

## Okanogan County Board of Health, Tuesday, June 8th, 2021, 1:30 PM

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*Time stamps refer to a Zoom recording on County Watch website.*

### **Present:**

Lori Jones (LJ), Health Board Director  
James Wallace (JW), Health Officer  
Marianne Williams (MS), board member  
Linda Evans Parlette, WA State Senator  
John Schapman, Deputy Director, North Central Accountable Community of Health (NCACH)  
Chris Branch (CB), Commissioner, board member  
Andy Hover (AH), Commissioner, board member  
Gary Christie (GC) and Iris Christie, S. Loggins River Rd.

***Summary of Important Discussions:*** *With \$1.8 BOH will create new posts for vaccination effort and, post-Covid, for environmental and community health. County a model for Covid vaccination – will be subject of a documentary; a couple wanting to repair their drain field seeks reassessment of their property in order to meet minimum acreage requirement; health officer urges vaccines so events won't have to be canceled, 43% of county vaccinated, watch out for UK and California variants; deaths from Fentanyl/fake Fentanyl; Ecology telling people they can drill wells in spite of moratorium, Environmental Health Officer feels "pulverized"; an individual threatening a "citizen's audit" of the BOH reported to Sheriff.*

10:28 - *Public Hearing on Res. 2021-01, budget supplement appropriation. No public comment.*

LJ: \$1.8 M will go toward procuring position of Vaccine Coordinator, part of regional "Api" position, potentially other Covid-type staff that we can then transition into, if we ever get over this pandemic, public health staff, either environmental or community health. *Says NCACH has done EMS health checks on Covid positives, giving extra support and "generously funding us with \$20,000." Someone coming to Pateros testing to be do a documentary. "We are a model for the rest of the state on this program, not only for the community. It was an impetus for the ag checks." Supplemental appropriation approved.*

19:03 - *GC wants to do drain field repair on their property on S. Loggins River Rd. He submitted building site plan to Planning and Development, was approved but Health Department had misplaced original permit for drain field. "Since it was installed many years ago we thought it would not be adequate for a three-room cabin. We would like to update...to meet new Health Dept. standards...We were denied a permit due to the one acre limit put in place since these properties were constructed." They filed for a variance; their ownership of sub-surface easement with neighbor would raise their 4.8 acres to above the 1acre minimum. AH: Call assessor, give parcel number you feel is in error. They'll tell you..." GC: "...We'll pursue this and get a surveyor to assist us."*

32:35 LJ: JW (who had left) texted that we need to propose vaccination as the best route to success.

*'We have seen get-togethers (closed) because of quarantine...we're a success story in Washington (but) hitting a plateau that's going to keep us vulnerable.' ...We're waiting on IIS data telling which*

areas are the most unvaccinated...Tribal data not yet included but they've fully vaccinated over 2,000. *She praises MW, Vicky Lewis, and Dr. Wilcox from Ephrata for volunteering regularly to vaccinate at WVC. MW: On Seattle News the other night they showed Okanogan County vaccinations." LJ pleased that mobile unit in Aeneas Valley and Molson was able to vaccinate 40 people despite their initial resistance. Talks about state lottery open to vaccinated people. Prizes: tuition and sport and airline tickets. Tribal members ineligible but "The state is working on a plan for that." Speaks of current vaccination rate of 43%. "People realize they're not going to grow horns or a third appendage." Says the handful of Covid positives among vaccinated people are not hospitalized and have only mild symptoms. Will welcome Moderna approval for age 12 and over; wary that those who have had Covid will still be vulnerable to UK and California variants. Work with ag workers to continue through cherry and apple seasons.*

43:43 - LJ : Seeing some sexually transmitted disease...concerned about two Fentanyl deaths, one was a minor. In Idaho five deaths in eight days of people thinking they were receiving Fentanyl but it was fake Fentanyl.

45:39 - DH : Land use has gone through the roof ; as with waste water and drinking water. Still trying to fix some of the issues in the Methow, WRIA 48...I'm getting pulverized. Keep hearing ...'Ecology said we could drill our well.' They even use names. *Moratorium on building permits. He redirects a lot of calls to planning. Says even WRIA 49 (Okanogan drainage) is closed basin, limited to 3,000 gallons/day (Tunk)*

51:10 - CB asks where disposal info is available on new County website. DH : environmental health. CB asks how DH likes website. He says he hates it, people can't access environmental health forms and regulations, can't navigate site.

53:56 - LJ has concerns about when doors will open : A threat we reported to the sheriff –Omak received a report from a clinic saying they're coming to audit us because of a citizens' audit. *They now have a safety plan for a specific individual. Concerning numbers allowed in meetings : Hopefully the governor will ease up.*

## **Board of Okanogan County Commissioners Tuesday, June 8th, 2021, 3:30 PM**

### **Present:**

Chris Branch (CB), BOCC District 1  
Andy Hover (AH), BOCC District 2  
Lanie Johns (LJ), County Clerk  
Will Carpenter, Tri-County Pest Board Director  
Dick Ewing (DE), Farm Bureau President  
Debbie Smith (DS) President of HOA  
Sarah, Shannon and Stephen  
Larry Gilman (LG), Assessor

*Time stamps refer to the times on the AV Capture archive of the meeting on this date at [https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live\\_streaming\\_of\\_meetings.php](https://okanogancounty.org/departments/boards/live_streaming_of_meetings.php).*

**Summary of Important Discussions:** *in public hearing on all-county assessment to fight apple maggot, Farm Bureau critical of growers bearing cost of a pest that comes from non-commercial property while others say taxes are the price to pay to save the industry; AH says tri-county pest board offers more resources, must preserve the rural lifestyle that people are accustomed to; for Those ineligible for other rental aid because of higher resources will receive \$40,000 from county's Homeless Housing Fund; Commissioners refuse to pay for an elected official's upgraded plane ticket, policy says "cheapest way possible."*

2:27:50 - Public Hearing on proposed assessment by Pest Board for per parcel fee to add to assessment for tree fruit acreage. *Pest board approved a flate rate of \$1.61 per parcel on all taxable parcels combining with already established tree fruit acreage assessment of \$2.25 per planted acre... bringing Okanogan (part of tri-county board's) revenue to \$135,000 WC invites testimony. DE: I'm questioning the rate structure. I understand the threat (of the apple maggot) is primarily on lands not associated with commercial fruit growers. Host is wild Hawthorn and rose hips associated with state, federal and private lands...family gardens where need of pest spray is not followed... Farm Bureau agrees with need to pay attention to this threat to commercial fruit growers,. However I feel the source is not at this time on commercial fruit land. Flat fee is to be applied to all... Punishing fruit growers at this time with a higher assessment doesn't make sense. If maggot gets into (their land, they) will have to bear the cost of treatment. Also consider combining this assessment with weed board assessment. The exception made to low-income growers for the weed tax could be extended to the proposed pest assessment.*

2:36:33 - DS: In Oroville property owners have been taxed for removal of milfoil...I'm not in favor of tax to pay and not see any benefit from it. Shannon: To me a small amount being taxed to keep apple growers in the valley is a drop in the bucket...They're the ones with the most at stake. I help manage an orchard but am in favor of orchardists paying more. They are taxed heavily left and right but if we can't take care of the apple maggot problem we're going to lose the industry.

2:40:38 - LG: ...We have parcels on different sections that may consist of different parcel numbers but they exist as one legal parcel...Less than 500. (2:45:00) *AH says there will be another public hearing because there was an error in the announcement of the RCW number. Discussion will resume on June 22<sup>nd</sup> with written comments accepted in the meantime. CB: (The per parcel assessment enables us to) offer more resources to the general public. AH: -having a tri-county pest board, having a larger budget, a director and employees that can cover some ground and do some things, more than with our single employee. DE: (has made some calculations) You'd have to add \$1.35 an acre. AH: You're probably right. WC: Call me with any questions. Now we are doing a lot of work in Okanogan addressing apple maggot sites. CB: Had a conversation with someone the other day. True, we have a lot of taxes but every one of those businesses depends on the industry surviving. AH: In my district if you have an orchardist that can't continue because of taxes, pests, the only way to survive is to sell and develop, help the economy and keep the rural lifestyle that people like and are accustomed to.*

2:58:00 - LJ: I've added a resolution that approves \$40,000 for rental assistance, counseling and case management for those ineligible for rental assistance because of their revenue, coming out of our Homeless Housing fund. *Amounts in arrear will be paid directly to landlords. Effective date will be moved farther back to Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 effective through December 31<sup>st</sup> 2021. Resolution approved.*

*AH received a request from an elected official wanting County to pay for difference between a normal airline ticket and an upgraded ticket.: "I'm not going to sign." CB: It's a difference of \$700. AH: \$174 per person. "The cheapest way possible" is our policy. They agree to pay only the base charge.*

*CB recalls a conversation at the Board of Health meeting about codes, says it's confusing that septic systems are in the same chapter as international building code. AH disagrees, says building isn't separate from county but health is. LJ returns to prior subject: All travel must be authorized in advance.*

3:38:22 - Meeting adjourned.