

Vector and Code Enforcement Advisory Committee Minutes

SE Health Center, May 15, 2007, 1-3 PM

Facilitator: Kari Lyons, Multnomah County Environmental Health Department

Voting Members Present: Leon Tiger, Sue Ruonala, Dave Lenhart, Sue Peterson, Marianne Perrin

Absent: Charlotte Matthews, Ruth Jones, Bill Belanger, Karol Dietrich

Others Present: Lila Wickham, Program Manager, Mult. Co. Environmental Health; Chris Wirth, Program Manager, Mult. Co. Vector & Code Enforcement

03-20-07 MINUTES

MOTION: Sue Ruonala motioned to approve 03-20-07 minutes

SECOND: Leon Tiger

IN FAVOR: Leon Tiger, Sue Ruonala, Sue Peterson, Marianne Perrin, Dave Lenhart

OPPOSED: none

MOTION PASSED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sue Peterson and Penny Trimbald had the opportunity to speak with Commissioners Maria Rojo de Steffey, Jeff Cogen and Lonnie Roberts. All three commissioners were reassuring that Vector Control & Code Enforcement is a vital program, and they expressed confidence that it will remain a part of the budget.
- Lila Wickham provided an update on the '07-'08 budget to include the following points:
 - A modified budget has been submitted with a \$70,000 cut to Code Enforcement in the City of Portland.
 - Chair Wheeler is currently negotiating for the City of Portland to finance this new deficit.
 - If this deficit is not filled, Vector will need to cease providing code enforcement for City of Portland's Title 8 and Title 13. This is equivalent to half a staff position.
 - Vector will lose its major capacity for public education when the CDC grant funding the Community Health Educator (Kari Lyons) position runs out in October 2007.
 - Two other grant applications are in process to maintain Ms. Lyons as an educator with the Environmental Health Department.
 - Overall, Commissioners and community members rated Vector Control & Code Enforcement as a vital program.
 - Budget adoption date is June 7, 2007, and Ms. Wickham will send an email update at that time.
 - Additional documentation on the budgeting decision can be obtained through Ms. Lyons and Ms. Wickham.
- Chris Wirth provided photos and description of a recent illegal dump clean-up in East Multnomah County as an example of Code Enforcement's function. The dump was especially large, and it was covered by several local news outlets.

HANTAVIRUS CASE ACQUIRED IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY

- Chris Wirth provided an overview of the recent hantavirus case to include the following points:
 - A man in the Corbett area tested positive for sin nombre, a North American strain of the virus.
 - It is believed he contracted the virus during maintenance he performed on some old buildings on his property.
 - Vector Control staff participated in the case by conducting rodent trapping on the property.
 - The virus originates in deer mice and is passed through mucus membranes.
 - Deer mice are typically found in rural areas and are considered shy animals.
 - A blood test is performed on the mice to determine if they are infected, and mice have tested positive for the virus across Multnomah County.

IPM PROGRESS REPORT

- Chris Wirth provided committee members with a status report and highlighted ongoing action and progress on six major recommendations (see attached support document).
- Additional planning and implementation will take place in the fall, after budget and staff changes are in place
- Board members unanimously agreed that Vector had met most of the recommendations. With those remaining, it was noted there is significant progress in achieving recommendations. With potential infrastructure loss, Board members agreed to defer to Vector to prioritize remaining next steps.

EDUCATION UPDATE

- The new West Nile virus website is complete and active, www.mchealth.org/wnv
- The first edition of the E-newsletter will go out June 1st
 - A new issue will go out monthly thereafter
 - Prospective recipients include information and referral specialists, vector and health staff, staff that provide direct service to high risk populations, and ODFW
- A press release focusing on the “green” approach to pest management is in the planning stages
- A recent presentation to the Concordia Neighborhood Association was a success, drawing 42 residents. Presentations to other Neighborhood Associations are planned
- Contact Kari Lyons if you would like to schedule a presentation

CODE ENFORCEMENT ORDINANCE

MOTION: Sue Ruonala motioned for Lila Wickham to proceed with presenting the Code Enforcement Ordinance to County Commissioners in the format that was voted on and approved in a previous meeting

SECOND: Leon Tiger

IN FAVOR: Leon Tiger, Sue Ruonala, Sue Peterson, Marianne Perrin, Dave Lenhart

OPPOSED: none

MOTION PASSED

CHAIR/VICE CHAIR NOMINATIONS

- Leon Tiger has expressed interest in running for Committee Chair
- Contact Kari Lyons if you are interested or would like to nominate someone for Chair and/or Vice Chair
- Voting will occur at the next meeting, September 18th, 2007

NEXT MEETING

- Committee members agreed to cancel the July meeting
- Next meeting will be held September 18th, 2007
- If an emergency meeting is needed before September 18th, Kari Lyons will contact members
- Chris Wirth and Ms. Lyons are working on an orientation to provide new members
- Public response to West Nile virus education will be reviewed
- Updates will be provided on mosquito research currently in process

CELEBRATING ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Chris Wirth presented gifts of appreciation to Sue Peterson and Marianne Perrin for their service as Committee Chair and Vice Chair

CLOSING

MOTION: Sue Ruonala motioned to adjourn the meeting
SECOND: Leon Tiger
IN FAVOR: Leon Tiger, Sue Ruonala, Sue Peterson, Marianne Perrin, Dave Lenhart
OPPOSED: none
MOTION PASSED