

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
BOARD OF HEALTH –MINUTES  
316 N. Park, Room 330, HELENA, MONTANA 59601  
April 24, 2014**

Members Present

Kelly Parsley, chair  
Commissioner Andy Hunthausen, vice-chair  
Anne Weber  
Jennifer Lowell  
James Benish  
Scott St. Clair

Members Absent

Mayor Jim Smith  
Dr. Maria Braman  
Kent Kultgen

Staff Present

Melanie Reynolds  
Jolene Helgerson  
Norman Rostocki  
Karen Lane  
Jay Plant  
Gayle Shirley

Guests Present

George Theborge, Community Development & Planning  
Bob Anderson, METG Hydrometrics  
Betsy Burns, EPA

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

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Melanie Reynolds, Health Officer, added to the action items on the agenda a request for a letter of support from the board for the application of the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department for a local public health performance management support grant.

**MINUTES**

Ms. Parsley asked if there were any corrections or additions to the March 27, 2014, minutes. In answer to a question by Jennifer Lowell, Ms. Reynolds stated that, in the second to the last paragraph on page 4 of the board packet, the last sentence should read “Lewis and Clark County was ranked first for clinic care but ranked one of the lowest in the stated for low birth-weight rates.” The Board approved the minutes with the amendment.

**ACTION ITEM**

Hearing Officer Recommendation, Ralph and Dianne Hoffman: Anne Weber, hearing officer, gave a brief explanation of the Hoffman variance hearing held on April 22, 2014, along with her recommendation for approval. Ms. Weber stated that the request met all of the state Department of Environmental Quality criteria for granting a variance. After board member discussion, Scott St. Clair moved to ratify the hearing officer recommendation for approval. Commissioner Hunthausen seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Request for approval of letter on smoke-free policy as a threshold requirement for new construction projects in the Montana Qualified Allocation Plan: Karen Lane, Program Manager with the Chronic Disease Prevention Programs, presented a Board of Health support letter on page 9 of the board packet to the Montana Board of Housing urging them to include smoke-free policy as a threshold requirement for new construction projects in the Montana Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) for Low-Income Housing Tax

Credits. After board member discussion, Ms. Lowell made a motion to approve the support letter to the Montana Board of Housing. Ms. Weber seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Application of the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department for a local public health performance management support grant: Ms. Reynolds presented a Board of Health support letter (see Attachment "A") to the state Department of Public Health and Human Services Office of Public Health Systems Improvement supporting the application of the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department for a local public health performance management support grant in the amount of \$25,000. Commissioner Hunthausen made a motion to approve the support letter to the Department of Public Health and Human Services Office of Public Health Systems Improvement. James Benish seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

## **PRESENTATION**

Helena Valley Growth Policy Update: George Theborge, Community Development and Planning Director, presented the Helena Valley Growth Policy Update (see Attachment "B"). Mr. Theborge stated that Lewis and Clark County adopted a long-range community plan -- a growth policy -- in 2004. The Growth Policy includes different planning areas, including one for the Helena Valley. To address the most critical issues facing Helena Valley now and in the future, the county is beginning to update this portion of the growth policy. Mr. Theborge highlighted the key issues the Growth Policy will focus on, which are water supply, wastewater disposal, roads and fire protection. Mr. Theborge also highlighted the growth in the Helena Valley using a 2000-2010 map and the community survey. The Community Development and Planning Department has hosted 4 open houses and will host a 5th open house, which will include an invitation to the residents of Helena. The next steps for the Growth Policy are to complete the open houses and compile public comments into a draft policy by the end of the summer. In the fall, the Department will start a second public participation process and by the end of the year it hopes to have a final policy available to the commission for a vote. In answer to questions by Mr. St. Clair, Mr. Theborge stated that the planning board is an oversight group for the Growth Policy. Due to jurisdiction regulations, the Department did not have to send the survey to those living in the city limits of Helena and East Helena. Doing so would have been very costly. After listening to public feedback, the Department is opening the survey online for anyone to comment.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Kathy Moore of 3560 5 Applebee Court thanked the planning board and the commission for the work they have done on the Helena Valley Growth Policy Update survey.

## **PRESENTATION CONTINUED**

In answer to a question from James Benish, Mr. Theborge stated that the department will display the results of the Growth Policy survey. The department considers the Board of Health to be a stakeholder in the Growth Policy and welcomes comments from the board.

East Helena Controlled Groundwater Area: Bob Anderson, East Helena Groundwater Technical Manager with the Montana Environmental Custodial Trust Hydrometrics, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed East Helena Controlled Groundwater Area (EHCGWA) (see Attachment "C"). Mr. Anderson highlighted what a Controlled Groundwater Area is; the purpose and goal of the EHCGWA; technical and logistical details of the EHCGWA, and the roles and responsibilities for the EHCGWA. Mr. St. Clair requested that the EHCGWA group consider removing "East Helena" from their title EHCGWA because East Helena was not the cause of the contamination. Mr. St. Clair suggested they replace "East Helena" with Asarco or Montana Environmental Custodial Trust. In answer to several questions by Mr. St. Clair, Mr. Anderson stated that legally there is nothing that can be done about wells that are located in Subarea 2

that are drawing from the plume that might be adding to the contamination. New wells in Subarea 2 will require a permit, and existing wells and groundwater appropriations are not affected. If a well in Subarea 2 shows no signs of contamination but does fail, provisions can be written to allow a new well replacement with the same well use and depth as the failed well. Mr. Anderson stated that a possible final corrective measure will be available within 2-3 years. Ms. Weber made a suggestion to the Montana Environmental Custodial Trust Group (MECTG) that they provide the Board with more details regarding the petition before the Board submits the petition to the state Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Ms. Reynolds recommended a Board of Health and Water Quality Protection District Board (WQPD) work session to go over the details of the petition. Ms. Parsley and Ms. Lowell supported having a work session in June or July. Betsy Burns, Project Manager with the Environmental Protection Agency, stated that the implementation of the 3 interim measures should be completed in 2017. The corrective measure study will be going on in conjunction with the interim measures. Commissioner Hunthausen requested MECTG provide the Board and the WQPD Board with a draft petition to review before making their recommendation, which may eliminate the need for a work session.

### **BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION**

Finance Reports: Norman Rostocki, Finance Coordinator, referenced the FY14 comparison to budget and cash flow for July 2013 through March 31, 2014, on page 13 of the board packet. Mr. Rostocki noted that the Department is 75% of the way through its fiscal year. Total revenue to date is \$1,089,769, or 59% of the amount budgeted; actual expenditures are \$1,349,468, or 66% of the amount budgeted. Revenues are under expenditures by \$259,699; total ending cash is \$546,816. Mr. Rostocki also presented the fiscal year 2015 budget (see Attachment "D"), in which he highlighted the health department's proposed number of full-time employees, total revenue, total expenditures and revenue over (under) expenditures. The Board of Health Finance Committee will meet on April 29 to discuss the budget further.

Pertussis Update: To date, 10 cases of Pertussis have been reported in Lewis and Clark County, which has resulted in 250 contacts that department staff are working with.

### **HEALTH OFFICER REPORT**

Ms. Reynolds will provide the Board with some preliminary reports from Schlenker & McKittrick Architects (SMA) on the progress they have made regarding long-term space needs for the health department.

Ms. Reynolds and Mr. Benish have discussed the issues regarding the transportation of coal by train through the City of East Helena and Helena. The Northern Plains Resources Council has provided Mr. Benish with information regarding the transportation of coal, and Ms. Reynolds would like provide the Board a chance to review it and to have a presentation by the council at the next board meeting.

A tour of the Asarco Plant scheduled for May has been canceled due to a conflict in scheduling. Staff will look to reschedule at a later date.

The meeting adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

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Kelly Parsley, Chair

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Melanie Reynolds, Secretary

Action Items from April 24 BOH Meeting

- Ms. Reynolds will provide the Board with a draft copy of the MECTG petition for review prior to the May board meeting and will determine through board member feedback if a work session will be necessary. If a work session is required, it will need to be held in June or July.
- The Northern Plains Resources Council will give a presentation at the next board meeting regarding the transportation of coal through the Cities of Helena and East Helena.