

Rio Grande County Board of Health
Thursday, June 12, 2014

Rio Grande County: Pam Bricker (vice-president)
Doug Davie
Karla Shriver (president)
Emily Brown (secretary)

Del Norte: Marty Asplin

Monte Vista: Carol Schroeder

South Fork:

Also present: Lynnea Rappold
Suzanne Benton
Randy Kern

A quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the April 10, 2014 Board of Health meeting were approved with no corrections. (Schroeder/Asplin/carried)

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

On-Site Wastewater Variance and Fee Adoption

Randy passed out a comparison of fees from other counties. (See Attachment A.) \$500 is what a land use variance fee is, so he estimated this should be the same for wastewater.

A motion was made and carried to keep the other fees at \$273 and set the variance fee at \$500. (Davie/Alplin/carried)

Randy will create an adopted fee schedule and Emily will attach it to the minutes (Attachment B).

Action Item Review

- *Emily will look into whether there have been any state or regional measles outbreaks.*
 - Staff is compiling an update on measles as well as on polio/MERS/other outbreak. We will also get more information on the new mosquito-borne disease, Chikungunya.
 - Monte Vista is starting to spray twice a month already because the mosquitoes are already bad.
- *Emily and Suzanne will keep touching base with South Fork to get a representative.*
 - Sharon Fairchild will be bringing this up to the Town Council at their meeting this evening.
- *Emily will meet with Jerry Dennis.*
 - We met at the emergency trailer. Jerry switched out the locks so one key opens all three locks. The Board didn't think there was a need to have a separate hitch

lock. We will be working with Road & Bridge to get a key for the facility on at least one of the key sets in case access is needed during an emergency. We also talked about the possible need for a storage pod, or trying to reorganize so supplies in the trailer can actually be accessed.

- *Emily will see what role public health can play in advising the commissioners about marijuana permitting.*
 - State asking for marijuana point of contact at all local health departments for retail marijuana related health surveillance. A CALPHO workgroup is being formed on roles for LPHAs in marijuana and funding options.
 - Lynnea has presentation from Denver on concerns about food extractions as well as butane explosions. If permitting decisions are made in the future, it is important to involve fire department.
 - **Emily will get Lake City's information from their ban, and will forward this and new info that comes in, especially to town of Del Norte.**
 - It was noted that if a meth lab, etc. needs to get condemned, the Board of health does this. Do we have to call a special meeting? What kind of permission does the Sheriff need? **Emily will find the policy that was adopted regarding meth labs.**
- *Emily will meet with Pam on oil and gas permitting.*
 - In process

Environmental Health Update

Lynnea Rappold was a guest presenter to the BoH. She is the current environmental health specialist in Alamosa and is also working part time for the SLV Public Health Partnership (SLV PHP) to develop a local environmental health (EH) plan.

Chris Heffernan, our current state environmental health staff, is retiring March 21, 2015. Chris does about 550 inspections a year. The FDA standard is 200 inspections per year so he is stretched. The State has opted not to renew Chris's position, but instead to help us create this program locally. Lynnea is working with Kimberly Bryant, the SLV PHP coordinator. They will be creating a plan on what the program should include (i.e. child care & food establishment inspections) and a budget. These options will be presented to public health directors, then the directors will present this to their Boards.

Lynnea presented some information on current required and optional fees that can help pay for the program (Attachment C). Restaurant license fees have to be paid every year and include inspections. \$43 gets sent to state, then the other fees stay with the counties for services provided. If fees ever go up, State has said that their fees will stay the same. This state fee goes to pay for a database EHS can use and for TA/questions.

She also provided a sheet of inspection fees from Alamosa (Attachment D). Her fees are \$35/hr, as her board asked that fees be reasonable. This is not the employee's hourly rate, but rather needs to cover all ancillary costs (e.g. car, travel, time). Just with inspection fees, Alamosa found \$8,000 that could go towards their program. Statute says we can charge a fee for Water Recreation and Body Art, but the fee is not in statute. Non-profits (which most child cares are) aren't charged fees other than annual fee.

Julie Geiser and the Alamosa commissioners had a trial period on fees and there has been no push back. Lynnea is doing a time study related to fees. **Lynnea can do a fee forecast for us to see how much money fees will bring in.**

They are looking at how to structure the program. Regional employees would be hard because mileage would eat up money. They can either charge a mileage rate or use a county car. This will be a major discussion. Another option is locating one employee in Rio Grande County and one in Alamosa, both who would cover several counties. This would require deciding what kind of office space would be needed.

SLV PHP will start presenting plan to the PH directors at the end of July (1st step). We need to have some of this discussion in September because we start having budget planning. **Emily will bring this information to the BoH in September and December.**

Updates from Director

Communicable Disease:

In May, Saguache and Rio Grande Counties handled a death due to Hantavirus. Costilla County experienced another case, who recovered. Two prairie dogs dead from plague were also reported south of Monte Vista. Press releases and education were provided to the community during both of these events.

Lynnea can provide handouts if there are additional questions. The Board expressed some concern about prairie dogs near Haefeli's in Del Norte. Plague is endemic in prairie dogs – so we just have to have prevention efforts.

The Board commended Emily for her handling of these incidences.

STEPP Tobacco grant:

We receive funding from Amendment 35 funding through SLV Health for tobacco education and prevention. Emily asked the Board for ideas on using funding. Some recommended ideas for education included summer education at places like the Kids Connection, High Valley Community Center & Beaver Creek Youth Camp.

EPR:

Our Epidemiology Response Plan has been updated and reviewed.

Locks for our emergency trailer, which is parked at the County Road and Bridge yard in Del Norte, have been consolidated to one lock.

Emily is working on completing all PIO & ICS trainings.

Office: cleaning & website

Staff has been cleaning and reorganizing office spaces to make them more usable and to orient new staff as to the location of information. The public health website is also in the process of being updated. The quick link to access this is www.rgcph.org, and recommendations are always appreciated for information that should be posted.

The CDPHE Office of Planning and Partnerships has offered sponsorship of 12 months of Fred Pryor leadership training. So far Emily is signed up for a "How to Manage People" training in Alamosa July 9th. Emily can have staff attend on-demand seminars (which could be a good team building opportunity), and it may be possible to open these up to all departments.

Updates from Municipalities & County

Monte Vista:

Rally in the Valley will be June 14th. There is also the new Faith Hinkley Memorial Park dedication at noon on Saturday. The military pieces aren't there yet (i.e. flags, bricks), but are in progress

Emily had been asked to inquire about the bathroom cleanliness and availability in the Ski Hi building. There was some community concern about not having adequate soap and towels in the one small bathroom, especially for food vendors and for larger events. Board members noted that bathrooms will be increasing as the building continues to be remodeled.

Del Norte:

They are spraying for mosquitos & weeds. No notifications are posted for sprayed areas, but mosquitos are sprayed for only in city limits.

County:

There are two situations of individuals living in the county in non-permanent housing. This may become an issue that needs to be handled through the Board of Health due to public health concerns with water, septic, etc. The County Attorney is willing to proceed with an injunction if needed, but it might take an action by the BoH to proceed. If this is needed, we can take an email vote for this purpose.

Other Business

Next Meeting

The **next meeting is September 11th, 2014 at 4 PM** in the County Commissioners' meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM. Bricker/Asplin moved.

Submitted by
Emily Brown Secretary