

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH –MINUTES
316 PARK AVENUE, HELENA, MONTANA 59624
County Commission Chamber
October 23, 2014**

Members Present

Anne Weber, chair
Commissioner Andy Hunthausen, vice-chair
Kelly Parsley
James Benish
Scott St. Clair
Kent Kultgen
Jennifer Lowell
Mayor Jim Smith

Members Absent

Dr. Maria Braman

Staff Present

Melanie Reynolds Mike Henderson
Jolene Helgerson
Kathy Moore
Norman Rostocki
Jay Plant
Gayle Shirley
Karen Lane

Guests Present

Lynn Jennings
Mary Yeshe
John Morgan
Flavia Morgan
Roxa Reller
Page Atchison
Michael Lee

Anne Weber, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. A quorum was established.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Melanie Reynolds, Health Officer, stated that Mike Henderson, Division Administrator with the Communicable Disease Program, will give an update on the health department's work related to the international Ebola outbreak during the health officer's report.

MINUTES

Ms. Weber asked if there were any corrections or additions to the September 25, 2014 minutes. The Board approved the minutes as written.

ACTION ITEM

Hearing Officer Recommendation, Mr. Jacob Connor: James Benish, hearing officer, gave a brief explanation of the Morgan variance hearing held on October 22, 2014, along with his recommendation (see Attachment "A") for approval. Mr. Benish stated that the request met all of the state Department of Environmental Quality criteria for granting a variance. James Benish moved to ratify the hearing officer recommendation for approval. Commissioner Hunthausen seconded the motion. After board member discussion, the motion carried 8-0.

Request for approval of letter to the Surface Transportation Board: Kathy Moore, Division Administrator with the Environmental Services Division, requested board approval of a letter to the Surface Transportation Board asking it to consider potential health and safety impacts on Lewis and Clark County during environmental review of the Tongue River Railroad (see page 8 of the board packet and Attachment "B"). Mayor Smith asked staff to attach a citation to the letter for information about noise pollution. Ms. Weber asked staff to include an email address for responses and updates to the review of

the Tongue River Railroad. Jennifer Lowell made a motion to approve the letter to the Surface Transportation Board, with a citation regarding noise pollution and an email address for responses. Kelly Parsley seconded the motion. The motion carried 8-0.

Request for approval of letter to Montana Rail Link: Ms. Moore requested board approval of a letter to Montana Rail Link to request baseline train traffic data (see page 10 of the board packet and Attachment “C”). Scott St. Clair voiced concern that the letters appear to have been written by the Sleeping Giant Citizens Council and not by the Board of Health acting on the concerns of the public. Mayor Smith noted that he felt the same but has heard concerns from the public on this topic recently, including a letter from Bruce Nachtsheim addressed to the Helena City Commission, Lewis and Clark County Commission, and Montana Rail Link regarding the way the railroad inconveniences the people of this area (see Attachment “D”). Mayor Smith asked that Mr. Nachtsheim receive a copy of the letter to Montana Rail Link. Commissioner Hunthausen noted that the County Commission has received public concerns regarding the railroads that run through the county. Mike Lee, with the Sleeping Giant Citizens Council, thanked the Board and staff for the written letters addressing the public health issues potentially associated with construction of the Tongue River Railroad and potential air quality issues surrounding Montana Rail Link trains. The Sleeping Giant Citizens Council members are concerned with the health and safety impacts associated with train traffic. They feel these letters raise important concerns relating to air quality. On behalf of the Sleeping Giant Citizens Council, Mr. Lee encourages the support of these two letters. He noted that boards of health in other jurisdictions have taken these and other actions. In answer to a past question from a board member, Mr. Lee stated that an EIS is due to be released in April of 2015. The sooner the BOH asks to be involved, the sooner the Surface Transportation Board can work with the BOH on the health concerns presented. In answer to a question from Ms. Lowell, Mr. Lee said he did not have information at this time on baseline data and environmental impact statements other boards of health have been able to produce regarding air quality involving train traffic. Roxa Reller of 5670 Eagle Ridge Road in Helena, MT, and a member of the Sleeping Giant Citizens Council, voiced her and the council’s concerns about air quality, at-grade railroad crossings, idling traffic, and the number of railroad cars coming through the City of Helena. There being no further board member discussion, Mayor Smith made a motion to approve the letter to Montana Rail Link. Ms. Lowell seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-1. Mr. St. Clair opposed the motion.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Finance Report: Norman Rostocki, Finance Coordinator, referenced the FY15 comparison to budget and cash flow for July 2014 through September 2014 (page 12 of the board packet). Mr. Rostocki noted that the Department is 16% of the way through its fiscal year. Total revenue to date is \$296,513, or 15% of the amount budgeted; actual expenditures are \$475,826, or 24% of the amount budgeted. Revenues are under expenditures by \$179,312; total ending cash is \$516,270.

Update on Public Health Accreditation Activities: Gayle Shirley, Communications Coordinator, delivered a PowerPoint presentation on Public Health Accreditation Activities-Workforce Development Survey and Quality Council. Ms. Shirley listed the steps for applying for accreditation and what the Health Department has accomplished so far. She explained how those steps work together. She also discussed progress with the Workforce Development Survey and Performance Management System and briefly spoke about the role the newly created Quality Council plays in accreditation.

Update on Tobacco Free Parks: Karen Lane, Prevention Programs Manager for the Chronic Disease Programs, has been working with the City-County Parks Board to move forward a resolution to designate Centennial Park as tobacco free, along with other parks in the community. Ms. Lane highlighted the community tobacco surveys (pages 16-18 of the board packet and Attachment “E”) conducted by the

Tobacco Prevention staff. Ms. Reynolds recommended that the Board send a letter to the City of Helena Commission in support of tobacco-free venues. Staff will email the support letter for board member review.

Update on Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR): The department is still in the process of working with Schlenker & McKittrick Architects (SMA) to find a suitable location that will meet the department's long-term needs. Ms. Reynolds and the architects met with developers to discuss the options of leasing or leasing to own already built properties. Ms. Reynolds noted that the Health Department staff located in the clinic building will temporarily move into the newly completed Phase I part of the Cooperative Health Center during Phase II of construction.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

Mike Henderson, Division Administrator for the Disease Control and Preventions Program, stated that staff has been following the public health practices put out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) regarding monitoring for Ebola in the United States. He addressed what actions will be required by medical and health professionals if a case occurs in Montana.

Mr. Henderson addressed a question raised at the September board meeting about the high numbers of Salmonella cases in the county. He said there was no common source of infection among the 5 cases that were reported from August 14 through September 15.

The training coordinator, Ellen Bell, with the City and County IT&S department passed away October 22 from injuries sustained in a car accident. She was involved in the department's healthy communities efforts.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION *continued*

In answer to a question from Mayor Smith, Ms. Reynolds stated that staff is reviewing a decision rendered by Judge Sherlock regarding exempt wells and the impact that decision will have on the Health Department and the community. Ms. Reynolds will speak with Jim Wilbur, the Water Quality District Coordinator, and Ms. Moore and will provide an update to the Board by email.

There being no public comment, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Anne Weber, Chair

Melanie Reynolds, Secretary

Action Items from October 23 BOH Meeting

- Ms. Reynolds will draft a letter to the City of Helena Commission in support of tobacco-free venues for Board review.
- Ms. Reynolds will send out an update on the decision made by Judge Sherlock regarding exempt wells and the impact that decision will have on the Health Department.