

TETON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2015

Present: Jim Hodgskiss, Melissa Troyer, Corrine Rose, Tim Sinton, Lora Wier, Gayle Harris, Elaine Sedlack, Randy Morris.

The meeting was called to order by Lora at 5:35 pm.

There were no additions to the agenda.

There was no old business.

New Business:

Public Health Accreditation Grant: Melissa reported on a \$10,000 grant the health department has applied for to begin implementation of the accreditation plan. The grant money has come from the foundation created in the state following the sale of Blue Cross/Blue Shield and is overseen by the Montana Dept. of Public Health and Human Services. The grant would give Teton County Health Dept. 2 years to implement a community health assessment and also provides for Board of Health training. The community health assessment would look at existing gaps in health services and what the community wants to address. The Board of Health training would be done by DPHHS and would address such things as BOH bylaws. TCHD should know in March if their grant application has been approved. Melissa is scheduled to go to Texas for 3 days of training.

Measles: In response to the nationwide outbreak of measles TCHD is being proactive by contacting county schools and daycares to assess the immunization status of school and daycare staff. Those unimmunized and susceptible will be strongly encouraged to be immunized.

Holding Tank Variance: Corrine reported on a request for a holding tank variance submitted by Dave and Laurie Trexler for the Rock Shop in Bynum. Previously there was no water available to the Rock Shop but now that Bynum has a water system the Rock Shop is hooked up and would like to install an indoor bathroom. The shop has basically one employee. The nitrate level in a well on an adjacent parcel is 9.83. Dave dug a well on his property which has a background nitrate level of 15.8. The two options he has for a drainfield, ET System or Septic Net pretreatment, would be very expensive and difficult to fit on his property. He cannot pump effluent to the Dinosaur Center septic system because it has a separate owner and the septic system there is barely able to accommodate the number of people now using it. The Rock Shop would need a holding tank (probably 1,000 to 1,500 gal) with an alarm and be pumped by a licensed pumper. Tim made a motion to allow the holding tank variance on the condition it is installed and maintained in accordance with state and county regulations. Randy seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Failed Septic System: Corrine received a complaint from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality which originated with a contractor working on the big house of the owner

of the Broken O Ranch. The owner was reported to be adding on to the house and building esthetic ponds around it but has not submitted any plans to increase the size of the existing septic system. The septic system would have to be enlarged, but the house sits on top of a steep plateau with limited space for a septic system. It was apparently installed in 1973, prior to the county requiring permits beginning in 1974.

There are at least 4 other septic issues involving other houses on the ranch occupied by people. Two of the systems have failed and at least one has effluent draining down into a coulee. Corrine sent them an enforcement letter giving them 30 days to get the 2 failed systems fixed and plans made for the other 2 septic systems. Corrine met with the ranch manager Dan Freeman and last Thursday she went with the contractor to look at the situation.

Dog Bites: There was a vicious attack and bite on a jogger on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. The owner refused to take the dog to a quarantine facility and the dog did not have a current rabies vaccination. The sheriff responded to this incident and contacted the sanitarian and provided all necessary documentation but they do not do animal control so Corrine didn't know how to proceed. A meeting was held with the mayors of Fairfield and Choteau, the city and county attorneys, the sheriff, the commissioners, Corrine, Tim, Lora, and Melissa. It was agreed that Corrine (sanitarian) or Tim (Health Officer) can issue an order of compliance requiring that the biting animal be taken to a quarantine facility and the sheriff will deliver it to the animal's owner. The sheriff will offer to take the animal owner and the animal to the quarantine facility if the owner is unable to transport the animal himself. If the owner refuses to comply with a Board of Health Order, the county attorney will pursue legal action. The sanitarian was asked to make arrangements with suitable quarantine facilities so that quarantine options are identified for future incidents.

Septic Regulations: Corrine reported she is currently updating the septic regulations for Pondera and Teton Counties.

Cottage Food Industry: Corrine reported that if a person preparing or handling food for public consumption has a foodborne/waterborne illness, the county health officer must verify when it is OK for the person to resume their food prep and handling activities.

Raw Milk: Corrine reported the raw milk bill is moving through the legislature and would allow the sale of raw milk without requiring standards or testing.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Elaine Sedlack