West Virginia State Environmental Liaison Meeting
Date: February 19, 2016
Location: 350 Capital Street, Room 317 Charleston, WV

PRESENT

Brad Cochran, Judy Vallandingham, Steve Hinerman, Tom Ong, Rich Lucas, Lock Johnson, Mike Trantham, JJ Rose, Greg Young, Denny Taketa, Dr. Don Thimsen, Jimmy Casdorph, Elizabeth Green, Warren Von Dollen, Stan Mills

CALL TO ORDER

Brad Cochran called the meeting to order at 10:40 am.

MINUTES

Steve Hinerman moved and Mike Trantham seconded and the minutes were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Environmental Health Electronic Reporting

Judy Vallandingham reported that the new Sanitarian in training class were trained on the use of the Environmental Health Electronic Reporting System (EHERS) in 2015. And the trainees suggested that hands on training would be beneficial during this training class. So in the schedule for this year’s sanitarian training class EHERS training will occur for recreational water, sewage, general sanitation, child care, manufactured home community and food establishment inspections. Training will also include creating a record for a new facility and using the time tracking module for monthly reports. We will be requesting that the new sanitarians bring their tablet computers for this training. We encourage all sanitarians to use the time tracking in the EHERS to produce their monthly reports.

I have been working with 6 additional LHDs to help them get data entered for their facilities and time tracking.

OEHS staff will start using the EHERS for their institution inspections in the near future.

Brad added that OEHS staff will not be using the program for the Manufactured Food Program Inspections. He also added that he does not have any information at this time on how the LHDs will reimburse BPH for the user licenses, currently all the user licenses have been paid from OEHS funding.

SOP – DEP Class V Injection Wells

Brad reported that Rick Hertges has repeated tried to a Draft SOP from DEP for the procedure for the Class V Injection Well permit without success. DEP did provide a Draft copy of the Class V Injection Well Application.
SG-61 Monthly Report
Brad reported that he did not have any additional information on this form. This issue is on hold until after the legislative session concludes.

Growlers
Brad reported that in the legislation that was passed in 2015 that the ABCA was to consult with WVDHHR on the cleaning and sanitizing requirements for the growlers, in the proposed legislation. PHS has contacted the ABCA, but the ABCA did not consult with PHS for input on the Rule. (i.e. 176CSR1 Non-intoxicating Beer Licensing and Operations Procedures. Sections 5.4.e.6&7 relate to the cleaning & sanitizing of the growlers and section 8 relates to the cleaning of the beer pipelines and equipment.) Brad indicated that PHS will be working on a Procedure related to this for consistency regarding the requirements in the establishment and role of the LHD in this process. PHS will be requesting input from the craft beer industry and LHD’s. He indicated that PHS is also researching rules in other state i.e. North Carolina. He also stated the attorney for BPH has been in contact with the attorney for ABCA and requested information on industry participants for this process.

NEW BUSINESS
None

REPORTS

District Sanitarian Report - No report

RTIA Division Report
Dr. Thimsen provided the committee with a report:
WV meth lab detections - 194 meth labs were detected in 2015; 313 labs detected in 2014
Efforts to control childhood lead exposure - CDC lowered the "Blood Lead Level of Concern" to 5 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood in mid-year 2014. In 2015, the Lead Program performed 48 lead inspections of children's homes, and 4 outreach presentations were given on aspects of childhood environmental lead.
Control efforts for asbestos - In 2015, 91AHERA Inspections, 2 Asbestos Worker Protection Inspections, 287 asbestos license inspections, 46 complaints involving asbestos and 21 asbestos related outreaches or Technical Assistances were completed.
Radiation control - Acceptable 'TENORM' levels are still being considered. In 2015, 403 facilities where X-rays are utilized were inspected. Total of 1384 X-ray generating 'tubes' were inspected in these facilities.

JJ ask if RTIA will address residential asbestos complaints. Brad indicated that RTIA staff would address those type of complaints and you can refer the complaints to Herb Hillary, Supervisor – Asbestos Compliance Program

Mid-Ohio Valley Report
Elizabeth ask Brad if Rich Lucas can still assist with their In-Service meetings, Brad indicated that the assistance to local health for in-service meetings and advisors on issues will remain the same as it has
been in the past. She indicated that Rich Lucas will be working with a member of her staff on Food Standardization.

She reported that there is a craft beer establishment opening in Parkersburg, down the street from the health department and her staff will be working with this establishment regarding a permit and growler sales.

Mid-Ohio Valley HD has received a lot of phone calls regarding bed bugs, recently. Her staff held a forum on the topic of bed bugs for landlords in Roane County; it was a very good program. MOVHD plans to hold a forum on bed bugs for the landlords in Wood County in the future.

Brad reminded the group that any facility that is licensed or registered with OFLAC, bed bug complaints can be referred to that agency.

**WVU Report**

Mike reported that WVU was not affected as greatly as most of the state agencies and some of the other institutions of higher education, because the University has moved to applying for and receiving fund for research work.

His office has started to be involved with the WVU Tech move to Beckley. He has been in contact with the Sanitary Board and Health Department related to the facilities on the new Beckley campus. His office will still be involved with the campus at Montgomery for the foreseeable future.

On the Morgantown campus there building boom is slowing down, but renovations to the concourse at the football stadium and the Coliseum will be taking place in 2016.

WUV administration is still trying to decide a use for the old Westvaco site, formerly the on-site sewage demonstration center.

**WV Office of Laboratory Services Report**

Greg Young reported that the new proposed Fees for Service rule is making its way through the legislative process and is part of the bundled DHHR rules. He stated that the reason they are seeking a new fee structure is that with the new equipment that the environmental chemistry has if they run a sample the equipment will give a report on approximately 12 different isolates. So the fees reflect the actual isolates that appear in the test results.

He also stated that the Environmental Chemistry lab will be adding a test for the harmful (blue-green) algae bloom. He also stated that the information will look a lot like the information that was being used from Ohio, last year and that WV would also be using USGS information as a guide for identification.

JJ ask if the lab would still test a sample for 1 isolate (i.e. lead) and if the charge for that test would be the same. Greg indicated that yes the lab would still accept a same and the test and report on just one isolate, but the equipment will automatically test for all 12 isolates, the lab will report on only the requested isolate, unless the reports shows one or more other isolates out of compliance with the EPA standards, if this is the case then the lab personnel will report on the requested isolate and any other isolates that are out of compliance with the EPA standards.
OLS staff informed the committee that if a well has been super chlorinated, they suggest that the sample be collected 1-2 weeks after this process, because if the water sample has chlorine present then the equipment will so a false positive for arsenic.

Tom Ong added that a supervisor has been hired for the drinking water/milk lab and that person started February 1, 2016. He stated that it took 2 years to fill this position.

**Beckley District Report** - No Report

**Fairmont District Report** - No Report

**OEHS Readiness Program Report**
Warren Von Dollen stated that he participated in a webinar related to CO poisoning in indoor ice skating rinks caused by the use of the Zamboni indoors. He asked the group if this is an issue at any the indoor ice skating rinks located in WV. It was the consensus of the group that this is not an issue at the indoor ice rinks in WV, because the Zambonis that are used in WV are electric powered.

**Saint Albans District Report**
Stan Mills reported that the LHDs are anticipating budget cuts form BPH. Brad informed the committee that BPH Administration has changed the policy of allowing District Sanitarians to fill in when LHD sanitarians are not available (i.e. extended leave of absence, vacation, etc.) the request for this service will need to come to Brad from the LHD Administrator and then will need to be approved by BPH Administration, before any services are rendered by the District Sanitarian. There is also a possibility that BPH may request reimbursement from the LHD for services.

Stan asked how do we get back to a good working relationship.

Brad stated that he hopes that PHS still has a good working relationship with the LHDs and cannot speak for other offices.

Stan asked if PHS could still do Program reviews. Brad indicated that PHS staff could still do a Program review if requested by the LHD Administrator and have done a few program reviews in recent years. Brad stated that a PHS District Sanitarian, not the District Sanitarian assigned to that LHD, would do the program review.

**West Virginia Association of Sanitarians Report – see Environmental Update**

**Wheeling District Report**
Lock reported that Ohio County’s new CIAR will go into effect on March 1, 2016. He also reported that Marshall County investigated a food borne Illness outbreak at the Regional Jail related to a catered meal served at the facility, the organism identified was C. Perfringens. Marshall County also embargoed BBQ sauce from an unpermitted food manufacturer; PHS had ask the LHD to embargo the product. The LHD also embargoed pepperoni rolls from a convenience store that were being supplied by an unpermitted food manufacturer.
Kearneysville District Report
No report. Denny Taketa informed the committee that because of the LHD budget cuts that this will be his last Liaison Committee meeting and that he will also not be attending any more of the Food Safety Task Force Meetings. Brad ask if he would discuss with his Administrator, AJ Root if it would be a possibility that he remain on the committee and attend via conference call.

Environmental Update

OEHS

PHS has filled the Fairmont/Kearneysville Milk Sanitarian – Addison Hostetler is the new Milk Sanitarian for the districts (He is the grandson of Bernie Clemmer, former milk sanitarian). Barbara Napier, Milk Sanitarian - Wheeling District retired and that position will be posted in the near future.

PHS has moved a name forward for approval for the MFRPS/Bottled Water position and hope to have this individual start in March 2016.

EED is still without a Division Director and a District Office Manager.

Budget issues are also effecting OEHS, but are still getting “critical” positions posted and filled (this include Sanitarian positions), DHHR/BPH are not approving any non-essential travel must prove that the travel may effect compliance with a grant or is required for duties of the job to be performed.

Algae Bloom

Brad informed the committee that there is a group that has been looking at how to address the algae bloom issues in West Virginia. WV group will be using the Ohio EPA model for guidance, staff will need to be trained to recognize the harmful algae bloom and Environmental Chemistry lab will be testing for the type of algae and then for the toxin. Greg added that the oxidation process at a water treatment plant will cause the toxin from the algae to be released. He also commented on the quick colorimetric test that the indicator of a negative result will be a dark color and the indicator of a positive result will be a light color.

JJ ask how will LHDs or others report the presence of an algae bloom. Brad indicated that the process for reporting is still being worked out by the group. The group is also working on where and what information (i.e. location information, informational messages, posting of area, etc.) will be available regarding algae bloom that effects areas of WV.

Mike inquired about what are the effects on people, pets, and animals. Brad commented that the only reported issue with people so far has been – skin irritation. There were reports in other states of animal deaths from the animals drinking the water with the algae bloom. Stan commented that the ducks in the Cabell County area were not affected by the algae bloom, they actually ate it.
Sanitarian Training Class

Brad told the committee that Sanitarian Training class for this year will begin on August 1st and conclude on November 18th with the comprehensive final exam. The schedule for the class is similar to last year and a complete schedule is posted on the PHD website under Training. If any current sanitarian would like to attend any portion of sanitarian class please contact Judy Ashcraft, Sanitarian Training Officer.

Legislative Report

**DHHR – Bundle Bill Senate Bill (SB) 195** – has passed the Senate and is in the House of Delegates (House) Judiciary Committee. Changes to the Farmers Market Vendor Rule was made by the Senate which changes the permit expiration date from the proposed date of June 30th to December 31st, this was done at the request of the farmers market vendors.

**SB 387 – Herd Sharing** – has passed the Senate and is now in the House. This bill will give WVDA rule making authority with advice from WVDHHR.

**SB 434 – In Home Micro-processing** – This bill is currently on the 2nd reading in the Senate, it may be passed today by the Senate and then it will go to the House.

Other bills that may affect LHD Public Health are HB 2390, HB, 2859 and HB 3007. All of these bills were referred to a committee, but have not made it on to a committee agenda for consideration.

Brad told the members that the House of Delegates Government Org. Committee is reviewing all Boards, due to a decision on a lawsuit in the State of NC. The Legislature is considering eliminating some of the Boards in West Virginia. Brad reported that the State Board of Sanitarians had a meeting with the House of Delegates Government Org. Committee. The Committee decided that WVSBOS would remain as is, because the persons that it registers are all government (local or state) employees. JJ commented that Dave Thornton did a good job representing WVSBOS at the meeting with the Committee.

Brad informed the committee that Monday, February 22nd is the last day for new bills to be introduced in the Senate and Tuesday, February 23rd is the last day to introduce new bills in the House.

**Sanitarians Mid-Year Conference** - Brad reported that the Sanitarians Mid-Year Conference is being planned for Cedar Lakes Conference Center, May 24-26, 2016. There will be 2 concurrent sessions- one session for the meeting will be a CPO certification course given by Mike Trantham and the other session will include – backflow prevention, sewage topics and food topics. He informed the members that Cedar Lakes’ administration understands the issues with budget cuts and provided a cancellation clause in the contract if that need would arise to cancel the contract.

**NEXT MEETING** — May 6, 2016 tentatively at the OEHS COOP facility in Flatwoods

Submitted by: Judy Vallandingham
Date: March 4, 2016