

**Minutes of Meeting  
Panhandle Health District  
October 10, 2023  
1:30 p.m.**

The Kootenai County Board of Commissioners: Chair Leslie Duncan and Commissioner Bruce Mattare met to discuss the following agenda item. Also present were BOCC Executive Assistant Sara Masters, BOCC Communications Coordinator Jonathan Gillham and Deputy Clerk Tina Ginorio. Also present were Panhandle Health District Representatives Don Duffy and Erik Ketner. Commissioner Bill Brooks was excused.

- A. Call to Order:** Chair Leslie Duncan called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
- B. Changes to the Agenda (Action):** There were no changes to the agenda.
- C. Business:**

**PHD Quarterly Update with District Director Don Duffy (Discussion)**

Panhandle Health District (PHD) District Director Don Duffy provided each of the Commissioners with a copy of the new Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer Atlas.

Mr. Duffy remarked that Duke Johnson, M.D., the Kootenai County Coroner, was a welcome addition to their Board.

Mr. Duffy explained that the fees that PHD was allowed by state statute to charge for inspection of food establishments no longer covered their expenses. He stated that the fees had last been updated by the State in 2018 and, for example, their expenses for this service in Kootenai County now exceed revenue by about \$200,000. He said that PHD was working with the IAC (Idaho Association of Counties) and different elected officials across the five counties in an effort to have the fees removed from statute so that they could be adjusted when necessary. He provided a document which listed the other counties PHD serviced and the amounts each of them were having to cover currently. He also provided a document illustrating the PHD Septic Permitting Activities from 2019 through 2023, both in Kootenai County alone and across their full territory.

Mr. Duffy commented that PHD was also concerned about unfunded mandates handed down by the state, which left the counties responsible for additional expenses. He listed two examples of such mandates, harmful algae blooms and inspection of assisted living kitchens, and said that PHD had refused to comply unless funding was provided.

There followed some discussion of the actual cost to inspect a food establishment compared to the fees PHD was allowed to charge, the impact food lobbyists had on state control of the fees and the efforts by PHD to change the situation.

- D. **Public Comment:** This section is reserved for citizens wishing to address the Board regarding a County related issue. Idaho Law prohibits Board action on items brought under this section except in an emergency circumstance. Comments related to future public hearings should be held for that public hearing. There were no public comments.
  
- E. **Adjournment (Action):** Chair Duncan adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JENNIFER LOCKE, CLERK

BOCC SIGNATURE

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tina Ginorio, Deputy Clerk