

Meeting Minutes from June 17, 2020

ATTENDEES (via Google Hangouts)

Commissioner Greg Miles, Commissioner Brad Horrocks, Commissioner Randy Asay, Dr. Mathis, Dr. Richard Jolley, Mr. Terry Nelson, Ms. Jodi Tinker

Director Jordan Mathis, Ms. Raima Colledge, Mr. Jon Stearmer, Commissioner Irene Hansen, Commissioner Gregory Todd, Commissioner Jack Lytle, Ms. Liberty Best, Mr. Nathan Hall

ABSENT

Mr. Keith Goodspeed, Ms. Shanna Wheeler

The meeting was called to order at 5:13 p.m.

MOVING TRICOUNTY AREA TO GREEN HEALTH RISK STATUS DISCUSSION

Director Mathis presented the current COVID-19 case rate for Utah and narrowed it down to counties as reported by coronavirus.utah.gov to give the board and commissioners an idea of the current trends across the state. There is some indication of a rise in the number of positive cases in our area and other areas in the state.

Commissioner Miles explained that the commissioners from all three counties met on Tuesday, June 16th to discuss the possibility of moving to Green Health Risk Status for all three counties. After much discussion, it was determined that for the revival of our economy it was best to move to the Green Health Risk Status at this time. The commissions came to a united decision to have Director Mathis draft a letter to the Governor's office petitioning for the Green Health Risk Status for Daggett, Duchesne, and Uintah counties.

Director Mathis was contacted by General Burton, who is screening the petitions. He shared his concern that the letter was not signed by the commissions' board chairs, and that he would like an official position from the TriCounty Health Department Board before considering the petition.

The board and commissioners discussed the changes that will occur if we move from yellow to green. The main changes include: the general public and employees take reasonable precautions; all businesses are open and operating under enhanced hygiene and cleaning regimen while monitoring the health of workforce and customers; schools open; larger gatherings permitted. There are still higher-level guidelines for high-risk individuals.

Director Mathis shared his concern with large events. He would like for us to continue education on the importance of social distancing and wearing masks when distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Commissioner Horrocks stated that the community is not following recommendations and feels that messaging will have to be strong, but we may still see people not adhering to recommendations.

Director Mathis shared a study conducted by the Utah Department of Environmental Quality in conjunction with Utah State University, University of Utah, and Brigham Young University. They began testing 10 treatment plants in Utah about two months ago to track the spread of COVID-19. Out of the 117 samples obtained 64% had at least some trace of COVID-19. This study offers a tool for early detection of rising infections, monitoring community infection trends, and confirmation of low infection rates in communities. Director Mathis suggested that when we resubmit the letter we ask that the study expands to our area.

There was discussion amongst the board and commissioners and a recommendation was made to move forward with petitioning for Daggett, Duchesne, and Uintah counties to move to the Green Health Risk Status with the exception that high-risk businesses (i.e. care centers, assisted living, etc.) stay vigilant with the high-risk guidelines. In addition, we ask that the sewage study be brought to our area for monitoring.

A motion was made by Dr. Jolley and seconded by Commissioner Horrocks for Director Mathis to draft a letter petitioning the TriCounty Area be moved to the Green Health Risk Status with the exception of high-risk facilities with a request that the sewage study be brought to our area. The letter will be emailed to TriCounty Board of

Health Chairman, Dr. John Mathis, and County Commissioner Chairmans for signature and then forwarded to the Governor's Office by tomorrow, June 18. Vote unanimous. Motion carried.