

Public Health Agency  
323 Route 81  
Killingworth, CT 06419

April 13, 2022  
MINUTES

**Members Present:** Chair Natalie Ortolini Drew, Nancy Gorski, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Staff from the Connecticut River Area Health District: Scott Martinson, Director of Health, Steven Yenco, Chief Sanitarian, Sherry Carlson, Public Health Nurse Supervisor, and Rebecca Drew, Sanitarian-Killingworth

**Members Absent:** Betty Dennis, Robin Duffield, and Mike Stehney

No formal meeting was conducted because of a lack of a quorum. Members present discussed the following:

**First Selectman Update-** Nancy Gorski reported the following:

**Investigating Health Problems/Hazards in the Community-PFAS in Well Water-** The town has submitted an application for a grant for drinking water remediation for both the town well and Killingworth Elementary School. The current plan is to drill a new well to the west of the existing well outside the PFAS range. The estimated cost is \$800,000. A fresh well will eliminate both the salt and PFAS problems. Killingworth Elementary School has an application in for a filtration system. The goal is to receive grant funds and start work early in the fall. Bore hole testing will also try to find the source for the PFAS.

Scott Martinson noted that it could take years in the exploratory stage trying to find the source for the PFAS. In the meantime, the plan is to address the issue with filtration until the source is identified. He explained that Haddam had a similar grant. Steve Yenco added that the issue is still in the hands of the Departments of Public Health (DPH) and Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Nancy suggested that another public information session on the issue, similar to the one previously organized at the firehouse, may be appropriate once the bore holes on the town campus are completed.

Nancy reported that an application for federal design funds has been submitted through Representative Joe Courtney's office. She added that our state representative and senator have also provided a lot of support. She explained that the Killingworth Inn's water is contaminated with PFAS. The new owner wants the town to provide clean water.

Ernest Pizzuto noted that fish in the Hockanum River in Vernon and Manchester have been found with PFAS. A catch and release fishing method is recommended. He added that stocked fish don't stay long enough in the water to pick up PFAS contamination.

**Beechwood Septic Issue-** Nancy reported that CRAHD has stepped in to see what's going on with a septic issue at Beechwood. Steve will get feedback from Rebecca, who did a quick walk through and is working on the issue. Scott added that no one has yet specified the exact issue. There is no sewage on the ground, there was no heavy rain, no odor, or pump-out issue. CRAHD is following up to identify the issue. Nancy explained that pump outs are required every five years.

**Reports-** Scott noted that CRHAD has taken over the permitting process. Rebecca explained that she gives copies of septic repairs to the Building Department. She reported that Running Brook Farms has

added a drink and prepackaged food function to its business. The size of their septic system limited what they could offer.

**Director of Health Update** - Scott Martinson and staff reported the following

**Developing Policies & Plans Supporting Individual/Community Health- Mosquito Control Program-**

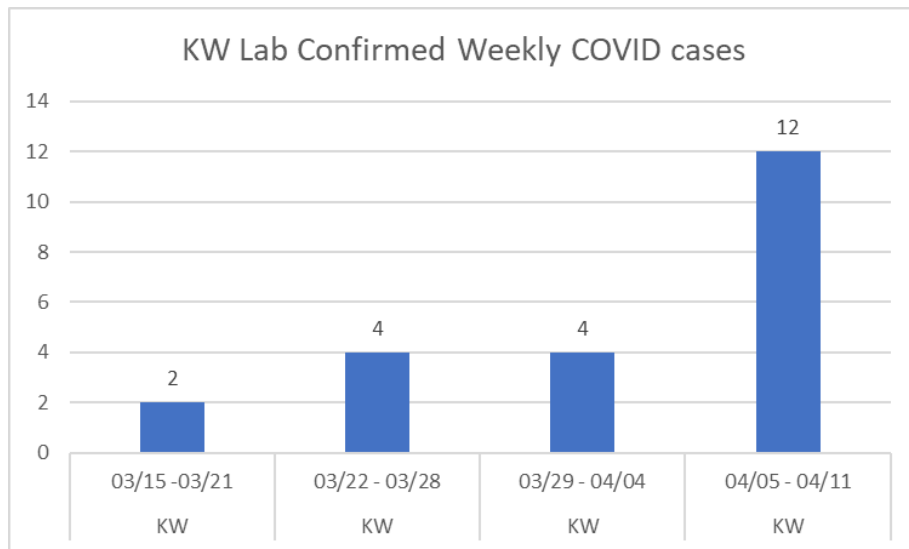
Scott explained that CRAHD offers a mosquito control program three times a year at no cost to the towns in the health district. Scott explained that 10,000 mosquitos can breed in a bottle cap.

Their contractor dumps a larvicide in storm drains and catch basins. The contractors' personnel do the dumps. The program is coordinated through Public Works. The state trooper is notified and CRAHD sends out a press release. The larvicide is safe and will not affect watershed areas. It is effective in standing water for more than 30 days. Scott will check with the contractor to confirm the start date for Killingworth. It usually is around the first of May. He asked what's the best way to let town residents know about the program.

Nancy said she had already submitted her report for the May issue of Killingworth Krier, a monthly newsletter that goes to town residents. She asked to be sent the information so she can include information on the program in her Constant Contact and also put the information on the town website.

COVID- Scott noted that CRAHD continues to offer COVID vaccinations-first and second doses as well as first and second boosters. Sherry added that people can schedule a vaccination for Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday from 3-5pm online (crahd.info) or they can call the office (860-661-3300) and they will help people book an appointment. Scott predicted that future vaccinations may become seasonal, like flu vaccinations are now.

Scott noted that case counts and hospitalizations have increased. He explained that this time hospitalizations may not be lagging two to three weeks behind cases, as happened with earlier variants of the virus. He noted that Killingworth's case rate tripled last week. He added that it's difficult to tell the significance with such small numbers. He sent the chart below to clarify the town's case numbers.



Sherry explained that there is a new test to treat program. People at higher risk are able to get tested and if they are positive get treatments to prevent serious outcomes from their healthcare providers that are appropriate for them.

Nancy asked for information on test to treat sites. Scott said that it's a new federal priority and to tell folks to talk with their primary care providers as it is a complex doctor/patient decision. He will put information on CRAHD's website as soon as it becomes available.

Natalie asked about a recent article on home test kits that raised concerns about people not following directions. Sherry explained that home test kits have built in checks and balances. They will let users know if they did something wrong.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

*Susan M. Nesci*

Sue Nesci  
Secretary