

**Precautionary Principle Meeting**  
**May 5, 2008**  
**Public Health Room 355**

Present: John Morley, Linda Helland, Phyllis Webb, Britt Bailey, Stacey Cryer, Carmel Angelo, Theresa McNerlin

**General Services to be the next pilot?**

- Stacey announced that she talked to Kristen McMenemy at GSA who does not have time to do a PP pilot but is interested in and already implementing a “green” consciousness at GAS, i.e., buying the Prius. And the BOS is definitely interested in “greening” the county.
- Stacey did not think that another pilot would be reasonable at this time with so much effort being put into the budget crunch.

**Report from John Morley re: EH Pilot**

- John passed out his report on the EH PP pilot which included his implementation of the PP Procedure that he used. A discussion of its use ensued.
- John recommended that an easier way needs to be developed to get public input. Maybe public input not necessary for some issues. Could we develop something electronic?
- On the plus side of the experience for EH, it made EH more confident in its knowledge of mosquito abatement and better informed
- On the negative side, the public workshop was not very productive. Also, he felt that the procedure form was so subjective that someone using it could justify easily not going with a public forum but the way they filled it out. Linda suggested that we change the criteria for requiring a public meeting by making it high on the risk assessment.
- John did feel that the pilot process was reasonable, but that some changes in the procedures were in order.
- He was thanked hardily by the members for his work.

**Discussion on another pilot and the present use of public forums**

- Water Agency pilot is now out.
- Could Masonite be the pilot? Maybe at one time that would have worked but now the issued is too big and a law suit has been filed. But it is an example of why the PP is important and could have been used to inform the public of the issues.
- Another example is the issue of MRSA and the public forums and education to day-cares that have happened around that public health issue.
- Carmel mentioned that maybe a promo effort would be in order including a fact sheet for the BOS, maybe 1 or 2 a year, for Public Health issues, mostly Infectious Disease. Maybe the PP is best a Public Health or HHS tool rather than department-wide. We already demonstrate the process and could come up with an accomplishment list. No need to go back to BOS at this point, but will need a written report re: accomplishments which would be due June 2009 (2 years from the pilot approval date). Maybe a good time would be somewhere between 9 & 11/08 to stay away from budget time.

**Discussion of the media policy & noticing public meetings**

- The current HHS media policy was distributed. Theresa was at the meeting to discuss it with the group. Some of the issues brought up:
- Need more than just sending out to media outlets, sometimes they need proding to actually run the notice.
- Press release may not have been handled by ICO correctly for the PP pilot. It needs to go to media in a specific way which has now been worked out by the new ICO, such as the announcement needs to be sent in the body of the email, not as attachment.

- Staff need to be able to follow-up on press releases to be sure they are run. Linda Helland has made a formal request through Stacey for an update to HHSA Media Policy to allow this follow-up. Maybe ICO could be the follow-up person. We will give the new ICO some time to get a functional system in place.

Britt will edit the procedures and get those changes out to everyone.

Next meeting Monday, 6/16, 10:30 – 12 in Conference Room 2 at Public Health. We will begin the discussion of the final report to the BOS.