

WABASH COUNTY HEALTH BOARD

QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES – April 17, 2007

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER by President Dr. Jeffrey Pyle, DVM at the Wabash County Courthouse, 1 West Hill Street, at 6:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Jeffrey Pyle - DVM, Dr. Robert Beckett, Dr. Stephen Fassino, David Ericsson, Mary Brane and Linda Mattern - RN

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. J. Dean Gifford – MD Health Officer, Larry Thrush – Attorney, Jane Skeans and Lori Foust – Public Health Nurses, Jennifer Swango – Environmental Health Specialist, Lynn Dannacher – Environmental Food Specialist, Keith Walters – Local Public Health Coordinator, Kathryn Carter-Lower – Deputy Registrar/Office Administrator and Lynn Ellis – Administrative Coordinator

GUESTS PRESENT: Richard Lower, Claude Brane and Mr. and Mrs. Kreider – Sandy Beach residents. Mr. Kreider explained the problems they are having in Sandy Beach with trash, junk and open burning. Mr. Kreider showed pictures of piles of burnt debris and of the Howard residence where there was literally “trash upon trash” outside the home.

OLD BUSINESS: Minutes of last meeting were approved as written.

The Commissioners are asking for more information regarding the 5 Doctors nominated to fill the Health Board seat. Kathryn will contact Teresa to see if the nominees are registered to vote and if so, what their political affiliation is. The Commissioners would like to make sure all nominees are qualified and interested before making a decision.

It was reported that the new Food Ordinance has been approved with a vote of 3 to 0.

OFFICE REPORTS: See Attached Reports

Local Public Health Coordinator Report given by Keith Walters. Keith has been meeting with other LPHCs that are creating a Mass Prophylaxis Booklet. This will be put in emergency To Go Kits for a quick reference guide.

Vital Records/ Office Administrator Report given by Kathryn Carter-Lower. Dr. Pyle said it is time to start getting the numbers together for the 2008 budget. Kathy will pool the figures together for what was spent in 2006 along with the 2007 reports.

Environmental Food Specialist Report given by Lynn Dannacher. Dr. Beckett inquired about Chester Lynn’s sanitary conditions; they are improving but he still has issues. Dr. Pyle asked if Lynn is involved with the new Wal-Mart store. Yes, she and Ron Buzzard are working closely with the Wal-Mart plan review. Lynn also mentioned that the North Manchester College has done a beautiful job with their new cafeteria facility. Events and festivals were discussed in detail, Lynn Ellis conducted a survey of surrounding counties: see attached report. A motion was made by Dr. Fassino to hire contractual help when needed and at a rate of \$13.00 per hour. The motion was approved and an additional appropriation will be requested to cover 2007; this will need to be added to the 2008 budget. Lynn has a few people outside the county willing to help out, along with David Ericsson, Jane Skeans and Lori Foust.

Public Health Nurse Report given by Jane Skeans and Lori Foust. Dr. Beckett asked if there is anything more we can do to get the word out about the Flu Vaccine. This year a large amount of the vaccine was destroyed, mostly due to the fact we received the vaccine so late in the year. Normally the flu vaccine is given in October; September for people who are ill. Miami County is currently without a nurse. We have had several people from there come to us for vaccine, some of which we have received from Miami County. Jane Skeans stated she is planning to retire in June 2008.

Environmental Health Specialist Report given by Jennifer Swango. Jennifer stated that the GIS should be available by this December. She also asked for \$8,940 to acquire a GIS Database from Purdue. Not only will this amount buy the database and give us ownership, it will also include training and support. A motion was made and approved to ask for an additional appropriation to purchase this program. Jennifer stated that with the monies she has coming in, this program will be completely paid for by the end of the year. To date she has taken in \$5,000. The budget for 2008 will need to include field equipment. Dr. Pyle said Jennifer will need to get 3 quotes.

Jennifer is currently working with the Plan Commission to re-write the Junk Ordinance giving some authority to force people to comply. As part of the problem with Sandy Beach, there is no punishment for those who refuse to remove trash, waste, etc. Dr. Beckett and others suggested sending anonymous letters, calling fire department for open burning and having landlords impose penalties for trash and debris. The need for a Building Inspector was again discussed. This is State mandated with direct supervision of the Commissioners.

NEW BUSINESS: The nurses are currently getting carpeting estimates. They discussed the carpet with the Commissioners. The Commissioners said they do not have the money to replace it. Jane has checked with the state and can pay for this out of Local Health Maintenance monies. This will need to have an additional appropriation.

ID badges are in need of being replaced. Keith Walters and Bob Brown – EMA Director are in the process of the replacement. Dr. Gifford is an advocate of wearing ID Badges.

The next quarter will be busy with the preparation of the 2008 budget request for the County.

NEXT MEETING: JULY 17, 2007

Respectfully submitted by Kathryn Carter-Lower and Lynn Ellis