

Environmental Health Professional Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2022

1. Roll

Attendance: Shawn Sombutmai, Keith Burney, Andrea Ables, Michael Crea, Robin Eychaner

Absent: None

2. Board review and discussion; New Board member search – in search of new Board member; discussed Board responsibilities.

3. New Business

- a. Transfer of Septic Program to DEP/Interagency Agreement – Provided highlights of the Interagency Agreement and allowed for questions from Board members.

Keith: *Who oversees CHD Health Officers?* Mark Lander Deputy Secretary of County Health Systems oversees CHD Health Officers. *Who does CHD Health Officers consult with at DOH Headquarters?* DEP Area Consultants, one is Audra Burchfield. Marcelo supervises DEP Area Consultants.

Crea: *What about the course approvals for OSTDS after July 1, 2021?* Currently language states that DEP is to take over training course approvals for OSTDS. We are currently reviewing this with general counsel. Will advise once we have the final answer.

Shawn: *Will the course approval change be retroactive?* Will courses taken before July 1, 2021, still count? This change went into effect when the interagency agreement was signed, which was during the previous certification period of 2019-2021. *Will this affect R.S.?* Not currently.

- b. SB 514 Substitution of Work Experience for Postsecondary Educational Requirements - Note that it states that the Head of the Agency *May* choose to substitute work experience. This means State Surgeon General may choose not to substitute work experience. Neither bill has been signed, but there is no indication that it will not be.

- c. SB 856 Private Provider Inspections of Onsite Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems - An owner may hire a private provider may perform OSTDS inspections under certain circumstances. Private providers may not inspection OSTDS that they installed. Keith: It been taking so long in his county to get inspection from CHD. St. Johns. CHD inspectors are not paid a livable wage, money needs to be injected to keep inspectors.

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4. Comments

Keith: It been taking so long in his county to get inspection from CHD. St. Johns. CHD inspectors are not paid a livable wage, money needs to be injected to keep inspectors. Once new bill goes into effect, a lot of inspectors will be jumping ships. DOH still has to write the permits. Someone needs to be accountable for enforcing rules. Is there anyone trying to fix it? Mark Landers question.

5. Adjourn