

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Final Minutes of the State Board of Health

November 8, 2023

Hybrid Meeting

ASL (or CART) and Spanish interpretation available

Physical location:

Washington State Department of Health
111 Israel Road S.E., Tumwater, WA 98501
Building: Town Center 2, Rooms 166 & 167
Virtual meeting: ZOOM Webinar

State Board of Health Members present:

Patty Hayes, RN, MN, Chair
Kelly Oshiro, JD, Vice Chair
Stephen Kutz, BSN, MPH
Kate Dean, MPH
Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH
Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, MD, MPH, Secretary's Designee
Kelly Cooper, Secretary's Designee
Dimyana Abdelmalek, MD, MPH
Socia Love-Thurman, MD

State Board of Health Members absent:

Mindy M. Flores, MBA-HCM
Paj Nandi, MPH

State Board of Health staff present:

Michelle Davis, Executive Director
Melanie Hisaw, Executive Assistant
Michelle Larson, Communications
Manager
Anna Burns, Communications Consultant
Stuart Glasoe, Health Policy Advisor
Molly Dinardo, Health Policy Advisor

Andrew Kamali, Health Policy Advisor
Jo-Ann Huynh, Administrative Assistant
Miranda Calmjoy, Health Policy Analyst
LinhPhụng Huỳnh, Council Manager
Cait Lang-Perez, Health Policy Analyst
Lilia Lopez, Assistant Attorney General

Guests and other participants:

Mike Means, Department of Health
Brad Burnham, Department of Health
Elaine Harvey, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
Paulina Lopez, Duwamish River Community Coalition
Ryan Oelrich, Priority Spokane & Spokane City Council Member
Sue Sullivan, Whatcom County
Joana Solario, Spanish Interpreter
Sacha Delgado, Spanish Interpreter
Seven Star, ASL Interpreter
Molly Sano, ASL Interpreter

Patty Hayes, Board Chair, called the public meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. and read from a prepared statement (on file).

Michelle Davis, Board Executive Director, gave an acknowledgment on behalf of National American Heritage Month in November.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Approve November 8, 2023 agenda

Motion/Second: Member Kutz/Member Love-Thurman. Approved unanimously

2. ADOPTION OF OCTOBER 9, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve the October 9, 2023 minutes

Motion/Second: Member Dean/Member Abdelmalek. Approved unanimously

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Patty Hayes, Board Chair, opened the meeting for public comment and read from a prepared statement (on file).

Jan Davis, commented on the harm from COVID-19 immunizations, saying Pfizer kept data secret for 75 years and was recently ordered to release a detailed report on the harms of the MRNA vaccination. J. Davis commented on racism, saying 160 countries are coming in an unvetted open border, and that our biggest threat is sex trafficking.

Bill Osmunson, commented on meta-analysis as an evidence stream to consider public health. B. Osmunson talked about the dangers of fluorosis and trusting science.

Mary Long, Spokane resident, commented on the harm from the COVID-19 vaccination, especially to children, and asked the Board not to promote the vaccination. M. Long provided numbers of daycare through college age people, saying four died, 47 had life-threatening reactions, 69 were disabled, and 118 developed myocarditis.

Gerald Braude, Jefferson County, commented on the harm from the COVID-19 shots, saying the Department of Health (Department) dashboard promotes the shot but says nothing about the adverse effects. G. Braude mentioned attending previous Board meetings and commented on the alarming number of deaths reported from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) report, identifying 222 deaths in WA and more in the nation following the COVID-19 shots.

Vince Jovanovich, Vashon Island, commented on outdoor food establishments. V. Jovanovich asked if the Board would consider more equitable and fair rule changes for outdoor food trucks.

Keith Grellner, congratulated Chair Hayes and Member Nandi, saying they are both excellent choices. K. Grellner thanked Executive Director Davis and Board staff for their

good work that protects the citizens of Washington. K. Grellner thanked Governor Gregoire and Governor Inslee for the opportunity to serve on the Board.

Lisa Templeton, Informed Choice Washington (ICW), commented on the harm from the COVID-19 vaccine, and asked the Board to cease all vaccines that contain dangerous levels of outside and foreign DNA fragments and endotoxin contaminants. L. Templeton talked about a report from the Canadian Care Alliance and commented on the correlation between adverse events and higher levels of fragments.

Natalie Chavez, commented on the harm from the COVID-19 vaccine and asked for experimental vaccines to be put on hold until independent quality control is done. N. Chavez talked about the increased hidden and long-term risks and rates of myocarditis. N. Chavez talked about an eight-year-old grandson of prominent Israeli doctors who died on September 28 from sudden cardiac arrest after being vaccinated.

4. **BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS**

Michelle Davis, Board Executive Director, gave several updates covered under materials (see materials on file under Tab 4).

Executive Director Davis shared Governor Inslee's announcement regarding the appointment of Patty Hayes as Board Chair. Executive Director Davis announced the Governor's office appointed Paj Nandi to serve as a person with a background in Health and Sanitation, replacing Keith Grellner. Executive Director Davis shared the Resolution for Keith Grellner, who was appointed to the Board in March 2011 by Governor Gregoire. Governor Inslee subsequently reappointed Keith Grellner three times. Keith was appointed as Board Chair in November 2014. Executive Director Davis expressed appreciation to for leading the Board and taking on challenging issues during his tenure.

Executive Director Davis said Member Flores is unable to join the meeting today.

Executive Director Davis directed Board members to a letter from the Office of Financial Management (OFM) to Secretary Shah. The OFM letter details the allocations for Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS), including: \$11,838,000 from General Fund-State for the fiscal year 2024 and \$40,906,000 from General Fund-State for the fiscal year 2025 as well as \$28,050,000 from the FPHS Account-State for the biennium. These funds will be used for the new FPHS activities that support the public health system.

Executive Director Davis shared the Board's October letter to Governor Inslee's office urging support and inclusion in the 2024 Supplemental Budget of the Environmental Justice Council (EJ Council) 2024 Climate Commitment Act funding recommendations that relate to school environmental justice. Executive Director Davis discussed the outdated and suspended school rules and queuing this up to talk about during the legislative session. Chair Patty Hayes agreed that it needs to be addressed.

Stephen Kutz, Board Member asked about new schools and if we can update the rule for new construction and designs. Kate Dean, Board Member, talked about how revenues will be prioritized and is pleased the EJ Council is working on this but knows there might not be funding for their requests. Member Dean shared support for a

consistent amount of funding to do planning around the implementation of the rule and seeking some sort of commitment.

Dimyana Abdelmalek, Board Member shared concern regarding confusion for folks working to operationalize school safety rules. Member Abdelmalek talked about incremental progress and an understanding of goals for new schools. Patty Hayes, Board Chair welcomed direction from the Board on revised rules, for an incremental approach and clarity. Member Abdelmalek agreed if the proviso is lifted, to facilitate an appropriate transition to new rules. Kelly Oshiro, Board Vice Chair, talked about collaborating with partners and community engagement regarding timeline, budget and rule change. Member Kutz wondered about the Office of Superintendent Public Instruction (OSPI) position, saying he hasn't heard much in the last 12 years.

Secretary Shah, made an introduction and said Secretary Designee Kwan-Gett is participating today for the Department of Health (Department).

Executive Director Davis talked about partnerships on this topic, the importance of creating the space to collaborate, and Equity Justice (EJ) Council recommendations that include funding for the Board to hold those groups and come back with recommendations.

Chair Hayes said the legislative statement is homework for Board Members over the next few weeks. Executive Director Davis talked about past and future conversations with OSPI around indoor air quality. Member Kutz talked about the changes in construction over the years, and the responsibility to make sure best practices are in place and correct an outdated rule. Chair Hayes asked Board Members to email Executive Director Davis if they have further thoughts.

Executive Director Davis referenced materials in the packet, including newborn screening petition responses to Kim Tuminello's petition regarding the Board's recommendation to add Guanidinoacetate methyltransferase (GAMT) deficiency and Christine Zahn regarding the Board recommending adding Arginase 1 deficiency (ARG1-D). Executive Director commented on recent rule filings, including the CR-101 for possible rulemaking for auditory screening of school-age children regarding auditory and visual screening of children in schools, and the CR-103E, emergency rule-making order regarding proprietary products used in on-site sewage systems. Executive Director Davis updated the Board on Health Impact Reviews (HIR) for SHB 1010 (Commercial Shellfish), SSB 5171 (Gender Discrimination), and ESHB 1589 (Residents in Long-Term Care Facilities).

Executive Director Davis updated the Board on staff recruitments. Over 40 people applied for the Equity and Engagement Manager position. Executive Director Davis announced the position for Stuart's successor was posted and talked about an upcoming recruitment for a Communications Consultant 3.

5. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UPDATE

Umar A. Shah, Secretary of Health and Board Member, and Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, Chief Science Officer and Secretary's Designee, provided an update from the Department of Health (Department).

Secretary Shah shared statistics on the Washington state health ecosystem, including eight million people (13 most populous state), 71,362 square miles (18 largest state), 29 federally recognized Tribes, 35 local health departments, 500,000 licensed healthcare professionals, and nearly 100 hospitals (see materials on file). The Department's transformational plan is their NorthStar with five areas of focus. Secretary Shah said public health never sleeps and is always addressing issues such as COVID-19, fires, fentanyl, and more.

Kate Dean, Board Member, asked if the current booster for COVID-19 is still effective with the current variants we're seeing. Dr. Kwan-Gett said it is more effective on these variants than the older versions of the vaccine. Member Dean also asked about how the Department interacts with Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) data and how to view data that comes out of VAERS. Dr. Kwan-Gett responded that VAERS is intentionally a very broad net and epidemiologists must determine which events are related to the vaccine. Dr. Kwan-Gett said this work shows that the COVID-19 vaccines are very safe and safer than expected.

Stephen Kutz, Board Member, commented that current anecdotes around COVID-19 spread are seen in groups going on cruises and bringing it back to their community. Member Kutz also mentioned the ventilation systems in airplanes. Secretary Shah commented that if you are sick or have symptoms you should consider not getting on the flight and wearing a mask. Secretary Shah said we have many tools and we need to use those tools wisely and talked about the free COVID test kits provided by the federal program.

The Board took a break at 11:25 a.m. and reconvened at 11:35 a.m.

6. 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

Michelle Davis, Executive Director, reviewed the proposed 2024 meeting schedule for the Board and requested Board Members' consideration, saying that some locations are still being determined. Executive Director Davis asked Board Members to let Board staff know of suggestions for future meeting locations, and noted that the April and July meetings are typically tentative.

Stephen Kutz, Board Member expressed appreciation to see meetings be in other locations. Discussion continued about specific logistics and dates, including a suggestion to move the October meeting from Monday, October 7 to Tuesday, October 8. Patty Hayes, Board Chair suggested co-locating with WA Association of Counties or Cities meetings. Kate Dean, Board Member asked about another Local Board of Health (LBOH) training as it provides a chance to build connections.

Motion: The Board approves the proposed 2024 meeting schedule, as amended with the October 8, 2024, meeting date.

Motion/Second: [Member Kutz/Vice Chair Oshiro](#). Approved unanimously.

7. LEGISLATIVE STATEMENT UPDATE

Michelle Davis, Board Executive Director, said the Board updates its legislative statement each year and Board staff refer to the statement to identify and analyze legislation. Executive Director Davis shared that staff conducted a preliminary review of the current statement (adopted January 2023) and identified possible changes. The changes include simple editorial updates; additional areas of interest expressed by Board Members; priorities from the Board's partners that align with Board areas of work; and updates based on presentations to the Board. Executive Director Davis added that there may be additional areas for recommendation based on proposals that partners have submitted to the Governor's Office for approval.

Executive Director Davis said Board Members will receive a marked-up version of the legislative statement soon for their review and feedback. Executive Director Davis said Board staff will bring the marked-up version to the Board's January public meeting, where the Board may discuss and consider adopting changes to the statement. Lastly, Executive Director Davis noted that the Board received public comments on the legislative statement, however, they were received after the public comment deadline and were sent to Board Members and will be posted with materials for the next public meeting.

8. REQUEST FOR DELEGATED RULEMAKING AUTHORITY – ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL (E2SHB) 1181, CLIMATE RESILIENCE ELEMENT IN WATER SYSTEM PLANS, GROUP A PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES, [CHAPTER 246-290 WAC](#)

Stuart Glasoe, Board staff, introduced the topic and presenters. Stuart explained the Board's authority delegating rulemaking to the Department of Health (Department) and the nature of the Department's request. The Department is requesting to incorporate and align water system planning requirements in chapter 246-290 WAC, Group A Public Water Supplies, with new state law, RCW43.20.310, requiring climate resilience elements in Group A water system plans. Mike Means and Brad Burnham, Department of Health, presented background on the bill that passed the 2023 legislative session, Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill (E2SHB) 1181, anticipated revisions to align the Group A rules with the new law, and initial plans and considerations for handling the request for delegated rulemaking (see materials on file).

Stephen Kutz, Board Member asked if work by the Department updating rules on the drinking water state revolving fund is part of this rulemaking or if that is a separate issue. Mike said the issue is separate from this request. Kate Dean, Board Member, stated familiarity with the bill as it pertains to the Growth Management Act (GMA), and asked if water system plans need to be incorporated or adopted into local comprehensive plans. Mike said the bill limits which water systems must add this climate resilience piece. The water system planning process requires coordination between water utilities and local GMA authorities and requires plans to be "not inconsistent" with local GMA planning requirements. Member Dean asked if water system planning includes both water quality and water quantity. Mike said water system planning must address both, and specifically referenced the water rights self-assessment and coordination with the Department of Ecology.

Motion: The Board delegates to the Washington Department of Health rulemaking authority to make changes to WAC 246-290-100 to incorporate the requirements of RCW 43.20.310, requiring Group A public water systems to include climate resilience elements in their water system plans.

Motion/Second: Member Kutz/Member Kwan-Gett. Approved unanimously.

The Board took a lunch break at 12:02 p.m. and reconvened at 1:01 p.m.

9. CLIMATE CHANGE STORY TELLING PANEL

Patty Hayes, Board Chair, introduced the panel discussion and noted that the Board would be hearing from panelists from all four corners of Washington. Chair Hayes stated that the Board is committed to monitoring the effects of climate change and that it is a priority in the Board's most recent Strategic Plan.

Kate Dean, Board Member, introduced the four panelists, Elaine Harvey, Watershed Department Manager at the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), Paulina Lopez, Executive Director at the Duwamish River Community Coalition, Ryan Oelrich, Executive Director at Priority Spokane, and Sue Sullivan, Environmental Health Manager at the Whatcom County Health Department. Member Dean shared the panelists' biographies (bios) and background information on their current work related to climate change and environmental justice (see materials on file for full bios).

Elaine Harvey, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Citizen of the Yakama Nation, and Descendent of the Cowlitz Tribe, presented on Tribal wisdom and Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK) and what it means to Elaine as a Yakama Citizen. ITEK is unique to each Tribe and the geographic area in which they live. Elaine noted that this knowledge has been carried down for thousands of years. Tribes know what is needed to cultivate and take care of the land but have been prevented from practicing ITEK. Elaine highlighted how Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Indigenous Knowledge (IK) can be applied in federal decision-making practices and environmental management strategies. Elaine emphasized that natural resources are cultural resources – everything has a purpose, and everything is connected on the earth. Elaine highlighted how, for decades, Tribes have been acutely aware of the disproportionate impacts of climate change on Tribes and Tribal Members. For example, the negative impacts on first foods and changes to the gathering season, and the warming Columbia River and Tributaries. Elaine shared the Yakama Nation Climate Adaptation Plan for the Territories of Yakama Nation and outlined the strategies Yakama Nation is taking towards climate Resiliency. Elaine presented how climate change and the green energy movement continue to pose threats to Tribal Cultural Resources and Sacred Sites, and how these projects are often conducted without Tribal consultation or input (see full presentation on file).

Paulina Lopez, Duwamish River Community Coalition (DRCC), provided background history on the Duwamish River including its rich history and cultural significance. Paulina shared how the river started as the peaceful home of the Duwamish Tribe, to

becoming one of the Nation's most toxic rivers by 2001, from pollution of the river for economic benefit. Paulina gave an overview of the communities living in the Duwamish River Valley, including demographics, and the downstream impacts living near this Superfund site. Paulina shared the mission of the DRCC, to elevate the voices of those impacted by the Duwamish River pollution and other environmental injustices. Paulina underscored the importance of including and engaging the community in their work at every step in the process and highlighted community concerns and anxieties about addressing the magnitude of the issues the community is facing.

Paulina then shared about research DRCC did in partnership with the University of Washington (UW). DRCC and UW conducted a cumulative health impact assessment to examine the range of disproportionate health exposures and impacts affecting people in the Duwamish Valley. Paulina concluded by expressing appreciation that the Board is bringing in discussions related to environmental justice. Paulina provided a reminder that we need to work together to face the systemic inequities communities face, and we need to identify the root causes of inequities, prioritize advocacy, youth empowerment, and make connections throughout communities. Paulina provided calls for specific actions from community members and detailed how climate change has already impacted and displaced community members in the Duwamish River Valley (see presentation on file).

Ryan Oelrich, Priority Spokane & Spokane City Council Member, presented on the recent Priority Spokane community health needs assessment. The assessments are conducted about every three to five years. Ryan emphasized that several of the assessment priorities were directly related to climate change. Ryan outlined the six focus areas included in the assessment, economy, education, environment, health, housing, and public safety, and presented the methods their team used for assessment development and priority identification. Ryan shared that the assessment took 10 months to complete, and involved data gathering and hosting community meetings and focus groups to ensure the community informed the Spokane County's four end priorities were selected through the assessment process. Ryan highlighted the priorities related to climate change. The priorities included increasing the tree canopy to improve the environment, counteract dangerous heat days, improve air and water quality, and more. Ryan provided examples of the impacts of climate change in Spokane County, including the recent Medical Lake Fire and other extreme weather events that have affected the mental health of Spokane community members. Ryan noted that in addition to climate change being a prevalent factor in the assessment priorities, homelessness was another topic that rose to the top and is also exacerbated by climate change. Many community members noted that this topic has become so big that they aren't sure what could be done in the next three to five years to make a dent in the issue. Ryan concluded by sharing information about how to follow Priority Spokane's work moving forward (see full presentation on file).

Sue Sullivan, Whatcom County, provided background demographic information on Whatcom County, Whatcom County Environmental Health Division, and introduced the Whatcom County vulnerability assessment, also known as BRASH (Building Resilience Against Smoke and Heat). The BRASH assessment will identify the public health impacts of extreme heat and wildfire smoke on the residents of Whatcom County. Sue noted that the BRASH assessment was possible due to recent investments in

environmental public health-related Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS). Sue consulted with state and local partners to develop a plan for the BRASH assessment, which is modeled after the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Building Resilience Against Climate Effects BRACE framework (BRACE). Sue shared the goals of the BRASH assessment, the project approach, and the steering committee that helped to frame the approach, and the timeline for this work. Sue noted the project has qualitative and quantitative components, outlined the assessment methods, and emphasized the key goals of this work are to build lasting relationships and partnerships and to operationalize equity in the County's climate planning work. Sue shared that this work is ongoing, and the results from the current assessment phase are expected by June 2024 (see full presentation on file).

Chair Hayes thanked the panel members and asked a question on behalf of Member Dean, who had to leave the meeting early. Chair Hayes asked Elaine if there are examples of TEK and IK where state or local agencies have begun to apply these practices. If so, how can we collect information about what has worked and what has been successful.

Elaine responded that agencies applying and incorporating ITEK into their work are new. Since ITEK is Tribally based and varies on the Tribe and their geographic location, you can't learn it from a text or a book. Elaine said that agencies need to approach this work from the Tribal level. For example, sending an inquiry to the specific Tribe Chairman and the Chairman will then relay that information where it needs to go. Elaine mentioned that each Tribe also has a Cultural Resource Department that could assist with providing ITEK consultation.

Chair Hayes thanked Elaine and noted that this would be helpful for the Board to keep in mind moving forward.

Tao Sheng Kwan-Gett, Chief Science Officer, Secretary's Designee thanked the presenters and commented on some themes from the presentations. Member Kwan-Gett then asked if the panelists had advice for state government agencies on what they can do to better facilitate the kind of community engagement each panelist described in their work.

Ryan shared that Priority Spokane learned many lessons about community engagement through their work, especially from making mistakes. Ryan recommended partnering with community experts on the ground, and to not just engage one person, but to do the intentional work of engaging multiple people and groups to identify who the trusted experts are from communities. Ryan said that agencies should listen first and ask what communities need to build authentic relationships and ensure community needs are met before asking by request what agencies are hoping to learn from the community.

Sue agreed with Ryan's comments and noted that it was extremely valuable to have members from the community serve on their committees and support their work.

Paulina emphasized that there is a community engagement continuum. Paulina noted that some people see community engagement as a tabling event and providing information, and posed the question of how agencies can go beyond that and move

toward meaningful consultation and collaboration. Paulina shared a diagram outlining this community engagement continuum and stated that agencies need to invest in communities to empower them, and empowerment is the highest level and truest form of engagement.

Elaine added from the Tribal perspective, Agency Tribal liaisons should be reaching out to Tribes at different levels and scales for consultation. Elaine shared that due to the high turnover at state agencies, a large part of a Tribe's work focuses on providing ongoing education. Elaine said that the Yakama Nation does this through hosting workshops for different agencies and provided a recent example of a Tribal Water Rights workshop they conducted for the Department of Ecology and noted that it would be beneficial for agencies to request this type of education.

Steve Kutz, Board Member, asked a question related to the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) Act and whether any of the work panelists shared is related to the HEAL Act.

Paulina responded that the work at Whatcom County is supported through FPHS Funding, which is separate from HEAL.

Member Kutz then asked Elaine if Yakima, Kittitas, or other surrounding counties within the Yakama Nation traditional area has reached out asking about incorporating Yakama Nation work into their environmental justice work to get Tribal perspective.

Elaine said they were not sure, and just recently got linked into work related to the HEAL Act and the health disparities map through the Yakama Tribal Health Department. Elaine noted that this would be a good question for the Tribal Health Director.

Member Kutz thanked Elaine and said that with so much of this work going on in different arenas, we will want to try and figure out how to link all this work together.

Member Kwan-Gett mentioned that the Department is launching an Office of Tribal Public Health and Tribal Relations, and they're recruiting an Office Director. Member Kwan-Gett hopes that this person will be an even stronger liaison with the Tribal communities.

Socia Love-Thurman, Board Member, asked how citizens of Washington can get involved in this work, and in what ways families or youth are engaging in the work the panelists are doing.

Elaine shared that when it comes to climate change, they go above and beyond to get education out to the community. It includes doing this work on weekends and focusing on youth because they absorb so much. Elaine stated that by educating youth, they can take these messages back to their friends and family and it can grow just from that experience. Elaine emphasized that we are all stewards of the land, and youth will be the future stewards, so engagement and education with them is key.

Paulina emphasized the importance of involving youth in this work and how the DRCC's youth programming is a core piece of what they do, and what they do as a coalition wouldn't be possible without the powerful voices of their youth. Elaine provided

examples of how they've included youth in their work and noted how important it is to include youth in any programming and invest in bringing their knowledge forward.

Dimyana Abdelmalek, Board Member, asked the panelists, given the immense challenges that climate change brings to public health work, what are things people should be looking for to indicate that we are moving in the right direction.

Ryan said that one of the issues in Spokane County is that they haven't been paying enough attention to water and the availability of water, especially as it relates to building new and future housing and building infrastructure. Are they looking far enough out at how long water will be available for these homes and buildings? Ryan stated that given the impacts of climate change, they need to be more strategic about where they are building these houses and where they are putting in water systems.

Elaine agreed with Ryan and said this is an issue in Eastern Washington with declining aquifers and the number of wells drying out. Elaine noted that the Department is permitting these wells, and they are exempt wells and said that although there is a limit on water use, who is metering and monitoring use? Elaine commented on how people are losing water access and how the creek ecosystem is negatively impacted by building and overuse of water. Elaine noted this is a topic that has been brought up at least monthly to the county commissioners around people buying land and then subdividing land to create more homes. Elaine is concerned about the limited supply of water. Elaine shared that when this concern is expressed to county commissioners, they say to talk to the Department of Health, and when you go to the Department of Health, they say to talk to your county commissioner, so it's a big circle. Elaine stated that there should be studies and assessments of water use and availability in each county to better control and limit wells put in certain areas to preserve the limited water we do have. Elaine concluded that they go around in circles to protect fish, wetlands, and everything else, but it goes back to the Department of Health, and this should be something they think about.

Member Kwan-Gett thanked Elaine for sharing this concern and said they would relay this to the Department of Health leadership because water is one of our most valuable resources.

Chair Hayes closed the panel by thanking the panelists again and Andrew for putting the panel together.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS AND UPDATES

Patty Hayes, Board Chair, opened Board Member comments by expressing gratitude for last month's Board meeting in conjunction with the Washington State Public Health Association (WSPHA) conference. Chair Hayes noted how valuable the conference was and the great speakers that presented.

Dimyana Abdelmalek, Board Member, stated appreciation for the WSPHA Association conference and the opportunity to meet with local health colleagues. Member Abdelmalek updated Board Members about the group work going on between local

health jurisdictions, local health officers, Environmental Health Directors, and the Department of Health around methamphetamine decontamination standards and looking at what is needed and the rules the Board has related to this work. Member Abdelmalek will provide updates at a future meeting.

Stephen Kutz, Board Member, shared that the Suquamish clinic recently opened to Medicaid patients. Member Kutz commented that climate change is going to impact almost all the work we do and that the Board will need to have this as an overarching focus as we move forward.

ADJOURNMENT

Patty Hayes, Board Chair, adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

Patty Hayes, Chair

To request this document in an alternate format or a different language, please contact the Washington State Board of Health at 360-236-4110 or by email at wsboh@sboh.wa.gov
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