

ICEHI/PACE-EH
Environmental Health Assessment Team (EHAT)
MINUTES

Date: Thursday December 8, 2005
Time: 5:30pm – 7:30pm
Location: North Whidbey Family Resource Center

Present: David Macys, Chris Markle, Jim Patton, Linda Rhodes (Chair), Celine Servatius, Marie Piper, Rob Voigt

Guests: Katie Hicks, Matt Kaufman, Carl Stephens

Staff Present: Keith Higman, Steve Hoffman, Tim McDonald

Excused: RoseAnn Alspektor, Phyllis Brett, Lisa Clark, Patty Folkestad, Kevin Rio Kiper, Mark Lathrop, Kristy Miller, Leslie Stevens (Vice Chair), Nancy Farnsworth

Unexcused: Reece Rose

Call to Order: Linda Rhodes EHAT Chair called the scheduled meeting of the Environmental Health Assessment Team to order at 5:41 pm.

Agenda Items:

1. Review Minutes from November 2005 Meeting

- a) Minutes were approved as submitted.

2. Welcome and Guest Presentation

- a) Visitor introduced: Matt Kaufman
- b) Matt Kaufman, Environmental Health Specialist, Skagit County gave a talk on Skagit County's program dealing with illegal dumping. There was an extended discussion of his voucher system, use of surveillance cameras, and approach to enforcement of regulations.
- c) Highlights of discussion included: Matt's opinion that fines were his most effective enforcement tool, and vouchers were the second most effective. Matt gives out 10-15 vouchers per month to lower income people. Cameras, too, are effective, especially in dumping "hotspots" where repeat offenses occur. Also, public perception that cameras are out there has been an effective deterrent to illegal dumping. Members seemed to agree that Matt balances well the "punitive" aspects of enforcement with a "compassionate" approach, where he is willing to work with offenders flexibly to resolve issues. This can mean reduction of fines, requiring letters of apology, and other methods. Members seemed to agree that Island County should seriously consider building this kind of approach into its systems, to ensure that systems/code are not dependent on the personality of an individual staff member.

3. Video: "Securing Your Load"

- a) Short but 'impactful' video on the dangers of not securing loads on trucks was viewed.
- b) Discussion centered on how to get this message out: e.g., to schools, in military orientation, public access television, driver education venues of all kinds.

4. Emerging Issues

- a) Discussion of continuing issue of proposed hunting in public lands. It was resolved that Chair Linda Rhodes will draft another letter expressing EHAT's concerns regarding the potential impact of hunting on walking and physical activity.
- b) Concerns were expressed, too, about the county's liability for accidents.

5. BOH Report

- a) There is not yet a volunteer for the second Board of Health liaison position.
- b) Jim Patton reported on what he said at the recent Board of Health meeting. Celine Servatius asked that EHAT be briefed first on data which is to be presented to the Board.

6. Subcommittee Updates

- a) Dumping – Discussed draft letter to Oak Harbor Public Works drafted by Jim Patton. This letter's goal is to enable EHAT to meet with Oak Harbor officials to discuss how and where to put up Litter and It Will Hurt signs. The draft letter was approved with no revisions. Linda Rhodes will put the letter on stationery, sign it, and send it
- b) Walkability – Working on draft work plan. Did not have time to discuss in detail.
- c) Communication and Recruitment – Steve has been working with David to focus heavily on membership and recruitment. The EHAT web page has been revised and updated, and is available for everyone's review and comments. Power Point presentations on EHAT have been updated and revised, and will be taken to the community as soon as possible. A draft brochure is in the works. New teleconferencing options were discussed, and appear to be implementable. Details to be announced in the near future.

6. Subcommittee Work Groups

- a) Time did not allow EHAT to work in subcommittee groups.

7. Schedule Subcommittee Meeting (Plan Dates)

- a) Time did not allow. Will determine by email.

8. Closing Business

- a) EHAT agreed to meet in January.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.