

**Rio Grande County Board of Health  
Thursday, September 8, 2016**

Rio Grande County: Karla Shriver (president)  
Pam Bricker (vice-president)

Emily Brown (secretary)  
Marty Asplin

Del Norte:  
Monte Vista:  
South Fork: Lucas Slade  
Also present: Roni Wisdom  
Randy Kern

A quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM.

*Approval of Minutes*

There were no additions to the agenda. (Bricker/Asplin/carried)

The minutes from the June 9, 2016 Board of Health meeting were approved with corrections (Bricker/Asplin/carried).

*Public Comment*

There was no public comment.

*Action Item Review*

- EMILY will be providing information to Rich Silkey/Mountain Engineering on how the SLV Water Conservancy District is funded for fall presentation to SLV Public Health Partnership. Rich will also be presenting to the SLV Public Health Partnership in October.
- Board will take action on the Rabies MOU at June meeting. This will be discussed today.
- BOARD MEMBERS and EMILY will talk with the Town of South Fork to get a new member appointed. Lucas Slade was appointed.

*Updates from Director*

OWTS discussions: One inquiry had been made into building on three Alpine Village lots that are just under a half acre. Is any acreage under a ½ acre close enough to install an OWTS on? The Board agreed anything under the required acreage would require a variance process to approve.

**RANDY and EMILY will work on a variance application and some details for this process.** From the regulations, it looks like the Board can determine whether or not a public hearing is needed. For now, we would want to always have public hearings.

Another issue that has come up is a non-permitted pit privy built on a vacant lot that looks like it is used for temporary camping. Dixie sent a letter from land use. If they don't get compliance from this, we may have to go through BoH to follow up on this issue. Pit privy construction is not allowed under our new regulations.

A final issue is the discussion of allowing vault systems. Based on some research Randy has done, it looks like vault systems would not be allowed at all if you had a well and if you could build a septic system. Part of this is per Division of Water Resources which requires you to return waste water to your location if you have a well on site. Karla would like to have us continue to make common sense decisions, but make sure our research is done. Roni wondering if there was a way to route waste water and grey water separately so some water could still be returned to the ground. **EMILY will bring this discussion up to Rich Silkey for his input.**

The Board was in agreement that the building of a vault system like Randy discussed would require a variance process. Per the information we have, it would not be allowed, but we would be willing to do some research (i.e. is there a variance for DWR) if they wanted to pursue it. The Board also wanted to recommend that during the variance process the owner provide a letter from the state water board stating that their plan is okay with that system so we don't make a decision contrary to another entity.

The Board would like to continue to look at how we tie some of these decisions to the title, vs one location, so there doesn't become an issue upon the sale of a property.

Emily provided an update that Costilla County has hired a contractor to act as the hearing officer for OWTS hearings. This was researched by Lynnea (Environmental Health) and several state partners as to what other counties were doing to lessen this burden.

Rabies MOU: Emily explained the purpose and background of the MOU, mostly regarding defining what an appropriate quarantine facility is. Asplin/Slade moved, motion carried to sign the MOU. The Board's preference would be to have all counties signatures on the same signature page, so **EMILY will work with Ginger to get this, and EMILY will bring to Karla to resign. EMILY will also work on getting information on the website about rabies vaccination and quarantine procedures.**

SLV Public Health Partnership organizational chart was shared.

Public Health is working with the County to provide Hepatitis A & B vaccinations for all county employees who want them. These are usually covered by insurance, but the county will pick up costs if this is not the case or an employee doesn't have insurance. We are working on a process for testing for tuberculosis.

Public Health has been looking into needle disposal options in the county. We are also working with Alamosa County Public Health as they move forward on preparing for a harm reduction/needle exchange program.

Environmental Health will assist the county landfill in promoting their October tire take back day. EMILY will connect Marty with Environmental Health to see how this could link to cleanup for tires at trailheads.

There will be a statewide emergency preparedness exercise on June 15-17 (Thursday-Saturday). Health Care Coalition partners will be involved, and there will be a POD (Point of

Dispensing) activity in Alamosa on Friday afternoon in in Monte Vista at Ski Hi on Saturday morning.

EMILY will ask regional EPR/ Linda Smith to do some more EPR classes, especially for public officials such as new commissioners, administrators, etc.

*Updates from Municipalities & County*

Del Norte: The town is developing a Source Water Protection Plan and has invited Emily to be a part of the planning process. EMILY will keep Marty updated on needle disposal, including finding spots for a disposal container.

South Fork: Tourists are leaving for the season.

Monte Vista:

County: There are two ongoing OWTS concerns that may need to be brought back to the board (McNeeleys & Kloberdance properties). These are being helped through Land Use right now.

*Other Business*

*Next Meeting*

December 8, 2016

Think about meeting times that work for board members for discussion for 2017.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Submitted by  
Emily Brown Secretary