

SAN JUAN BASIN

public health

MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH
SJBPH
COLUMBINE ROOM
DURANGO, CO
February 23, 2017, 9 A.M.

Attendance: Bob Ledger, Ann Bruzzese, Shere Byrd, Karin Daniels, Gwen Lachelt, Terryl Peterson, Michael Whiting, and Jeff Robbins Legal Counsel

- I. CALL TO ORDER at 9:04 a.m.
- II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONTENT

Gwen Lachelt moved to approve the agenda with the modification of switching item *IX d* to the public comment section to accommodate members of the public. Michael Whiting seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

- III. PUBLIC HEARING

None

- IV. OPEN REGULAR MEETING

- V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Randy and Charlotte Bumgarner, the owners of Superior Septic, presented to the Board of Health to discuss land applied septage. They would like to use EPA guidelines, which are not currently allowed by SJBPH regulations, to unload waste from sewer plants directly on their land to help keep the cost down. This would also give the company more opportunity to unload waste, as there are not currently many cost-effective locations for disposal. The City of Durango charges \$400 per truckload. Pagosa Springs charges \$540 per truckload. Cortez charges \$1000 per truckload and Farmington does not accept waste. The septic waste has been considered a beneficial fertilizer and does have regulations regarding disposal location and proximity to water sources.

Board member asked who pays these fees.

The Bumgarners stated that customers are responsible for the cost of disposal.

Board member asked if there are other septic disposal companies.

The Bumgarners stated that currently Ball Septic is the only other company in the area.

The Bumgarners also stated the high cost of waste disposal is causing people to hold off on emptying their septic tanks, which can lead to emergencies.

The state is currently revising the regulations which SJBPH will revise accordingly to comply with the state.

Board member asked if the company would use an untreated method.

The Bumgarners stated they would use the pH method to apply the waste to the land.

SJBPH legal counsel reminded the Board that SJBPH will need an official request from the La Plata County Board of County Commissioners to potentially come up with new regulations. SJBPH staff offered to coordinate a multi-agency work session if La Plata County Board of County Commissioners make request.

Board member asked if new regulations would increase the competition.

This is possible, but currently there are not many operating companies and not many that are showing any interest.

VI. STAFF PRESENTATION

SJBPH Website Update by Lauren Pope

Lauren presented the new design and easier navigation of the updated website.

Promotor by Ashley Gonzalez

Ashley discussed the goals of the Promotor program and how they benefit the community.

Board member asked where Promotor services are provided.

The Promotors are able to hold appointments at SJBPH offices, at clients' homes, or any other location in the community.

Board member asked how many community members are served annually.

The program's goal is to serve at least 200 people annually. The program is currently exceeding 200. About 25% of these clients are Archuleta County residents.

Sexual Health Clinic by Tiffany Switzer

Tiffany addressed the duties and benefits of the sexual health clinic at the SJBPH offices.

Board member asked how people hear about the SJBPH clinics to receive care.

Patients are referred through the Women's Wellness Connection and through SJBPH outreach. There is a staff member that goes around to partner establishments and doctor's offices to hand out flyers, there are radio ads, and other means of outreach that is conducted to bring patients to the clinic.

Board member asked if the clinic would have the resources to care for an influx of patients due to the new administration of the United States and potential cuts in insurance and Medicaid funding, causing more patients with lack of insurance or lack of funds to utilize the SJBPH sexual health and immunizations clinics.

The legislation has been introduced regarding funding. There is not currently a funding mechanism in place to pick up extra work if other medical establishes began turning away a substantial number of patients with no or low-coverage insurance.

CDPHE WQCC Regulation 43 (OWTS) by Brian Devine

Brian discussed the state's policies, regulations, and processes of the On-site Wastewater Treatment Systems, as these regulations are currently under revision.

Board member asked if the regulations adopted in 2013 by SJBPH matches the requirements in Regulation 43.

There are sections that are stricter than the state regulations, but the regulations are generally similar. The regulations that do not match the state were accepted by the state because they are considered stricter.

Board member asked if the different types of treatment systems, such as one being better for soil conditions or systems better targeted to site conditions, have been actively discussed in this area.

Many different design options have been discussed for the SJBPH area. The designs will require more detailed site evaluation and soil evaluation. This thorough evaluation will provide better system performance since they will be designed for the specific conditions of the site.

Board member asked how many systems use imported sand and how it is determined if sand needs to be imported.

Five to ten systems per year use imported sand. SJBPH does not require sand to be imported for the design. If a designer chooses to utilize sand for the treatment system rather than create a larger unit, SJBPH does require a specific type and quality of sand that will ensure that the water is filtered properly.

Board member asked if imported sand is typically used in situations with expansive soils.

There are a few different situations where a system would use imported sand. One scenario would be high groundwater, another being high bedrock in the soil. Another scenario would be if there were unfavorable soils such as tight clay that do not support wastewater treatment.

Board member asked where the sand comes from and how much it costs.

For this purpose, there are three providers in this region with the appropriate quality/type of sand. There are two providers in La Plata County and there is a provider in San Juan County, NM. Unfortunately this sand is in high demand and is often bought by CDOT due to building and road construction. The cost can vary.

Legal counsel asked if those with complaints are aware that SJBPH and the state is currently trying to broaden their requirements?

All the concerned parties are aware that the regulations are under revision and the state is trying to fix these issues to make the design process easier

Board member asked how much the sand requirement adds to the cost of the treatment system.

This is dependent on factors such as the number of rooms the home will have, or how much sand the system will need (which is based on size). It is not possible to generalize a cost due to differences in soil quality, system size, and other factors.

Board member asked if any of the regulations address the systems that work to remove water from waste, rather than adding treated water to dilute waste.

The 2017 regulations revisions do not include systems designed to remove water but these systems would be handled in the same way as conventional systems.

Board member asked for a description of a higher-level treatment system.

Conventional septic systems provide anaerobic treatment, settling and separation. This flows to a treatment area or leech field where it receives aerobic treatment and final disposal. An example of a higher-level treatment system is an aerator inside something like a septic tank that provides aerobic pre-treatment. This would provide for a smaller treatment area if it was maintained properly.

Board member asked if it will be required to adopt higher-level treatment and transfer-of-title.

These will remain optional to provide flexibility at the local level.

Board member asked how many septic systems there are in La Plata County and how many systems fail or have problems.

There are thousands of systems in La Plata County. Only a few hundred may have problems. There are stricter inspections during real estate transactions which have brought to light problems from older systems that were not permitted correctly.

VII. CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Approval of Minutes for meeting held on December 15th, 2016

Shere Byrd moved to approve, Terryl Peterson seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

- b. Immunizations Core Services Project
- c. WWC Clinical Services
- d. NACCHO MRC Challenge Award

Ann Bruzzese moved to approve all three items simultaneously, Gwen Lachelt seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

VIII. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR DECISION

a. December 2016, January 2017 Financial Reports by Finance Committee

Lesley Marie and Terryl Peterson presented the monthly and 2016 end-of-year report. The 2016 Audit will begin in April.

Board member asked if surplus vs deficit is dependent on timing.

This is largely due to timing, as funding comes in and expenses are paid, such as the recent installation of LED lights throughout the facility.

Ann Bruzzese moved to accept reports. Michael Whiting seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

b. Resolution to Modify Agency Name

Michael Whiting moved to approve, Gwen Lachelt seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

c. BOH Committees by Bob Ledger

Ann Bruzzese, Shere Byrd, and Commissioner Whiting volunteered to be on committees. Board Chair Bob Ledger will choose committees and report to the Board at next meeting.

IX. REPORTS

a. *Executive Director and Staff Reports* by Liane Jollon

Liane Jollon presented the facility and program updates since the last Board meeting.

The report was provided. There is currently an active tuberculosis case in Durango that SJBPH is required to provide direct observation treatment.

b. *Compensation and Benefits Update* by Lesley Marie

Lesley Marie presented the timeline and conclusions of the Gallagher Benefits Survey that was conducted in 2016.

Board member asked for clarification on choices in insurance plans.

Staff members voted to be offered different insurance plans rather than having only one option. This includes plans that staff will have to make monetary contributions to.

Board member asked if SJBPH has a parental leave policy.

SJBPH has FLMA (Family Medical Leave Act) but does not currently have any benefit beyond that.

c. *Personnel/Management Committee Update* by Bob Ledger

Nothing to report.

d. Land Applied Septage by Gwen Lachelt

Moved to Public Comment.

X. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Thursday, March 30th at 9:00 a.m., Columbine Room, Durango, Colorado

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 11:17 a.m. Ann Bruzzese moved that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters pursuant to C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(f)(1). Michael Whiting seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 11:32 a.m. and returned to the Open Session.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

Legal counsel provided further information and next steps regarding Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems and other environmental health regulations.

XIII. MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:51 a.m.

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