

**BAYFIELD COUNTY  
HEALTH BOARD MEETING  
Friday, February 13, 2009 – 10:00 A.M.**

Present: Dee Kittleson, Wayne Williams, David Good, Elaine Kopp, Winefred Punjak, Grace Heitsch

Absent: Jim Beeksma, Jim Crandall

Staff: Millie Lindsey, Cathy Ekholm, John Renoos

Others: Marilyn Jenkins, CATCH Coordinator

1. **Call the Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Kittleson.
2. **Approval of December 12, 2008 Meeting Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2008 meeting minutes as presented was made by Williams; motion seconded by Kopp. Motion carried.

Lindsey stated she would like to move the agenda items around a bit. Good informed her that there should be an agenda item for a motion to allow this. This will be included in the agenda in the future. A motion to move agenda items was made by Good; motion seconded by Kopp. Motion carried.

3. **Staffing Update:**

- a. **Introduce John Renoos, Environment Health Sanitarian:** John Renoos, the new environmental sanitarian was introduced to the Board. The Board introduced themselves to John. John gave a background of himself to the Board. John will take care of the northern portion of the county and Michelle will have the southern portion. It makes more sense to split the county into regions for them to inspect than to assign one food facilities and one lodging facilities and have them both running all over the county. They may change the north person to the south and vice versa just to have a different set of eyes looking at things.
- b. **Request to Increase Clerical Support Update:** This item was brought to the County Administrator in December and a decision still has not been made. The proposal is to increase Kaci's time to 4 days per week from 2.5 days per week. The budget is able to support the position. With her working 4 days per week we can possibly bring in more revenue. Kittleson felt the Administrator may be waiting to hear about the budget from the State. There may be significant shortfalls in revenue. The County is losing revenue with interest rates down and also it is unknown at this time what revenue the Forestry Department will be bringing in. Our strategy is to get something in place now to look for more third party pay sources so if our grant revenues decrease we will be able to keep staff working at current levels. The Board of Health was supportive of increasing clerical support hours.

4. **Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Adoption of Statewide Smoke-free Air**

**Resolution:** At the last meeting the Board had suggested putting a referendum on the Spring ballot. Smoke-free organizations at the State level advise us to show support for Smoke-free workplaces by passing a resolution. At present it is estimated 70 percent of state residents are in favor of smoke-free legislation. Coalitions cannot lobby for this so it is good to have boards approve resolutions. Marilyn explained that this did not get through legislation last

year. Restaurant owners are now in agreement with the policy. Opponents say it should not be worked on now because of the financial situation. Their claim is that going smoke-free will stifle the economy. Studies have shown just the opposite. The proposal is in the process of being written. There are two ways this could move forward, it could be placed in with the budget or it could be addressed as a separate issue.

The resolution could be signed by the Health Board and forwarded on to state officials and then could be forwarded to the full County Board. The County Board could decide if they are in support of the legislation. Health Board members felt it was better to forward the resolution to the State as a Board of Health Resolution. A motion was made by Kopp to change the resolution presented from Bayfield County Board of Supervisors to Bayfield County Board of Health and forward on to the State; motion seconded by Good. Motion carried. The resolution was signed by the Board. The Director was asked to keep the Health Board informed on what is happening with this and to let them know what the Board could do to keep the process moving. Jenkins suggested another thing the Health Board could do is write an article for the news paper. Good warned that if an article is submitted to make it very clear the paper states that it is submitted by the Board of Health and not the County Board.

- 5. Discuss Support of Smoke-free Air Legislation. Presentation By Marilyn Jenkins, CATCH Coordinator:** Addressed above.
- 6. Review of 2008 Budget:** We are under budget \$35,000. There is still a small amount of revenue and expenses pending. The Health Department will not go over budget for 2008.
- 7. Review of 2009 Budget:** To date we have received \$19,000. Revenue looks like it is up but the State pays three months in advance. The \$19,000 includes State grant payments for January, February and March. There is more concern for 2010 revenue than for 2009. The Director has developed strategies that will increase Medical Assistance (MA) billing. The strategies will be implemented by April. By July we will know how to project revenues for 2010. For the Environmental Health program, re-inspection fees will be charged. This has always been a part of our ordinance. Since we could not get into facilities as soon as we should to follow up on issues we saw, we did not feel we should charge for re-inspections. Now with a second sanitarian we will be able to get back in facilities as we should. This makes us more comfortable in charging for this. The Board is in support of this. The sanitarians have been doing there own clerical activities because we do not have enough clerical staff. With more clerical there would be more time freed up for the sanitarians to do inspections. The question was raised about our doing sealants on children in Ashland County and if they are charged for this. It was explained we do fluoride varnishes not sealants. This is for those in head start. Those kids are on MA so we can bill for everyone.
- 8. Public Health Report:** We have started our sealant clinics. St. Louis School was the first school done. Twenty-six children were seen. Washburn School clinics are set for March 9 through 11. We do not go to Drummond School. CESA 12 does the sealants on there children. We will be doing Bayfield and South Shore Schools. We are unable to do Iron River School because they are part of Maple School District. Williams feels the parents do not know that the service could be made available. He will talk to some of the school board members. Maybe an article could be submitted to the paper. Parents that are interested could raise the issue at a PTA or School Board meeting.

We held our annual health fair on February 4 and 5. There were 70 participants including 3 County Board members. We received more positive anecdotal stories than we have in the past. This may be due to the fact that the screenings were moved to Health Department rooms and the health fair was kept separate in the EOC. People felt more comfortable with that. More people participated in the break-out sessions.

This is the time of year we peak with influenza season. We have not peaked so far. The prevalent flu virus circulating in the U.S. is covered by the vaccine.

We have not received any salmonella reports as a result of the peanut butter recall.

- 9. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Amending the 2009 Budget to Reflect the Radon Outreach Grant in the Amount of \$2,500:** Grant requirements are to distribute 100-200 kits and attend trainings. The kits have been purchased. A press release was done and we will be doing a follow-up on that article with the number of kits available. The only cost to the homeowner is the postage to mail the kit to the State. This is not a high-risk area for radon, but we want to get information on the County in regard to radon. A motion to accept the grant and forward the resolution on to the full County Board for approval was made by Good; motion seconded by Heitsch. Motion carried. The resolution will be forwarded to the full County Board.

**10. Environmental Health:**

- a. Inspections/Facilities:** This is the end of the year report for 2008. No inspections were done in December because Michelle was out on sick leave. The Board was impressed that 395 out of 441 facilities were inspected. Good would like the goal to be 100 percent for 2009. He was assured that was the goal of the sanitarians also. Why only 15 of the 51 retail establishments were inspected was asked. It was explained that this is a new program and now that there are two sanitarians this number will increase. With the way the county will be split between the two sanitarians Michelle will have 236 facilities and 81 wells; John will have 257 facilities and 36 wells. Along with inspecting 100 percent of the facilities at a minimum the sanitarians would like to have time to give operators the support and help they need to comply.

- 11. Next Meeting Date:** April 3, 2009 at 10:00 in EOC if available.

- 12. Other Issues:** None.

- 13. Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn was made by Kopp; motion seconded by Heitsch. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Cathy Ekholm