



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

What: Environmental Health Committee

When: March 1, 2019

Attending: Board staff Michelle Davis, Melanie Hisaw, and Stuart Glasoe; Department of Health staff Todd Phillips, Lauren Jenks, Joe Graham, Peter Beaton, Theresa Phillips, Michael Dexel, and Joe Laxson; observers Betsy Howe and Todd Howe

Participating by phone: Board members Keith Grellner, Jim Jeffords, Fran Bessermin and Steve Kutz; Department of Health staff Scott Torpie and Mike Means

Summary Notes:

Updates

- Stuart Glasoe said he submitted a proposal to present on the Keeping of Animals rulemaking at the Washington State Environmental Health Association's Annual Education Conference in Yakima in May. If accepted, the presentation will focus on the background paper and draft rule. Andrea Hood of the Department of Health will serve as co-presenter.
- Stuart described an inquiry that the Department of Health fielded and forwarded to the Board complaining about a Seattle company using alkaline hydrolysis to decompose pet remains. Stuart said he offered to look into the matter as it pertains to the Board's disposal of dead animals rule, WAC 246-203-121.
- Stuart and Michelle Davis summed the status of environmental health bills that are pertinent to Board Authority and passed the initial policy cutoff in the 2019 legislative session. Stuart addressed bills on on-site sewage systems (SB 5503) and food trucks (SB 5218), and Michelle followed with updates on fitness centers (SB 5553) and foundational public health services (HB 1497). Stuart closed by briefly summing incidental bills on food waste reduction (HB 1114), fire-fighting foam notices (HB 1143), diaper changing stations (HB 1223), human remains (HB 1162), permanent cosmetics (HB 1158), and composting and nuisance lawsuit (HB 1167).

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Rulemaking Updates

- Chapter 246-290 WAC, Group A Public Water Supplies (PFAS)—Theresa Phillips briefly summed content of the draft rule, next steps, and an updated project timeline. Scott Torpie, followed with an update on federal work developing a PFAS MCL drinking water standard (six or more years to adopt if U.S. EPA decides to act) and a pending national health assessment of PFAS exposure that will include the area near Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane County. Mike Means described the status of the Department of Health’s voluntary PFAS sampling project involving about 75 drinking water systems. The project continues to be delayed by lab accreditation issues. The department hopes to complete the sampling by June.
- Chapter 246-215 WAC, Food Service—Peter Beaton briefly summarized process steps and the schedule to complete work revising the rules. Joe Graham followed with a list of key issues that have surfaced during rulemaking and the work of the Food Safety Advisory Council. Issues include requirements for certified food protection managers, employee health and sick leave, donated food, mobile food units, bare hand contact of ready-to-eat food, product date marking, refillable containers, and health advisories for undercooked fresh fish. Joe also mentioned recent changes in regulation of custom game processing which will soon transition to local health jurisdictions.
- Chapter 246-272A WAC, On-Site Sewage Systems—Todd Phillips and Michael Dixel briefly summarized the status of work revising the rules. They touched on aspects of the rulemaking process, timeline, and key issues. They highlighted two issues with statewide implications where the stakeholder committee did not reach consensus on its recommendations: requirements for property transfer inspections and local management plans. The main concern is limited local capacity and resources to carry out such work statewide.
- WAC 246-203-130, Keeping of Animals—Stuart said initial work on the rule has been challenging due to workload but believes the project can stay on schedule for completion this year. He discussed a few rule concepts and initial stakeholder outreach and reaction to the rulemaking project. He said draft language will be available soon for stakeholder review followed by a public review draft.
- As overarching points, Stuart mentioned that the PFAS, food, and on-site sewage system rulemaking will involve public workshops and he updated the estimated timing of Board briefings and hearings for the four rulemaking projects.

Pending Board Business (March Agenda)

- DOH Delegation Request, Chapter 246-282 WAC, Shellfish Sanitation, National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) Update—Stuart explained that this request last occurred in 2016 and involves updating the reference to the most recent version of

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the U.S. FDA NSSP model ordinance to align state and federal standards for shellfish sanitation. Stuart added that the request also includes updating one provision in the state rules to reconcile a policy conflict that would exist in referencing the most recent version of the NSSP model ordinance.

- Update on Rulemaking for Chapter 246-272A WAC, On-Site Sewage Systems—See the earlier, overlapping discussion. The Board briefing will cover the rulemaking project in more detail regarding process, stakeholders, key issues, schedule, and more.

Next Steps:

- The Environmental Health Committee will likely next meet in May in advance of the June Board meeting.

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