

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Sept 10, 2017
Stillwater County Annex

The Stillwater County Board of Health meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m.

Those present were Stephanie Moodry, Kevin Homewood, Larry Tipton, Michele Fleming, Jeremy Eaton, Kerry Schmelzer, Ray Karls and Stillwater County Health Nurse.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

Stephanie advised the Coop Agreement approved at last meeting needs signed.

New Business - Variance Request – Todd Israel - Jeremy Eaton advised the Board this is a 20 acre lot located in Yellowstone River Ranch Estates. Finding a replacement area has been an issue. The property is located between Reed Point and Columbus, across from the Eagle Nest Ranch – Holmgren Fishing Access. Very steep and limited drainfield area. Jeremy advised this is a replacement system and is looking at absorption bed. Dug test hole and replacement system - bed. Dug test hole 72 inches. Clay soil. Jeremy stated it does not meet requirements. Fill area to 10% slope meets depth requirements. Stephanie advised it is a challenging site. Engineering West is involved. Stephanie advised the lot layout was not subject to DEQ at the time. Kerry asked why the exemption does not apply. Stephanie stated it has to meet Circular 4 requirements. Stephanie stated she is ok with the variance. It will be sized right and has to be designed for absorption bed. Has to be prepared at time Stephanie approves primary system.

Chapter 9 - local variances. Kerry advised that she did not see anything in packet that addressed that. Kevin asked if it is far enough back from river and Jeremy advised it is at least a couple hundred feet from river. Kevin stated the replacement area appears to be close to the property line. Stephanie stated it is still a mixing zone within subdivision.

Kerry Schmelzer stated you have to show area for replacement system and stated it appears to be a failed drainfield. Kevin stated you are looking at 20 to 30 years. Kerry questioned if it is the boards job to accommodate an unsuitable site, to which Stephanie replied that is why we are here. Kerry further questioned if it is the board's job to put something in. Stephanie advised she feels we are okay and Jeremy feels it is okay and will work. Stephanie further stressed it will not contaminate soil. Kerry feels it is shallow. Jeremy stated there is a test pit log to look at. Problem is standard procedure with perc test so dry. Soaks up like a sponge. Kerry questioned how Jeremy gets soils. Jeremy stated a test hole was dug with backhoe. Kevin asked the board if there were any further questions. Larry moved to approve variance request. Ray seconded. Kerry opposed. Motion carried 4 to 1.

Paul Downer Variance Request - Tr 3-9 Nora Original townsite.

Wheat Basin area. Ray Karls, being familiar with the area, advised that Nora is on the south side. Jeremy advised it is a small tract. Test pit dug. Jeremy observed hole in August and there were saline deposits 30 inches down. No ground monitoring has been done. Very tight space and there is high water to deal with. Asking DEQ to review and approve 48 inches. Variance request to achieve separation. Stephanie advised high groundwater is a problem. He advised it is a tight space and there is high water

to deal with. Asking DEQ to review and approve 48 inches to achieve separation. Stephanie advised high ground water is an issue. Jeremy sampling water quality and is of very poor quality. Non deg not required. Ray stated they don't drink the water. Jeremy advised going to 250 foot mark to get water. Stephanie looked at test pit. Couldn't believe there was ground water.

Kerry questioned monitoring water. Thought it was required with new homes. Larry requested Jeremy submit to Stephanie for final approval and questioned what next step is. Stephanie advised variances are allowed for. Larry questioned if we are asking to approve stage 1? Ray asked if there is a pipe to monitor, as he thought he observed one. Stephanie advised the sand mound has to be 4 foot 6 inches from natural ground. Kerry questioned if it meets minimum requirements. Jeremy advised her it does not require that. Jeremy questioned if they can get away from waiver thru ground monitoring. The health nurse asked what water borne illness could occur, if it is not fit for drinking and they drink it anyway. Larry made motion to table until further investigation by sanitarian. Kerry seconded. Motion carried.

Health nurse report – syphilis cases have tripled the last 16 years. Teenage pregnancy peaking as well as suicides. Stated that in a recent survey 21 percent of teenagers have considered suicide. Visiting the schools will be a big goal in upcoming months. Kerry suggested some suicide training for public. Flu shots are scheduled to take place in October.

Kevin Homewood reported there was a report of suspected rabies case. No further information at this time.

Other Business – Stephanie licensed Food Banks – Congregational Church. Needs Kevin to sign. 41 septic permits issued. Working on Food service/public accommodation inspections. 38 left to do at this time.

Stephanie attended the MEHA conference last week. Bit topic was getting establishments to comply with establishment rules and regulations and incentives to get them to. Larry asked why they wouldn't want to? Stephanie advised Kalispell does grading system based on establishment reports. The grade received is then posted at facility. Kerry advised she worked under that program at Boise. No action was taken by the Board at this time on implementing such a program.

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 1:15



Vicky Unger
Stillwater County Environmental Health