Call to Order

Chairperson Glen Aasheim, MD called meeting to order at 1:03 P.M.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION  Bill Burg to approve the agenda as mailed.
SECOND  Aaron McConkey, PE  MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes of February 20, 2014 Regular Meeting

MOTION  Bill Burg to approve the minutes of February 20, 2014 regular meeting
SECOND  David Myerowitz, MD  MOTION CARRIED

Citizen Comments

No citizen comments
Justin Buls, MD—CDC

Buls introduced himself as a family physician who just took the position of Site Director for the Family Medicine residency of Western Montana. He is excited to bring the residency program to Kalispell and to be part of the Community Health Center. It will bring a unique spin on medicine with more of an academic feel, which will keep people more up to date on everything. The three residents that are coming in July are outstanding and have been working in Missoula. The mission and goal of the program is to train strong physicians to practice in rural Montana. The average age of physicians in Montana is 59 and many will be retiring soon. The goal is to train top physicians who are able to step into these roles. Currently the health center is in process of being remodeled to have adequate exam rooms for the residents to practice alongside the existing staff.

Buls was asked to tell about himself. He said he was born and raised in Kalispell; went to Montana State University for his undergraduate work, then to University of North Dakota for 4 years of medicine. He did his three year residency at Grand Forks Family Medicine in Grand Forks, ND. He then stayed for one more year to do an OB fellowship in operative and high risk OB. For the past six years he has practiced in Columbia Forks at North Valley Professional Center doing full family practice, including operative OB. Over the last year he has transitioned to CHC and the residency program. Starting in July he will be working two to three days at the CHC but as the residency program progresses he will most likely be full time but will be seeing patients as part of the residency program.

The question was asked as to what is considered a rural area and what does that get them as far as their financial obligations are concerned?

He said most of the sites considered rural would have NHC funding grants to help pay financial government loans. They are looking at training physicians who can go out to places such as Havre, Browning, Malta and Libby where there may not be specialists in a critical care setting.

Initiate Rule Making to Amend the Flathead County Regulations for Sewage Treatment Systems and Construction Standards—Revised—Action Required.

Joe Russell began with comments and explanations to the rule making process. He said that what prompted this was the Department of Environmental Quality changing Circular DEQ 4; the new construction standard. He said it is time to look at our regulations and see that everything gets in alignment.

The documents reviewed were the Regulations and the Construction Standards that will both lead to rule making.

Russell asked that they discuss and move on an open period to be established for the time the committee wants public comment to be received, whether it be a 30 day or 60 day process. Then establish a public hearing date.

He said [we] met with some septic contractors and engineers as a scoping process and showed them some of the amendments to DEQ-4 and discussed some of the changes. It was good to have this discussion with
them and about DEQ-4. He believed it was a good discussion and that they asked good questions and responded well.

Russell called attention to the two paired documents they had before them (Flathead County Regulations for Onsite Sewage Treatment Systems and Construction Standards for Subsurface Wastewater Treatment Systems). They will be put together and discussed in a public hearing and the committee will take action on adopting one regulation and construction standard.

Russell addressed some of the changes to standards. He stated that Flathead County is a uniform pressure distribution county, so throughout the document references to gravity flow systems has been eliminated; also eliminated; evapotranspiration absorption and evapotranspiration systems because they are not used in Flathead County. Unsealed pit privy and seepage pits are not allowed in Flathead County. He said the areas where [we] deviated are residential flow rates; DEQ uses 300 [we] stayed with 350, and then [we] moved 75 on either side; so if the board were to grant a variance for a 1 bedroom house the minimum flow design would be 200 gallons not 150. He said [we] kept the starting point at 350 for a three bedroom house and instead of going up 100 gallons per bedroom [we] are going up 75.

Russell said the highlights of this discussion were that this is a detailed construction standard and the DEQ has been modified to our own standards by applying uniform pressure at all times; our own standards for wastewater flow for residential units. He said what he most wants the committee to review is taking some things that are more regulatory in nature and putting them in our regulations. He said that construction standards are about how things are built.

A question was asked about how the evapotranspiration absorption is defined. Russell explained that evapotranspiration absorption system is primarily for evapotranspiration meaning it’s sealed but the absorption means it leaks. He said an ET system is sealed and relies on vegetative transpiration and the atmosphere of evaporation in proportion to intake.

Russell explained the motion he was introducing. He said this would be a motion to initiate rulemaking on Flathead County Regulations for Onsite Sewage Treatment Systems and Construction Standards. He also proposed a 60 day period that the public comments are accepted and establish a public hearing on the May board update.

**MOTION**    Burg to initiate rulemaking on Flathead County Regulations for Onsite Sewage Treatment Systems and Construction Standards and a proposed 60 day period that the public comments are accepted as well as establish a public hearing for the May board update.

**SECOND**    Wayne Miller

Russell made further comments regarding the variance process and its modifications. He stated that it has been modified to mirror the states variance process. He said that the DEQ VP criterion supersedes all other variance processes so it is in the best interest of the board to follow their conditions. (Section 13 in regulations; page 22)
Russell said he put a deviation section in for the board to consider that would allow the health officer to grant deviations from construction standards and regulations in certain circumstances. This would only be considered for replacement not new construction.

McConkey asked who is eligible to do deviations. There was much discussion about qualifications of designers. Wayne Miller asked if there was a list available of qualified engineers and designers. Joe said yes there is a list and everyone on that list must pass a proficiency test.

Russell restated his motion: For the board to initiate rulemaking on Flathead County regulations for onsite sewage treatment systems and construction standards and to propose a 60 day period that the public comments are accepted and establish a public hearing at the regular May board meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Departmental Reports**

**Community Health/WIC**

Jody White reported that everything is status quo; Pertussis cases are down; there was not much to report with immunizations. For Maternal Child Health grant for collaborative home visits between four agencies; CHC, Head Start, Nurturing Center and Sunburst Mental Health, was sent. The second step of the grant will be submitted by April 23rd. The CHC will be the lead agency.

White said its status quo; they have started farmer’s market training.

White reported that a man with suspected symptoms of Creutzfeldt Jakob disease passed away. He started having neurological symptoms about five months ago. It is a three step process to get a definitive diagnosis; 1) symptomology, which he had 2) spinal fluid testing which came back positive, and 3) an autopsy. His wife refused an autopsy so the case was suspected but could not be definitive.

Myerowitz asked if this could be mandated by the coroner. White said that this variety is not transmissible so they were not concerned about mandating an autopsy. She said that there was no way of knowing how or when he contracted this disease. He had done extensive travelling many years before and the disease can stay dormant for years.

White said that this is a variant of Mad Cow Disease. Russell was asked if there should be some concern. He said that [our] cows are all screened for MCD.

**Environmental Health**

Kate Cassidy said there are no poor scores to report for the second month.

She talked about how they do their scheduling’s for inspections on retail food establishments. She presented a table of food establishment’s risk factors/types. Category one and two is when there is a one-time event or for a coffee kiosk then they will do a one-time inspection. With a category three, four and
five they will inspect 2x/year or more if follow-ups are needed. Pools and spas are inspected one to two times depending if it is year round or seasonal. Public accommodations are inspected once/year. Compliance cases are inspected 4x/year or more as needed.

Aasheim asked how thorough an inspection would be done for hotels and motels.

Cassidy said it depends on how big it is. Requirements are to do 10% of the rooms, i.e. if a facility has 120 rooms they will inspect a minimum of 12 rooms.

Aasheim asked what they look for. She said they look at bedding, anti-slip in showers and tubs, wall finishes. When asked if they do inspections for bedbugs she said yes but only use the black light if there has been a complaint. When asked if ice machines are inspected she said some are enclosed and hard to get at. If they can get up the chute to swab they do, otherwise they ask the owners when it was last inspected because they are required to have them inspected.

She was asked about hotels and motels that serve breakfast did it change their method of inspection. She said it did and they had a form just for that. When asked about an incident of a drill bit piece found in a package of hamburger at a super bowl party, she said that it had been referred to the FDA and she had not heard more about it.

**Community Health Clinic/Family Planning**

No verbal report was provided.

**Health Promotion**

Leslie Diede reported status quo. They have one vacant position that they hope to fill soon. That person was ½ time tobacco and ½ time cancer control. They will receive a $5000 increase for tobacco program.

A comment was made about an article that was read which suggests that e-cigs increases youth experimentation. A discussion continued about e-cigs.

Myerowitz talked about a new science for colon cancer screening. There is a DNA test for fecal occult blood that is supposed to be more sensitive. Its cost is about $25. He suggest Diede explore this more.

**Home Health**

Paul Conrad reported that admissions took a large jump in January but were down in February.

Attention was given to a mistake in the number of deaths reported on the report summary. It was not 27 deaths as reported but Paul was not sure of the actual amount. The numbers may have been transposed with discharge numbers.

Conrad reported there were more PT visits. He met with the new geriatrician who works for North Valley Hospital and is the medical director for Frontier Hospice. She and her husband are a team. Home Health hopes to integrate services with them. They are going out to assisted living facilities and are available to
take over patient care for patients who have difficulty getting into their primary physicians. He believes it would be appropriate to work with them because Home Health can provide nursing services, even though they are in process of hiring a nurse practitioner. Home Health was doing an intake that day with them along with the HH nurse supervisor and field nurse.

Russell had concerns that payment may be an issue with part B. The patients would have co-pay they may not expect when they have been receiving assistance at no cost.

There was much discussion about how the integration would pan out.

A question was asked where they plan to practice out of. Conrad said they have a primary office at North Valley Hospital; they will do geriatric assessments there. They go out to assisted living facilities where the assessments will be made in the room. This is where Home Health could integrate well. Paul believes it is logical they would integrate and be a cog in the wheel.

A question whether the drop that took place from January to February on the cost/visit chart reflected their draconian staffing decisions and does he expect this downward curve to flatten out. Paul said he hoped it will, that their current issue is with IT. For the last 10 days they had been down and providers have had to drive in to synchronize which causes extra payroll. Another increase is 401 k funding.

Conrad said another goal is to become more branded, i.e. id tags and new bags with brighter logos.

He wants to gain better communications with physicians and better visibility with the medical community.

A question was asked if the IT problem was the county IT. He said it is and Joe said he may have a solution for him.

Animal Shelter

Cliff Bennett reported that the numbers are at the lowest in four years. The numbers are quickly increasing however. They received four dogs this day before noon. They have also been short staffed but the staff will be back to normal next week.

The low numbers has given them an opportunity to do some things they’ve wanted to do for a long time. Only two bids have come in for the proposed building changes; both have been out of the area and both have been over the allowed budget, so this is on hold for now. They are re-visiting the process and how they will do things differently in the second round of bids.

Current cat housing is made up largely of stainless steel banks. When Dr. Cindy Karsten visited she noted that their square foot per cat is lower for what is recommended in shelters across the country. A hole can be cut in the wall between the cages with a plasma cutting method then a sewer pipe is inserted that can be capped off. The cats can then go back and forth between cages when the numbers are low; when the numbers go up it can be capped off. They have had it done in a couple of cages and it seems to work well. They hope to get some cut during low numbers. Kittens are being born right now and cat numbers are expected to climb in the next couple months.
Burg asked if the ads on TV were produced locally. Bennett said one was produced locally and one was used with permission from the Anchorage, Alaska animal shelter. Burg asked if they have been effective. Bennett said they have asked first time licensers and it seems that the ads have been effective but there is still some confusion about where and if licensing is required.

Bennett said they have seen a tremendous amount of dogs being returned to their owners; 40% this last quarter. Some of this is because the media has helped raise awareness. Licensing numbers have continued to climb, but there should be more licenses compared to the numbers of dogs reported in this population.

Burg asked what the status was on city dog licensing. Bennett deferred to Russell.

Russell said in a work session the thought of moving licensing away from Kalispell and to the county was well received. Their intent is to send a letter to the county commissioners.

It was asked if the same would apply to Whitefish. Russell said the plan is to go from community to community and that Whitefish does apply.

It was suggested that a letter of appreciation be drafted to Flathead Shelter Friends for their exceptional fundraising. Cliff reported that they raised over $50,000 last year. Half of this went to outside kennel improvements and half is to go for air conditioning in the dog kennels. A local company will do the work for the budget amount. This will not only be for the comfort of the animals but will help prevent disease such as kennel cough from spreading.

A question was asked about the bidding process. They are going to take a better pro-active approach the next bidding round. It was suggested that it be publicized differently and target local contractors who have an interest in the shelter.

The budget amount is estimated to be under $100,000. The two bids that have been received were around $120,000.

Mosquito District

Bruce Gunderson submitted the mosquito program work plan. The West Nile Virus monitoring will be continued with the same number of traps being set as in the past. This will start July 1.

Surveillance activities take up most of their time which consists of hitting the historical locations, complaint responses, and map and data collection.

For treatments of larvicides and adulticides he has a pesticide discharge management plan on the internet for anyone interested in knowing what thresholds are in place for these two activities.

For education opportunities they have a couple of presentations to schools lined up. He received a call from Kalispell High school Vo-ag department to do presentations to six science classes.
He has begun interviews for seasonal help. He will start out with a couple of people and see how much frost and moisture goes out of the soil then take it from there. He will have one part time contract employee who will do educational work.

The Flathead basin is 120% of normal moisture. Frost layer, absorption, and rainfall make a difference in activity. He brought in larvae in the third week of March to the board. Cold weather slows down some development but some winter species emerge as impregnated females. Mosquitos have been trapped in mid-March. We have about 43 species here and several are over winter species.

Accreditation

Hillary Hanson said there was nothing new to report on accreditation. They are still working on the documentation collection period which is taking the longest. They are working on a draft strategic plan to present to the board, and the performance management system which is the component they have the grant funding for. That goes through May.

Health Officers Report

Russell presented the finance report and apologized for not having a written report. He said he had been mainly been working on septic system regulations and personnel matters.

He said the cash looks good, everything is in order.

Russell requested a personnel committee be scheduled before the next Board of Health meeting. Burg, Aasheim and Duane Larson are on that committee. Burg will be gone the first week in April.

He said Lucie Shea has been working hard on the budget. He will have a meeting with the budget staff and then he will present a preliminary budget to the board. There will be some personnel matters to address.

Committee Reports

Miller said that he and others attended the bio-reactor workshop. He introduced Mayre Flowers to present what the interests are for Flathead County pursuing a feasibility study.

Flowers said that because of the cooperative agreement between Flathead Electric and the landfill, they need to come to terms with a deeper look at the feasibility of this project fitting at our landfill and meeting the gas production levels that the co-op would like to achieve. They will be going to both boards proposing that they do a second level feasibility study for the co-op to demonstrate the cost of the proposal if the county were to move forward. She will get a letter from consultants to Tonya to have distributed to the Board of Health.

The advantage to the county in having this study done is SRS funding; which is a potential for the county to use if they implement a project like this. These would be clean water funds and are applicable here because you are removing septage from land application. This study will provide the information that all three boards will need to look at if this is a possible option for funding.
She has also asked the consultants to provide for them a breakdown of their current costs in a little more detail. They quoted some significant grant amounts at the workshop, but not all were for the bio-reactors so she asked them to separate that out and give a clearer cost estimate.

She asked the Board of Health to consider sending a letter to the Solid Waste Board and the Flathead Electric board explaining their concerns of land application septic waste and if they feel it appropriate, to encourage them to move ahead with further exploration of this concept.

Aasheim asked if the bio-reactor was a construction project or just a change of application of the septage. Mayre said there is some additional construction of a septage receiving facility and piping for the injection of the septage into the landfill itself.

Flathead Electric is planning to build a generator regardless whether this project goes forward or not. This addition would speed up the time for which the gas rate peak could be reached.

Aasheim asked if there would be an additional cost to the homeowner. There would be a minimal cost for bringing septage to the landfill; however the cost benefit will come in the additional gas production.

There was much discussion about the costs and benefits to the county, i.e. a longer life span and better land usage for the landfill.

Myerowitz suggested it might be reasonable for our Environmental Health Department to do some land testing at application sites to see what the contamination is. He said that every food borne illness that comes from California is a result from this type of problem being near a food producing field that caused contamination.

Flowers said Flathead Electric board meets next week and solid waste meets April 1. She suggested they put a letter together addressing these concerns. The best way to communicate would be to attend a Flathead Electric Board meeting.

Other Business

No other business

Board Members Comments

Miller addressed closure to landfill tours. Flathead Electric is opposed to tours because the land fill is a work place and because of safety concerns. The tours are an educational tool. Currently there are no tours but this may be reversed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.

Transcribed by Wanda Forbes