

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Tuesday, May 8, 2012
5:00 PM



Present: J. Tibbetts, MD, Harold Pfothenhauer, Audrey Murphy, Patti Bacelis-Leon, Don Murray, Joe VanDeurzen

Staff Present: Judy Friederichs, Dale Schmit, Craig Kratcha, John Paul, Chrystal Woller

Guests Present: Tony Lawrence, Plant Manager for Sanimax

1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND APPOINTMENT STATUS

Judy introduced the new Nurse Manager, Chrystal Woller. Chrystal said that she had worked for several years in public health in Oneida County and then three years in rural Iowa. She is from central Wisconsin and is excited to be back in Wisconsin.

Board members and staff introduced themselves.

Judy reported that Carole Andrews did not win re-election to the County Board so is no longer a member of the Board of Health. She sent Carole an email and card thanking her for her service.

Judy is waiting for word from the County Executive regarding appointment of a new County Board member to the Board of Health.

2. APPROVAL / MODIFICATION OF THE AGENDA

MOTION: To change the agenda to combine items 4 and 6.

Tibbetts / Van Deurzen

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF March 13, 2012

MOTION: To approve. Van Deurzen / Pfothenhauer

MOTION CARRIED

4. WIND TURBINE-RELATED ACTIVITY UPDATE
6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

Judy distributed copies of the noise ordinance for the board's reference during the discussion.

Audrey told board members that Mr. and Mrs. Capelle attended the March meeting. Their complaint was that the wind turbine near their home may be exceeding the limits of the noise ordinance. They asked that the Health Department measure the noise from that turbine.

Craig Kratcha presented the report from his visit to the Capelles. The report shows that the maximum nighttime limits allowed by the noise ordinance were exceeded. Craig contacted Duke Energies to inform them of the violation. Their response is included in the packet that Craig distributed to the board. John Leutscher concurred with Duke Energies' argument that Brown County cannot regulate the noise levels because they have a conditional permit with the Town of Glenmore.

Board members discussed the problem of ambient noise in the area. Craig stated that the noise of trees, etc. is louder than the turbines. At the time he tested the noise, however, there was very little ambient noise.

Dr. Tibbetts stated that the conditional permit comes up for review at its five year anniversary this month. Audrey stated that the Town of Glenmore does have the ability, according to the language of the permit, to compel Duke Energies to address this problem at the time the permit is to be renewed.

Craig pointed out the paragraph in state statute #66 that Duke Energies used in their argument that Brown County does not have jurisdiction over them. As the rules are written, there is nothing Brown County can do to regulate existing wind farms – but a revision of the county's noise ordinance may give the county more regulatory power over the placement of wind projects. However, any municipality can adopt their own regulations that would supersede our county ordinances.

Dr. Tibbetts stated that at some point the issue of infrasound / sub-sound needs to be addressed. If and when that time comes, it would be appropriate to call on Rick James, who has done measurements at some of the homes of people affected by this sound, to give his input. Craig stated that such an ordinance would work for noise that is not emitted by wind turbines. Anything more restrictive than PSC 128 would have to go through the Wind Siting Council.

Audrey proposed completing the rest of the agenda and then come back to this issue at the end of the meeting. Joe stated that we need guidance from Corporation Counsel. Judy stated that the Corporation Counsel position is now vacant – John Leutscher left the county in April.

Regarding Correspondence Received:

Judy has communicated with Mark Warner, a toxicologist with the state. He provided a response to the resolution that was sent from the Board of Health via the County Board. Judy distributed a copy of the final resolution to board members as it had changed before it was approved by the County Board. The final version was not sent to the State Department of Health – Judy has forwarded it to them. Judy has not yet heard back from Mark Warner.

Judy had a phone call and letter (copies distributed to BOH members) from the St. Croix County Health and Human Services Board. The letter is a statement of support for Brown County's resolution. They have also petitioned the state for a health study for Forest County. They do not currently have a wind farm but are looking ahead to future projects that have been proposed.

Dr. Tibbetts has corresponded with people from San Diego and Denmark regarding this issue. The physician from Denmark (Maurice Johansson) agreed with Dr. Tibbetts that there is not enough awareness of this issue among physicians in either Europe or the U.S.

Judy has corresponded with Dr. Nina Pierpont regarding her interest in the resolution.

Audrey stated that it is interesting that the Brown County Board of Health is the only body that has at least raised awareness as to the need to look into the health effects of wind turbines. She read the formal request to the state for a health study regarding this issue. She stated that the board needs to raise awareness that people need to report symptoms to their doctors; and that doctors need to report those symptoms to the state Department of Health or to the Board of Health who will pass those reports on.

Dr. Tibbetts informed the board that the Capelles moved out of their home two weeks ago.

5. ODOR COMPLAINTS

John stated that there have been two verified odor complaints since the last meeting. John introduced Tony Lawrence from Sanimax.

Tony stated that Sanimax is nearing the end of the capital phase of a project to improve operations. This investment included the installation of a new evaporator and two new scrubbers. The building is now sealed and the new scrubbers are running. This was a very complicated project that involved opening parts of the building to make way for this new equipment. Stacks will be raised from 90 to 130 feet. The new evaporator will also allow for increased capacity and faster processing of raw product – preventing a backup of raw material in the yard. This has been a 2.5 year project at a price of 12 million dollars.

Dr. Tibbetts said that he lives in the Sanimax area and is still smelling odors – he asked if this will be fixed. Tony said that they are going to do stack testing in conjunction with the DNR and Johnson-Diversy regarding those cooking odors. The increased height of the stacks should help, but there may also be further improvements needed with their incinerating and air-handling equipment.

Tony said that he is working with Dale Schmit and Greg, the owner of Green Bay Converting to try to resolve their concerns regarding odor at their facility. He stated that he cannot promise that there will never be odors emitted by Sanimax as they are in the business of processing a product that smells, but they will continue to do everything they can to reduce the odor emitted in the community.

Joe stated that the lost of trees due to road construction could have had some effect on the odors from the yard. Tony said that they will be replanting once the construction is completed.

Audrey thanked Tony for Sanimax's efforts.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Judy said that all vacant positions have been filled. Andrea Dorn is the most recent new employee – a nurse with no public health experience, but with broad nursing experience. Lisa Hodgins is the new sanitarian with experience in that position in Outagamie County. Lisa's position is 75% and may increase to 100% pending our review of this year's fee revenue. Finally, Cindy Trick is a part-time public health nurse with experience in Brown County before the merger with Green Bay.

Communicable Disease Report:

Judy reported on four active cases of TB. One in a 69-year-old male with pulmonary TB. He is Rifampin-resistant and has kidney disease and cancer. He has provided childcare for his 2 young grandchildren who are

being treated prophylactically. Follow-up has been done with 200 healthcare providers who had been in contact with him, 6 of whom have converted.

The second case is in a 1-year-old child. Staff are providing directly-observed medications five days a week until March.

The third is a 73-year-old male who is still in isolation. He is multiple-drug-resistant and has Hepatitis C. He will be on medication for up to two years. Much intense follow-up with family members is taking place. 7 of 10 family members have converted. Staff are working with Texas Heartland due to the complexity of these cases.

The fourth is an 81-year old who will be on medications until September. Two family members have converted and are being treated.

Pertussis cases increased in April with 21 suspect and confirmed cases. There were 4 confirmed cases in March and 6 positive labs in May. The range of ages is 6 months to 37 years, including a pregnant woman and 4 babies. Many letters have gone out to schools regarding alerting parents to symptoms to watch for. The pertussis rate in Brown County is not among the highest in the state. The majority of suspect and positive cases have been immunized.

Judy distributed copies of the most recent provisional communicable disease data.

Judy stated that the county health rankings were released in April. There was not a huge change from 2011. She distributed a summary of the 2011 and 2012 results for board members to review and discussed some of the more significant factors relating to Brown County.

Judy has a meeting coming up with a Human Services committee member from De Pere.

The Facilities Plan committee is looking at possible locations for the Health Department. Judy and staff met with staff from the Planning Department regarding GIS mapping of where clients are coming from and where our staff are going to do their work. This will potentially help the Facilities Plan committee find the best location.

There are quite a few student involvements planned. One is an AHEC intern who will be working with the Environmental division; another is a third-year medical student who will spend 24 hours on a project with the nursing division; the third is a St. Norbert student who will be spending 20 hours a week during the fall and spring semesters. This student is a

psychology/sociology major who is interested in more macro-level experiences.

The preparedness annual partner update will be held on June 5th at the Tundra Lodge, 11:30 to 1:30. This year the group will look at the recent vulnerability update.

8. ALL OTHER BUSINESS AUTHORIZED BY LAW

John Paul asked Judy to report on a tattoo establishment that almost had their license pulled by the Health Department and the state. The owner however has resolved several of the issues of concern, so they have been given another chance. Staff will continue to monitor this operator closely.

9. ADJOURNMENT / NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for July 17th. There should be 2013 budget information ready for review at that time.

Audrey asked the board what should be the next step on the wind turbine issue. Board members discussed the issue of local ordinances being prohibited from making any rules that are more restrictive than the state's rules. Joe stated that he believes only zoning rules could be used to control wind turbine siting locally. Audrey suggested discussing this issue again at the next meeting.

MOTION: To adjourn at 7:05 PM Van Deurzen / Pfothenauer

MOTION CARRIED

10. PRESENTATION: COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROCESS (CHIP)

This presentation will be moved to the July meeting.