remove the mobile home
 - Pump, crush, fill in, and eliminate the septic tank
 - Secure the property to prevent future occupancy
 - **June 24** - One of the occupants filed a Motion for a New Hearing which placed all plans on hold until the Judge's response is received.
 - **July 12** - Received the Judge's response, denying the Motion.
 - Proceeding with the following preparations for fulfilling the Court Order:
 - Delivering notice to the occupants on the property
 - Setting a date once the plan is in place
 - Everett and Shawn will deliver notice
 - S.O. will accompany on final day of removal
 - Organizing housing for the occupants for 30 days
 - Securing property with fencing, plywood, and signs
 - Contacting Human Services to offer options to the occupants
 - Organizing the clean-up
 - **July 16** - Commissioner Lane proposed a meeting on July 18 (9:00am) with all relevant parties to finalize the plan for Graff Rd. actions.
- **Waste Tire Event** – Shawn announced the waste tire event is set for Saturday, August 3, from 8am to 12pm. Environmental Health will be receiving waste tires from Delta County citizens at Double J's Recycling Center. Environmental Health won a \$10,000 grant from CDPHE to take up to 1,500 tires. KC Tire Disposal has been contracted to haul away the tires. BLM will also be bringing tires they've removed from public lands. They will also be providing 8 volunteers to help load the tires on the day of the event, and have allocated up to \$1,200 of additional funding if we go over the 1,500-tire limit. The event has been advertised on radio, social media, and through a press release.

Adjourn

- With no further questions on updates or new business, the Board of Health meeting was adjourned at 4:44 pm by Commissioner Lane.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen O'Brien and Shawn Gardner.