

The regular meeting of the Spokane Regional Health District Board of Health held on Thursday, April 24, 2008 was called to order by Councilman David Crump, Chair, at 1:30 p.m. in rooms 320/321 of the Public Health Center, 1101 West College Avenue, Spokane, Washington.

Chair Crump explained that today's meeting was called to order an hour later than usual in order to accommodate board members who wished to attend today's Our Kids: Our Business child abuse prevention campaign luncheon.

PRESENT

Councilman David Crump, Chair
Councilman Michael Allen
Councilman Steve Corker
Councilman Dick Denenny
Councilman Bill Gothmann
Commissioner Bonnie Mager
Commissioner Mark Richard, Vice Chair
Board Member Michael Fisk, DC
Board Member Margaret Jones

ABSENT

Commissioner Todd Mielke
Mayor Mary Verner

Following roll call, Chair Crump said that agenda action item 8.c. Approval of a Strategic Plan would be heard immediately following the Health Officer report to accommodate, Lyndia Tye, who would need to leave for an appointment.

CITIZEN INPUT

- Dr. Charles Wolfe, Spokane, talked about the need to address suicide.
- Betty Fowler, Spokane, talked about water fluoridation and an updated EPA publication on fluoride and drinking water.
- David Schmitt, Spokane, talked about meningitis and informing the public about issues.
- Carolyn Pickett, Spokane, talked about several topics including licorice, 5th disease, lupus, vaccines, suicide, and MRSA.
- Rose Marie Waldram, Greenacres, read a letter about wastewater treatment and recycling, immunizations, and nutrition against disease which she distributed with the *Crusador*.

CHAIR REPORT – Councilman David Crump

Community Forum on Budget

Chair Crump announced a Community Forum scheduled on April 30, 2008 at 6-7:30 p.m. at the Health District. This was scheduled in response to the Budget & Finance Committee's desire to make the budget process more open and transparent to provide information on how the Health District's programs are funded and prioritized. He invited board members, citizens, and anyone interested to attend.

Annual Years of Service Awards

The Health District held its 17th Annual Years of Service Awards this morning and Chair Crump thanked board members who, along with himself, were able to attend the event: Councilman Corker, Councilman Gothmann, and Board Member Jones. He read the names of the employees who received recognition for their service at the Health District for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 40 years of service.

Employee Recognition

Heleen Dewey was presented with the “Outstanding Service Award” at the April 3rd Northeast Community Center’s annual awards dinner for her leadership to identify and implement changes in the physical environment to improve quality of life through developing safe routes to schools, encouraging community gardens, examining food security issues, making neighborhoods feel safer for seniors, and developing funding to create a Universal Playground at Mission Park that will accommodate children with special needs.

Emergency Response Training

At the March meeting, Administrator Torney Smith requested a subcommittee of Board of Health members who would participate on the Health District’s Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR) training team. Health District staff will provide either five 40-minute trainings or one 1.5 hour training. Board Member Jones and Commissioner Mager volunteered to participate in one 1.5 hour training along with Chair Crump. PHEPR staff will contact board members to schedule the training.

Legislative Retreat

A letter and email was sent to the Spokane legislators inviting them to a retreat with the Board of Health at Health District on Friday, May 23rd at 10 a.m. – Noon. At this time, Senator Brown has said she will attend; Representative Ormsby has indicated he will attend part of the discussion; Representative Barlow is a maybe; seven legislators have responded they are not available and five have not responded. Board members agreed to contact Senator Brown’s office and inquire if she would be available for another date and, if so, make a change to that date and send invitations in order to try to get more legislators to participate.

Dental Health

According to Men’s Health Metro Grades Ranking America’s Cities: Where the Teeth Bite, Spokane was ranked in the bottom three 100 cities for having the worst teeth looking at dental visits, number of pulled teeth, and fluoridated water.

Health Officer Search

The 30 days of job postings has ended and applications from qualified health officer candidates were received. Phone interviews have been conducted by the Board Selection Committee. The committee has agreed to invite one candidate for an in-person interview to meet with the members of the selection committee, the administrator and division directors. Chair Crump thanked Board Member Jones and Commissioner Richard for working with him during this process. Hopefully this process will be completed before the end of May.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT – Larry Jecha, MD, MPH

Chair Crump expressed his appreciation to Dr. Jecha for his service to the Health District and thanked him for attending today's board meeting as well as this morning's Years of Service Awards.

Dr. Jecha said he appreciated attending the employee's Years of Service Awards and thanked the employees for their work.

Gastroenteritis

Communicable disease staff has been working with several nursing homes in the Spokane area to help with control measures to contain an outbreak of gastroenteritis. Norovirus, which is a form of gastroenteritis, can be devastating in this population.

Chickenpox

Two Spokane schools have experienced an outbreak of chickenpox. Dr. Jecha and communicable disease staff worked with the Superintendent of Public Instruction to implement new guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to control this disease outbreak.

National Infant Immunization Week

April 19-26, 2008 is National Infant Immunization Week. Dr. Jecha attended several events held in Spokane on Monday in recognition of Washington state's improved infant vaccination rates. Speakers at events included Dr. Anne Schuchat, director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Disease for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, State Health Officer Maxine Hayes and Secretary of Health Mary Selecky.

West Nile Virus Planning

The Health District's first planning meeting for this year's West Nile virus season is scheduled on Thursday, May 1st. Although Spokane has not yet had a confirmed human case of West Nile virus, it is important for the Health District to be prepared.

Public Health Financing

In 2005, the legislature created a Joint Select Committee to study public health financing which reported that the state needed an adequate, dedicated source for public health funding of \$100 million per biennium. The legislature funded \$20 million for the 07-09 biennium. The Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials is asking the Washington State Association of Counties and the Association of Washington Cities to place public health funding high on their list of legislative priorities. Dr. Jecha recommends that the Board of Health adopt a resolution to support that prioritization. He also recommended that members of the board talk to their legislators and express appreciation for the current funding and also about the importance of adequate, dedicated public health funding.

Following the Health Officer report, Chair Crump again thanked Dr. Jecha for his service and dedication to public health.

Dr. Jecha responded to Commissioner Richard's question about the Board's concern to protect private property rights in conjunction with controlling mosquito larvae. There has been an interest in changing regulations regarding Mosquito Control Districts which is really an outdated term that should be referred to as Vector Control Districts that would cover the variety of disease carrying insects in addition to the mosquito.

ACTION ITEM

Approval of Strategic Plan – Lyndia Tye

Lyndia Tye presented the Spokane Regional Health District's 2008 Strategic Plan Update as a follow-up to the report given by Torney Smith at the March 2008 Board of Health meeting. The plan update booklet was distributed to board members. The plan includes the Health District's vision, mission and goals along with prevention initiatives and principles to achieve those initiatives on the first two pages. The center section lists the eighteen indicators that were prioritized by staff and the community as areas to place more focus on to improve. The last two pages include leadership and supportive strategies which are part of the infrastructure strategies from the original plan.

Ms. Tye asked for the board's approval of the SRHD 2008 Strategic Plan Update. The original strategic plan was developed in conjunction with the Board of Health for implementation in 2004 through 2009 and one update was made in 2006. Chair Crump explained the reason for approving an updated plan for 2008 rather than continuing with the current plan through 2009 was to provide an opportunity for the new health officer to participate with the Board in that process.

Motion: To approve the Spokane Regional Health District 2008 Strategic Plan Update.

Motion/Second: Jones/Mager

Approved: Unanimously approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: To approve the March 27, 2008 Board of Health meeting minutes as submitted in writing.

Motion/Second: Corker/Denenny

Approved: Unanimously approved

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, payroll warrants, and those other claims as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing which has been made available to the board. Time frame of claims: Voucher 80319 issued in February 2008 and all vouchers and warrants issued for the period of March 1 – 31, 2008. The board, in a vote as moved by Board Member Jones and seconded by Councilmember Corker, did approve for payment those vouchers included in the following lists and further described in the total amounts of \$1,450.60 and \$1,676,417.45.

Voucher Number:	#80319	\$ 1,450.60
	TOTAL	\$ 1,450.60
Voucher Numbers:	#80408 - #80742	\$ 458,339.78
Payroll Warrants:	#189856 -#189899	397,903.28
Advice Numbers	#381651 -#381850	
Payroll Warrants:	#190280 -#190324	520,174.39
Advice Numbers:	#383633 -#383830	
	TOTAL	\$1,676,417.45

Motion: To approve for payment those vouchers included in the above lists and further described in the total amounts of \$1,450.60 and \$1,676,471.45.

Motion/Second: Jones/Croker

Approved: Unanimously approved

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution #08-03 – Authorizing a 2008 General Fund Budget Amendment – Mike Riley

Councilmember Denenny made a motion to approve Resolution 08-03 Authorizing a 2008 General Fund Budget Amendment; motion seconded by Councilmember Corker. Mike Riley, Comptroller, said that this resolution reflects additional revenues of about \$1.8 million which he reviewed and explained.

Motion: To approve Resolution 08-03 Authorizing a 2008 General Fund Budget Amendment.

Motion/Second: Denenny/Corker

Approved: Unanimously approved

Resolution #08-04 – Authorizing Adoption of a Revised Procurement Policy – Mike Riley

Councilmember Corker made a motion to approve Resolution #08-04 Authorizing Adoption of a Revised Procurement Policy; motion seconded by Board Member Jones. Mike Riley, Comptroller, explained the proposed revisions to the Health District's Procurement Policy. The original policy was adopted a few years ago and some changes have occurred since that time resulting in the auditor's recommendation to change the policy. The changes, highlighted in the draft policy, were reviewed and explained by Mr. Riley. In response to board member questions, Mr. Riley gave an overview of the decentralization of purchasing and detailed explanation of the auditors' recommendations.

Motion: To approve Resolution #08-04 Authorizing Adoption of a Revised Procurement Policy.

Motion/Second: Corker/Jones

Approved: Unanimously approved

REPORTS

2007 Year-End Budget Report – Mike Riley

Mike Riley, Comptroller, presented and reviewed the Health District's 2007 Year-End Budget Report – Unaudited. The report reflected an increase to the ending fund balance as a result of new grant contracts, the software settlement, collection of past debts, and the tight monitoring of expenditures. The difference in revenues was the result of a decrease in some permits, a different way of distributing vaccines, fees reflecting 100% of cost reimbursement, an increase in interest earned due to a higher cash balance due to new grants, past debt collection and fee increases resulting in an overall decrease. The difference in expenditures was the result of the increased cost for the Department of Retirement, a different way of accounting for vaccine, and an increase in expenditures for building repair and maintenance and the purchase of new timekeeping software. Page three showed the change in fund balances from 2006 to 2007 to reflect a decrease in dedicated funds, an increase in designated funds, and an increase in undesignated funds.

In response to a board member question, Mr. Riley said that the settlement for the operating system software has been agreed on and we recuperated most of the money.

Environmental Public Health – David Swink

David Swink is the director of the Environmental Public Health (EPH) Division. Last year, the division name was changed from Environmental Health to Environmental Public Health in order to follow the national trend to emphasize the focus on people's health rather than the environment.

Board members were provided with an EPH 2007 End-of-Year Report booklet which outlined accomplishments in Community Relations/Mobilization, Education/Public Awareness; Capacity Building/Internal Restructuring; and Assessment/Evaluation. In accordance with the Public Health Standards, Mr. Swink presented a slide show with data on all of the programs in EPH, a copy is attached to the meeting minutes, and noted the following:

- The number of new drug labs for cleanup has been dropping but several are in the cleanup process and staff field many questions about drug labs.
- Septic tank pumping falls under solid waste regulations; solid waste complaints are increasing as the snow melts; recycling facilities are no longer permitted under the new regulation, but the solid waste grant paid for staff to check them; Spring House Greening is a cooperative program focusing on picking up hazardous materials for seniors – at the recent 2008 event, 4.8 tons of hazardous materials were picked up for disposal.
- EPH contracts with the Department of Ecology to inspect 25% of new drinking water wells drilled and 100% of all decommissioned wells.
- The Land Use Program assures that properties developing off of public utilities have an adequate water supply and can adequately dispose of sewage; non-permitted septic systems are exposed to validate how the system was constructed.
- The Vector Program, which deals with disease carrying animals and insects, responds to hundreds of animal bites every year; this is also the program that deals with West Nile virus.
- School inspections are very involved and some schools have been trained to perform self-inspections; school safety regulations are currently being revised.

- The water recreation regulation was recently revised with this year being the compliance deadline on some issues; Child Watcher Tags, which were distributed to board members along with the program brochure, designates an adult to supervise children in pools at all times; the Health District is the lead agency for the Inland Northwest Drowning Prevention Coalition.
- The Food Program is currently shorthanded and is not currently meeting the inspection frequency required in the regulation, however, our agency is comparable with the state in prevention of foodborne disease; SRHD is the only local health jurisdiction in Washington state that provides food worker training via the internet.

Following the presentation, Mr. Swink responded to board member questions. He is aware of the potential for mercury contamination from the new energy efficient light bulbs and realizes the importance of addressing that issue but resources are limited. Application forms for various permits can be accessed on our website, but the application process is not yet interactive online.

Board members thanked Mr. Swink for his report.

BOARD MEMBER CONCERNS

Visit Health District Programs – Chair Crump

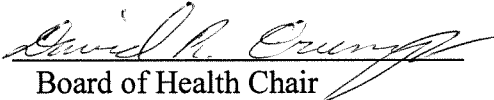
Chair Crump recently took the opportunity to visit with Julie Graham and Cheri Kaatz in the Public Information Office. He thanked them for the increased communication, production of materials in print and materials and other information available on the website. He spoke with Julie about the increase in public information requests. Chair Crump challenged all board members to visit at least one department to meet staff and learn more about their programs.

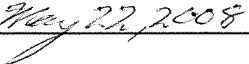
NEXT BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled at 12:30 p.m. on May 22, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

APPROVED: 
Board of Health Chair

Date: 


Recording Secretary