

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH –MINUTES
316 N. Park, Room 330, HELENA, MONTANA 59601
May 22, 2014**

Members Present

Kelly Parsley, chair
Commissioner Andy Hunthausen, vice-chair
arrived @ 2:10 pm
Anne Weber
Jennifer Lowell
James Benish
Scott St. Clair
Mayor Jim Smith
Dr. Maria Braman

Members Absent

Kent Kultgen

Staff Present

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

Guests Present

Mike Lee, Northern Plains Resource Council
John Dillon, Sleeping Giant Citizens Council
Lynn Jennings
Jackie Taylor
Frank Kromkowski

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

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Ms. Parsley recommended joining agenda item 5, finance report, with agenda item 3. There were no objections.

MINUTES

Ms. Parsley asked if there were any corrections or additions to the April 24, 2014, minutes. The Board approved the minutes as written.

ACTION ITEM

Board of Health Recommendation of the Fiscal Year 2015 Health Department Budget: Melanie Reynolds, Health Officer, gave an overview of the timeline for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 budget and briefly spoke about the proposed cost of living increase, health insurance credit, and the new positions open within the health department. Norman Rostocki, Finance Coordinator, presented the health department's proposed FY 2015 budget (see Attachment "A") for Board approval. Mr. Rostocki highlighted the Mill's overall revenues, expenditures and cash reserves for FY 2012 and 2013, total budget for FY 2014, and the proposed budget for FY 2015. Mr. Rostocki also provided a budget breakdown by program (see Attachment "B"). Dr. Maria Braman made a motion to approve the FY 2015 Budget for recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. James Benish seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

PRESENTATION

John Dillon, a member of the Sleeping Giant Citizens Council, gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Coal Export: Health and Safety Concerns for Lewis and Clark County" (see Attachment "C"). Mr. Dillon gave an overview of who the Sleeping Giant Citizens Council and Northern Plains Resource Council are and what they are advocating for. Mr. Dillon provided data on the coal-fired power plants in the United States that are supplied by the Powder River Basin; the declining U.S. coal markets; the export

of coal to Asia; coal export terminals in Montana; the health and safety impacts to communities from increased train traffic; potential costs to taxpayers; and the specific concerns for the Helena Valley. Mike Lee, a member of the Northern Plains Resource Council, presented a list of recommended actions that the two councils would like the Board to consider. In answer to a question by James Benish, Kathy Moore, Environmental Services Division Administrator, stated that the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) owned stationary air quality monitoring units at Lincoln School and Rossitor School. DEQ determined that comparison studies for both units resulted in similar data. DEQ no longer has a monitoring unit at Lincoln School and relies on the Rossitor School unit for the airshed that is within the Air Quality Protection District. As for attainment within the Helena Valley, Ms. Moore stated that we do exceed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) air quality standards on certain days in the winter due to wood stove use and occasionally in the summer due to forest fires. However, the Helena Valley is not considered a non-attainment area by EPA standards. Ms. Reynolds noted that the City of East Helena is a non-attainment area for air quality related to the previous use of the smelter. In answer to a question from Mr. St. Clair, Mr. Dillon stated that, according to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe website, the amount of coal dust loss per car is 500 pounds. He also stated that he has no information at this time on the comparative value of coal dust lost versus the cost of sealing the coal with topper agents. The council has no evidence that rail cars are sealed with the topper agents. Mr. Dillon did note that there are more car derailments due to coal dust on the tracks. In answer to a question from Mr. Benish, Mr. Dillon stated that the petition signed by physicians regarding coal dust in Whatcom County, Washington, was related to the shipping port in Bellingham, Washington. In answer to a question from Jennifer Lowell, Mr. Dillon stated that the council will get back to the board with information on trend-line statistics regarding train traffic. In answer to a question by Ms. Reynolds, Mr. Dillon recommended that the health department refer to other health departments, industries and communities that have coal trains traveling in their area and how they worked with agencies to fund the recommended actions made by the council. In answer to a question from Mr. Lee, Ms. Moore stated that there currently is no air quality monitoring in East Helena. Air monitoring did occur when the lead smelter was in operation. In answer to a question from Mr. Dillon, Ms. Moore stated that air quality monitoring at Lincoln School was conducted continually with two air filters and ran every third day. Samples were submitted to a laboratory for analysis and stations were monitored by staff. In response to an inquiry from a member of the public, Ms. Parsley stated that the board would not hear public comment on the presentation at this time.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

East Helena Controlled Groundwater Area Process Update: Ms. Moore and Ms. Reynolds met with Betsy Burns, EPA, and Bob Anderson, Hydrometrics, to discuss the implementation of the controlled groundwater area in East Helena. Topics of conversation included the permitting process, similar permitting implementations with health departments in Gallatin and Silver Bow County, and the role of the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). Ms. Burns, Mr. Anderson and staff will finalize a draft petition for board review and vote in July. The final petition will be presented to DNRC in August. Staff is working with Ms. Burns regarding changes to the name of the controlled area. In answer to a question from Mr. St. Clair, Ms. Moore stated that there will be one county-sponsored public comment period before the draft petition is given to the Board. She hopes the East Helena Citizens Council will sponsor a public comment period also.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT

The Community Health Improvement Planning (CHIP) Task Force will meet at St. Peter's Hospital May 28 to discuss the progress that has been made on goals in the plan.

On May 5, 2014, the Health Department's Licensed Establishment Program hired Sanitarian Stanley Schell. Mr. Schell will be introduced at the June board meeting.

Ms. Reynolds is working with Schlenker & McKittrick Architects (SMA) to provide the board with a preliminary report regarding long-term space needs for the health department.

The Health Department's Home Visiting Program has acquired 2 new grants to provide evidence-based home visiting services.

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION *continued*

Pertussis Update: Mike Henderson, Administrator of the Disease Control and Prevention Division, stated there have been 42 diagnosed cases of pertussis since April 10. Of the 42 cases, 29 have been high school students, 4 middle school, 5 elementary, 1 preschool, 0 infants, and 3 adults. The public health nurses have identified 620 case contacts. Results of pertussis testing are now coming mostly from St Peters Hospital Lab instead of the Montana Public Health Laboratory. This has shortened the time it takes parents to get test results. This year there is also updated guidance for pertussis outbreaks from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which has been incorporated into the state administrative rules. The Health Department was able to partner with Helena Schools to use the Helena School District parent notification system to notify those who came in contact with pertussis cases. In answer to a question from Commissioner Hunthausen, Mr. Henderson stated that of the 42 cases identified, all were vaccinated except for one with a religious exemption.

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

Kelly Parsley, Chair

Melanie Reynolds, Secretary