Attendees:  Joe Wyatt  
   Brad Cochran  
   Michelle Cochran  
   Ryan Harbison  
   Steve Bayer  
   Lock Johnson  
   Stan Walls  
   Arletta Lancaster  

No representatives were present from Fairmont District or WVU. 

Meeting was called to order by Joe Wyatt. Arletta Lancaster was introduced as the new representative from the Kearneysville District. All attendees introduced themselves and welcomed Arletta to the group. 

Joe reported that the Annual Sanitarian’s Training Class was set to begin December 5, 2005 and Linda Whaley, new Food Program Manager and Training Officer had 7 new sanitarians currently enrolled with the possibility of a few more to join. A question was raised as to the availability of other sanitarians setting in on portions of Training Class as a refresher. Joe stated that this would be acceptable as long as adequate seating was available and that anyone interested must contact Linda ahead of time. 

Joe also reported that a new committee was being formed to work on the new Water Well Regulations. There should be at least 2 sanitarians on the committee and Bill Toomey was the committee chair. Acting Commissioner, Chris Curtis did give her response to the Final Report of the Well Drillers Work Group and her recommendations to the new committee included “making sure all impacted groups had some form of representation”. It was agreed that this new rule is much needed. 

Brad gave a report on the Spa/hot tub group formed from a previous Liaison Committee Meeting and since Arletta was new to the group some background info as to why this committee was formed. The committee has met once and decided that before proceeding with possible guidelines, they needed to better acquaint themselves with residential hot tubs. Since the Central Office did not have design standards for residential hot tubs, the group requested they be ordered and we also spent time looking at hot tubs at a couple of distributors in Charleston. They were very helpful and spent a couple of hours discussing the designs and features of these units to the committee. We decided to wait and meet
again after we received the new design standards. The design standards are in and Brad will set up another meeting after the holidays.

Nursing Update: No one was present from the Nurse Liaison Group. There has not been an attendee at the last few meetings.

Michelle gave a threat preparedness update. The TP manuals proofs were returned to the printer. Finally everything is ok and we are a Go for printing. She hopes to have this accomplished and distributed in 2-3 months. Michelle also talked about pamphlets for the general public and that several had been incorporated into one document. A generic copy was distributed to the committee. Michelle stated that DHHR is looking for appropriate clipart to be added to the pamphlet. Michelle had received feedback from several people and mentioned e-mailing a copy to each Liaison Committee member to further review and give feedback. Issues have also been raised about handling of potential threats of Chronic Wasting Disease in the deer population and Avian Flu. Rabies baiting in the future may not include LHDs. It was felt that locals should be kept in the loop. The Zoonosis Task Force was getting new updates ready and IDEP planned to post Jane Rooney’s vacancy in the near future. Michelle also talked about vulnerability assessments -3 have been trained. PHS staff trained is Linda Whaley. LHD grant applications have been turned in and reviewed. All have been conditionally approved. A multi-state drill included 5 states in October. Environmental health personnel were left out of the drill, but these concerns are being addressed in the after action report.

Michelle also gave a final report on the Camp Dawson experience WV had encountered. She spent 10 total days there out of 30 days evacuees were on site. Everyone in PH worked well together. Only one negative comment was received in the After Action Report. Some minor snafus were reported. It took 48 hrs. after evacuees arrived at Camp Dawson before Environmental Health was involved. We also had some minor issues with the National Guard. We needed to learn the “Army Ways”. Overall it was a great learning experience.

Michelle also gave a report about water treatment plants receiving calls from persons of Middle Eastern descent stating they were employees of Hach Corporation requesting confidential information about the plants chemicals and storage, etc. All indications were that we may have a potential situation, but after discussions with Hach, it turned out their marketing people had contracted with a telemarketing group from India. 250 contacts were made and actually 55 supplied information.

Joe reported that PHS has filled some vacancies in the division and 3 more were to be filled pending DOP approval. Mark Whittaker has come back to PHS as Fairmont District Sanitarian. Cliff Livengood was hired from RTIA to replace VJ Davis as Milk Sanitarian in the Fairmont and Kearneysville Districts. Linda Whaley has filled the position of Food Program Manager and Training Officer. Pending hires include: Rick Hertges- Sewage Program Manager; Kirk Powroznik- Asst. Sewage Program; and Brad Cochran-General Sanitation Program Manager. The District Sanitarian vacancies will be filled ASAP and a
new Assistant Director position is being created. Since Joe is acting director, his position will have to be posted as well.

Joe reported on the PHS grant for food safety meetings had been approved. There will be 2 meetings held and we were also looking at the adoption of the 2005 Food Code.

Joe also reported that a body piercer had their Body Piercing License suspended for one year for falsifying records on autoclave testing results. There was a potential for 800 or so exposures.

Joe also reminded everyone that effective today, mileage reimbursement had been lowered back to 40.5 cents per mile at the State level. The Federal GSA guidelines are still 48.5 per mile.

**Area updates:**

There was discussion which derived from previous concerns brought up at the In-service Meeting in St. Marys about HAU’s to surface discharge in subdivisions. It is a must that waste load allocations be obtained from DEP on each lot ahead of time and records be on file in the LHD so that lots may not be denied at later dates.

**Lock:** Questions concerning forms being discontinued from PHS. He would like to see PHS continue providing forms but charge a fee for them rather than having to download and print. Lock also expressed concerns about uniformity between counties and could it be an agenda item at mid-year.

**Steve:** Has hired a new sanitarian, Zella Graham. She will start training class in December. Steve had some mass gathering concerns. The General Sanitation Rule covers mass gatherings and a permit fee may be able to be charged if the new fees for permit rule is passed.

**Ryan:** Discussed home burial concerns. A person in his district had buried someone on his property and the site was within 30-40 ft. of the neighbors well. Discussion was that there is no requirements about distances concerning home burial that we were aware of.

**Arletta:** They would like to have more specific study material for the PES exam. Study material available was discussed and there is a study manual available on line that goes with the reference book used for the test. Arletta said they had also lost 2 sanitarians to other states and a lot of it has to do with locality pay.

**Stan:** Raleigh County is losing their regional epidemiologist to Cabell County. Stan would like to see training be made available as refresher courses for sanitarians, possibly through In-service meetings. All thought this might be a good idea to help in the consistency and uniformity issues occurring.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 17, 2006 to be held in Charleston.