

TETON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

May 26, 2020

Present: Melissa Moyer, Austin Moyer, Jim Hodgskiss, Ken Bassmann, Elaine Sedlack, and Lin Wright. Via Remote: Randy Morris, Barb Shaffer, and Tim Sinton.

Guests: Jane Woolery (Teton County Extension Service and 4-H) and Melody Martinson (Choteau Acantha). Via Remote: Chelsea Yeager (Renegade Youth Steer Show and Jackpot).

The emergency meeting was called to order by Melissa Moyer at 2:02 pm in the Teton County Courthouse Annex Conference Room to allow room for social distancing and via remote computer and phone access for those preferring more social distancing.

Public Comment: No Members of the public were present in the conference room but were present via phone and computer access. Public comment was reserved for the later discussion on the purpose of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May 8, 2020 emergency meeting were reviewed. Ken moved the minutes be approved as written. The motion was seconded by Tim and approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Montana High School Rodeo Association Rodeo on May 21 and 22, 2020: Ken reported he was there both days with the Choteau Ambulance and felt generally the rodeo went very well and the rules as written were followed. He said Lane Yeager gave a stern warning at the beginning to those in attendance and there were frequent announcements during the days to remind participants to maintain social distancing. Trailers were parked 25 feet or more apart and law enforcement went through at night. After symptom checks on the 21st green bracelets were given and on Friday after symptom checks red bracelets. Those in line for symptom checks maintained their social distancing. The only problem Ken saw was there were too many family members present including grandparents, aunts and uncles, and children. Tim thought overall it went well. Ken commented many families ordered take- out food as there were many deliveries made to the site.

Choteau High School Graduation: Melissa reported Chuck Gameon, Superintendent, said it went well and students kept their distance. The students were in the football stadium bleachers in their assigned spaces and their families were in individually marked squares on the field. Ingress and egress went well with social distancing.

New Business: Melissa noted that effective June 1, 2020 the governor has ordered Montana into Phase 2 of the re-opening plan which allows additional activities with restaurants going to 75% occupancy and groups of 50 allowed with appropriate social distancing. The following proposed activities would take place during Phase 2. It is unknown at this time if or when Montana will enter Phase 3.

Renegade Youth Steer Show and Jackpot: Melissa invited Chelsea Yeager to discuss what the show involves and her written plan. Chelsea said in developing her plan she used many of the ideas from the Montana High School Rodeo Association plan. The show would be one day (June 6, 2020) and would have youth from around the state. This is the first show and will be followed by one in Helena and then other Montana cities. In response to questions from board members Chelsea said the show is designed for youth who raise steers but do not want to sell them. Many of the youth are involved in 4-H or FFA. The jackpot is money from the entry fees. So far 32 youth have entered but there may be more. They will be mainly outside the Weatherbeater and enter the building when their group is called. Social distancing will be emphasized and wearing of masks for both participants and their family members will be encouraged. There will be no indoor seating and no spectators. Registration is online only and everyone present will be screened for symptoms and have their hand stamped. She has a plan to keep people separated during the symptom checks and at the food trucks that will be there. She is encouraging participants to only bring an immediate family member needed to help them. She will have handwashing stations and people assigned to clean the restrooms frequently throughout the day.

Public Comment: None.

Following board discussion Ken made a motion to approve the Renegade Youth Steer Show and Jackpot to be held on June 6, 2020 with the following contingencies:

1. The Renegade Youth Steer Show and Jackpot follows the health and safety measures presented in writing to the Teton County Board of Health.
2. The state COVID-19 status remains declining.
3. The governor does not issue any directive that would prevent the show.
4. No new information comes to light that would indicate holding the show is not in the best interests of the people of Choteau and Teton County.

Jim seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Teton County 4-H Fair: Melissa invited Jane Woolery to discuss her detailed 18 page written plan for the fair. Jane said it will be the first 4-H Fair in the state so they need to set a good example and she will share the written plan with other counties. She has eliminated some activities such as the buyers' reception and changed the auction to an online only auction although those wishing not to go online will be able to attend the online auction at the Stage Stop Inn. In past years there have been 300-500 people attending the auction. The Inn will be responsible for limiting participants as required for businesses. The indoor project displays and presentations at the Pavilion will be limited to only the youth presenting their projects to the judges one at a time and no members of the public will be present. The livestock events will be spaced out over several days with each type having their own day after which the livestock will be removed and those being sold will have to be brought back as required to be transported for buyers. Pigs will be left at the Weatherbeater but will have an assigned caretaker. Only immediate

family members needed to help with the livestock will be allowed. Ribbons and certificates will be mailed rather than given in person. Social distancing will be encouraged as will mask wearing. Jane said 270 youth are enrolled in 4-H in Teton County but it is up to the individual youth and family whether they will participate in the fair. Jane questioned whether an outside ring would be acceptable and Melissa said it would. Jane also asked what would happen if grandparents and other family members show up. Melissa said she needs to emphasize they do not come. The board requested that in addition to hand sanitizing stations she have some hand washing stations set up outside the Weatherbeater to avoid congestion in the restrooms.

Public Comment: None.

Following board discussion Jim made a motion that the Teton County 4-H Fair to be held on June 24-28, 2020 be approved with the following contingencies:

1. The Teton County 4-H Fair follows the health and safety measures presented in writing to the Teton County Board of Health.
2. The state COVID-19 status remains declining.
3. The governor does not issue any directive that would prevent the 4-H Fair.
4. No new information comes to light that would indicate that holding the fair is not in the best interests of the people of Choteau and Teton County.

Tim seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4th of July Activities: Ken requested the board discuss the various community proposals for the 4th of July celebrations. Melissa said it is unknown at this time whether the state will still be in Phase 2 or will have moved into Phase 3 by the 4th of July so it is hard for groups to make plans and none have been submitted to the health department at this time.

Chamber Parade: Melissa said the parade route has been changed to eliminate crowds along Main St. Instead the parade participants will be motorized or on horses and will follow a long route winding around various neighborhoods.

Beer Garden: unknown at this time.

Art in the Park: unknown at this time.

Steak Fry: Decision will be made at a meeting on June 3rd.

Rodeo: Ken said the Legion wants to hold the rodeo with slack on the 3rd and the rodeo on the 4th. Melissa said the Legion needs to submit a written plan to the health department. If we are still in Phase 2 they would have to limit the number of spectators. Ken said if they had to do that it wouldn't pay for itself.

Street Dance: Ken said the Legion will probably not have the street dance but may instead have something at the rodeo grounds with a band.

Race: Melody said the race usually has about 150 runners and has both a long and short race. Both races usually start by the high school track. She is thinking of making it strictly a fun run with no registration, no bibs, no Tee shirts, no prizes, and no water stations along the course. Melissa said the race would be OK but they both agreed the start and finish would be a problem that needs to be worked out.

Community Band: Melody also had concerns about the community band concert. They usually begin practicing in early June but many members fall into the high risk category. The concert is outside and the members could be spread out a bit but they practice indoors. Right now they have no place to practice since the school is closed.

Jim pointed out it is OK to cancel activities for this year. The public might complain but they don't realize how much work it takes to put on these activities.

Melissa said the health department needs written plans for all proposed activities and the board of health would be involved in the decision making.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm. by Melissa. The next regularly scheduled meeting would be on June 15, 2020 but has been postponed indefinitely as additional emergency meetings may be needed to discuss proposed 4th of July activities.

Tim Sinton, P.A., Chairman

Elaine Sedlack, Secretary