

**BAYFIELD COUNTY  
HEALTH BOARD MEETING  
Friday, June 12, 2009, 10:00 A.M.**

Present: Jim Crandall Jim Beeksma, David Good, Wayne Williams, Grace Heitsch  
Absent: Winifred Punjak, Dee Kittleson, Elaine Kopp  
Staff: Millie Lindsey, Cathy Ekholm

1. **Call the Meeting to Order** The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Vice-chair Beeksma.
2. **Approval of April 3, 2009 Meeting Minutes:** A motion to approve and accept the April 3, 2009 meeting minutes as presented was made by Good; motion seconded by Williams. Motion carried.
3. **Possible Action to Move Agenda Items:** Nothing to change.
4. **Review of 2009 Budget:** Our county levy request for 2009 was \$272,000. To date we are at \$105,000. This is a result of revenues being slow at this time. This amount will change as the year progresses. Environmental Health is an example of why this fluctuates. We have many expenses at the beginning of the year but the licenses are not due until the end of June. The same is true with the grants. Payment always lags two to three months. We have not received any new grants. A motion to state the budget overview was received and place on file was made by Good; motion seconded by Crandall. Motion carried. It is also to be noted revenues and expenditures are close to expectations.
5. **Staffing Update**
  - a. **Public Health Nurse Position:** Michelle Crowell, one of our part-time public health nurses, has resigned. We will start advertising next week. A nurse with a BS degree is preferred. In response to a question of flexibility in hiring a nurse without a BS degree it was noted that we have done that in the past with the expectation the nurse will get the BS degree within a reasonable amount of time after hire.
  - b. **Cathy Ekholm's Reclass/Position Change Request:** This was submitted to the County Administrator as a reclass. The County Administrator has determined that this is creating a new position and not a reclass. As a result of this being determined to be a new position it will have to be posted. Good described the process for a reclass and the difference between that and creating a new position. The new position would have to be approved by the Union and entered as a side letter. Union negotiations are coming up and they attempt to incorporate side letters into the contract. A motion to recommend approval of the request and forward it to the Personnel Committee was made by Heitsch; motion seconded by Williams. Motion carried.
6. **Discussion and Action Regarding MOU Between Bayfield County Health Department and Red Cliff Health Center for Communicable Disease Prevention and Containment:** This MOU is a cooperative agreement between Bayfield County Health Department and Red Cliff Health Center. It defines how the agencies will work together in pandemic situations. The content of the MOU was reviewed. The Health Board members felt this agreement should be signed by the County Board Chair. The Health Department Director sees this as a help to the department. Past experience has been that the agencies worked very well together. Heitsch stated that it is so much easier, when the possibility of a communicable disease arises, to have the people who know the community conduct the interviews. A motion to recommend the approval of the MOU and forward it to the County Board Chair for signing was made by Heitsch; motion seconded by Good. Motion carried. The MOU will be taken to the County Administrator to determine if it needs to be addressed by the full County Board prior to the Chairman signing it.
7. **Discussion Regarding the H1N1 Outbreak**
  - a. **Planning:** Wisconsin has 2,611 confirmed and 417 probable cases of H1N1 Influenza. Wisconsin is the highest in the nation. The reason is that Wisconsin has been very aggressive with testing. Wisconsin is still recommending people be tested; other states are not. There was a report on the news that this is a mild disease because we have not seen the number of deaths as

seasonal influenza although hospitalizations have been higher. Many of those hospitalized have underlying conditions; mostly cardio-respiratory complications. It is being predicted that H1N1 will be our flu this fall. There are many life situations change between summer and winter, hygiene is different, heating and hydration are different, and there are other viruses around. So how it acts in the summer does not mean that is how it will act in the winter. It is unknown at this time how bad it will be. H1N1 vaccine is being created. For now the recommendation is that everyone get two H1N1 shots this year plus one seasonal influenza vaccination. Even if we do not have H1N1 vaccine, it is anticipated more people will want the seasonal influenza vaccine. In anticipation of this, the Health Department has ordered more seasonal influenza vaccine. A portion of the extra vaccine can be returned. Work is being done on getting all health care providers that give adult vaccinations, including the hospital, to enter adult vaccination data into the WIR system. We could potentially be very busy between giving vaccinations and case follow up. The Director has had conversations with the County Administrator about contracting for additional nursing staff. Also regarding additional clerical support; possibly from other departments. The budget is not of concern at this point. If we are administering the vaccine we will be billing third party payors and this should cover the additional expenses.

## 8. Public Health Update

- a. **Tobacco Funding Program Update:** This year there is conversation from Madison that we must have multi-jurisdictional coalitions. With the passage of the smoke-free workplace law we have not heard anything regarding what the multi-jurisdictional coalition means anymore. We do not know at this time if we will be forced into a larger coalition. One proposal is that all of northern Wisconsin be one coalition. There is conversation at state level that tobacco funding will be decreased by 40 percent in 2010. Bayfield County has a very high percentage of smokers. There is also talk about taking back some of the 2009 contract dollars even though we have a signed contract for \$20,000. The State looks at our demographics when determining funding.
- b. **Lake Superior Beach Monitoring Program:** Beach monitoring started the weekend after Memorial Day. In regard to the sewage spill which happened earlier this spring, follow-up testing was done twice after the leak was fixed and the water tested fine. When there is a beach closure we are unsure where the contamination is coming from. It could be from seagulls or geese on the beach, or from somewhere farther upstream. Sanitary District problems are reported to the DNR. It would be nice if the District would report these problems to the Health Department also.
- c. **West Nile Virus Surveillance Program:** Surveillance has started. Because of the decreased funding, if one bird is found with West Nile Virus it will be assumed that it is present in the county and no more testing will be done. There is a dead bird hotline to call. You will be told which vet to take the dead bird to so it can be sent to the State for testing. We have had West Nile Virus in Bayfield County in the past. Last year we had three birds test positive. That was the maximum to be tested here.

## 9. Environmental Health

- a. **Inspection Program:** The new environmental health person is doing well. He has received lots of training. He is out in the field doing everything on his own except the Department of Ag Facilities because he has not received training in that yet. We are seeing cases where someone owns an old resort with cabins and they are renting them out as if they were condos. In these cases each building needs to be licensed separately. The number of inspections, re-inspections, pre-inspections, and other activities done through April 30 was reviewed.
- b. **Summary of Environmental Complaints:** One establishment was closed this week. It was an establishment that has a bar/restaurant, campground, and tourist rooming house. The tourist rooming house was closed. A conditional use permit was issued for the campground and bar/restaurant. A re-inspection will be conducted next week. The violations must be corrected by then or their license will be revoked. We have had several complaints regarding indoor air problems. They are mostly due to molds. One human health hazard was investigated. The owners were told to clean it up. They are agreeable. The Director will go back in a month to make sure the area has been cleaned up.

**10. Next Meeting Date: Friday, August 7, 2009 (Please note change in scheduled date):** Since the August 7<sup>th</sup> date was not good for most members, the date was changed to August 21, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the EOC.

**11. Other Issues:** None.

**12. Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn was made by Heitsch; motion seconded by Crandall. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Ekholm, Recording Secretary