

MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
March 3, 2010

Meeting was called to order by Chair Brill at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Health Members Present: Chair Brill, Supervisor Bostwick (left at 7:00 p.m.), Supervisor Peer, Dr. Peterson, Dr. Best, Dr. Winter, Mr. Rooney, and Ms. Wade.

Board of Health Members Absent: Supervisor Joiner.

Staff Members Present: Karen Cain – Health Officer; Tim Banwell – Environmental Health Director; Debbie Erickson – Nursing Supervisor North Office; Sancee Siebold – Nursing Supervisor South Office; and Geri Waugh – Account Clerk.

Others Present: None at this time.

Welcome

Chair Brill, along with everyone present, welcomed Mr. Rooney back to the Board of Health.

Adopt Agenda

Supervisor Bostwick made a motion to adopt the agenda. Dr. Winter seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

Approval of Minutes 2/3/10

Supervisor Peer made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2/3/10 Board of Health meeting. Dr. Peterson seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

Citizen Participation

None at this time.

Unfinished Business

None at this time.

New Business

Administrative Division

Approval of Bills/Transfer of Funds

Ms. Waugh distributed a report from Rock County Purchasing concerning results from the requests for quotation for the health department's deionizer used for water testing. Four area water companies were contacted, as follows: E & D Water Works, Culligan Water Conditioning, Addie Water Systems, and Hinckley Springs Water Company.

Of the 4 companies, Addie Water Systems and Hinckley Springs don't rent deionizers. Culligan Water Conditioning (the health department's current vendor) did not respond to the request for quotation. E & D Water Works responded with a quotation of a deionizer rental charge of \$189.00/year, versus the \$35.00/month we currently pay to Culligan, or \$420.00/year. Supervisor Peer asked if the health department could get a 2-3 year agreement from E & D Water Works at the \$189.00 per year. Ms. Waugh stated she would check on that, and Chair Brill stated this item should be put on the agenda for the April 7, 2010 Board of Health meeting.

Ms. Wade made a motion to approve the bills for the month of February in the amount of \$46,226.35; bills for the Child Death Review Grant in the amount of \$59.99; and bills for the PHER Grant in the amount of \$6,345.02. Supervisor Bostwick seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

There are no transfers of funds this month.

Health Department Report

Health Educator: Ms. Cain reported that the health department has hired Laura Fadrowski as health educator and she began employment on 2/22/10. Laura has already been very involved in learning about department programs, and we are very pleased to have her on our staff.

Vision Statement: Ms. Cain stated that the health department's Vision Statement is as follows:

H.E.A.L.T.H.

H - Health Department

Accessible community health partner and advocate

E - Environment

Health & Safe: Homes, Work, Rest and Recreation

A - Accountability

Trustworthy, fiscally responsible, quality service

L - Leadership

Innovative, resourceful, and progressive catalyst for change

T - Teamwork

Respectful, supportive and enthusiastic employees with diverse skills

H - Healthy Lifestyle

Preventing illness and enhancing health through communication, education, and service

Ms. Cain stated there will be a framed copy of the health department's vision statement on display in both the Janesville and Beloit offices.

Staff Retreat: Ms. Cain stated the Environmental Health staff had a retreat today at the Job Center. This gives the staff the opportunity to discuss program concerns at a location away from the office. There will be a half-day clerical retreat on March 30th, and one for the nursing staff in the future.

County Health Rankings: Ms. Cain distributed a copy of the County Health Rankings for 2010 in Wisconsin. This information is compiled by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, University of Wisconsin, and the Population Health Institute. Of the 72 Wisconsin counties, Rock County ranks 62nd for both Health Outcomes and Health Factors. Nitrates in drinking water and lead poisoning are no longer included as part of these rankings, but healthy food outlets and liquor store density are now considered. There is a lot to be done to improve Rock County's rankings, including working on decreasing the high tobacco use, use of liquor, improving diet, and also decreasing the amount of sexually transmitted diseases.

Rock County Environmental Health Report Card: Ms. Cain distributed a copy of this report that was compiled by Rick Wietersen at the health department. A brief summary of each portion of the report is shown below:

Air Quality

- Total Facility Emissions. Total Facility Air Emissions in 2008 was slightly lower than 2007. The 2008 air emissions in Rock County were 51% lower than the 10-year average. The decrease in emissions is likely due to stricter emission regulations combined with the loss of some major industrial operations in Rock County.
- Household Radon. In Rock County, 66% of homes sampled contained high levels of Radon in 2009. This compares to the 10-year average of 61% of homes testing high in Rock County. In 2009, 535 radon tests were performed.
- Ozone. In Rock County, the weighted average for the 2005-2007 period for 'unhealthy' ozone days increased to an average of 5 days/year. This value could vary significantly depending on emissions, prevailing winds, and especially prolonged hot weather. This increase in days with unhealthy ozone levels is the highest since the 1997-1999 period.

Land Impact

- Contamination Sites. The number of new chemical spills decreased by nine in 2009 when compared to 2008. This is the third straight year of lower reported spills in the county and the lowest number of spills reported in the last eight years.
- Land Use Trends. From August 2006 to February 2010, the number of property parcels stayed about the same. This is reflective of the very low number of new housing starts in the county. The average size of parcels in the past year decreased from 13.1 acres to 12.9 acres. In 2009, the estimated annual county population increased by 590 persons. The county is gradually transitioning from a farming community to a residential area.

Drinking Water Quality

- Bacteria in Drinking Water. The frequency of 'unsafe' bacteria tests performed in 2009 was 15.4%. This was the third year that the rate decreased and was significantly lower than the 10-year average incidence rate in Rock County.
- Nitrates in Drinking Water. The nitrate levels of 90 selected public use indicator wells in Rock County decreased in 2009 to the lowest level since 1998. Although only a one-year trend, this may be an indication of excessively high groundwater in the county or possibly a correlation to reductions in agricultural fertilizer use.

Lead Poisoning

- Childhood Lead Poisoning. The number of cases confirmed, those with a venous lead amount over 10 ug/dl, increased slightly in 2009 in Rock County. The number of high blood lead cases was 25 in 2009, which was similar to the average of 24 cases per year since including the City of Beloit in the statistics in 2006. The maximum number of high blood lead cases was 173 in 1993. The overall trend is a significant decrease compared to the rate during the early 1990's.

Environmental Health

Health Department Special Well Testing Program

In Rock County, approximately 25% of wells tested exceed the health advisory for nitrates and 15-20% of wells tested are positive for coliform bacteria; however, only a small percent of wells (<5%) are tested on an annual basis as recommended. In order to increase the public's awareness of their own drinking water quality, the Rock County Health Department is offering a special water-sampling program to individual towns in Rock County.

The Health Department would come directly to a town hall and offer a \$5 discount for a combined bacteria/nitrate analysis. The Rock County Health Department's laboratory offers State certified water tests for both bacteria and nitrates, which are the two tests that we recommend on a regular basis from private wells. We encourage that the Town consider matching the Health Department's discount so that residents can analyze their water for \$10 less than the regular testing rate. We will offer this testing program to towns on a first-come-first-served basis, and are anticipating the capability of being able to provide this service to only one town per each quarter. If there is sufficient interest and staff availability, the department will continue to offer this service beyond 2010 so that more towns can participate.

The Health Department will provide:

- Promotional materials for the special sampling in your Town.
- Staff for sample kit distribution at your Town Hall on a date you select.
- Staff for sample drop-off at your Town Hall (likely on a Monday afternoon).
- Lab Testing Services for nitrates and bacteria.
- Individual result letter to each well owner.
- A town-wide summary of results at a Town Hall meeting, if desired.
- A \$5.00 discount on a combined nitrate and bacteria test (normally each \$22, or \$44 combined)

What your Town would need to provide:

- Promotion of this special sampling in your Town.
- Your Town Hall for the sample kit distribution location (specific date and time).
- An optional additional \$5.00 per well sample discount (approx. \$250 if 50 wells are tested).
- Your Town Hall for a sample drop-off location (specific date and time).
- A meeting time for a town-wide summary on ground water quality.

What's required of homeowners:

- Pick up a sample kit at the Town Hall on the date and time designated.
- Collect the samples during the time frame specified.
- Drop off collected samples at Town Hall.
- Pay for the analysis when samples are dropped off:
 1. \$22 for Nitrate analysis only
 2. \$22 for Bacteria analysis only
 3. \$39 for Combined Nitrate & Bacteria testing (\$34 if Town matches discount)
- Attend a special meeting for a summary of test results (optional).

Along with offering water testing at a reduced rate, this special program will eliminate the need for residents to make two separate trips to the Health Department to pick up kits and deliver the water samples back to the Health Department for testing. This program will also provide an opportunity for residents to learn about their individual water quality and ask questions about their town's ground water quality.

Town Water Sampling Program Costs

The Rock County Health Department's laboratory fee for analyzing water samples is based on a break-even cost of \$22.00 for 800 samples/year (400 bacteria and 400 nitrate). In general, there are 8 bacteria and 8 nitrate samples analyzed each week.

Adding an additional 30 samples in a week from the town sampling program will reduce the operating costs by half. The \$5.00 discount will pay for itself by increasing the number of samples and reducing the unit costs.

Dr. Winter made a motion to approve the Town Water Sampling Program. Supervisor Peer seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

Public Health Nursing

International Travel Immunizations – 2009 Report

Ms. Siebold gave a brief history of the department's international travel immunization program. Rock County Health Department began its international travel immunization program in 1992. Prior to that time, clients were referred to Madison for travel immunizations. In the beginning of our program, two public health nurses conducted the travel immunization program; the health department now has five public health nurses working in the travel immunization program between our two offices.

All nurses in the health department can take the initial travel client referral, i.e. where the client is traveling, for how long, whether they will be traveling in rural or urban areas, etc. One of the nurses in the travel program will then research on the Travax computer software program to determine what vaccines will be needed for the client. The client is then contacted and an appointment is set up with the client to come in for their travel immunizations.

A look at 2009:

1. Total number of clients served: 391
 - 3 months of most clients: March, June, December
 - 3 months of least clients: September, October, November
 - Range: 13-56 clients/month
2. Total number of vaccines administered: 912
 - Most common vaccines: typhoid, hepatitis-A, malaria prescription, twinrix (combined hepatitis-A & hepatitis-B)
3. Age groups served
 - Persons 18-29 years of age: 119
 - Persons 30-64 years of age: 205
4. Clients' residence
 - Mostly Janesville and Dane County
 - Also clients from Jefferson, Walworth, & Green Counties in WI, and also clients from Illinois
5. Race of clients
 - Caucasian: 350
 - Hispanic: 15
 - African American: 11

A presentation on the Rock County Health Department's international travel immunization program was done at the Wisconsin Public Health Nursing Conference, and it was very well received.

Ms. Erickson then gave a demonstration of the Travax computer software program for international travel immunizations.

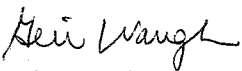
Communications and Announcements

None at this time.

Adjournment

Ms. Wade made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Winter seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Geri Waugh, Recorder

Not Official Until Approved by the Board of Health