Washoe County District Board of Health
Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 23, 2017
1:00 p.m.

Washoe County Administration Complex
Commission Chambers, Building A
1001 East Ninth Street
Reno, NV

1. *Roll Call and Determination of Quorum
Chair Jung called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.
The following members and staff were present:
Members present: Kitty Jung, Chair
Dr. John Novak, Vice Chair (absent initially, arrived at 1:11 p.m.)
Dr. George Hess
Kristopher Dahir
Oscar Delgado

Members absent: Michael Brown

Ms. Rogers verified a quorum was present.

Staff present: Kevin Dick, District Health Officer, ODHO
Leslie Admirand, Deputy District Attorney
Dr. Randall Todd
Charlene Albee
Steve Kutz
Bob Sack

2. *Pledge of Allegiance
Reno Fire Chief Cochran led the pledge to the flag.

3. *Public Comment
As there was no one wishing to speak, Chair Jung closed the public comment period.

4. Approval of Agenda
March 23, 2017

Mr. Dick stated his preference to have the recognition of Mr. Sack’s retirement moved after the Little Hats, Big Hearts presentation. Dr. Hess moved to approve the agenda for the March 23rd, 2017, District Board of Health regular meeting. Mr. Delgado seconded the
motion which was approved four in favor and none against.

5. Recognitions

A. Years of Service

i. Robert Sack, Division Director, 30 years, hired 3/23/1987 - EHS

   Mr. Dick congratulated Mr. Sack on his years of service.

ii. Lei Chen, Epi Program Manager, 15 years, hired 3/11/2002 - EPHP

   Mr. Dick introduced Dr. Chen as supervisor of the Epi Program with 15 years of service with the Health District.


   Ms. Flores was not in attendance.

B. New Hire

i. Christine Ballew, 2/21/2017, Advanced Practice Registered Nurse - CCHS

   Mr. Kutz introduced Ms. Ballew as a Board Certified Nurse Practitioner and that she has been a nurse since 2005. She has three years of urgent care experience, and comes to the Health District from the Minute Clinic at CVS. Mr. Kutz stated that Ms. Ballew has always been interested in Public Health, and expressed that they are very happy to have her.

C. Promotions

i. Matthew Christensen from Environmental Health Trainee I to Environmental Health Trainee II – EHS

   Mr. Christensen was not in attendance.

D. Little Hats, Big Hearts, American Heart Association with Saint Mary’s Regional Medical Center

Presented by Ms. Helen Lidholm, CEO Saint Mary’s Health Network, and Ms. Jamii Uboldi

Ms. Lidholm stated that she was happy to highlight programs initiated by St. Mary’s that promote health in the community. She informed that St. Mary’s has partnered with the American Heart Association and has entered into a multi-year agreement to create a healthier community. The focus of their initiatives is to inspire the community to stay active, eat healthy and rely on medical teams for their health needs.

Ms. Lidholm directed attention to the little red hats given to the Board Members. She explained that these are knitted or crocheted by volunteers in the community, with the intention of bridging the gap between new born babies and seniors. The focus is to raise awareness for children born with heart defects and help their families work toward their long-term health.

She stated that the goal is to have a little hat for every baby born at St. Mary’s, as well as those children in the pediatric ward. Ms. Lidholm explained that the community can become involved by making the hats, donating materials, or sharing related stories with St. Mary’s to be used in their message to the community.
Another program in its initial phase is Little Steps, Big Gains; this is an invitation to the District Board of Health and other elected officials to participate by becoming more active as an example to the community.

Mr. Delgado thanked Ms. Lidholm and St. Mary’s for taking the lead on this initiative to work toward a healthier community.

Mr. Dahir asked if there would be an event to attend when the Little Steps, Big Gains program is officially started to show support for this initiative. Ms. Lidholm stated that there is more information on their website (www.saintmarysreno.com/community-services/move-more). Ms. Uboldi explained that information found at this site includes a weekly walking challenge beginning April 5th, National Walking Day. St. Mary’s is also sending their fitness trainers to some of the large employers in the community to encourage participation.

Mr. Dick wished to thank Ms. Lidholm for the presentation and for St. Mary’s participation with Truckee Meadows Health Communities. He informed that Jamii Uboldi had served on the Steering Committee for length of time, and Chris King of St. Mary’s is now a member of the TMHC Board. Mr. Dick reiterated his appreciation for their involvement in TMHC’s efforts.

E. Retirements

i. Robert Sack – 3/31/2017, Division Director – 30 years – EHS

Mr. Dick stated that it was his honor, although with some sadness, to announce Mr. Sack’s retirement after 30 years with the Health District. He noted that at that morning’s special division meeting, it was apparent that Mr. Sack will be missed. Mr. Dick presented a clock to Mr. Sack as a token of the Health District’s gratitude for contributions to his Division and thanked him for his support and the pleasure of working with him.

Mr. Sack thanked the Board for allowing him the opportunity to continue to serve the community and protect Public Health for the last thirty years. He stated that, as a Division Director, he had been able to work closely with the Board and thanked them for the work they do and the interaction they have with each of the Division Directors.

Chair Jung thanked Mr. Sack for his service to the Health District and wished him a good retirement.

6. Consent Items

Matters which the District Board of Health may consider in one motion. Any exceptions to the Consent Agenda must be stated prior to approval.

A. Approval of Draft Minutes
   February 23, 2017

B. Budget Amendments/Interlocal Agreements

i. Approve a Notice of Subgrant Award from the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health in the total amount of $110,000 for the period March 29, 2017 through March 28, 2018 in support of the Community and Clinical Health Services Division (CCHS) Tobacco Prevention and Control Grant Program, IO# 11238 and authorize the District Health Officer to execute the Notice of Subgrant Award.
   Staff Representative: Nancy Kerns-Cummins
ii. Approve retroactive and continued purchases on local funding for program-specific incentives from various suppliers, not to exceed the program’s authorized budget authority.
   Staff Representative: Nancy Kerns-Cummins

C. Acknowledge receipt of the Health District Fund Financial Review for February, Fiscal Year 2017
   Staff Representative: Anna Heenan

D. Acceptance of the 2016 Annual Report to the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency by the Washoe County Health District as the Solid Waste Management Authority.
   Staff Representative: James English

E. Acceptance of the Air Quality Management Division portion of the Truckee Meadows Regional Plan Annual Report
   Staff Representatives: Charlene Albee

   Dr. Novak moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Dr. Hess seconded the motion which was approved five in favor and none against.

7. PUBLIC HEARING  Presentation, discussion and possible adoption of the Proposed Revisions to the District Board of Health Regulations Governing Air Quality Management, Section 040.080 Gasoline Transfer and Dispensing Facilities and related 010.000 Definitions
   Staff Representative: Mike Wolf

   Mr. Wolf stated that changes to the regulations were basically the removal of the Phase II Vapor Recovery requirement. He went on to explain that it is not required that Gasoline Transfer and Dispensing Facilities remove Phase II Vapor Recovery, but the requirement that they have it is being removed.

   Chair Jung opened the Public Hearing. As there was no one wishing to speak, Chair Jung closed the public comment period. Dr. Novak moved to approve the Proposed Revisions to the District Board of Health Regulations Governing Air Quality Management, Section 040.080 Gasoline Transfer and Dispensing Facilities and related 010.000 Definitions. Mr. Dahir seconded the motion which was approved five in favor and none against.

8. Presentation on the State of Nevada’s Integrated Source Water Protection Program and concurrent update and development of a Truckee River Watershed Management Plan, discussion and possible approval of staff recommendation to submit a letter in support of the program
   Staff Representative: Jim English
   Presented by Kim Borgzinner and Birgit Henson NDEP

   Ms. Borgzinner with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Safe Drinking Water Bureau, presented the Integrated Source Water Protection Program for Washoe County and stated this planning effort to protect the drinking water sources they regulate is in its initial phases. She explained that the State is mandated to have this program available to the communities, although participation at the local level is voluntary. Ms. Borgzinner informed that this plan that helps local public water systems protect their drinking water wells and water sources, and that there are 78 active regulated public water systems in Washoe County and 200 wells within the Truckee River watershed that supply the water to a
community of 400K.

The stakeholder group is being built in this phase, and presentations made to local Boards are with the goal of gaining their support and being invited into the community to do this work. The support they request is staff time being designated to the planning effort. No fiscal contribution is being requested at this time, other than staff hours.

Ms. Borgzinner stated that NDEP had targeted Washoe County a few years ago because this community has already developed the One Truckee River Plan that was recently adopted. One of the action items in that plans is participation in the Integrated Source Water Protection Program and to do watershed planning in this community. The Truckee River Watershed Management Plan was recently approved for some updates and the Western Regional Water Commission is now in the process of updating their Regional Water Management Plan. The overlapping goals of these initiatives for drinking water protection make the proposed work a good fit for our community.

She informed that there has been coordination with the Regional Environmental Protection Agency at the National level, and they support leveraging local programs that have these overlapping goals. This community is one of the few in Nevada with a surface water source, the Truckee River, and multiple wells. It is their first opportunity to leverage two different programs at the state and provide a bigger benefit to the community by considering the Truckee River watershed as well as the different wells in the community.

Ms. Henson, Environmental Scientist IV with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, stated that she manages the Nonpoint Source Program, which is surface water quality. This includes the monitoring of all water pollutants; agricultural, upland pollutants such as erosion, and urban pollutants. She explained that these activities are within the Clean Water Act, Water Pollution Quality Control.

Ms. Henson explained that the Nonpoint Source Program receives funding through the federal EPA to mitigate and reduce nonpoint source pollution, and that this includes the locally funded planning groups. Since many of these activities, such as the One Truckee River Management Plan, are already underway in Washoe County and in the Truckee River Watershed, they seek approval to begin the Integrated Source Water Protection Program for Washoe County.

Ms. Henson stated that the main benefit for the Nonpoint Source Program to be involved in this planning effort is that it provides the community access to a larger amount of funding to implement their pollution control projects. $1M is received annually for the state of Nevada with the largest majority of those funds being distributed to the Carson, Tahoe, and Las Vegas Wash watersheds, because they have watershed management plans in place.

Councilman Dahir asked how they would work with the County to bring awareness of the projects and funding that would be available. Ms. Henson informed that, when the stakeholders are assembled and the project approved, a list of projects is anticipated for prioritization, then funding could be sought. Available funds include the 319 funds previously mentioned; Source Water Funds and various other funds are also available in this watershed.

Councilman Dahir questioned the statement that no funds were being requested, noting that providing staff time is an expense to the County. He asked what amount of staff time would be necessary. Ms. Henson indicated that there would be two-hour meetings held every six weeks and other monitoring of email interactions.

Chair Jung stated that she believed the EHS staff would be supportive of this program and Mr. English confirmed. He stated that there would be approximately 12-20 hours per year of employee time involved and that would be charged to the NDEP grant for Safe
Drinking Water. Mr. English also stated that NDEP has requested Washoe County support this program. He went on to say that this program would be utilized for future planning activities, with the hope of having a sound document detailing watersheds and wells to provide basis for comment on development reviews for new buildings and infrastructure in the cities and County.

Dr. Novak asked if there would be any other involvement other than staff time at this point. Mr. English stated that there was not, and that their greatest need at this time was information regarding location of wells, hazardous materials facilities, underground storage tank facilities and other infrastructure.

Mr. Dahir moved to accept the Presentation on the State of Nevada’s Integrated Source Water Protection Program and concurrent update and development of a Truckee River Watershed Management Plan, and approval of staff recommendation to submit a letter in support of the program. Dr. Novak seconded the motion which was approved five in favor and none against.

9. Regional Emergency Medical Services Authority
Presented by Don Vonarx

A. Review and Acceptance of the REMSA Operations Report for February 2017

Dr. Novak moved to approve the Review and Acceptance of the REMSA Operations Report for February 2017. Mr. Dahir seconded the motion which was approved five in favor and none against.

*B. Update of REMSA’s Public Relations during February 2017

Mr. Vonarx noted that Mr. Romero was not present, but there was one update regarding REMSA’s work with EMS Oversight Incident Command in Lemmon Valley. He informed that there is now an ambulance stationed at the Red Rock post 24 hours per day to reduce response times due to the flood’s complications.

Dr. Novak asked if this precaution was mostly due to complication of access to the area, or if there had been an increase in requests for service. Mr. Vonarx informed that there hadn’t been an increase in service requests, and that it was part of their plan to have a base at the Red Rock post. This has enabled their response times to be well below the required standard.

Mr. Dahir informed that he’d been able to go out and ride along with REMSA, and that it was a very good opportunity to learn about their operation. He noted that they meet every day to review the previous day, and complemented them on their efficiency.

10. Update regarding Bill Draft Requests and Bill Drafts for the 2017 Legislative session.
Staff Representative: Kevin Dick

Mr. Dick noted that as of Monday’s deadline for bill introduction, there were 1,161 Bill Draft Requests that had been filed, 480 Assembly bill drafts and 425 Senate bill drafts. He informed that staff and he had reviewed over 100 new bills since Monday to determine impact to the Health District and what the Health District’s position should be.

Mr. Dick stated that the plastic bag bill, AB344, would require customers be charged ten cents per bag in retail establishments until 2021, and afterward would be banned. The bill requires the Health District to conduct annual inspections and be responsible for enforcement. Since all retail establishments are not regulated by the Health District currently, a significant amount of additional staffing would be required to comply with the provisions of the bill. The initial fiscal impact is $2.5M and approximately that amount
annually. Since this is not a public health issue, our position is to oppose this bill and testify in Carson City.

Mr. Dick explained that SB315 is regarding the State Environmental Commission to study and make recommendations concerning waste management franchise agreements, of construction and demolition waste and how recyclable materials are handled. The concern is that the County Health District could be tasked by the State to assume responsibility for the bill’s provisions. He explained that our position is currently neutral, but could change to opposition if scrutiny reveals the potential for County involvement.

AB366 is of interest due to its language being in line with the Behavioral Health priority of the CHIP. Mr. Dick explained that this bill would establish behavioral health regions in the state: Washoe County would be one of four behavioral health regions in the state and Southern Nevada Health District would be another. Each health region would have a policy board that would be comprised of representatives from the region. Mr. Dick opined that this bill was of interest as a development toward evolving from the state level for mental and behavioral health services to a regional approach within the state.

Mr. Dahir asked if this was a move by the State to reduce their responsibilities, thereby increasing those of the County’s with potential for increased costs to the Health District, or if it is a positive move for the County to be more directly involved with the issue of behavioral health. Mr. Dick responded that a number of Assemblypersons introduced the BDR, not a State agency, and that the bill is written with an incremental approach with no indication of County financial responsibility at this time. He explained the bill outlines the role of the policy board as providing direction on the types of services to provide and to set priorities for the region, but it doesn’t detail financial responsibility.

AB307 details proposed changes to EMS services for special events. Mr. Dick explained that several sessions ago, the state took the District Board of Health’s guidelines for special events for EMS and ambulance services and developed state regulations (NRS) based on the Health District’s guidelines. AB307 would raise the population threshold to 700K for those NRS requirements to apply. In communities with a population less than 700K, authorization for special events emergency services would fall to local government. Mr. Dick stated that our position to this bill is opposed, due to it excluding Washoe County from the guidelines that the Health District originally developed, and reducing public health protections in Washoe County during these events.

AB113 is the bill to provide for nursing mothers, and Mr. Dick explained that he Health District originally had concerns due the provision that required District Boards of Health to provide mediation in workplaces on this issue. There has been an amendment proposed to exclude that provision, and our position is support with that language removed.

Mr. Dick stated that there were other bills of interest, including AB397 that provides a $4M appropriation from the General Fund for Family Planning Services. This bill is aligned with SB122 for which the Health District had provided a letter of support as testimony. Mr. Dick stated that this bill creates a state account for funds for family planning that could be provided to local governments for those services. These two bills would help sustain family planning should the Affordable Care Act and Title X be repealed.

AB388 would provide a $1M per year appropriation for Women’s Health Connection over the next two years.

Mr. Dick informed that Ms. Albee had testified in support of SB152, the classic vehicle plate bill. This bill has opposition from SEMA, which is an automotive parts manufacturing association.

Mr. Dick also covered two height and weight bills, SB165 and SB273. SB165 includes a
definition of obesity and SB273 comes out of the Interim Legislative Committee on Healthcare which is height and weight measurement only, and reinstates the sunsetted provisions. Mr. Dick informed that the Health District is in support of both of those bills with the exception of the obesity definition. The Nevada Public Health Commission voiced our concern on SB165’s definition of obesity that has already been defined by the American Medical Association. That provision may have the effect of making the NRS inflexible if guidelines change in the future. Washoe County School District is opposed to the height and weight measurement bills citing increased staff time, and entered a fiscal note on the bill.

SB355 would provide for grief support services and would be funded by a 2% reduction in monies collected for death certificates. Those funds would be placed in a State account for those services. Mr. Dick explained that the Health District’s position is currently neutral, and the fiscal impact would be approximately $46K per year. There is potential to increase fees to offset the impact of lost revenue, but not all aspects involved with a fee increase have been investigated. If that is not possible, the Health District’s position could become opposed.

Dr. Novak asked what type of counseling would be provided, and Mr. Dick explained that the State Division of Public and Behavioral Health would provide that service.

Dr. Todd stated that he did not have any additional information regarding this bill, however, that the Southern Nevada Health District charges $33 per death certificate with potential to increase to $35. Should a fee increase be necessary, Dr. Todd informed the Board that this request would be brought before them for potential approval of that increase.

Mr. Dick added that this information was discovered at approximately 11:30 a.m. this morning, and there had been no time to engage Ms. Admirand about fee increases and options. Dr. Todd informed that the State’s opinion of our fee being set at $25 was that it would be more in line with the rest of the state.

Mr. Dahir asked how the persons in need of counseling be referred. Dr. Todd replied that his understanding was that the monies would go into a special fund and providers would be selected at the state level.

Mr. Dick stated the BDR from the Interim Legislative Committee on Healthcare is being watched with the hopes that e-cigarettes and vaping will be added to the Clean Indoor Air Act. Also anticipated is a smog check bill to revise the Smog Check Program. He informed that Ms. Albee was involved with the State subcommittee on recommended changes.

Mr. Dick informed that there are many new bills with potential impact to the Health District, more than in previous sessions, due to concerns regarding repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act. There are a number of bills that require Medicaid and insurance in Nevada to cover preventive services, maternity, newborns, family planning and contraception.

AB374 is a bill that would allow persons who don’t qualify for Medicaid because of their income be able to join Medicaid as their health insurance provider at 150% of the median for Medicaid.

Mr. Dick went on to explain that, in the information provided to the Board, there were a number of marijuana bills at the end of the document, and that the Health District’s position is neutral on most of them at this point. SB236 is the exception, as it provides for the use of marijuana at special events. The Health District’s position is monitor and oppose due to concerns about secondhand smoke.

Chair Jung requested the documents used to inform the Board on the status of bills be put in numerical order with color coding for the various stages of engagement.

Mr. Dahir asked, as a member of the District Board of Health, what impacts were expected regarding the new marijuana laws. Chair Jung indicated that collaboration with the
cities and the County would be the best approach to include all points of view on this subject, including the topics of cost recovery and education.

Dr. Novak asked if a special Board meeting regarding special education on the subject of marijuana would be a prudent. He stated that time is short to educate all three entities as well as the Health District itself. Chair Jung indicated that a special meeting would be considered.

Dr. Hess moved to accept the Update regarding Bill Draft Requests and Bill Drafts for the 2017 Legislative session. Dr. Novak seconded the motion which was approved five in favor and none against.

11. *Staff Reports and Program Updates

A. Air Quality Management, Charlene Albee, Director
   Program Update, Divisional Update, Program Reports
   Ms. Albee stated that she had nothing to add, but was available to answer questions.

B. Community and Clinical Health Services, Steve Kutz, Director
   Program Update – World TB Day – Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Program; Divisional Update – Patagonia Health; Data & Metrics; Program Reports
   Mr. Kutz also stated that he had nothing to add to his report, but would be happy to answer any questions.
   Dr. Novak congratulated Mr. Kutz on a well written report.

C. Environmental Health Services, Bob Sack, Director
   EHS Division and Program Updates – Childcare, Food, Land Development, Safe Drinking Water, Schools, Vector-Borne Disease and Waste Management
   Chair Jung asked Mr. Sack to report on EHS, since it would be his last due to his retirement.
   Mr. Sack stated that he would be happy to answer questions, but had nothing to add to the report at this time. He stated that there would be flood information given in supplement to Mr. Dick’s report.
   Dr. Hess asked if a report would be forthcoming regarding waste management violations mentioned in the Reno Gazette-Journal report. Mr. Sack indicated that there appears to be litigation associated with the waste management industry regarding issues at the city level, and clarified that it is not exclusively Waste Management, Inc. that is involved. The Health District has become involved as there have been numerous public records requests made associated with this issue. There were a number of violations found during inspections conducted by the city and the Health District at a recycling facility. Efforts by the facility are underway to resolve these issues, and those activities are being monitored by the Health District.
   Dr. Novak asked if the vector situation was being monitored. Mr. Sack stated that vector information would be covered in relation to the flood as part of the DHO’s report.
   Mr. Dahir informed that he’d just returned from a trip to another country where they do not have programs such as those provided by EHS, and that he appreciates everything Mr. Sack has contributed in his 30-year career.
   Mr. Sack responded, saying that one of the attractions of this career for him has been the disciplines that the Environmental Health Services Division is involved in on a daily basis. He praised his staff by saying that they collectively provide a wide variety of services to benefit the community and they do it very, very well.
D. Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness, Dr. Randall Todd, Director
Program Updates for Communicable Disease, Public Health Preparedness, and Emergency Medical Services

Dr. Todd had nothing to add to the report, but stated he’d be happy to answer any questions.

E. Office of the District Health Officer, Kevin Dick, District Health Officer
District Health Officer Report –FY17-18 Budget, North Valleys Flood, Regional License/Permit Program, Quality Improvement, Public Health Accreditation, Strategic Plan, Community Health Improvement Plan, Workforce Development, Truckee Meadows Healthy Communities, Other Events and Activities and Health District Media Contacts

Mr. Dick stated that he’d like to begin by a report out on the FY17-18 Budget. As required by the Interlocal Agreement, Mr. Dick informed that he’d met with the City and County Managers as well as the County Budget Staff. In attendance were Manager Driscoll and Assistant Manager Christine Vuletich. Bill Thomas had been invited and confirmed he would attend, but was out of town during the meeting. Mr. Dick presented the budget and discussed it with the Managers. Mr. Driscoll inquired if our budget would allow potential one-off projects, and Mr. Dick confirmed that professional services and other services and supplies were included in the budget and could be used for those types of projects. Mr. Driscoll also commented on the ending fund balance. Mr. Dick stated that he provided the same information to him as he had previously to the Board, that the conservative approach to budget planning was due to concerns regarding grant funding from federal agencies that the Health Department relies on. Mr. Driscoll appreciated the forethought involved in this approach.

Mr. Dick informed that he’d seen Mr. Thomas after his receipt of the budget information and invited his comment. As of this Board meeting, Mr. Thomas has not provided comment. Mr. Dick stated that he’d also met with the County Budget staff and reviewed the budget with them.

Regarding the North Valleys Flood, Mr. Dick reviewed the Health District’s high level of involvement. Together with the County and Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, a Unified Command was established with Battalion Chief Sam Hicks as Incident Commander. The Health District has been engaged with the Incident Command Team with Mr. Jim English as our primary representative who has many long hours invested. Mr. Phil Ulibarri has been representing the Health District as part of the Joint Information Communication Team (JIC), and the Emergency Preparedness Planning Group has been involved with providing sign boards and AM radio broadcasting for messaging. The Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers had been engaged in the community providing assistance. EHS has been working with residents on issues concerning wells and septic systems and have provided water sampling kits for residents on wells. Mr. Dick informed that, fortunately, the majority of wells have not been impacted. Surface water sampling has been conducted on the flood waters, with communication to residents to presume these waters are contaminated. There has been some contamination found, but there is not a high incidence of these findings.

Mr. Dick invited Mr. English to report on the flood.

Mr. English stated that he was tasked to help coordinate the Health District’s response to the flood incident at the North Valleys. He referred to the report he’d given in Mr. Sack’s absence last month, and that they were fully engaged and aware of the potential
environmental situation in the North Valleys at that time. Mr. English informed on March 1st, he and Ms. Conti met with Mr. Kenneston at the EOC to discuss planning, potential action and determine the scope of the project. They gave them direction on the environmental health issues. The scope of the project led to escalation of the response to Unified Command with Sam Hicks as the Incident Commander as of March 6th. The Health District has been fully involved in the Unified Command effort with Mr. English representing Mr. Dick, DHO. County Manager Slaughter is also included in that Command. Mr. English stated that the Health District has been staffing the REOC as requested from 7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., but that members of the Health District have been at the flood sites daily.

Mr. English informed that during the week of the 6th, the Health District worked with the Emergency Planning group to devise short and long-term plans. EHS wrote the disinfection protocols that are being used by all first responders, and evaluated the initial rounds of surface water data collected. Due to concern of residential well contamination, EHS proactively initiated a well sampling program for bacterial results. 250 sampling kits were distributed and 75 were received to evaluate. Mr. English indicated that Swan Lake, Silver Lake and Whites Lake have been sampled twice per week throughout this event, with results being reported to the IOC. Mr. English had worked with three Safety Officers during the week of the 6th when the USAR Taskforce Team was here. Their medical officer was Dr. Hess. There were two workers that had fallen into the lake, and due to concern of contamination, Mr. English was able to release test results to him.

A long term environmental plan was developed during the first week of Incident Command which included a vector component for the three bodies of water. Mr. English stressed that Silver Lake and Whites Lake are also monitored, although it might be perceived that Swan Lake and Lemmon Valley were the main focus. A full surveillance program was created in that first week at the request of the IC for mosquitos. Both New Jersey traps were deployed in the Swan Lake area as well as six CO2 traps. There is currently mosquito activity, and IC has provided DEET for all first responders. A plan to proactively treat all three bodies of water with larvicide from spring to early fall is in place. A long term response plan has been written for ongoing recovery of this event. The incident action plan today would show that the greatest majority of responders is the Health District, other than workers finishing the wall and maintaining pumps. The Health District has the coordination duties for Waste Management, Hazmat response and hazardous waste characterization, mosquito surveillance, surface water sampling, residential well sampling, and is coordinating the County’s damage assessment teams. Environmental Health and Building and Safety are currently evaluating structures in the area.

Mr. English stated that today there are over 12 staff members that are working parts of this event, moving EHS into an ICS role to backfill employee’s daily work. In the past pay period there have been over 400 hours in response to this incident which include assessing homes on Sunday. EHS has worked closely with EPHP who have offered to provide assistance via creating a handout of commonly asked questions and information on well and septic issues for residents.

The State requested the Health District to provide assistance regarding mental health related to disasters, and EPHP staff was able to collect information for the public meetings. EHS has been present at all of the public meetings and Command decision-making meetings and have continued to provide assistance as requested.
Currently, as we move into recovery, Mr. English stated that he sees the Health District having a long term role in this response, including repair of up to 160 septic systems, rehabbing or requiring water connections and mosquito abatement. As part of the long term goal, and because of Mr. English’s work with both State DEM and federal representatives, a plan was created that covered all wetlands within Washoe County. As public meetings were held for this event, residents from other areas such as Rancho Haven and Palomino Valley inquired how their communities would be affected and what measures would be implemented to mitigate septic, well and mosquito issues. Mr. English informed that EHS has provided a proactive plan for the whole of Washoe County to larvicide the community, protecting against vectors and mosquitoes, which follows the federal guidelines for potential reimbursement.

Mr. Dahir commended EHS and all Health District and County responders on their efforts, and hoped to find ways to highlight their achievements to the community. He asked if it would be possible to update Board Members on emergency issues, enabling them to communicate accurate information to their constituents. Mr. Dahir stated that he would like to have the tools to help control the narrative in the community regarding the Health District’s efforts.

Mr. Dick informed that much of the information is distributed in coordination with the JIC and would make sure the Board Members were on that distribution list. Chair Jung agreed it was a good request. Mr. English informed that EHS started a Twitter account, and that he would provide the DHO that account information and for Facebook as well. He stated that they have worked very hard to provide public messaging with the Health District’s Communication Manager, Mr. Ulibarri, and through the JIC, the website, Facebook and Twitter. Mr. English agreed that if the Board Members accessed this information that the outreach to the community would be much greater.

Dr. Hess inquired if there were contaminants found in the surface water testing that were of concern. Mr. English stated that there was not at this time. He explained that the initial testing had been a full panel, sampling in the same locations that the NDEP had because of a sewer treatment plant located inside the flooded area. That Washoe County operated plant is completely sound at this time. The Reno-Stead sewer treatment plant discharges a fluid into that same basin. The testing schedule was tripled and components for BTEX and petroleum components were added. The results were well below recreational lake levels for contamination, as were some point locations that contain e coli. He stressed that EHS is not communicating that these waters are safe, but it is clear that this is rain water and runoff.

Mr. Dahir asked if mercury was an issue in these waters, Mr. English responded that it has not been an issue historically, so there has been no testing for mercury.

Mr. Dick commended the job Chief Hicks has done as lead of the Incident Command Team.

Mr. Dick stated that, regarding Accela licensing and permits program, the Health District’s portion of the cost for next year’s subscription is being discussed. He explained that the original contract was based on a set number of seats that were subscribed for at a given cost. The other jurisdictions have increased their number of users for the subscription to the system in the future. The Health District’s numbers have remained the same. The increase in users from the other jurisdictions has increased the cost per new user to be higher than the cost for the current users. The formula that was used to calculate amounts owed per jurisdiction have shifted excess costs to the Health District and nearly doubled our portion of the subscription cost, when our costs should be
calculated at the original amount. Mr. Dick stated that this issue will hopefully be resolved in the next few months.

Mr. Dick informed that the cost for the mosquito abatement program that Mr. English referred to would impact the budget by several hundreds of thousands of dollars, spread over this fiscal year and the next, and isn’t included in the Health District’s budget. There have been discussions with the County Budget Office regarding those expenses, and it would require going before the Board of County Commissioners to have our budget augmented to provide the applications of larvicide. With the emergency declaration and the work that has been done, these costs should be FEMA reimbursable, but it would take time to receive those monies.

Dr. Hess asked about the Health District’s reserves and if the budget should be reviewed. Mr. Dick stated that, because this is an emergency situation, the first course of action would be to go to the County to request the additional funds.

Dr. Novak asked if vector surveillance had been increased for Reno, Sparks and other local areas outside of the flooded area. Mr. Sack stated it is planned to survey as they normally would, which is adequate even in light of the flood. He informed that there are limited funds for helicopter and applying larvicide. Currently, the existing budget would provide approximately one helicopter application of 250 acres between now and the end of the fiscal year. There are about 2,000 acres at this time that would need to be treated multiple times to be effective. Mr. Sack stressed that the Health District’s reserves were not sufficient to cover these expenses and should not be used for this purpose.

Dr. Novak asked if Accela was operational. Mr. Dick informed that the Health District is up and operational, but there are still issues that have to be addressed. The improvement of the workflow process between the cities, County and the Health District is progressing, which is vital as the Health District works with each of those entities in plan review. Mr. Dick stated that the implementation of the contract with Accela was not performed to the Health District’s satisfaction. Dr. Hess asked if we have recourse for reimbursement of monies. Mr. Dick explained that it is a difficult situation with the first objective to get the software to function as it should for the sake of the Health District’s operation.

Mr. Dick reviewed the Quality Improvement survey, noting that there has been some decline in some responses from staff, and opined that it was due to the dramatic increase in workload. Some factors related to increased workload include the implementation of Accela and Patagonia in CCHS, the increase in service demand, the Strategic Plan and other improvement activities. Employees responded that they are concerned about competing priorities with Quality Improvement. Statisticians confirm that, although there have been some declines in responses, it’s not statistically significant. One change that Mr. Dick highlighted was the amount of employees that responded, an increase from 90 in 2014, and 83 in 2015, to 117 that responded this year. This could be related to removing identifiers from the survey.

Mr. Dick informed that there is a Workforce Development Survey in place in collaboration with UNR to assess training needs for professional development of staff. This data will be used in developing the Health District’s Workforce Development Plan and strengthen staff performance by providing target training.

Also related to Workforce, Mr. Dick stated that a national recruitment has been posted to fill Mr. Sack’s position. He informed that he’d met with EHS staff this morning to advise them of the posting and that he would be meeting with the EHS Supervisors on a weekly basis to lead that division in the interim. The possibility of
rotating Division Directors to act as lead is being discussed if the position takes a while to fill. He stressed that the most important factor is choosing the correct candidate due to long term implications to EHS. There are several external people that have agreed to sit on the interview panel with Mr. Dick for this appointed position.

Mr. Dahir asked if internal candidates would be considered and Mr. Dick confirmed that it is an open recruitment and so both internal and external candidates are eligible.

Mr. Dahir stated concern with response of the QI survey question, “I work well with other programs and divisions to design and improve services.” He noted that this was an important measure of a group’s health and asked what could be done to raise that result.

12. *Board Comment
13. *Public Comment

As there was no one wishing to speak, Chair Jung closed the public comment period.

14. Adjournment

Chair Jung adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

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Possible Changes to Agenda Order and Timing. Items on the agenda may be taken out of order, combined with other items, withdrawn from the agenda, moved to the agenda of another later meeting; moved to or from the Consent section, or they may be voted on in a block. Items with a specific time designation will not be heard prior to the stated time, but may be heard later. Items listed in the Consent section of the agenda are voted on as a block and will not be read or considered separately unless withdrawn from the Consent agenda.

Special Accommodations. The District Board of Health Meetings are accessible to the disabled. Disabled members of the public who require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting are requested to notify Administrative Health Services in writing at the Washoe County Health District, PO Box 1130, Reno, NV 89520-0027, or by calling 775.328.2416, 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Public Comment. During the “Public Comment” items, anyone may speak pertaining to any matter either on or off the agenda, to include items to be heard on consent. For the remainder of the agenda, public comment will only be heard during items that are not marked with an asterisk (*). Any public comment for hearing items will be heard before action is taken on the item and must be about the specific item being considered by the Board. In order to speak during any public comment, each speaker must fill out a “Request to Speak” form and/or submit comments for the record to the Recording Secretary. Public comment and presentations for individual agenda items are limited as follows: fifteen minutes each for staff and applicant presentations, five minutes for a speaker representing a group, and three minutes for individual speakers unless extended by questions from the Board or by action of the Chair.

Response to Public Comment. The Board of Health can deliberate or take action only if a matter has been listed on an agenda properly posted prior to the meeting. During the public comment period, speakers may address matters listed or not listed on the published agenda. The Open Meeting Law does not expressly prohibit responses to public comments by the Board of Health. However, responses from the Board members to unlisted public comment topics could become deliberation on a matter without notice to the public. On the advice of legal counsel and to ensure the public has notice of all matters the Board of Health will consider, Board members may choose not to respond to public comments, except to correct factual inaccuracies, ask for Health District Staff action or to ask that a matter be listed on a future agenda. The Board of Health may do this either during the public comment item or during the following item: “Board Comments – Limited to Announcement or Issues for future Agendas.”

Posting of Agenda; Location of Website.

Pursuant to NRS 241.020, Notice of this meeting was posted at the following locations:

- Washoe County Health District, 1001 E. 9th St., Reno, NV
- Reno City Hall, 1 E. 1st St., Reno, NV
- Sparks City Hall, 431 Prater Way, Sparks, NV
- Washoe County Administration Building, 1001 E. 9th St, Reno, NV
- Washoe County Health District Website [www.washoecounty.us/health](http://www.washoecounty.us/health)
- State of Nevada Website: [https://notice.nv.gov](https://notice.nv.gov)

How to Get Copies of Agenda and Support Materials. Supporting materials are available to the public at the Washoe County Health District located at 1001 E. 9th Street, in Reno, Nevada. Ms. Laura Rogers, Administrative Secretary to the District Board of Health is the person designated by the Washoe County District Board of Health to respond to requests for supporting materials. Ms. Rogers is located at the Washoe County Health District and may be reached by telephone at (775) 328-2415 or by email at lrogers@washoecounty.us. Supporting materials are also available at the Washoe County Health District Website [www.washoecounty.us/health](http://www.washoecounty.us/health) pursuant to the requirements of NRS 241.020.