West Virginia State Environmental Liaison Meeting
Date: November 4, 2016
Location: DHHR Coop Facility, Flatwoods, WV

PRESENT

Brad Cochran, Judy Vallandingham, Steve Hinerman, Pat Murphy, Rich Lucas, Mike Trantham, Stan Mills, Michelle Cochran, Warren Von Dollen, Jennifer Beamer-Hutson, Greg Young, Will Stewart, and Elizabeth Green.

CALL TO ORDER

Judy Vallandingham called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Stan Mills moved and Michelle Cochran seconded and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented.

INTRODUCTIONS

Judy Vallandingham reported that Jim Ellars had been hired as the new District Office Manager. Judy further reported that several employees had retired at the end of October from PHS; Brad Cochran, Dave Thornton, and Richard Wheeler.

OLD BUSINESS

Environmental Health Electronic Reporting

71% Health Departments are now using the environmental health electronic reporting now. Training has continued with the program. The SS 177 and the SS 183 has been finalized. Liz Green has been piloting these forms for the electronic reporting system. They will be deployed soon and drawings can be attached. The question was asked if tablets could be used for the drawings and Judy mentioned they will look into it. SG 61 Environmental Health Codes for entering times would be updated soon and released. Stan Mills asked about clarification on fees for assistance for local health departments and Brad Cochran mentioned that the question was sent upstairs but at this time no response has been issued.
NEW BUSINESS

Environmental Health Electronic Report Program (EHERS)

Stan Mills questioned about entering no violations on the food inspection form and issues of report printing other item on it. Liz Green mentioned that she has 0,0 on her reports. Steve Hinerman mentioned some views come up on the screen of other computers. Judy stated she would look into the matter. Stan ask when will we be able to switch to risk assessment form and Judy stated that it is there above the general report. Judy mentioned you must fill out all fields for the form to print the risk assessment part. Judy mentioned that the risk assessment form will separate out the criticals and non-criticals. Stan Mills ask for assistance and more training on using that portion of the form.

EH Report to the Commissioner’s Office

The question was asked why pre-opening inspections are not showing up the report to the commissioner. Only routine inspections will show up on the report. Brad mentioned only the required inspections, routine/operational, will be on the report. Stan mentioned that sanitarians spend a lot of time during pre-operational inspections and feels that the report should show that time. Judy mentioned that time reports show that time, so it’s not lost. Jennifer Beamer-Hutson mentioned that also the report doesn’t show all the time her sanitarians spend during temporary food inspections.

Brad Cochran mentioned that only they can see the email version and changes probably will not happen this program year. Steve Hinnerman also mentioned that complaints uncompleted on the report sometimes take time to complete due to court hearings and so on and felt local health departments were being penalized for this on the report. Brad mentioned that the report should allow for comments, but at this time does not allow show these issues. Judy mentioned even the sewage permits could go on and not show completed in the report, but that system may have never been installed and expired.

Child Care Legislative Rules

In the child care rule there is a definition for disinfectant that requires ¼ cup of bleach to one gallon of water and the ppm would be 600. Judy mentioned this is strong, but is to take care of body fluids issues.

Stan Mills mentioned that now there are stronger concentrations of bleach out there. Brad stated that at the time that the rules were written that this was for regular strength 5.25%. Judy stated that there is a good table from State of Indiana that shows the different concentrations of bleach percentages and from Washington State.

State Staff Availability for Food Standardization

Judy stated currently the State has two staff members for local health departments to utilize for their sanitarians to be standardized in food service inspections. The State Staff member would standardized one member of the environmental health staff and that person would standardized the other staff in their department based on the 2005 Food Code. The two current staff members are Penny Manigold and Rich
Lucas. Judy stated that local health departments could contact Jessica Douglas to coordinate the food standardization program and setup the staff to come the local health departments.

REPORTS

Beckley District Report
No Report

Fairmont District Report
No report

Kearneysville District Report
Jennifer Beamer-Hutson also mentioned the State cuts has affected her department and has had staff take on new tasks. In-service meeting was held last week and Connie Anderson had come to talk about the UIC program and talked at the septic installers meeting. She also mentioned that Richard’s retirement party went well.

WVAS
Brad stated that they had their first executive council meeting after the election and the new elected officials are in place. IEHS is coming up next year in Tennessee and Bill Nester is the IEHS local health representative is attended the planning meeting this week. West Virginia will host IEHS in 2018 and they are in the process of planning to be the host. Mid-Year planning has commenced and looking to have a FDA course on temporary foods for the event and will require pre-requisites. May 9th thru the 11th is the tentative dates for Mid-Year. There will be alternate agenda and Dave Whittaker is the new program chair and currently working on setting speakers.

Mid-Ohio Valley Report
No Report

Saint Albans District Report
Stan mentioned travel cuts have been an issue since the state funding cuts. Stan also stated that he was waiting on the fees for service approval from the State and Brad stated that he placed a recommendation to approve the fees and still waiting on the approval from upstairs and his office has a 7 day turn around and would look into the status with the Commissioner’s Office or contact the Center for Local Health (Amy or Rebecca).

Wheeling District Report
No Report

District Sanitarian Report
No Report
RTIA Division Report
Michele Cochran stated that currently still have a vacancy in the Lead Program and updating the vacancy to ERS 3. The machine XRF is in need of repairs and at this time waiting to have the repairs completed. We had several calls regarding molds in schools due to the recent floods and some schools who shut down their HVAC systems over the summer, which may have caused humid conditions in these schools. We had a school board who thought they were doing the right thing by removing ceiling tiles without checking for asbestos. A cease and desist was sent out and they refused to corporate. Our office went to the school and had a discussion regarding the matter and they complied with testing procedures. Michele cautioned that when public building materials such as, ceiling tiles, floor tiles, molding, etc. that testing should be done first of the material and the material used to replaced should be tested. Stan Mills stated that the State School system should have an Industrial Hygienist to help handle HVAC and construction issues and Michele stated that they were involved.

Meth bust occurred in the Northern Panhandle area at a hotel. Michele stated that caution should be taken in these situations and let the professionals in that area that have the proper PPE handle the case. Sanitarians should not be in these areas and possibly expose themselves to the harsh chemicals. Jennifer Beamer-Hutson stated that schools in her district had similar issues of shutting down their HVAC systems over the summer to save money and condensation building up and rusting of equipment and asked if there were any recommendations on how to inform school boards about these issues. Michele stated that Mike Pickens out of Charleston, who is the director over State School Board and has staff to help in these situations.

Mike Trantham mentioned that some new materials may have asbestos materials in them and Michele state that new floor tile installed at a school was hotter with asbestos than the old tile and mentioned that EPA recommends having new material tested before using that product.

WV OLS Report
Greg Young stated that the fee bill has finally been past and came up for group testing of metals and other group testing at a better rate. The new package includes like 18-19 parameters at around $90 to $100 dollars, which is a great deal. Most of the time in now going directly to the customer and the sanitarian is not testing. The customer is told that the samples will need shipped back on ice and that can add up on shipping cost around $20 to $30 dollars and if they are close they can drive the samples to the lab. The lab is also working on a brochure to explain the sampling procedures and what they sample for and will hopefully have it ready for the next meeting to look over before finalizing. Greg also mentioned that they are currently upgrading their laboratory management system that we issue all of our laboratory reports and about half way thru completing the upgrade. The reports that we issue may look a little different, but will the same information and hopefully be completed this summer.

Brad Cochran ask Greg to mentioned that the lab may be adding other testing for HAB (Harmful Algae Bloom) and can ship kits out and most likely health departments will not be charged for the testing.
**WVU Report**

Mike Trantham stated that WVU “Adventure WV” Program is ongoing and has a process that design/construct is a long process, because they design the water system as they go through construction process, instead of having the design completed before construction starts. They will need to completely disinfect the system before put in use, but since winter is coming that might be put on hold. The Coopers Rock sewage system is inspected by him on an ongoing process to make sure the drain field is working properly and calls the inspection process the “scratch and sniff” to comply with the DEP. He stated the first of the WVU stadium project is complete and currently working on the second half phase. Brad mentioned the restrooms had some complaints regarding having to walk around another wall to get to the hand sinks and having the same door for the entry and exit. Mike stated that they doubled the fixtures in the ladies toilet facilities. Hand sinks now are manually operated instead of having the automatic sinks, since the use is limited in the off season. Mike also mentioned that they are also dealing with budget cuts.

**Environmental Engineering Report**

Pat Murphy stated that the Source Water Protection Plan under Senate Bill 373 is moving along and all the water systems (125) have submitted their plans on time. The attendance for the hearings for the plan has been low turnout. 125 hearings have been completed and 102 plans have been approved.

Pat mentioned that Bill Toomey stated they are working on the (Private Well Initiative) well testing program. Brad mentioned that when they going into the counties, they are asking for the health departments to assist if they want to.

Pat also mentioned an update on the Vienna water situation and have their second filters installed on their well fields and wasn’t sure if the connection from Parkersburg was turned off, but should be soon and Vienna will be back on their own system. Martinsburg contamination issue is ongoing and DEP is trying to find the source of contamination. Wells in the area are also being tested for possible contamination.

EED also is working with local health departments with food permit suspensions to help get the food operators to comply with the water regulations and ask local health departments to contact the central office if they need clarification with the violations on food suspension notices.

EPA is asking more about lead issues and compliance and the EED may ask for help from the local health departments in the future and that new rules will be out next year. Greg Young mentioned the lab received a lead and copper sample a few weeks ago and the sample was 297 ppb for lead and he sent the sample to JD, but couldn’t remember which system it came from and Pat mentioned he would look into the sample result.

The new staff member is Jim Ellars, District Office Coordinator, with their department.

**Environmental Update**

Judy mentioned that there are three upcoming in-service meetings, Beckley District, November 18th, Wheeling District, November 23rd, and Logan County December 2nd. Bottle Water Program is now being administered by Stacy King. Sanitarian hours are now to be submitted to Lloyd White. Sanitarian training class is coming to a close and the final test will be at Cedar Lakes. Brad stated that the postings have been
submitted for Richard Wheeler’s and Dave Thorton’s positions. Brad mentioned that the register open to the public for sanitarian 1 postings stated that it is up to local health department to confirm the person meets the qualifications for the job, DOP no longer quality them.

Legislative Report
Judy mentioned that the pickle bill about home canning/micro processing being sold at farmers’ markets may come up again in the legislative session and OEHS is working with the Department of Agriculture and letting them know about our concerns. WVU extensions also have concerns. Brad mentioned also regarding the pickle bill that Farmers Market Association will not deviate from the home kitchen and we submitted are concerns, but feels that the Farmers Market Association is going to fight to keep that in the bill. A few states are currently allowing these home canning processors and advocates are pushing for this nationwide. Brad also mentioned that these home canners cannot ship over state lines without FDA approval. Judy mentioned that Kentucky allows these small home processors, but they have to go through a lot of training, such as better processing schools and other rules and can only sell in Kentucky. Brad mentioned in this bill they will have to through a better processing school, but don’t have to go through a process authority for their recipe. Brad mentioned also that these bills can through the legislature for up to three years before they are pulled if not passed.

The other legislative update is to allow the time change for sanitarians to get their hours if they don’t have enough in that 12 month period and would allow for a grace period of up to 6 months, but these hours in the grace period can’t go to the following year.

NEXT MEETING – February 3, 2017, at the OEHS COOP Facility in Flatwoods.

Submitted by: Rich Lucas
Date: November 17, 2016