

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

What: Environmental Health (EH) Committee

When: May 9, 2024

- **Attending:** Board of Health (Board) Members Kate Dean (Committee Chair), Patty Hayes (Board Chair), Mindy Flores, Paj Nandi, Steve Kutz; Board staff Michelle Davis (Executive Director), Andrew Kamali (Host), Molly Dinardo, Shay Bauman, Ashley Bell, Hannah Haag, Michelle Larson, Heather Carawan; Department of Health (Department) staff Brad Burnham, Dani Toepelt, Jocelyn Jones, Joe Laxon, Mike Means, Barbara Morrissey, Tami Thompson, Todd Phillips, Katitza Holthaus, Juan Gamez Briceno, Mike Dexel, Ali Boris, and approximately 12 members of the public also attended the meeting.

Summary Notes:

General Updates

EHD Updates

- Jen Garcelon, (Clallam County) Chair of Washington State Environmental Health Directors Association (WSEHD) provided an overview of WSEHD, its make-up, history, and goals. Board Members expressed appreciation for EHD participation in the meeting and the importance of their perspective.

Preview of June Board Meeting

- Michelle Davis, Board Executive Director, discussed the extension of WAC 246-366A effective date. Michelle D. described the School Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) project and discussed the recruitment, preliminary timeline, and foundational project work. Member Kutz expressed concern for adequacy of school funding, and challenges of assessing impacts.
- Shay Bauman, Board staff, discussed the rules hearing for the Handling of Human Remains. Shay is working on translating the proposed rule into Spanish so that rule alerts can go out before the hearing on June 12. Member Kutz expressed concern about unidentified remains. Shay noted the topic is outside of the Board's rule authority.
- Shay previewed rules update on Sanitary Control of Shellfish, which is separate from the Department's fee work. Shay updated the committee on draft language and the extension of the informal public comment period. Two areas of concern are seed size and inclusion of vibrio vulnificus. Members Nandi and Kutz asked for additional background before the June 12 Board meeting.

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- Mike Means, Department Capacity Development and Policy Manager, provided an update on delegated rulemaking – introducing a new section into Climate Resilience in Water System Plans. The legislature requires group A plans to include a climate resiliency element (WAC 246-290-200). This is an abbreviated rulemaking process, and the hearing was held in April 2024. They received limited comments, four in support and others beyond the scope of the rulemaking. The department is working towards final adoption.
- Molly Dinardo, Board staff, discussed the 2024 State Health Report. Molly reflected on themes and status of past recommendations, as well as draft recommendations for the Board's consideration. Member Kutz requested a follow-up conversation with Molly. Member Hayes asked how the community groups we've connected with will have the opportunity to engage in the work. Hannah talked about revising our approach moving forward. Member Hayes mentioned the importance of thinking about community. Member Flores commended this work and looks forward to hearing more at the June 12 Board meeting.

Preview of August Board Meeting

- EH Committee Chair Dean referenced the School Environmental Health and Safety Project Update which was reviewed earlier in the meeting.
- Shay Bauman, Board staff, previewed a request for delegated rulemaking on the Lead and Copper rule which may come before the Board in August.
- Andrew Kamali, Board staff, provided an update on the Water Recreation Rules and progress since the petition from last August.
- Shay briefly presented information about the Camps rule review and will present recommendations at the August Board meeting.
- Andrew discussed the Outdoor Music Festival rule review (chapter 246-374 WAC). This rule hasn't been updated in many years, and Andrew is coordinating the review with local jurisdictions.
- Ashley Bell, Board staff, presented a Pro-Equity Anti-Racism (PEAR) Plan update. This is a strategic equity plan, identifying what we do well and where we can improve. The focus is on policy, access, and relationships. The Board will have an update on this work and some draft PEAR language to review at the August meeting. Member Nandi thanked Ashley and the team for this work.

Other Environmental Health (EH) Rulemaking Updates

- Department staff Mike Means, Capacity Development and Policy Manager, and Barbara Morrissey Toxicologist reviewed Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Mike and Barbara discussed what they are and Washington's efforts to address PFAS. Mike and Barbara also discussed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s new science on PFOA and PFOS and their 2024 MCL requirements.

- EH Committee Chair Dean asked about the Board's authority to adopt standards and asked Barbara about PFAS in fish. Barbara responded that the Department has a fish advisory program and that the contamination being reported is currently mostly in freshwater lakes.
- Todd Phillips, Department staff, Contamination Workgroup, spoke about finalizing an Interpretive Statement on Methamphetamine Contamination via personal use. This statement advises local health officers on how the Department of Health interprets chapter 64.44 RCW. The statement is focused on methamphetamine contamination by use in transient accommodations. Todd noted that these are interim steps to future policy.

Committee Member Comments, Questions, and Next Steps

- Andrew, Board staff and EH Committee Chair Dean are looking forward to seeing everyone in Vancouver in June.

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