

Powell County Public Health Board Meeting
March 1, 2021

The meeting of the Powell County Public Health Board was called to order by Chairman Doug Crachy at 11:45 a.m. at the Deer Lodge Community Center to allow for social distancing.

Introductions were made. Those in attendance were: Dan Sager, Powell County Commissioner; Doug Crachy, Powell County Commissioner; Jennifer Spring, Deer Lodge Medical Center/Public Health Board member; Marianne Saylor, Powell County Public Health Nurse; Ida Miller, Public Health Board secretary/Public Health Board member; Jordan Friend, Powell County Public Health Officer; Andy Dreesen, Chief Administrative Officer, Deer Lodge Medical Center; Andy Beck, Chief Nursing Officer, Deer Lodge Medical Center; Amanda Bohrer, Powell County Prevention Specialist and Connect Coordinator; Chad J Lanes, Tri County Environmental Health; Mark Syverson, Tri- County Environmental Health; Gary Bender, Chief of Police, City of Deer Lodge; Diana Solle, Mayor, City of Deer Lodge, Thomas Malcomb, Code Enforcement Officer, City of Deer Lodge; Jennifer Robinson, Tobacco Prevention Specialist; Gavin Roselles, Sheriff, Powell County; Kathryn McEnery, County Attorney, Powell County; Ruth Koehler, Powell County Public Health; Britni Evans, Coordinator, Powell County Office of Emergency Management; Scott Hamilton, Planning Board, City of Deer Lodge

Members of the Public: There were 24 members of the public signed in and present at this meeting.

The minutes of the August meeting were unanimously approved with a correction on the time of the meeting with a motion by Dan Sager to approve the minutes and a second by Jennifer Spring. The December meeting of the board was dispensed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Reports:

Tri-County Environmental Health, Chad Lanes:

- There is currently an interest in creation of a direct farm to table industry in the north end of the county. A licensed meat depot is being set-up by a cattle owner to sell their own cattle that have been processed at a licensed facility into packaged beef. This business is looking at selling beef both intrastate and interstate. Assistance is being provided.
- Trixie's a food establishment in the county is changing hands. An inspection has been completed for the new owners.
- Licensed Food Service establishment and other mandated inspections: These inspections of restaurants, bars, trailer parks, hotels/motels, and campgrounds have been slow given the state of the pandemic. There was discussion of making these inspections virtual, but on-site inspections will be continuing.
- Septic systems inspections for new construction are continuing. This year has seen the most requests received to date for the last 10-15 years. The most requests currently are coming from the Rock Creek Cattle Company. There is not currently a septic disposal or application site in Powell County.
- There has been a meeting with the City of Deer Lodge Code Enforcement officer.
- Mark Syverson: The dishwashing machine at the prison is not working. The prison is working on the machine and information is being updated as needed.

Public Health Nurse, Marianne Saylor:

- Provided information on the state of Covid-19 in Powell County. There have been 467 cases total in Powell County. Powell County currently has a mask mandate by order of the Public Health Officer. Please do your part to protect yourself and your neighbors by wearing a mask.
- There has not been a state verified case of influenza in Montana to date.

Public Health Officer: Jordan Friend was chosen as the Public Health Officer after interviewing with the Public Health Board. She presented the Public Health Officer order which had been issued on February 11, 2021 with more complete wording as requested by the county attorney.

Tobacco Specialist: Jennifer Robinson

- Reported she has plans for an Easter egg scavenger hunt for high school students and parents.
- A chew pack for helping offenders in the county jail quit using chewing tobacco has been made available to the sheriff's department.
- There is currently a bill in the Montana Legislature regarding the indoor air act, HB 137.
- There will be a Kick-Off Summer event for students versus parents. Public Health is involved in this event.

Prevention Specialist: Amanda Bohrer

- Reported that she is currently working on meth, marijuana, and alcohol media literacy with focus on afterschool use.
- Trails in the Deer Lodge area will be cleaned up by the REACT group including the Johnson trail and the Old Yellowstone trail.
- There is discussion regarding what there is to do in Deer Lodge for young adults in the 18-24 age range. Pastor David Baker is assisting with this endeavor.

DES Coordinator: Britni Evans, the new DES coordinator had nothing to report at this time.

Deer Lodge Medical Center: Andy Dreesen

- Stated that Deer Lodge Medical Center has vaccinated 360 people completely, 559 people have received the first vaccine and 919 people have received a vaccination. There is currently a survey regarding vaccination interest on the DLMC website and Facebook page.
- Community Playground: Is open and in use. Restrooms should be open by April 1st.
- New Providers: Michelle Christnacht, a Physician's Assistant. and Laura Twist, MD is an Obstetrician/Gynecologist from Butte is seeing patients at DLMC.

City of Deer Lodge: Diana Solle, Mayor reported that snow removal is not done in the city. Public meetings were held a few years ago and a community consensus was reached not to increase taxes for snow removal and related expenses.

City of Deer Lodge Code Enforcement Officer, Tom Malcomb, reported that 280 dogs have been licensed to date and that the process of cleaning up the city has begun.

Old Business:

Remaining Meeting Dates for 2021:

Monday June 7, 2021

Monday September 2021

Monday December 7, 2021

New Business:

- Mask Mandate: A motion was made by Dan and seconded by Doug to deny the mask mandate as presented by the Public Health Officer. This motion was passed by a vote of 4-1 with Doug Crachy, Dan Sager, Rem Mannix (by phone), and Jennifer Spring voting yes; Ida Miller voting no.
- The bylaws are 10 years old and a bylaw review with the public health officer and the public health board will be scheduled within the month.

Public Comment: There were numerous members of the public who spoke during the public comment section.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Jennifer Spring and seconded by Dan Sager. Motion carried. Next meeting will be Monday June 7, 2021, at 11:30 a.m. location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

Ida Miller Public Health Board Secretary