

Vector and Code Enforcement Advisory Committee

May 31, 2005

Southeast Health Center Conference Room

Facilitator: Roselyn Meier, Independent Contractor

Minutes: Kari Lyons

Voting Members Present: Marriane Perrin, Sue Peterson, Charlotte Matthews, Sue Ruonala, Ruth Jones

Non-Voting Members Present: Leon Tiger, Katharine Diack

Absent: Emilio DeBess, Bill Belanger, Elaine Stewart Gordon Hillesland

Others Present: Kari Lyons, Health Educator, Mult. Co.; Chris Wirth, Supervisor, Vector and Nuisance Control, Mult. Co.; Lila Wickham, Program Director, Mult. Co. Environmental Health; Ben Duncan, Community Outreach Worker, Multnomah County EHS.

Introductions and Welcome

Roselyn Meier convened the meeting at 10:05 AM and welcomed those present. Minutes from the May 10, 2005 meeting were approved with a motion by Sue Peterson and second by Ruth Jones.

Roselyn Meier also reviewed the guidelines for respectful meetings as a foundational document for productive, effective meetings. All present agreed on guidelines.

Nominations of Chair and Vice-Chair

Bill Belanger and Marriane Perrin were selected as nominations for Chair and Sue Peterson was selected as a nomination for the Vice-Chair. Bill and Marriane tied for chair. A second vote confirmed Bill as the Chair of the committee with a lead of one vote. Sue Peterson was elected Vice-Chairperson.

Strategic Plan Overview

Chris Wirth, Supervisor of Multnomah County Vector and Nuisance Control, presented the Vector and Nuisance Control strategic plan. Committee members asked for the following clarifications:

1. Leon Tiger requested information on the budget for Vector. Chris responded that the budget is 1.2 million with 60 percent allocated to personnel.
2. Lila Wickham stated that with diseases such as Avian flu and West Nile virus, the role of Vector and Nuisance Control is becoming increasingly important. She stated that we hold a unique role as the only vector unit in the state to be placed within the Health Department.
3. Marriane Perrin stated her support for Vector and Nuisance Control because of her experience in working with Vector on a rat abatement issue on her personal

- property. She introduced educational materials to the committee as support documents on the importance of a Vector unit and the committee itself.
4. Kari Lyons encouraged members to review the website (<http://www.mchealthinspect.org>) to find further information about vector issues.

Civil Penalties Overview

Chris Wirth reviewed the existing civil penalties process and discussed the need for an ordinance to give Vector and Nuisance Control enforcement capability using a civil penalty process. He explained that the civil penalty process is the enforcement component of an integrated pest management program (a multiple step approach of best practices) to educate, consult, provide options, and effectively negotiate with landowners to reduce or eliminate vector breeding habitats such as standing water to assure local public health is considered.

He explained that we need it because:

- Vector control is a community issue; effective vector control requires property owner responsibility to reduce or eliminate vectors and their habitats (e.g. pools or tires).
- Multnomah County is comprised of seven cities with no or varied enforcement authority, vector-related codes; or infrastructure directed to code enforcement programs.
- Current code enforcement activities by other partners do not consider public health perspective and priority.

The committee was asked to answer the following questions:

1. What methods could be used for getting community input? Responses included: focus groups, local drainage districts, SOLV, Project Linkage, Neighborhood Associations, Garden Clubs, Street Fairs and Farmers Markets, Bird Feeder Stores, METRO, City of Portland, and School districts and local newspapers.
2. What are the objections we might encounter on getting approval? Responses included: Private landowners who are breaking the law, city partners, multi-complex landowners, undeveloped landowners, wetlands management, privately owned properties, and commercial landlords.

Proposed Agenda – June 14, 2005

The Meeting agenda was approved for June 14, 2005 as follows:

- Identify strategic plan objectives for further discussion
- Identify perceived gaps in the Strategic plan
- Confirm best meeting times, and breaks.
- Schedule summer field trips.

The committee was asked to do the following tasks for the next meeting:

1. Identify topics for further discussion
2. Identify gaps in the strategic plan
3. Identify topics that they need more information on.
4. Review the website.
5. Identify potential meeting times.

The agenda was set for the next meeting on June 14, 2005 at the Hawthorne Building, Horsetail Falls Room 380. Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM by Roselyn Meier.