Rio Grande County Board of Health
Wednesday, September 15, 2021.

The meeting of the Rio Grande County Board of Health was called to order at 9:16 AM.

Members present were Chairman Gene Glover, Commissioner John Noffsker, Commissioner Scott Deacon, Dr. Kolawole Bankole, Rio Grande County Public Health Department Director, County Attorney Nancy Lake, Rio Grande County Administrator Craig Barraclough, and Clerk of the Board Aubrey Pargin.

Actions as the Board of Health

At 9:16 AM the Board considered a request for the installation of a vault with no soil treatment for wastewater disposal on the Jerry McCormick property near the old town of Jasper on the southwest side of the road along the Alamosa River. Randy Kern, Building Department, was present to explain the request. He said that the cabin will only be used two to three weeks out of the year and all water will be hauled to the cabin and stored in a 1,000-gallon storage tank. He also said that there is a small ATV bridge that was put in that goes over the river, but he is assuming larger vehicles go through the river. Commissioner Noffsker stated that he has concerns with driving a Septic Service truck through the river to get to the cabin. Mr. Kern stated that in the past they have approved systems like this. Ms. Lake stated when stipulations are put in an agreement it can end up being an enforcement issue nightmare. Mr. Kern read the letter that the Commissioners would sign if they approved of the vault. Commissioner Glover and Deacon had no problem with the wording, because it stated that the cabin is for seasonal use. Commissioner Noffsker reiterated that he had concerns with driving through the river, and asked if it was a land use policy issue. He stated that he has a lot of questions and thinks there could be unanticipated issues that could arise. Commissioner Deacon moved to allow Jerry McCormick to install a vault on his property near Jasper. Commissioner Noffsker seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 9:43 Dr. Bankole was present to ask for the Board’s approval to receive grant money from the “Baby and Me Tobacco Free” grant. He said that this grant involves funding across the state and right now there is only one woman in the program. It is a $500 grant for diapers and resources. Commissioner Noffsker moved to accept the “Baby and Me Tobacco Free” grant money. Commissioner Deacon seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Dr. Bankole also asked for the Board’s approval of the Regional Health Connector’s SB-137 grant to focus on behavioral/mental health assessment related to COVID-19. He stated that Rio Grande County is the host agent for a Regional Health Connector in the SLV for the University of Colorado. There are one million dollars in funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. University of Colorado wants to do a community assessment on the impact of COVID-19 on Rio Grande County to see if there are resources available or if there are gaps in resources. Commissioner Deacon moved to approve of the RHC assessment agreement. Commissioner Noffsker seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

At 9:48 AM the Board of Health adjourned.

Attest:

Gene Glover, Chairman
Chairman of the Board

Kolawole Bankole, Director
Public Health Department

Aubrey Pargin
Clerk of the Board

Rio Grande County Board of Health
The meeting of the Rio Grande County Board of Health was called to order at 11:10 AM.

Members present were Chairman Gene Glover, Commissioner John Noffsner, Commissioner Scott Deacon, Dr. Kolawole Bankole Rio Grande County Public Health Department Director, County Administrator Craig Barralough, County Attorney Nancy Lake, and Clerk of the Board Aubrey Pargin.

Actions as the Board of Health

Commissioner Glover stated that the reason the Board of Health is having an emergency special meeting is to address the County’s response to COVID-19.

Commissioner Deacon made a motion that the Board of Health move into executive session for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(b) with discussions regarding the County response to COVID-19 activities.

At 12:26 PM the Board of Health exited executive session and reconvened as the Board of Health.

Ms. Lake suggested as per discussions from the Board of Health that a motion be presented that states the Public Health Director provide daily numbers from the community that include the number of new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, deaths, and number of people quarantining and how long they will do so, and also the location of cases (without releasing private information). She stated that with these facts the Board of Health and Public Health Director can respond to the County. Commissioner Deacon moved that the Public Health Director provide daily numbers from the community including number of new COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, deaths, and number of people under quarantine, how long they will be in quarantine, and the location of cases so that the BOH can help the Public Health Director respond to the County appropriately. Commissioner Noffsner seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Deacon moved that the County gather two weeks’ worth of data so that in the second week in October the Board of Health and Public Health Director will have data to work with and can review data and decide policies then. Commissioner Noffsner seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Commissioner Noffsner reiterated the importance of accurate information available to the public. Mr. Barralough asked if it was possible to have weekly updates on the County website. Dr. Bankole stated that after two weeks’ worth of data the County can look at possibly doing that. Lyndsi Ferrell, reporter for the Del Norte Prospector, South Fork Times, and Mineral County Miner, was present via Zoom and asked if it was possible for the newspaper to be included in the data updates. She also stated that the newspaper does have social media that can be utilized instantly. Commissioner Glover said that the Board needs to take a closer look at these possibilities and make a decision as a Board.

Trish Slater, a community member, was present via Zoom and asked about children receiving vaccines without parents present at the Potato Festival in Monte Vista. She also asked about verification as to who was giving phone authorization for vaccinations. Commissioner Noffsner and Commissioner Glover reiterated that it was not Rio Grande County administering vaccines at the Potato Festival; it was the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

At 12:38 PM the BOH meeting adjourned.

Attest:

[Signatures]

Gene Glover, Chairman
Chairman of the Board

Kolawole Bankole, Director
Public Health Department

Aubrey Pargin
Clerk of the Board

Date: 11/23/2021