



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

What: Environmental Health Committee

When: July 31, 2019

Attending: Board staff Michelle Davis, Kelie Kahler, and Stuart Glasoe; Department of Health staff Todd Phillips, Joe Graham, Peter Beaton, Theresa Phillips, Michael Dixel, Jeremy Simmons, Glen Patrick, Mike Means, and Joe Laxson.

Participating by phone: Board members Keith Grellner, Jim Jeffords, Fran Bessermin and Steve Kutz; Department of Health staff Susan Shelton

Summary Notes:

Updates

- Stuart Glasoe mentioned mutual outreach between staff at the Board and Department of Licensing on rulemaking to implement the new law (SSB 5001) legalizing alkaline hydrolysis and natural organic reduction as methods of final disposition of human remains. The new law may prompt revisions to chapter 246-500, Handling of Human Remains, to consider safety of composted remains and other issues. Stuart will convene a meeting with DOL and DOH staff to explore issues.
- Stuart noted that the Board is filling a new health policy advisor position to work on EH and non-EH rules and related issues. The position is supported mainly by Foundational Public Health Services funds. The application deadline is August 1.

Rulemaking Updates

- WAC 246-203-130, Keeping of Animals—Stuart summed the nature and status of work on the rule to solicit feedback from Board members and to help align thinking on the project. He described his approach managing the project, drafting the rule based on Board policy recommendations, and work with stakeholders representing a range of interests. Stuart fielded questions that revolved mainly around how the rule would be implemented and enforced. He said he is aiming to issue a public review draft in

September, update the full Board in October, and file the proposed rule late in the year.

- Chapter 246-290 WAC, Group A Drinking Water Supplies—Mike Means gave an update on work drafting rule language to establish drinking water standards for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). This included brief information on the ongoing analysis developing the draft standards, renaming and resetting the framework for state action levels (SAL), changes in plans for voluntary PFAS sampling, and changes in the project timeline. The Department is aiming to update the full Board in November and do public presentations on the draft rule in December.
- Chapter 246-272A WAC, On-Site Sewage Systems—Michael Dexel and Jeremy Simmons updated work on this rulemaking project, noting a couple key issues and upcoming process steps that include final work with the stakeholder group, release of a public review draft and public presentations starting in September, and likely a full Board update in October. The rule is slated for completion mid-2020.
- Chapter 246-260 and chapter 246-262 WAC, Water Recreation Facilities—Stuart mentioned that staff are working on a crosswalk analysis comparing the rules with the 2018 Model Aquatic Health Code and will explore aligning the rules with the model code and combining the rules into a single chapter when work with stakeholders begins.
- Chapter 246-217 WAC, Food Worker Card—With respect to a recent petition denied by the Board, Joe Graham expressed interest initiating work on this rule when finished with the food service rules in 2020.

Pending Board Business (August Agenda)

- Chapter 246-215 WAC, Food Service—Susan Shelton gave a thorough preview of the upcoming Board update, covering process steps, project timeline, and key issues in the draft rule. Among other questions, Board members asked about regulation of tribal events and the proposed change allowing dogs in outdoor areas. The Department plans to hold a final meeting of the Food Safety Advisory Council in September, brief the Board and filed the proposed rule in November, and hold the public hearing in early 2020.

Next Steps:

- The Environmental Health Committee will likely next meet in late September in advance of the October Board meeting.

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