



Westport Weston
Health District

REGULAR MEETING

WWHD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

September 8, 2014

Approval by Board of Directors

The Regular meeting was opened by Chairman Nancy McCormick at 7:30 pm. The following voting Board Members were present: Chairman McCormick; Vice Chairman Otis Crawford; and Director Howard Maynard.

Also present were: Mark A.R. Cooper, Director of Health; John Cimarosa, Director of Finances and Special Projects; and Mr. Peter Knight, RTM member.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman McCormick asked if there were any questions or comments on the June 9th minutes. There were none. On a motion by Director Coleman and seconded by Director Maynard, the Board of Directors approved the June 9, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes.

Chairman McCormick voted yes; Vice Chairman Crawford voted yes; and Director Maynard voted yes.

Motion was approved 3 to 0.

Correspondence

Mr. Cooper shared with the Board a letter from DEEP regarding the award of a grant to develop a DNA water testing protocol to identify bacterial sources. He cautioned that since the grant proposal inception four years ago, there has been some changes with some of the team members. He will need to do a little reformatting and obtain DEEP approval for any changes.

The latest edition of the Directory of Board Members was distributed to all Board members.

2013 Flu Season Vaccination Report was distributed to all Board members. Chairman McCormick asked about how someone could be vaccinated but did not pay. Mr. Cooper indicated that sometimes the insurance companies reject the claim. Mr. Cimarosa added that there are many different insurance plans and that some do not cover the cost of the vaccination or that it is part of someone's co-pay requirement. In such cases WWHD administrative staff make efforts to collect from the person receiving the vaccination. With some persistence, such efforts are fairly successful, however, it is not unusual for one or two not to pay. Chairman McCormick asked if it wouldn't make sense to have them pay by credit card. Mr. Cimarosa responded by saying that during a flu shot clinic with lots of activity, staff does not request a credit card when a person presents what appears to be a valid insurance card.

Director Crawford asked if the WWHD still goes to town hall and vaccinates town employees and Fire department personnel. Mr. Cooper replied that this is still done and that the town pays for employees' vaccinations. Mr. Cimarosa added that school personnel in both towns are insured by Cigna and that, with the acceptance of insurance payments, the WWHD can offer to vaccinate school personnel.

Mr. Cooper noted that with the start of the new budget year, a new staff member has been added to focus on food service inspections. The WWHD newest staff member came with a good background of health education and private food service industry experience and has now received Foodservice Inspection Certification from the State Department of Public Health. There was general discussion on the Certification and Standardization process, as well as what is required of restaurants during an inspection. The DPH letter outlining the issues identified during the Standardization process was reviewed item by item. Mr. Cooper summarized the work he is doing on the DPH's Food Code Review Committee and its recommendation that Connecticut adopt the FDA Food Code.

Operational Report and Budget Discussion

Mr. Cooper noted that each Board members' meeting package contained Operational Reports for June, July and August. He noted that the June report is reflective of the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Cimarosa noted that the auditor starts working on closing the fiscal year tomorrow and that he expects the WWHD to be in the black about three thousand dollars. This is the first balance budget in about seven years. The surplus is a result of higher than expected environmental fees, secured grant funds, and a reduction in employee benefits.

Chairman McCormick commented that some of the Community Health programs have low participant levels and asked if it is worth WWHD efforts to continue providing these services. Mr. Cimarosa, using blood pressure screenings as an example, noted that blood pressures are checked as part of regular walk-in clinics; they are not done in the field anymore. People come to the walk-in clinic for a variety of reasons, it is just one more service staff can provide. There is no extra cost of doing so.

There was general discussion on bats and the number of rabies specimens sent to the lab, the number coming back positive, and what people exposed must do.

Grant Updates

Mr. Cimarosa indicated he will be modifying the budget to reflect the grant awards so far received, explaining that when the budget is developed the grants are only proposed with no clear indication if they will be approved.

He indicated as of this date, the WWHD has received the following grants:

- Preventive Health Block Grant, \$6,300 offsets WWHD's Live Well and diabetes programs.
- MRC Regional Grant, \$60,000 of which \$11,000 offsets in WWHD expenditures.
- MRC Local Grant, \$8,500 of which all offsets WWHD expenditures.
- Lead Education Grant, \$2,900 of which all offsets WWHD expenditures.
- Public Health Preparedness Grant, \$54,000 of which all offsets WWHD expenditures.
- DEEP DNA Grant, \$58,000 of which only about a small portion is a WWHD offset.

Chairman McCormick asked for the grants total. Mr. Cimarosa indicated \$182,672 of which about \$97,800 directly offsets WWHD expenditures.

Chairman McCormick asked if there had been any progress in finding a replacement for Director Coleman, our representative from Weston. Mr. Cooper responded that he has not heard that a replacement was found. Calls will be made to encourage the search efforts.

Chairman McCormick noted that with all the concern about EV-68 and Ebola should the WWHD put information on the web site. Mr. Cooper noted that these are rapidly evolving concerns that the CDC and CT-DPH have taken the lead and have the latest information and recommendations on their web sites. Mr. Cimarosa noted that in the next few days the WWHD will have a new web site, with major changes. Making reference and linking to the CDC and CT-DPH sites seems to make the most sense.

There was a general discussion on EV-68 and it's spread across the country affecting school-aged children.

Any Other Business

Director Crawford noted a recent opinion Editorial in the Connecticut Post regarding "Government Cooperation In State is Critical" and summarized a few of the advantages of having more towns join the WWHD. Mr. Cooper agreed and noted that State Representative Jonathan Steinberg is a member of the State's MORE Commission (charged with exploring ways to regionalize various municipal functions) who has told him public health has not been looked at yet. Mr. Cooper indicated he will keep his ear to the ground for any opportunities to bring more member towns into the WWHD.

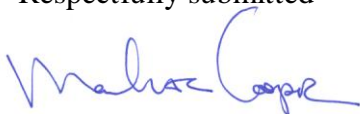
Mr. Cooper noted that he has begun a water testing program in Weston to identify the source of bacterial contamination in a culvert and catch basin near the Middle School. Samples will be collected and analyzed monthly for a year. A sanitary survey of the area will be conducted. A report will be made to the town at the conclusion of the study.

Mr. Knight brought up the concerns about the dumpster at Longshore Inn. Mr. Cooper indicated that during the summer months, the facility needs to swap out the dumpster every other month for steam cleaning. This can be worked into the waste hauling contract. He will have inspectors look at it.

Chairman McCormick called for any other or new business. Being none, on a motion by Director Crawford and seconded by Chairman McCormick to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. Chairman McCormick voted yes; Vice Chairman Crawford voted yes; and Director Maynard voted yes.

Motion was approved 3 to 0

Respectfully submitted



Mark A.R. Cooper Director of Health
Westport Weston Health District