

**KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Regular Meeting  
April 5, 2022**

The meeting was called to order by Board Vice Chair Commissioner Robert Gelder at 10:30 a.m.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Commissioner Charlotte Garrido moved, and Mayor Rob Putaansuu seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the March 1, 2022, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The April consent agenda included the following contracts:

- 2054 Amendment 2 (2232), *People's Harm Reduction Alliance, Secondary Syringe Exchange*
- 2170 Amendment 2 (2230), *Peninsula Community Health Services, COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Plan*
- 2178 Amendment 2 (2237), *Kitsap County DEM (KCDEM), COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Plan*
- 2203 Amendment 2 (2238), *WA State Department of Health, Consolidated Contract*
- 2203 Amendment 3 (2249), *WA State Department of Health, Consolidated Contract*

Commissioner Ed Wolfe moved and Commissioner Garrido seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda, including the Contracts Update and Warrant and Electronic Funds Transfer Registers. The motion was approved unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vice Chair Gelder allowed each person 2 minutes for public comment.

Shannon Shroeder, a member of the Kitsap ERACE (Equity, Race, And Community Engagement) Coalition, shared that she is following up on a letter that was sent to the board last month. She said the ERACE coalition calls on the Health Board to take advantage of requirements of House Bill 1152 to equip the board with diversity of expertise and lived experience through the addition of non-elected board members. She said she is glad to see this discussion is on the agenda for today's meeting and would like to thank the Policy Committee members for actively seeking applicants for the non-elected board members and looks forward to seeing a race and equity lens used in this recruitment process. Ms. Schroeder said she expects the board to have representation by individuals who have experienced health disappearances and

inequity. Lastly, she said, if completed correctly, this process will ensure communities that have been traditionally and systemically underserved will have an equal voice on the Kitsap Public Health Board.

There were no further public comments.

## **HEALTH OFFICER/ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

### Health Officer Update:

Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, shared with the board that he appreciated the public comment. Dr. Morrow also shared that this meeting marks the first meeting in two years where there is not an exclusive COVID-19 update on the agenda. He shared that the Kitsap Public Health Weekly Outlook, which was focused on COVID-19, had its last edition on Friday.

Dr. Morrow shared that the Health District and Emergency Operations Center are planning a thank you event for vaccination volunteers later this month. He said volunteers collectively logged thousands of hours of vaccination work over the past two years. Dr. Morrow also shared that, within the first year of availability, 70% of Kitsap residents have gotten vaccinated. For the past year, Kitsap County and all their vaccinators have delivered about 1,000 doses a day to Kitsap residents. Dr. Morrow expressed his thanks to those who got shots, gave shots, helped with testing work and many other COVID-19 related efforts.

Dr. Morrow said the Health District's Emergency Preparedness team is working with the Emergency Operations Center to perform an after-action assessment of local agencies' response efforts to the pandemic to provide an understanding of what we should learn from our response. He asked the Health Board and Kitsap Public Health District's partners to keep an eye out for the surveys and to please take the time and effort to respond. He shared that he anticipates the lessons learned will create a springboard for the assessment of our health systems, health care, access to social support networks and the ability to meet the needs of all residents in Kitsap County. These surveys will help inform the District's strategic planning that they hope to initiate later this year once a new health board is established.

Dr. Morrow urged the board to look at board member recruitment through an equitable lens. He let the board know that this pandemic, like other infectious diseases impacted our most vulnerable populations disproportionately.

Dr. Morrow reminded the board that this week is National Public Health Week and extended his gratitude to the members of the Health Board and the Kitsap Public Health employees. He shared that yesterday's Public Health Week theme was racism as a public health crisis. Dr. Morrow thanked the health board for unanimously passing Resolution 2021-01, Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis, and let the board know that they would be hearing from Ms. Jessica Guidry, the Kitsap Public Health Equity Program Manager, later in the meeting. He said the board would hear about the Equity Program which is geared toward disparities in health. Dr. Morrow shared that he understands that relationships and partnerships are key components in public health and in government in general. He said these partnerships need to be grounded in effective

communications and noted widespread and timely distribution of accurate information is integral to everything done in public health. This pandemic pushed the Health District to expand and improve these efforts. Dr. Morrow explained that Kitsap Public Health learned that communication is much more than just messaging and requires active public listening and engagement along with open lines of communication.

Dr. Morrow said the Equity and Emergency Preparedness programs within the Health District are working closely and are embedded in the long-term environmental health and community health services at the Health District. These programs work on training and assist efforts in partnerships, development and in communication as well as provide technical expertise. The Epidemiology program also does work in this area. Dr. Morrow is looking forward to tackling the major challenges of working toward improved containment, and potentially the ultimate elimination, of chronic endemic to infectious diseases such as Tuberculosis, Hepatitis and Syphilis. Additionally, the Epidemiology team has done a lot of work to improve sentinel surveillance systems for early detection of COVID-19. Dr. Morrow said the Epidemiology team also monitors trends in mental health, substance abuse, chronic disease, injury, and other disorders of public health importance.

Next, Dr. Morrow congratulated the City of Poulsbo, who was awarded \$600,000 and the City of Port Orchard who was awarded \$650,000 for the Complete Streets Funding geared towards safety and public transportation in their cities. He shared that these amounts exceeded other county amounts. Dr. Morrow shared that the Health District's Chronic Disease Prevention Program worked with the city planners to develop an application for these packages. He noted that the City of Bremerton received this funding previously and wasn't eligible this time.

Dr. Morrow concluded with information on the recently released 2021 Healthy Survey data. This data shows ongoing high stress and depression levels in our middle and high school students. He said that on the upside, youth has reported using substances at a much lower rate than previous years. He explained that these drops were due to different variables, with the most significant variable being the social distancing that occurred during the pandemic. He noted that policy may have contributed to this change, such as the state law bringing the Tobacco use age up to 21 and the Kitsap Public Health Ordinance in 2016 regarding vaping in public places.

#### Administrator Update:

Mr. Keith Grellner, Administrator, addressed the public comment from Ms. Schroeder and the ERACE coalition. He shared that the email that Ms. Schroeder referred to was sent to the Board of County Commissioners and that he would send the email out to the full Health Board as soon as the meeting concludes.

Mr. Grellner shared that in the board packet there is a memo from Environmental Health Director, John Kiess. This memo concerns an update to Ordinance 1996-9, which is a catch all ordinance for Environmental Health to allow investigation and enforcement for state rules that are not locally codified. The Health District is going through the public notification and comment process and will bring an updated ordinance to the board next month.

Mr. Greller said the Board's Policy Committee has been meeting regarding E2SHB 1152, concerning comprehensive health districts and health boards. He said another Policy Committee meeting is scheduled to follow up on the results of today's discussion.

## **2021 WATER QUALITY REPORT**

Mr. Grant Holdcroft, Pollution Identification and Correction Program (PIC) Manager, approached the Board with a presentation regarding the 2021 Water Quality Report along with some highlights from his department in the past year. He said the primary program functions include monitoring streams, lakes and beaches; investigating complaints of pollution from septic systems and farms; and finding pollution in Puget Sound directly. PIC uses water samples to evaluate the quality of surface water and notify the public with information on public health risks as needed. These functions keep our streams, swimming beaches, and shellfish for use by the public.

Mr. Holdcroft explained that a majority of program work revolves around responding to reports of pollution. The program works to educate property owners on how to address pollution issues as soon as possible. Mr. Holdcroft also said the PIC program conducts regular sampling of our streams and has a shoreline survey program that collects water samples from shoreline discharges to find and correct sources of E Coli bacteria.

Mr. Holdcroft then shared the 2021 Water Quality Report. This report covers 2021 PIC program highlights, health advisories for streams, water quality monitoring results and standards, lake water quality results, and pollution prevention information. He shared information about Kitsap County shellfish harvesting area improvements to show how the PIC program work has historically improved water quality which has resulted in a significant increase in approved shellfish harvest acreage. He said the Health District posts public health advisories for streams which have unsafe bacteria levels. The advisory standard has changed this year to incorporate changes in the State water quality standards. Mr. Holdcroft also shared the standards for freshwater streams, which are based on "primary contact", waters where people participate activities such as wading or swimming. He shared that this standard changed in phases over the last several years from monitoring fecal coliform r to monitoring E coli in order to be more health-based in keeping everyone safe in the water.

Mayor Erickson asked why the state now tests for E Coli instead of Fecal Coliform. She also asked what differences are made to understand if something is doing better over time. She said it is difficult to see the historical trend if the standards are continually changed. Mr. Holdcroft replied that it was changed because Environmental Protection Agency adopted new rules a few years ago for a unified standard across the whole nation and noted Washington State had been using a different standard until this year. Mr. Holdcroft also explained that there is data that shows a correlation between E Coli and adverse health effects.

Mayor Erickson asked if the change in standards makes our standards more rigorous. Mr. Holdcroft replied that it was the same, in a different way. He let her know that she is correct and

that we are not able to analyze our data for trends at this time, however, with this bacteria standard, the program is establishing a new data set and he hopes that next year he can provide trends. Mr. Holdcroft explained that the PIC program had many discussions about this standard with several different entities and is hopeful that the Health District can start establishing a new data set.

Mr. Holdcroft explained that more streams met standards in 2021 for Kitsap County than in 2020. Mr. Holdcroft shared anecdotes about helping people fix their septic systems and address pollution sources in the Chico Bay Watershed. Mr. Holdcroft explained the lake water quality monitoring program, and explained how the Health District issues advisories for lakes during the summer that are unsafe to swim in due to high bacteria counts. Mr. Holdcroft explained that some of this pollution comes from wildlife waste and pet waste. He explained the educational attributes of the programs along with aiding homeowners, such as checking to make sure their septic tanks were properly maintained.

Mr. Holdcroft concluded by letting the board know that the 2021 Water Quality Report is available on the Kitsap Public Health website for this year and all previous years.

There was no further comment.

## **LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERSHIP CHANGES IN RESPONSE TO E2SHB 1152 POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Mr. Grellner shared a presentation to provide an overview of the work that the Board and Health District have completed on implementation of E2SHB 1152 so far. He shared that E2SHB 1152 was requested by the Office of the Governor and was passed in during the 2021 legislative session. Mr. Grellner explained that when this passed through the legislative system it created new requirements for the local board of health memberships. He said the Governor and legislators intended to expand local boards of health to get more community engagement.

Mr. Grellner went on to explain that the new law requires equal representation by elected and non-elected members. It also requires representation from federally recognized Indian tribe(s) within the Health Board's jurisdiction. Mr. Grellner explained that the bill requires the non-elected/non-tribal members to come from a prescribed list of categories which include health care, consumers of public health and community groups. He said most health boards in Washington have been comprised of only elected board members as specified in the original statute. Mr. Grellner explained that the state Board of Health is still working on the administrative code for this and are considering adopting WAC 246-90 at their May meeting. He explained that the tribal representation will be determined by the American Indian Health Commission.

Mr. Grellner explained that the bill, the new statute, and the WAC are prescriptive. Mr. Grellner listed out the requirements for Kitsap County. The health board will be required to amend the board bylaws which are in the packet today. It requires that the Board of County Commissioners and Board of Health work together to recruit new members. This will become effective on July

1, 2022. He noted Health District staff and the board are making good progress to meet the timeline.

Mr. Grellner updated the board on the progress to date and explained the next steps, which are based around interviews and deciding how to do those interviews. Mr. Grellner also explained the next steps outside of interviews and position descriptions. He explained that there will likely be two orientations for the new board members: one from the State of Washington and one from Kitsap Public Health.

Mayor Putaansuu asked if there will be geographic equity of the new board members within the county. Mr. Grellner said that is the goal and the Health District is trying to put the pieces together based on the law and the specifics of the code. Mayor Putaansuu asked about if there was a hierarchy for the non-elected members. Mr. Grellner explained that there is no hierarchy and categories are specifically listed in the bill and code. Appointments to fill each category will come down to the interaction between the Board of County Commissioners and Health Board.

Mayor Erickson requested an explanation on how the existing board is being paired down. Commissioner Gelder explained that there must be equal numbers between elected members. He explained that, as the board currently stands, this would make a new board of 14 members, which he considers too large for a good working board.

Mayor Putaansuu agreed with the idea of a manageable board. He compared it to the Kitsap 911 board which he said was too big and he doesn't want to go down that path creating an awkward board composition.

Mr. Grellner explained that the Policy Committee recommended the Personnel Committee do the interviews. Commissioner Gelder reminded the group that the Personnel Committee will change once the Health Board membership changes.

Commissioner Gelder asked if the board wants other people to help with the interviews. Mayor Erickson thought that Mr. Grellner and Dr. Morrow should help with the interviews. She suggested as the new board is convened, the board can review how it's structured.

Councilwoman Hytopoulos inquired if the Mayor of Bainbridge or another councilmember could sub in for her if there are scheduling difficulties with Personnel Committee. She explained that she works a full-time job, separate from her council duties, and wants to make sure she is available. Mr. Grellner stated that the board bylaws allow a sub for committees or board meetings, however he noted that the proxy or substitute don't an additional vote, there is only one vote per jurisdiction.

Commissioner Wolfe said he strongly feels that the administrator and health officer should be involved, and said he would like Ms. Guidry on hand to provide her equity expertise to the committee. Mr. Grellner let the board know that Ms. Guidry has put together some suggestions to look at applicants through an equity lens.

Commissioner Gelder asked the board if they would like to do virtual or in person interviews. Mayor Erickson would prefer virtual interviews to remove barriers. Mr. Grellner agreed with this decision because it provided a better opportunity with the tight timeline that we are working with.

Commissioner Gelder asked if we need to wait for the changes in county and bylaws to be changed before we begin moving forward. Mr. Grellner commented that he had been thinking about this also and suggested that they work to get some appointment holders on calendars. He does not think there is anything preventing the board from moving forward with the interviews before the county code and bylaws are completed. He suggested scheduling interviews for days in mid to end of May and early June.

Councilwoman Hytopoulos said a mental health professional would be a great aspect to the new board. Commissioner Gelder agreed, and Mr. Grellner let the board know that mental health professionals are included under the health care category. Mr. Grellner stated that he thinks this is a great suggestion.

Mr. Grellner asked if there were any comments on any of the bylaws or position descriptions that were provided to the board. Mr. Grellner encouraged board members to email him any feedback and said staff will work it through the policy committee. Commissioner Gelder asked for any edits be to Mr. Grellner by noon tomorrow.

Councilwoman Hytopoulos would like to see the mental health professional called out in the description of the board member.

There was no further comment.

#### **RESOLUTION 2022-05: ADOPTING LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT FOR KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD MEETINGS**

Ms. Guidry shared that the Kitsap Public Health District executive leadership team proposes board adoption of a Tribal Land Acknowledgement statement. Mrs. Guidry said this was outlined in the memo included in their meeting packets. The Health Board Policy Committee met in March to discuss this matter and recommended that the full health board consider adopting a land acknowledgement statement. Commissioner Gelder reached out to the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and Suquamish Tribe and both tribal chairs support the statement. Ms. Guidry presented draft resolution 2022-05, Adopting Land Acknowledgement Statement for Kitsap Public Health Board Meetings. Ms. Guidry thanked the board for their consideration of this resolution.

Mayor Erickson moved to approve resolution 2022-05, Adopting Land Acknowledgement Statement for Kitsap Public Health Board Meetings. Commissioner Garrido seconded the motion.

Commissioner Gelder added that the language in the acknowledgement statement recognizes that while there are two tribes with reservations within our county boundaries, other tribes also have usual and accustomed areas within our county boundaries as well.

There was no further discussion, the resolution was approved unanimously.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Mayor Erickson said she has been reviewing the Open Public Meeting Act (OPMA) for the City of Poulsbo. She commented that there are meetings which require a physical location. Mayor Erickson was wondering if the Health District staff had begun to consider where we will go to have in-person public testimony in meetings. She let the board know that she is not expecting an answer today, but they needed to begin thinking in this direction.

Commissioner Gelder commented that Mayor Wheeler indicated the City of Bremerton has the ability to hold these meetings at the Norm Dicks Government Center to support a hybrid formatted meeting. Mr. Gelder asked Mayor Erickson if she had seen any information on the Governor moving to enforce this act. Mr. Grellner let the board know that he has been looking for some guidance and stated that the State Board of Health is still planning virtual meetings. Mayor Erickson stated that she has not seen any guidance but was advised by the legal counsel of the City of Poulsbo that meetings where public comment is taken must be held in a physical place. Mr. Grellner explained that it was his understand that this part of the act had been suspended during the proclamations by the Governor. Mr. Grellner is going to double check on this. He stated that Mayor Wheeler is a critical component to this as the City of Bremerton operates all of that technology in the Chambers at the Norm Dicks Building.

Mayor Putaansuu concurs with Mr. Grellner, but said Port Orchard is waiting until the Government has rescinded their proclamation. Council Member Hytopoulos let the board know that they do hybrid meetings in Bainbridge Island.

There was no further discussion.


### **ADJOURN**

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 11:42 p.m.



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**Greg Wheeler**  
**Kitsap Public Health Board**



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**Keith Grellner**  
**Administrator**

**Board Members Present:** *Mayor* Becky Erickson; *Commissioner* Charlotte Garrido; *Commissioner* Robert Gelder; *Councilperson* Kirsten Hytopoulos; *Mayor* Robert Putaansuu; *Commissioner* Ed Wolfe.



**Board Members Absent:** *Mayor Greg Wheeler*

**Community Members Present:** *See attached.*

**Staff Present:** *Kandice Atismé-Bevins, Program Manager, Case and Contact Investigation, COVID-19; Angie Berger, Administrative Assistant, Administration; Windie Borja, Secretary Clerk 2, Support Services; Steve Brown, Program Manager, Solid and & Hazardous Waste; Stephanie Byrd, Confidential Secretary, COVID-19; Elizabeth Davis, COVID Vaccine Public Health Nurse, COVID-19; April Fisk, Program Coordinator, Contracts Manager, Public Records & Safety Officer, MAC, Administration; Keith Grellner, Administrator, Administration; Jessica Guidry; Program Manager, Equity; Grant Holdcroft, Program Manager, Pollution Identification and Correction; Karen Holt, Program Manager, Human Resources; Jakob Hughes, Environmental Health Specialist 1, Solid and Hazardous Waste; John Kiess, Director, Environmental Health Division; Siri Kushner, Assistant Director, Community Health Division; Victoria Lehto, Environmental Health Specialist 1, Pollution Identification & Correction; Dr. Gib Morrow, Health Officer, Administration; Melissa O'Brien, Environmental Health Specialist 1, Food and Living Environment.*