

## Teton County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

May 28, 2013

**Present:** Jim Hodgskiss, Corrine Rose, Lora Wier, April Spaulding, Randy Morris, Jane DeBruycker, and Madalyn Morris, student nurse.

Lora called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm.

Bruce Kesler presented a request to the board. He wants to move an old house located on his property to another location on his property near Agawam. The old house is not now being used but will be when it is moved. There was a home at that spot many years ago. Corrine said there needs to be 4 feet between the bottom of the drain field and the water table. During irrigation season the water table rises above that level but the rest of the year it is lower. Bruce proposes to bring in fill and use a pressure pump to disperse the drainage throughout the drain field. Since there was previously a house at that site which created an existing use the board decided he could go ahead and a variance is not needed.

Corrine reported the Montana Department of Transportation (MDOT) has requested a variance for the replacement of septic tanks at the rest areas on I-15 located between Dutton and Brady on the Teton River. They are upgrading the buildings and parking areas. They have just built new more modern rest areas near Conrad so the board thought the old areas would be closed. Corrine reported that in 2005 they had requested a variance to replace the drain field in the northbound rest area but then discovered a water leak that was causing the problem and never did replace the drain field. MDOT plans to replace the septic tanks with updated and larger tanks. The existing septic tanks are located in the 100 year flood plain and the DOT wants to put the new tanks in the same location as the old tanks. Jim made a motion to approve a variance to allow replacement of the septic tanks. Randy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Madalyn discussed the proposal for the health department to seek accreditation. Lora plans to retire in 2 years and wants to hire an accreditation and immunization coordinator. Health departments are not now required to be accredited but may be required in the future. Health department's may have to be accredited to be competitive for grants. Lora will be interviewing the 2 best applicants for the position. Currently 11 health departments in the U.S. are accredited. Three in Montana are applying this year including Missoula, Cascade, and Riverstone. Madalyn outlined the steps involved in applying for accreditation. The cost for a health department our size would be \$12,000 dollars with \$5,000 due the first year and the rest due in increments over the next 4 years. The process begins with a community needs assessment involving health care providers and other stakeholders and discussion of how to meet those needs. Jane said

we need to reach out to other towns in the county and the community needs assessment should be county wide. The accreditation is done by the Public Health Accreditation Board. Elaine asked who was on the board and who appointed the board but Lora did not know.

April reported on the possibility of forming a Healthy Teton County Coalition similar to the coalition in Toole County. It would replace the tobacco coalition and meet monthly and include everyone interested in health issues such as medical providers, extension service, fitness providers, etc. It would prevent duplication of services, recognize gaps in service, and assist with referrals to appropriate services.

April also discussed the problem with E-cigarettes. They are made in flavors to attract youth and can increase nicotine addiction. There currently are no age limitations on their purchase. They are currently not regulated by the FDA so there is no standardization. April asked about the county passing an ordinance but Jim said that would require review by the county attorney and 2 public hearings. But the board can send a letter to local retailers requesting they not sell them to minors. April will ask the state Tobacco Prevention Program if they have a letter template we could use. She would draft a letter and send it to the board members and county attorney for their comments.

Corrine reported she has been very busy with new subdivision review requests. Many are one lot requests by landowners wanting to split off a piece of property for family members. She also has had 2 failed septic systems. In one case a corral was built over the drain field that was installed in 2002. Another failed system needs a new pump tank to pump the waste water to a new drainfield located on a higher location. The septic tank is 7 feet below ground surface and the drain field is saturated during irrigation season. She has also had junk vehicle and solid waste complaints and a complaint about a manure pile too close to a water well.

Corrine invited a special speaker to teach the Safe Serv class. Forty people signed up and took the class in Conrad. No one signed up in Choteau so she cancelled the class. However six people showed up the day the class was to have been held.

She reported the Teton Tavern in Dutton let their license lapse and it needs a lot of upgrades before it can be licensed and they cannot be open without a license. Jane says she sees cars parked there during the day and wonders if they are open.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Elaine Sedlack

