

DELAWARE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

JUNE 13, 2013

The public hearing of the Delaware County Board of Health was held in the Commissioner's Courtroom on the 3rd floor of the Delaware County building. Chairperson Judi Harris called the public hearing to order at 7:10 p.m. Board members present were Vice Chairperson Dr. John Peterson, Phyllies Beatty, Dr. Anthony Dowell, Dr. David Grasso and Christiana Mann and Joseph Russell. Chairperson Harris read the public hearing notice as published. On behalf of Health Officer Donna A. Wilkins MD, Administrator Joshua Williams gave a presentation on the history of formation of the Delaware County Regional Wastewater District (DCRWD), findings of previous studies in Delaware County, projects of the DCRWD and the next step of the Health Department with enforcement. Public in attendance to address the Board:

Larry Crouch, DCRWD Board member/appointed by the Town of Yorktown spoke on the Wheeling area; the DCRWD spent \$88,000 in engineering fees and ~ \$15,000 in attorney fees with nothing happening due to feasibility. Mr. Crouch found out later, if a representative of the Delaware & Grant county Health Departments would have attended the Matthews Town Board and explained the significance of that line going into Matthews and economic benefit of people in that area the project would have probably been approved. As a result of this, a member of the DCRWD asked to review the budget which didn't exist at the time; since then a Finance Committee (Mr. Crouch is a member) has been appointed and it is developing a budget. Mr. Crouch said the DCRWD isn't asking the Health Department to redo the entire study but do one section at a time and submit the new results to the DCRWD for review. The 2003 Cowan study by American Consulting or Commonwealth which found it would cost \$93.00 a month for residents to hook up and pump into Muncie. Muncie Sanitation District had bad data on the quota of capacity, later finding out they could handle the Cowan customers. All utility hook-ups, including Muncie Sanitary, are located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Cowan Road and Highway 67, Mr. Crouch recommends the Health Board look into the development of the other sections of land at the fore mentioned intersection because the person who currently owns it will resale the property. Mr. Crouch drove through Cowan, Beverly Hills addition and other additions finding 18 houses for sale and others vacant; if a person was planning on buying a house in Cowan and found out they may have a \$100.00 a month extra bill to pay it may change the buyers mind. Mr. Crouch thought DCRWD dealt with the people of Desoto kind of badly, not bringing residents up-to-date soon enough and giving the correct information at the right time. When going into an area such as Cowan, the Health Board will need to hold public meetings, explain the reason for the need of the proposed system; it isn't the RRWB's job and Mr. Crouch has felt the RRWB has been doing the Health Board's job of explaining what bad septic tanks can cause if left alone. Mr. Crouch told the Board the study needs to be brought up-to-date, even the 2003 Cowan study isn't sufficient enough for the RRWB to go into the area and install a sewer system. RRWB is not asking the Health Board to start over but be selective, tell the RRWB the worst areas and have a new study done on those areas. Mr. Crouch thanked the Board members. Board member C. Mann thought the Health Department had representation at most meetings for question/answer along with the Health Department's attorney Mr. Dunnuck, especially the meetings concerning the Desoto area. Mr. Crouch stated he knew one individual opened his mouth too much in the Desoto area and caused the problems.

Mr. Dunnuck stated not one person living in Desoto has said they do not need a sewage treatment solution but they have said they can't afford it; from the Health Department's view point of whether or not you can afford it isn't the issue, but it is an issue of public health. The Indiana Administrative Code and health officer have concluded a failed septic system is a health hazard so Mr. Dunnuck's opinion is the Health Department can issue unfit for human habitation orders on the hundreds of houses in Delaware County and if the home owners knew this the Health Board meetings would be standing room only. Mr. Dunnuck said the solution to the problem is money, DCRWD has said they will not go into problem areas in Delaware County and develop new systems; they will manage what they already have and leave it to the elected officials to decide where the money is going to come from and what solutions are adopted. Mr. Crouch agreed with Mr. Dunnuck's opinion. One solution is to design/install grinder pumps and piping to the Muncie Sanitary District, pump sewage to the Muncie Sanitary District, costing the DCRWD \$45-46 per house in the Desoto area adding the administrative billing cost of the Regional Waste Water District bringing the homeowner's cost @ \$100.00. Another solution would be an on-site Waste Management District. Mr. Dunnuck suggests reorganizing the Regional Waste Water District, assess a fee to property owners who have a functioning/non-functioning private septic system, use the assessed fees to obtain a bond to implement on-site solutions. Mr. Dunnuck doesn't believe the Health Department has a choice in this matter and the fee/tax would have to be sold to the public as a method to solving the problem.

After asking for further discussion, Chairperson Harris closed the public meeting.

The regular meeting was called to order at 8:06 pm by Chairperson Judi Harris. Board members present were Vice Chairperson Dr. John Peterson, Phyllis Beatty, Dr. Anthony Dowell, Dr. David Grasso, Christiana Mann, and Joseph Russell.

Chairperson Harris asked for approval of May 9, 2013 minutes; a motion was made by Dr. Dowell to accept the minutes. Chairperson Harris asked her name be added to the Building Committee. Dr. Dowell amended his motion to include the correction by Chairperson Harris, seconded by Dr. Grasso. Motion carried.

Chairperson Harris has received reports from the Personnel, Community Relations and Policy committees. Discussion on those reports will occur at the next Board meeting.

Chairperson Harris asked Board members for discussion on the public hearing. Dr. Dowell asked where the money would come from to pay for the studies since there is no funding mechanism to perform the studies. J. Williams said there isn't a mechanism in place at this time.

J. Williams stated the DCRWD was formed to provide sewer service to the territory of the district and J. Williams hasn't been able to locate a plan that was supposed to be submitted by the DCRWD showing their priority list or per project list. While researching, J. Williams found the Health Department was the only department performing the testing. During the 1980 study the Health Department had its own water lab, the law was in the Health Department's favor to do those studies but now all those statutes have changed. The DCRWD law does have language in it to say if the DCRWD develops a plan for an area a feasibility study has to be completed on the area which requires an engineer to be hired because that is a mandate of the state statute. The study is a requirement to apply for funding. The only study J. Williams has seen is the one done on behalf of the DCRWD by the Health Department in 1976, for those 30 years the Board

of Health had an appointment on the DCRWD Board therefore was a driving factor on what projects were brought to the table. J. Williams doesn't think that the health department should redo the plan, the problem areas in the most recent plan have not been corrected by on-site systems, the soil hasn't changed and there is still a drainage issue. J. Williams suggested before moving forward with a new study the department should petition the County Commissioners to form an On-Site Waste Management District to inventory septic systems and their problems in Delaware County, giving the Health Department information to make better decisions. The funding would be either through the Commissioners or a consumer based solution. After further discussion it was moved by C. Mann, seconded by Dr. Peterson to allow J. Williams working with Mr. Dunnuck to begin the process to petition the County Commissioners to form an On-site Waste Management District under IC36-11 and bring it back to the Board for approval, motion carried.

J. Williams asked the Board to adopt the 2014 budget as what was approved by the County Council in 2013. After discussion, a motion was made by J. Russell and seconded by Dr. Dowell to present the 2014 budget as the same budget approved in 2013 by the County Council, motion carried.

J. Williams gave an update on the Health Departments Strategic Planning Accreditation timeline.

J. Williams reported on monthly reports, specifically nursing division and the active cases of TB and Lyme disease. The nursing division has seen clients at the new location. A representative of the Indiana State Department of Health did a site visit, not a complete inspection, for Childhood vaccines approving the clinic site. The department has received over 500 complaints for the year, all public pools are permitted and open, two weeks ago the food division still had 96 full time establishments to complete inspection on for the first 6 month cycle of 2013 which doesn't include the 147 consultations Sharon Pattee has been performing along with her other duties.

C. Mann asked if Mr. Price from the Indiana State Department of Health or any interns been in Delaware County performing larva sighting; J. Williams didn't have knowledge of him or any of his staff in Delaware County to date but was expecting the visit anytime.

J. Williams presented a request from the Delaware County Sheriff's department asking for assists on providing Tetanus shots to the Sheriffs Response team staff at no cost. Chairperson Harris asked how the Department would cover the cost. J. Williams suggested using the Public Health Vaccine Fund with a current balance of \$123,000. Chairperson asked if the Sheriff's department is requesting only the vaccine or the Health Department's staff to administer the vaccine as well. J. Williams thought since the request was signed by the Sheriff's medical physician then it would only be the vaccine. After further discussion, a motion was made by C. Mann and seconded by P. Beatty to provide TDap vaccine for the 15 Response team staff of the Delaware County Sheriff's department, motion carried. Dr. Dowell stressed the importance of documentation of the vaccination of the Response team and it was suggested the Health Department's nursing staff administer the vaccine so it can be entered into the CHIRP system.

Chairperson Harris discussed the importance of developing a policy the Board would follow when holding public meetings.

Frank Weyl of Muncie addressed the Board on Agenda 21 giving the Board a packet of information, introducing the subject of public/private partnership.

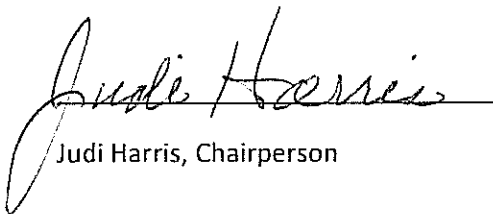
Sharon Pattee, staff member of the Health Department addressed the Board with her concerns of under-staffing in the department and being burnt out. S. Pattee stated her average day is 8-10 hours; giving the example of that day's work as only one of the eight inspections counted toward her monthly reports because the other 7 were temporary establishments and consultations. All of the Environmental staff needs the vacant positions, which were held by C. Mann and N. Larson prior to them accepting other positions outside the Health Department, filled so the workload won't be so overwhelming. Chairperson Harris deferred to the Health Officer, Dr. Wilkins, on how to handle the issue. C. Mann stated all of what S. Pattee does counts, it is not just a number but the logs she has produced are extensive and all of it counts.

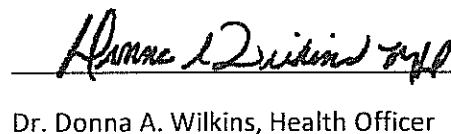
J. Williams reported on Delaware County received the \$260,000 Tobacco Prevention Cessation grant for two years.

Dr. Wilkins reported on Prevent Child Abuse flash drives to present out in the community on drug withdrawn babies and the Mayors committee discussed a city/county employee clinic.

J. Williams reported Jacey Foley was offered and accepted the position of the Tobacco-Free Coordinator of Delaware County. Mrs. Foley will begin next week.

Next board meeting will be July 11th. A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.


Judi Harris, Chairperson


Dr. Donna A. Wilkins, Health Officer