

**KITSAP PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting
January 2, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Mayor Becky Erickson at 10:30 a.m.

2024 OFFICER ELECTIONS

Mayor Rob Putaansuu nominated Dr. Tara Sell as Board Chair and Commissioner Christine Rolfes as Vice Chair for the year of 2024. Mayor Greg Wheeler seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

2024 COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Newly appointed Chair Sell then moved on to committee assignments. Board interest in committee assignments for 2024 were displayed and listed the following assignments:

- Finance and Operations Committee: Mayor Greg Wheeler, Chair Dr. Tara Sell, Member Jolene Sullivan, Member Drayton Jackson, Mayor Becky Erickson, and Mayor Rob Putaansuu.
- Policy Committee: Commissioner Christine Rolfes, Mayor Becky Erickson, Member Stephen Kutz, Member Dr. Michael Watson, and Member Jolene Sullivan.
- Personnel Committee: Chair Dr. Tara Sell, Mayor Rob Putaansuu, and Councilperson Kirsten Hytopoulos.

Chair Sell offered an edit to the assignments with Mayor Erickson and Mayor Putaansuu being removed from the Finance and Operations Committee, and Mayor Erickson being added to the Personnel Committee. Mayor Putaansuu moved and Mayor Erickson seconded the motion to approve the Board committee assignments for 2024 with the changes made by Chair Sell. The motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Kutz moved and Mayor Putaansuu seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the December 5, 2023, regular meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The January consent agenda included the following contracts:

- 2203 Amendment 15, *Washington State Department of Health, Consolidated Contract*
- 2306 Amendment 1, *Jefferson County Public Health, Nurse Family Partnership Supervisor*
- 2327 Amendment 1, *Johns Hopkins University, Healthcare Assessment Project*

Member Kutz moved and Mayor Putaansuu seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Update:

Yolanda Fong, Administrator, provided an introduction and wished the Board and the public a happy new year.

Ms. Fong explained that in 2018, the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) began the revision process for Chapter 246-272A WAC, the state's rule regarding onsite sewage systems. On January 10, 2024, DOH will be holding a public hearing for the proposed rule revision and will likely adopt the revision within the next few months. The effective date will be one month after adoption. The Health District will review and update their local ordinances to ensure it is consistent with the new rules. The revision process and rule changes will be presented to the Board in the future.

Next, Ms. Fong concluded her report by providing an update on the Health District's Immunization Campaign. She noted that activities began in December and the official launch will occur this month. Advertisements have been posted throughout the Kitsap Mall. In addition to social media and digital advertisements, ads have been placed throughout Kitsap Mall, two billboards will be utilized, shopping cart ads will be placed in Safeway stores in Poulsbo and Kingston, and eight digital ads will be displayed at the Colman ferry dock in Seattle. Ms. Fong displayed examples of the graphics being used for the ads and photos of the Kitsap Mall postings, noting that campaign materials will be posted on the new website, <https://www.healthykitsap.org>.

There was no further comment.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENTS UPDATE

Siri Kushner, Public Health Infrastructure Director, started her update by providing the Board with a timeline of the Community Health Assessment activities conducted by the Health District and its partners between 2011 and 2023.

Next, Ms. Kushner went over the list of past Community Health Assessment priorities. She highlighted the priorities that have been selected more than once since 2011, including access to healthcare, housing, and obesity or healthy eating.

Ms. Kushner then explained the landscape of assessments that occurred throughout the community over the last year and a half. In addition to the Health District's assessments, Kitsap Community Resources and St. Michael Medical Center also conducted community assessments. The types of assessments consisted of a Community Needs Assessments, Community Health Needs Assessment, Community Health Assessment, and Health Systems Assessment. Throughout these processes, there was a significant amount of collaboration between community partners. For each assessment, Ms. Kushner described the scope, the follow-up activities, and the key findings or priorities.

Next, Ms. Kushner said that the Health District develops key themes by gathering and analyzing data from the community. After seeking and receiving community feedback on those key themes, the Health District developed a list of potential priorities for 2024 to 2029. Another community convening will be held in January to select priorities and, in turn, initiate implementation planning. Ms. Kushner gave examples from the list of 17 potential priorities that will be presented to the community for prioritization. Examples included addressing gaps in healthcare access, addressing and preventing homelessness, and increasing awareness of accidental drug poisoning strategies.

Ms. Kushner said the Community Health Assessment report can be found on the Health District website. There will be a Community Prioritization meeting on January 11th, and a session will be held on February 8th to develop improvement plans and key strategies.

To conclude her presentation, Ms. Kushner acknowledged the Health District staff, community partners, and community members who participated in the Community Health Assessment process.

When given the opportunity to ask questions, Mayor Erickson asked what the goal of the Community Health Assessment is and what the Health District will do with the report. Ms. Kushner said the purpose of the assessment is to share data and information with the community. It is also an opportunity for collaboration. Ms. Kushner added that the assessment is a requirement for reaccreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board and is strongly recommended by DOH.

Mayor Wheeler said on January 11th when the community is asked to vote on the list of priorities and asked if the priorities will be ranked. Ms. Kushner said final details are still being developed, but participants will vote on the potential priorities to narrow down the list to a few top priorities. She added that low-ranking priorities will not be deprioritized, only that the high-ranking priorities will become a focus. Mayor Wheeler and Ms. Kushner discussed how the Health District will address the priorities using multiple lenses. Mayor Wheeler then thanked Ms. Kushner for her presentation.

Member Kutz asked what types of details will be provided during the priority selection process to demonstrate that each is a critical need. Ms. Kushner explained that the community partners can discuss what their organization is currently doing and who they are currently partnering with

to provide the Health District with a map of the work being done. She said the discussion will also decrease the chance of redundant work.

Commissioner Rolfes asked what the Health District is expecting the Community Prioritization meeting to look like, and Ms. Kushner explained the plan for the meeting and its various components. They also discussed why some of the top priorities in past assessments did not appear on the list of potential priorities for the 2023 assessment.

Mayor Wheeler said he is interested to know whether the root cause or the downstream effects of the priorities will be addressed, explaining that he hopes broader topics like homelessness will not be minimized. Ms. Kushner said she appreciates this comment and that she is looking forward to the results of the shared conversation that will occur at the health prioritization convenings in January and February. She noted that the Health District's goal is not to address everything with this process, but to select a number of strategic action areas.

Dr. Sell brought up the priority around affordable and safe housing, noting this is a critical component of public health, but that it would be difficult for health jurisdictions to address directly. Dr. Sell and Ms. Kushner discussed the Health District's plans to balance the different capabilities, scopes, and abilities that is needed by each priority. Dr. Sell thanked Ms. Kushner for her presentation.

There was no further comment.

2023 WATER QUALITY ANNUAL REPORT

John Kiess, Environmental Health Director, wished the Board a happy new year and provided them with the context surrounding the Water Quality Annual Report. He noted that Kitsap's waterways and shorelines are some of its most popular and appreciated natural features. Historically, many of Kitsap's waters did not meet water quality standards, and in the mid-1990s Kitsap County started the Surface and Stormwater Management Program (now Clean Water Kitsap). The program provided the Health District with funding for water quality monitoring and cleanup work. After decades of hard work, the water quality of Kitsap's waterways and shorelines have dramatically improved. Mr. Kiess thanked Board members and their predecessors for valuing the county's waterways and allowing the Health District to do water quality work.

Grant Holdcroft, Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Program Manager, explained that data collected from 2022 to 2023 was compiled into the 2023 Water Quality Annual Report to help the community understand the work his team does and to inform them on the current status of water quality in Kitsap County.

Mr. Holdcroft displayed the online report for the Board, noting that the PIC team focuses on fecal pollution. He showed an infographic to explain some of the common fecal pollution sources that PIC addresses, including septic systems, sewer systems, livestock waste, and pet waste. Mr. Holdcroft gave highlights for PIC's work in 2023, noting that 66 streams were

monitored, and 3,159 water samples were collected. He also introduced the PIC team, explaining they are typically in the field collecting water samples or investigating pollution sources.

Next, Mr. Holdcroft displayed a graph that showed the increased amount of cumulative acres of approved shellfish beds since 1995. He said the PIC team is continuously opening and reopening problematic shellfish areas in an effort to keep the community safe. The PIC team also monitors streams. If a stream has high levels of bacteria, advisories are issued and posted to protect those who many come into contact with the stream water. Mr. Holdcroft emphasized the fact that there were no stream advisories issued in 2023 and 2024.

Mr. Holdcroft then explained the state Department of Ecology's freshwater standard for surface water quality. Depending on water sample results in comparison to this standard, a stream is categorized into one of three categories: met standard, met part one of standard, and failed standard. The interactive map within the 2023 Water Quality Annual Report shows which category each stream is, allowing the public to determine if a waterway is safe to come into contact with. Mr. Holdcroft demonstrated how the map can be used and its various features.

Mr. Holdcroft said the PIC team also monitors water quality for Kitsap's lake, noting that during the summer, swimming beaches are sampled for bacteria and blue-green algae blooms. The algae blooms can cause illness and potentially death, especially for pets. Advisories are posted anytime there is an algae bloom. Mr. Holdcroft displayed the lake advisories issued in 2023. The report also contains tips the community can use to prevent water pollution.

Lastly, Mr. Holdcroft thanked Clean Water Kitsap, who partners with the Health District to fund and conduct water quality work. He also thanked the PIC team, the Communications team, and the Health District's Geographic Information System Analyst.

Councilperson Hytopoulos asked how the Health District monitors and tracks failed septic systems along the Puget Sound. Mr. Holdcroft said PIC has a shoreline monitoring program in which samples are taken from every flow off of the upland area. The samples are tested for bacteria and investigated if needed.

Member Kutz asked if a user of the interactive map clicked on a specific stream, they would be able to see the water quality data. Mr. Holdcroft confirmed. Member Kutz then asked if PIC conducts dye testing along the shorelines to test for pollution from failing septic systems. Mr. Holdcroft said yes, dye testing is a common investigative method they use.

Commissioner Rolfes asked which agency monitors the water quality at the outfall of sewage treatment plants. Mr. Kiess said each water treatment plant has a discharge permit through the Department of Ecology, who requires ongoing monitoring by the plant.

Member Kutz asked if PIC monitors water for medication compounds that might end up in septic systems. Mr. Holdcroft said the Health District has tested water for chemicals of emerging concern in the past, but do not currently do so. Additionally, the Safe Medicine Return program

through the Solid and Hazardous Waste program helps decrease the chances of residents flushing medicines down their toilets.

Mayor Erickson asked if PIC was utilizing microbial source tracking (MST). Mr. Holdcroft said yes, and Mr. Kiess said it is utilized as one of their water monitoring tools. Mayor Erickson explained concerns surrounding the dichotomy between stormwater standards and water quality. Mr. Kiess said the issue is being discussed and regulating bodies are attempting to move away from previous stormwater paradigms. Mayor Erickson and Mr. Kiess discussed the issue further. Various Board members discussed how stormwater vaults work and its effect on the environment.


There was no further comment.

ADJOURN

There was no further business; the meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.



Christine Rolfes
Kitsap Public Health Board



Yolanda Fong
Administrator

Board Members Present: *Mayor* Becky Erickson; *Councilperson* Kirsten Hytopoulos; *Member* Stephen Kutz; *Mayor* Robert Putaansuu; *Commissioner* Christine Rolfes; *Member* Dr. Tara Sell; *Mayor* Greg Wheeler.

Board Members Absent: *Member* Drayton Jackson; *Member* Dr. Michael Watson.

Community Members Present: Karei Asentisk, *Community Member*.

Staff Present: Leslie Banigan, *Senior Environmental Health Specialist, Pollution Identification and Correction*; Angie Berger, *Management Analyst, Administration*; Dana Bierman, *Program Manager, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention*; Margo Chang, *Administrative Assistant, Administration*; Yolanda Fong, *Administrator, Administration*; Adrienne Hampton, *Policy, Planning, and Innovation Analyst, Administration*; Grant Holdcroft, *Program Manager, Pollution Identification and Correction*; John Kiess, *Director, Environmental Health Division*; Siri Kushner, *Director, Public Health Infrastructure Division*; Ross Lytle, *Senior Environmental Health Specialist, Pollution Identification and Correction*; Gabreiel Outlaw-Spencer, *Public Health Educator/Community Liaison, Parent Child Health*; Laura Westervelt, *Environmental Health Specialist 1, Pollution Identification and Correction*; Erica Whares, *Community Liaison, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention*;