

KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting
March 4, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chair Tara Sell at 8:30 a.m.

Board members present gave a brief introduction.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Rob Putaansuu moved and Mayor Becky Erickson seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the February 4, 2025, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The March consent agenda included the following contracts:

- 2441, Amendment 2, Washington State Department of Health, Consolidated Contract

Mayor Erickson moved and Mayor Putaansuu seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

HEALTH OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Report:

Yolanda Fong, Administrator, shared two updates:

- Human Resources Manager Retirement and Recruitment: Karen Holt will be retiring March 31, 2025. Ms. Fong noted she will be missed and replacing her will be challenging. The recruitment is underway, with the first round of interviews next week. Updates will be shared with the Board as they become available.
- Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) Funding: FPHS, which funds core public health services and comprises 22% of the Health District's budget, faces a proposed 15% reduction in the Governor's budget. The impact of this cut across the state remains unclear. The Health District will continue advocating for FPHS funding and encourages Board members to do the same when possible.

Board members asked clarifying questions.

There was no further comment.

Health Officer Report:

Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, shared several updates:

- Measles and Other Vaccine-Preventable Diseases:
 - A measles outbreak in Texas and New Mexico has affected around 150 children, with one to two fatalities. The outbreak originated in a school where over 50% of students were unvaccinated.
 - The Health District issued a health advisory following Washington's first measles case this year, emphasizing the importance of vaccination. Local measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccination rates among kindergarteners have dropped from 95% to 92%. Families and healthcare providers should ensure vaccinations are up to date.
 - Influenza rates remain high, with the worst national outbreak in 15 years. Statewide flu vaccination rates are 5% lower than last year. Dr. Morrow urged the public to get vaccinated.
 - Kitsap has reported new pertussis cases, a preventable but severe and often lengthy illness with persisting symptoms.
- Public Health Prevention and Investment:
 - Prevention measures save lives and reduce costs. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) program saves over \$10 for every \$1 invested and has prevented millions of illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths since 1994, with a net savings of \$540 billion in direct costs and \$2.7 trillion in societal costs.
 - Public health funding – only 3% of total health spending – yields a high return, improving productivity and reducing healthcare costs. Cuts to public health are costly in the long run.
 - The US spends over 18% of gross domestic product (around \$5 trillion) on healthcare, double the average of comparable countries. Despite this, the US has lower life expectancy, higher preventable death rates, and fewer physicians and hospital beds per capita.
 - Redirecting health spending from profiteering to clinical services is critical for improving population health.
 - With growing budget deficits, public health must eliminate inefficiencies and ensure funds are effectively allocated.
 - Dr. Morrow noted he looks forward to meeting with state legislators to discuss strategies for strengthening public health systems and urged policymakers to continue investing in prevention, workforce development, and data-driven solutions.

Board members discussed the update and asked clarifying questions.

There was no further comment.

PUBLIC HEARING: ORDINANCE 2025-01, ONSITE SEWAGE REGULATIONS

John Kiess, Environmental Health Director, provided an overview of the onsite sewage system (OSS) ordinance update, covering:

- The purpose and prevalence of OSS in Kitsap County.
- The history of the Health District's OSS ordinance and past updates.
- The timeline for the DOH rule revision for WAC 246-272A.
- Key changes in the DOH rule revision and their impact on the existing Health District ordinance.
- The timeline for the Health District's OSS ordinance revision and efforts to inform industry members and the public.

Mr. Kiess concluded by thanking the Technical Advisory Committee and Kimberly Jones, Drinking Water and Onsite Sewage Program Manager, for their contributions.

Chair Sell provided the opportunity for public comment related to Ordinance 2025-01. There was no public comment.

Board members discussed the ordinance update and asked clarifying questions.

Member Stephen Kutz moved and Commissioner Christine Rolfes seconded the motion to approve Ordinance 2025-01. The motion was approved unanimously.

There was no further comment.

2024 WATER QUALITY ANNUAL REPORT

Dayna Katula, Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Program Manager, presented the 2024 Water Quality Annual Report, highlighting:

- PIC's Role and Team: PIC, a dedicated and hardworking team, functions within the Health District's Environmental Health Division and aims to improve water quality. Team member Leslie Banigan, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, will be retiring at the end of the summer after nearly 30 years of dedicated service.
- Clean Water Kitsap Partnership: The program and partnership remain innovative, as it was when it was first developed.
- Program Goals and Functions: PIC aims to protect public health by identifying and addressing fecal pollution and waterborne illnesses through education, complaint response, and assisting homeowners in repairing failed septic systems.
- Annual Water Quality Report: The report shares water quality highlights and data. It is available on the Health District's website and features several interactive tools. The

report includes data for stream sampling results and advisories, shoreline monitoring, shellfish growing areas, and lake monitoring and advisories.

- Data Collection Methods: Methods include stream sampling, shoreline monitoring, and lake sampling. Microbial source tracking (MST) can be used as an investigative tool, though MST's high cost limits its application.

Board members discussed the presentation and asked clarifying questions.

There was no further comment.

UPDATE TO ORDINANCE 1999-14, RODENT CONTROL REGULATIONS

Mr. Kiess discussed the need to update Ordinance 1999-14, the Health District's rodent control regulations, noting:

- The current ordinance, last updated in 1999, contains outdated language and focuses solely on rodents, despite increasing wildlife-related issues.
- The Health District will collaborate with the Board's Policy Committee to develop a revised ordinance and present it to the Board upon completion.

Board members discussed the update and asked clarifying questions.

There was no further comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO REVIEW THE PERFORMANCE OF A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PER RCW 42.30.110(g)

At 9:42 a.m., Chair Sell announced the Board would be moving to an executive session to review the performance of a public employee pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(g).

There was no further comment.

ADJOURN

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.



Dr. Tara Sell
Kitsap Public Health Board



Yolanda Fong
Administrator

Board Members Present: *Mayor Becky Erickson; Member Drayton Jackson; Member Stephen Kutz; Councilperson Ashley Mathews; Mayor Rob Putaansuu; Commissioner Christine Rolfes; Member Dr. Tara Sell; Member Jolene Sullivan; Member Dr. Michael Watson; Mayor Greg Wheeler.*

Board Members Absent: *None.*

Community Members Present: *Dr. James Hughes, Kitsap Mental Health Services; Janet Kalmen, Community Member; Jeff Riggins, Suquamish Tribe.*

Scribe: *Margo Chang, Management Analyst, Kitsap Public Health District.*

Staff Present: *Leslie Banigan, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, Pollution Identification and Correction; Angie Berger, Management Analyst, Equity and Performance Management; River Collins, Secretary Clerk, Administrative Services; Hillary Eichler, Environmental Health Specialist, Solid and Hazardous Waste; Yolanda Fong, Administrator, Administration; Jessica Guidry, Assistant Director, Public Health Infrastructure Division; Adrienne Hampton, Policy, Planning, and Innovation Analyst, Administration; Karen Holt, Program Manager, Human Resources; Kimberly Jones, Program Manager, Drinking Water and Onsite Sewage; Dayna Katula, Program Manager, Pollution Identification and Correction; John Kiess, Director, Environmental Health Division; Brandon Kindschy, Environmental Health Specialist, Pollution Identification and Correction; Siri Kushner, Director, Public Health Infrastructure Division; Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, Administration; Melissa O'Brien, Environmental Health Specialist, Pollution Identification and Correction; Lynn Pittsinger, Director, Community Health Division; Ian Rork, Senior Environmental Health Specialist, Pollution Identification and Correction; Tad Sooter, Public Information Officer; Tobbi Stewart, Environmental Health Specialist, Pollution Identification and Correction; Jacob Wimpenny, Environmental Health Specialist, Drinking Water and Onsite Sewage.*