

**Island County Board of Health  
Special Session - Monday, July 21, 2008  
Minutes**

**Members Present:** Commissioners: John Dean, Mac McDowell and Phillip Bakke; Jim Slowik Mayor of Oak Harbor; Kristy Miller, WGH Commissioner; Roger S. Case, MD, Executive Secretary to the Board; Captain James Thralls, MSC, U.S. Navy, Ex-Officio Member.

**Members Absent:** No members were absent.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Dean called this Special Session of the Island County Board of Health to order at 2:04 p.m.

**Additions or Changes to the Agenda:** Because this is a Special Session of the Board of Health, only those items on the announced agenda may be discussed or acted upon at this session.

The Chair took the opportunity at this point in the agenda to welcome the new Ex Officio member of the Board, Commanding Officer of the Naval Hospital Oak Harbor, Captain James Thralls.

**Minutes:** Commissioner Bakke moved that the minutes for the June 16, 2008 Regular Meeting be approved as written. Commissioner McDowell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**Presentation – On-Site Operation & Maintenance (O&M) Program – Status Update**

Keith Higman, Health Services Director, opened the presentation with a review of the O&M Program to date. Last summer, the IC BOH adopted an On-site Sewage System Management Plan. One of the most significant changes is the requirement for homeowners to inspect their septic systems at some frequency. Six public workshops were held with the Board of Health with the outcome being adoption of a plan based upon risk. The plan that was subsequently adopted assumes paying more attention to areas that are more at risk. Southern Holmes Harbor and Penn Cove were identified as areas of greatest risk. Working with our partners, Planning and Community Development, a majority of our energy has gone to testing and licensing of individuals to sell their services to the public. P&CD has developed a homeowner training curriculum for homeowners with conventional gravity or pressure systems. Keith explained that a category of Maintenance Service Providers had been established for licensure. A test has been developed with the assistance of the Washington On-site Sewage System Association. There are two levels of credentialing: (1) The first is the O&M Specialist level which allows an individual or business to inspect any complexity of system and, (2) A lesser credential, O&M Tech, allows inspection of conventional gravity systems which are much less technically challenging. Forty-eight individuals have taken the test to date and all have passed. Forty-five of the 48 have passed the O&M Specialist and three of the 48 are O&M Techs. Need to have adequate number of licensed providers and the 'HOST' (Homeowner Septic Training) program available before the program is initiated in Holmes Harbor and Penn Cove areas.

**Contracts:**

Keith Higman presented the following contracts:

1. Skagit/Islands Head Start – Consultation Program  
Contract No. HD-04-08  
Contract Amount:                 \$    1,500
  
2. Department of Health – Consolidated Contract  
Contract No. C14949, Amendment No. 10  
Contract Amount:                 \$ 1,510,059  
Amendment Amount:             \$    85,703

Kristy Miller moved that the contracts be approved as presented. Commissioner Bakke seconded and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

**Health Department Report:** Keith Higman advised the Board that there is currently a Noctiluca bloom in Holmes Harbor. The bloom is unsightly but not a danger to health. The second issue is 59 reported cases of Pertussis on Whidbey Island which staff has been working with local physician's offices to assure cultures are being collected correctly and to alert contacts to try to limit exposures. No cases have been reported on Camano Island. A discussion followed on the procedure for obtaining exemptions from the vaccination requirement.

**Site Visit to the Homeowner Septic Training (HOST) classroom and demonstration park:** The Board recessed at 2:33 p.m. to drive to the 'HOST' classroom located at the County Parks Shop at 497 Patmore Road and convened to tour the new demonstration park and preview classroom materials.

**Public Input or Comments:** There was no public input or comment.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business, Commissioner Dean adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m. The next Board of Health will be a Regular Meeting to be held on August 18, 2008.

Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Roger S. Case, MD, Executive Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved this 18th day of August 2008  
**ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**

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John Dean, Board Chair