

Island County Board of Health
Regular Meeting

Monday, April 16, 2001

Members Present: Commissioners William F. Thorn; Mike Shelton; Mac McDowell; Mayor Patricia Cohen; Holly Schoenknecht, WGH Commissioner; Roger S. Case, MD, Executive Secretary, Board of Health.

Absent: Captain John E. Tracy, MSC, USN, Ex-Officio Member

Chairman William F. Thorn called this regularly scheduled meeting of the Island County Board of Health to order at 5:00 p.m.

Agenda: Health Services Director asked that agenda item #2 under Contracts be removed and that Contract #5 be added to the agenda.

Minutes: Commissioner Mike Shelton moved that the minutes from the March 19, 2001 meeting be approved as written. Commissioner Holly Schoenknecht seconded; the minutes were approved for the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board.

Public Input: There was no input from the public.

Program: Environmental Health Department Director, Keith Higman presented "Areas of Special Concern", WAC 246-272-21501, ICC 8.07C.290. The thrust of this presentation was to inform the Board and the public of the growing concern statewide (and nationwide) about safeguarding the waters and aquifers being accessed by the public, and of the requirement to formally identify "areas of special concern" such as:

- (a) Shellfish protection districts of shellfish growing areas;
- (b) Sole source aquifers designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;
- (c) Areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers used for potable water;
- (d) Designated public water supply wellhead protection areas;
- (e) Up-gradient areas directly influencing water recreation facilities designated for swimming in natural waters with artificial boundaries...;
- (f) Areas designated by the department of ecology as special protection areas under WAC 173-200-090, water quality standards for ground waters;
- (g) Wetlands areas under production of crops for human consumption;
- (h) Frequently flooded areas delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency
- (l) Areas identified and delineated by the local board of health in consultation with the department to address public health threat from onsite systems.

A definite link exists between drinking water and surface/sub-surface contamination sources — most particularly with on-site systems. Director Higman related that we do not know about all the failures of on-site systems in the county, and that the very permeable soils in some areas of the county do not permit surface identification of failing systems. This is of special concern when the slow contamination of an aquifer occurs without the public's knowledge, sometimes taking months or years. Proper maintenance of on-site systems reduces the risk for such contamination.

A local installer of septic systems, Jim Trask, spoke to the Board of the need for educating the homeowner about proper maintenance of septic systems, and of the need for a preventive program of inspection and maintenance to insure continued optimum performance of on-site systems.

When queried about exactly who would be responsible for designating Areas of Special Concern, Mr. Higman stated that the Local Board of Health, in collaboration with the Health Officer, is required by statute to designate these special areas (see attachment). He went on to reiterate the need for further information and for public input and education as we continue to address this issue.

Contracts:

1. Commissioner Mike Shelton moved that Watershed Planning Contract Amendment G9900038 (Contract with DOE) for \$166,700 be approved. Commissioner Patricia Cohen seconded. The motion passed for the

Chair to sign on behalf of the Board.

2. Commissioner Mike Shelton moved that Memorandum of Understanding between Whidbey General Hospital and The Island County Health Department Contract No: HD-02-01 for \$14,560 be approved. Commissioner Patricia Cohen seconded. The motion passed for the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board.
3. Commissioner Mike Shelton moved that San Juan County & Island County (Nutrition Services) Amendment 1 , Contract No: HD-06-00 (1) be approved; Commissioner Patricia Cohen seconded. The motion passed for the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board.
4. Commissioner Mike Shelton moved that Professional Services-Assessment & Community Development Contract with Mark Serafin, Contractor, Contract No: HD-04-01 be approved; Commissioner Holly Schoenknecht seconded. After a brief discussion, the motion passed for the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board.

Public Health Report:

- The Washington Sate Association of Local Public Health Officials (WSALPHO) is preparing for the next Local Board of Health Leadership Workshop for the fall of 2001. Health Services Director Tim McDonald called attention to and invited the board members to complete the WSALPHO survey which will form the foundation for the design of this workshop (see attachment). Chairman Thorn commented on the usefulness of this program, and urged boardmembers to participate and to attend the workshop if at all possible. Chairman of the BOH requested that Captain John Tracy, MSC, USN, Ex-Officio Member of the Board, be forwarded the Washington State Association of Local Public Health Officials survey.
- Roger Case, MD, Island County Health Officer, gave final status of measles in Island County and the Puget Sound region. Island County had two cases of measles. There were 15 cases in the state of Washington. The World Health Organization reports over 30 million cases of measles occur worldwide every year, with a resultant 900,000 deaths (mostly infants and toddlers). 186 cases of measles occurred in the entire U.S. in 1989, demonstrating the effectiveness of the immunization program in the United States.

There being no further business, Commissioner Thorn adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m. The Board of Health will reconvene Monday, May 21, 2001 at 5:00 PM.

Submitted: Roger S Case, MD, Executive Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved this 21st day of May 2001.

ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

William F. Thorn, Chairman