

The Fayette County Board of Health met on Tuesday, May 14, 2002, in the Public Meeting Room in the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

**Board of Health Members Present:**

Dr. John DeCotis  
Lynette Peterson  
Tom Bowman  
Lyn Redwood  
Dr. Michael Strain, Chair  
A. G. VanLandingham

**Staff Members Present:**

Michael Brackett, MD  
Merle Crowe  
Cynthia Grant  
Rick Fehr  
Dennis Davenport, Attorney

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**Call to Order:**

Dr Strain called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes from March 12, 2002:**

Motion was made by Ms. Redwood to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. Bowman. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**Old / Unfinished Business: Public Education on Sewage Systems**

Mr. Fehr mentioned that at the last board meeting it was agreed that he would attend a district committee on public education, which he did several weeks ago. He said he had given preliminary handouts to the board, on types of sewage systems that could be provided to property owners. He said there was discussion at the meeting on the best method of distribution of the material, and that general agreement was that there is no single best way. He said it was felt that each county Health Department should make its own determination of the best way for distribution of this information. He said the committee was still working on rough drafts of information, and that some of the information could be put on websites or in print. He brought the [www.allsepticinformation.org](http://www.allsepticinformation.org) website to the board's attention, saying it provided extensive information on maintaining systems. He referred the board to his handout and the websites listed. He said the committee was still working on this issue, and asked if the board had any further questions.

Dr. Strain asked about the time schedule for getting the information out.

Mr. Fehr responded that the handout only represented two examples of the information under consideration; that it was a work in progress with no deadline.

Ms. Redwood asked if there was just one drip system in use in the county, of the many available. She asked if it would be possible to provide information on other types of drip line systems, so that the homeowner could be given the appropriate information.

Mr. Fehr responded that there were many drip systems on the market, but that they all had to comply with state regulations. He said it would be best to provide appropriate and specific information, which was allowed by state regulations. He said it had been the long-term goal of the district to be as consistent as possible across all the counties, but there is a certain amount of latitude allowing counties to choose what they feel is appropriate.

Ms. Redwood complimented Mr. Fehr on the drip irrigation system sheet and said she wanted to look over it.

Dr. Strain stated that when the information was approved it would need to have a distribution method decided upon, because undistributed information was not useful. He felt that the board should work on that.

Update Fee Policy:

Ms. Crowe addressed current fee policy with the board, saying that consistency across the district was important. She said that District IV had been a leader across the state in standardizing procedures and policies for better collection and dissemination of information. She said that all counties in the district had been working on this issue and had now been asked to standardize fees district-wide, and that the Medicaid Reimbursement Rate Schedule be used as a standard. She commented that the biggest increase for patients would be in family planning fees, which would slide down to zero or to a very low charge in most cases. She reminded the board that the last fee increase, in May of 2001, did not increase Family Planning fees to the allowable maximum, in order to spare patients sticker shock. She said this increase would go to the maximum. She said the other charges were already close to the Medicare charge so very little difference would be noticed.

Ms. Redwood asked what would a teenager be charged.

Ms. Crowe responded zero.

Ms. Peterson made a motion to adjust the fees as requested; Ms. Redwood seconded. There was no discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

McIntosh Trail Appointment:

Ms. Crowe informed the board of McIntosh Trail's request to appoint Terry Willis to their board. She said that the proper form had been received for this request, and that once

Ms. Willis was appointed by the Board of Health, the form would be sent on to the board of Commissioners for their approval.

Motion to appoint Terry Willis to the board of McIntosh Trail Mental Health by Mr. Bowman; seconded by Ms. Peterson. The motion was unanimously approved by the board. There was no discussion.

Peachtree City Appointee:

Ms. Peterson asked Ms. Crowe if there had been any appointment to the Board of Health by Peachtree City.

Ms. Crowe replied that no one had been appointed. She said that there had been no response to Dr. Strain's email requests to Mayor Brown. She said that she had changed the board of health list on the agenda form to reflect the unappointed status of Peachtree City's representative. She said she continued to send agendas, minutes and other documentation to the attention of Mayor Brown, to be passed along to the eventual appointee.

Ms. Peterson asked how lack of a member would impact the quorum.

Mr. Davenport replied that a legal quorum was four members attending on a regular basis, and that fulfilled the duty as a board of health.

Mr. Bowman felt that Thursday night's Peachtree City Council meeting would be a good time to address this issue.

Mr. VanLandingham stated that Mayor Brown had told him that no one sitting on the council could attend board of health meetings. He said their charter called for a council member to be on the board of health. He said he felt that no one would be appointed from this council, therefore it would be two years before someone else would be elected and could accept the board of health position.

Attorney Davenport clarified that state law required the board of health member to be an elected official from the largest municipality in the county. He said that even if Peachtree City amended their charter, state law would prevail. He said there was no requirement for the member to attend a minimum number of meetings.

Ms. Peterson felt that Mayor Brown needed to designate a member for the board, whether or not that person attended meetings.

Dr. Strain requested that Mr. Davenport send a letter to that effect to Mayor Brown.

Mr. Davenport said he recalled that the mayor was the designated person, and that he could appoint one of the council members to attend in his place. He felt that sending board of health information to the mayor, as Ms. Crowe was doing, was a good idea.

Ms. Peterson said she did not feel comfortable with leaving the situation as it is.

Mr. Bowman asked if the board would rather send a letter, or directly address the council.

Mr. VanLandingham said he thought it would be proper for the board to let them know the board was concerned about this situation. He said he thought they should be asked to make another attempt to get someone appointed to the board of health. He said one board member had been asked to accept nomination to the board and had refused.

Ms. Redwood said she would like to see a letter sent to Mayor Brown and copied to all members of the city council. She said she would also like to see this issue placed on Peachtree City's next meeting agenda.

Mr. Davenport asked if it would be appropriate for him to draft a letter, present it to the chair to sign, and send it to Mayor Brown. The board agreed that it would.

Ms. Crowe asked if the board had further questions; there were none.

**New Business / Public Comment: Request for Variance by Steven Costello:**

Mr. Costello informed the board that he lived in Silver Springs Estates and that he was requesting a variance to have his septic drainage field moved to the edge of his property line, within the five-foot setback. He said he had a contractor to come out to install a new field line; but when the ground was examined a trash pit was found in the selected area, and regulations forbid installation of septic lines within fifteen feet of such a pit. He said several test holes dug by Environmentalist Mr. Guy Walls found no other suitable land on his property for a septic tank. Mr. Walls advised Mr. Costello that he had two options: get a variance, or get tests performed by a soil scientist and install an engineered system, at an approximate cost of \$15,000. He said that option was not feasible and he was present to request a variance to install a conventional system up to the property line, at an approximate cost of \$1500.

Dr. Stain requested clarification/definition of a variance from attorney Dennis Davenport.

Mr. Davenport stated that variances required hardship or a compelling reason for the board to consider allowing such a structure to violate the setbacks. He said these regulations are state mandated and enforced through the county environmental health departments. He stated that Environmental Health inspected septic tanks and their distances from drain fields, ensuring that they are consistent with state regulations and county ordinances. He said in this case a variance would come through this board.

Ms. Redwood asked if trash pits were still allowed.

Mr. Costello replied that the house was about seventeen years old and that the trash pit had been put in before the regulation forbidding them was in effect.

Ms. Redwood asked if the existing system had failed, or was failing.

Mr. Costello replied that the system was currently functioning at about 90 %. He said steps were being taken not to overload the system; such as doing laundry elsewhere and limiting shower time. He said the system was presently adequate but he was desirous of getting it back to full capacity.

Ms. Peterson asked if he would describe his property boundaries; what it abutted on each property line; how large the property was, and what were the neighbors.

Mr. Costello replied the property was an acre, with a creek on one side which drained most of the water in the neighborhood. He said the tank would need to go on the left side of the property, and the neighbor on that side was approximately seventy feet from the property line. He said she doesn't have a problem with his drain field being that close to the line, since there is no other suitable place on the property for a line.

Ms. Peterson asked if he knew where the neighbor's drain field was on her property.

Mr. Costello replied that her drain field was approximately thirty feet from the property line, on a hill above his property.

Ms. Peterson said her concern was that the neighbor could have a problem if her septic line failed and needed to be relocated in the same area.

Mr. Costello clarified that most of his property is on the right side of the house, which is up the hill. He felt that dirt on that side would be good.

Ms. Redwood questioned the creek and watershed aspect of this property, asking if that would be a problem.

Mr. Fehr replied that he understood from the county engineering department that almost all of Fayette County was a groundwater recharge area. He said that all sewage drain field lines have to be at least fifty feet from the normal high water mark of surface water. He restated that this situation was complicated by the water and the trash pit, and regulations which require drain field lines to be at least fifteen feet away. He asked if staff had discussed with Mr. Costello the possibility of removing the material from the pit.

Mr. Costello replied that both Mr. Walls and the contractor felt that removal of the material from the pit would be as expensive as installing an engineered septic system. He said that no effort had been made to obtain an official estimate of this process.

Mr. VanLandingham wanted to revisit the issue of the cost of removal of the trash pit versus that of an engineered system. He mentioned that 90% performance of a septic system in Fayette County was not bad, and that the sad thing was that Mr. Costello was restricted to a one-acre lot, no alternate site, and a trash pit. He said that it could not be assumed that the neighbor's system would continue to function, and that she could be facing the same problem at any time. He said he would rather see removal and refilling of the trash pit before a variance was considered, because he felt that this was a very serious thing. He said he could not impose on a neighbor until all other alternatives were exhausted. He asked if cost figures could be presented to the board.

Mr. Costello said there was no way to tell exactly how big the trash pit is; the estimate was that it went underneath the driveway. He said he dug right up to the driveway with a rented backhoe and filled in that portion of the pit with a couple of loads of dirt he had brought in. He said that since he did the work himself, the cost was about \$500. He said the cost would be much greater for breaking up and replacing the driveway. He said he understood the board's position on protecting the neighbor's drain field property.

Dr. Strain asked Mr. Fehr if the current septic system diagram showed any way to be expanded and still stay five feet away from the property line.

Mr. Fehr stated that normal procedure is that if a drain field is saturated, additional line provides no solution. He said studies from North Carolina said that it takes six months to two years for a system to dry sufficiently to be used, even part-time. He said in this case it would be best to provide another system, if possible, because adding on to an existing (saturated) system begins the process of overloading the additional line.

Dr. Strain commented that even if the trash pit was filled in, that area could not be used for a certain period of time.

Mr. Fehr replied that the elimination of a trash pit allowed use of the property right up to it, instead of fifteen feet away. He said it does create a little more space. He clarified that the existing policy is that adjacent property owners are allowed to have a legal easement agreement, after full discussion at great length with the owner that any land that they give up for a neighbor would decrease available land for their use. He said if the property is five or more acres, this is not a problem; however, with one or two acres most owners are reluctant to provide this easement.

Ms. Peterson said she had sad experience with trash pits; that her property had a trash pit left by the builder which was filled in at great expense, since it included the building debris from several houses built at the same time. She said ten years later it is sinking again and she needs several thousand dollars worth of dirt to fill in the pit. She said this process is much more complicated than it sounds at first.

Mr. Fehr asked if Mr. Costello and his neighbor are on public water supply.

Mr. Costello replied that they were.

Mr. Bowman agreed with the board on the trash pit. He said he was concerned about infiltration of the trash pit into the groundwater system. He felt that a trash pit provided a straight conduit for groundwater encroachment, even if it is back filled. He asked if Mr. Fehr agreed.

Mr. Fehr concurred and said that in other areas where trash pits were filled, a certain amount of compacting was necessary to prevent infiltration of water. He said that until that occurs there is loose soil which allows infiltration of groundwater.

Ms. Redwood asked how many additional feet would allow this system to function, and if a new septic tank would be needed.

Mr. Fehr replied that normally the drain field is replaced, but the tank is not unless it is damaged. He said the original line was 250 linear feet for a three-bedroom residence. He said some systems allow for a 50% reduction in field line, but he didn't know if staff found that system feasible for this lot.

Mr. Bowman asked if there was now enough information to make a decision on this request; or if there was enough property to allow a reduction in field line requirement. He asked if it would be better for staff to take another look at the property and report back to the board.

Mr. Costello remarked that reducing the field line requirement had already been discussed with Mr. Walls, who had determined that there was available space for only about seventy feet of field line.

Dr. Strain asked if the trash pit could be shrunk without disturbing the driveway, to allow for more space for the field line.

Mr. Costello replied that he dug all the way up to the driveway and removed the material for about eight feet down. He said that had added about four feet to the available space. He said the contractor did not know ahead of time that the pit was there; it was discovered when the equipment sunk into the ground. He said the test hole just missed the pit, and that there is no way to tell how big it is. He said he was the original owner of the house and that he never saw this pit during construction. He said the material in the pit was trees from the original clearing of the lot, and that it had degraded to topsoil.

Mr. VanLandingham said that that was worse than a construction material trash pit.

Mr. Fehr stated that the board had pretty much all the information needed to make a decision, but that he would be glad to personally inspect the property and see if there is anything else he could do, especially if Mr. Costello had removed part of the trash pit. He recommended that the board approve or disapprove the variance at this time, since

there would not be another meeting for two months. He said if another solution could be found, he would be glad to do that. He said even if the board approved an easement of less than five feet, Environmental Health would still require a legal easement agreement.

Mr. Davenport asked if the four feet gained by Mr. Costello's action was four feet in general, or if it was four feet off of the property line.

Mr. Costello said it was just four feet and would not ease his problem. He said it just allowed them to separate the lines more, and that requirements are that the centers of the trenches for lines be at least eight feet apart.

Ms. Redwood said then the lines would go right up to the neighbor's property line, but not over the line; but it would encroach into the five foot easement.

Mr. Costello agreed.

Ms. Redwood stated that the board was hesitant to approve variances because it sets a precedent. She said they were trying to protect the health of all Fayette County citizens.

Dr. Strain said he would like to see how much could be gained by evacuating more of the trash pit and asked where it was on the diagram.

Mr. Costello pointed out the area for the board and stated that the numbers on the diagram were estimates and not completely accurate. He said this was the original drawing, and that the new line would go in the same general area as the old one.

Ms. Redwood asked if the new drain field would be installed in the same location of the lot if the soil were saturated.

Mr. Fehr replied that that was not normal practice. He said a new system would be installed at an extremely deep depth, or a drip system at about eight to ten inches deep.

Mr. Costello said that the existing system was not failing; that they were taking measures to lessen the load on the system, and that it was not urgent that the situation be resolved today.

Dr. Strain stated that if there were no urgency the board would like to seek alternatives to a variance. He said he felt that this situation would arise more and more often in Fayette County, as systems age and begin to fail. He said there had always been provision for failing systems, but unexpected situations like this arise and must be resolved.

Mr. Fehr said easements had been adjusted from ten feet to five, and state regulations might possibly be adjusted again in the future. He said the aim was to keep systems within property lines, regardless of easement distance.

Dr. Strain asked the board how it felt about sending Mr. Fehr out to assess the situation, have him gather dollar amounts for proposed solutions, and report back. He said Mr. Fehr's experience would allow him to make the best determination of the situation. He asked Mr. Davenport what action the board could take.

Mr. Davenport replied that a meeting would be needed to make a vote, and that one could be called with 24 hours notice, following the usual notification procedure.

Dr. Strain said he agreed with Ms. Redwood about not establishing precedents and he felt that it would be best not to make a decision on this request today. He asked what was the pleasure of the board on this issue.

Ms. Peterson said she would be more comfortable granting the variance request if there were more reasons to grant it, and that she felt it would be better if Mr. Costello agreed to allow the board to look further into this issue. She said she would be willing to come to a called meeting to vote on this issue.

Ms. Redwood said she wanted to see more detailed drawings and cost estimates before she would feel comfortable voting. She also wanted to see a signed easement agreement from the neighbor.

Mr. VanLandingham said the board wanted to help Mr. Costello and he wanted him to realize that the board felt that the agreed upon process would best do that; he also pointed out that the board must protect all the citizens of Fayette County.

Mr. Davenport asked the board if it would be best to go ahead and set a June meeting, which could be cancelled if the issue is resolved prior to the scheduled meeting.

Ms. Peterson proposed the date of June 11, 2002 at the usual time.

Ms. Redwood made a motion to set a June 11, 2002 meeting; Mr. VanLandingham seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Strain called for discussion on the motion; there was none.

Ms. Redwood made a motion to table the Costello variance request until the called June 11, 2002 meeting; Mr. VanLandingham seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Strain called for discussion on the motion; there was none.

**Presentation by Jill Holmes Long:**

Ms. Holmes Long introduced herself and stated that she was present to update the board on the Fayette FACTOR organization (*Fayette Alliance Coordinating Teamwork, Outreach and Resources*). She said this group was affiliated with the State Family Connection Partnership. She told the board that the organization's planned goal for the year was to

address the issue of youth and healthy children; particularly youths using alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. She mentioned that District 4 had resources to assist with this goal, and stressed that Fayette County youth had been able to purchase tobacco products on one out of every three attempts. She invited the board to take a look at the Compliance Checker for Fayette County at the [www.fda.gov](http://www.fda.gov) site, saying that this information can be checked by Zip code. She mentioned that in the last eighteen months there had not been much prevention activity for Fayette County. She said that in the past the Fayette Board of Health had been supportive of these efforts and she wanted to invite the board to renew their commitment. She hoped that the board would join FACTOR in prevention of the use of tobacco products by youth, which would help insure that youth did not use it as a gateway to other drug use. She said that Dr. DeCotis sits on the FACTOR board, as well as Judge Chris Edwards and Judge Terry Schell, who was part-time Juvenile Court Justice.

She said she was also present to show the board the help book compiled by FACTOR. She explained that the help book is a resource containing information on eighty-one providers in Fayette County. She said it lists everything from Boy and Girls Scouts to DFACS; the Health Department, YMCA and others. She stated that the front part is a page-by-page descriptor of each provider; the back contained a set indexes of all providers, and the back pocket of the binder had a sheet for updating providers should one be left out. She said everything was accurate at the time of press and would be updated as information comes in. She emphasized that this was a first edition, and that a second edition was planned, which would be put on CD-ROM.

Ms. Peterson asked what type of help the board could provide.

Ms. Holmes Long replied that support would come from health department staff, such as nurses counseling patients on preventing tobacco use. She mentioned that nurses had already been sent to smoking cessation workshops from the American Cancer Society. She also felt that Environmental Health could create awareness that ETS (Environmental Tobacco Smoke, or Second Hand Smoke) helped create childhood asthma, allergies, and respiratory disease. She mentioned that District IV was helping with this issue; and invited them to the "Tobacco Show and Tell" day on Thursday, June 6, 2002 at the Peachtree City Library. The District IV coordinator will participate, as well as the American Heart, American Lung, and American Cancer Society representatives. She said this would provide the community with information, pamphlets, flyers, and other information and that the 4-H Agent, the YMCA, and the school district are all on board with this effort. She said it was hoped that kids would then get double exposure to this issue, and come to realize that choices made today had long-term health results.

Ms. Redwood said she appreciated the information and hoped that the board could become more involved in this issue, which she felt was important and should not get pushed to the side. She said her concern was that children were able to purchase cigarettes so easily in Fayette County, and that was an enforcement issue. She said she

had observed teenaged employees selling cigarettes to their friends herself, and that this should be brought to law enforcement's attention.

Ms. Holmes Long felt that it was ironic that there are laws to prevent the purchase of alcohol by people younger than twenty-one years; to prevent adults giving alcohol to minors; but that the law which prevents purchasing of tobacco products by youth does not prevent *tobacco use*, perhaps because we are a tobacco growing state. She asked if there were any other questions, and presented each board member with a help book.

Mr. Bowman asked if there was involvement with women and smoking. He referred to last year's Surgeon General Report and its alarming statistics.

Ms. Holmes Long replied that the state mandate directed FACTOR's efforts toward children and youth, which meant that women were not targeted. She asked for the board's ideas on this issue. She thanked the board for its time and attention.

**Staff Reports:**

Ms. Grant gave the board a brief staff report. She updated the board on the procedure public health nurses follow regarding tobacco use prevention. She said they are mandated to counsel adults who report that they smoke; that this is part of the medical history taken. She said this applies particularly to adults who had children in the home. She said they are given information, cessation was discussed and options given. She said there was now a cessation program at Fayette Community Hospital where nurses can refer patients. She said there was cessation literature available in physical health, and that WIC mothers were given counseling as well.

She continued with information regarding cessation of indigent care trust funds, saying that this action effectively removed Children 1<sup>st</sup> as a program in all health departments. She said that Children 1<sup>st</sup> was told that they were doing fine on Friday and on Monday the funding was discontinued. She mentioned that on a monthly basis seven to twelve Children 1<sup>st</sup> patients were normally seen. She said this meant that a nurse would make a home visit to those children who were identified to be at risk. She clarified that lack of funding has caused other programs in other counties to be dropped as well. She mentioned that Fayette County Health Department has no Teen Center, so was not affected as drastically as it could have been. She said that resources were being shifted and that in some areas things were looking up. She informed the board that funds would be given on a quarterly basis for administrative work; work that had always been done but had not before been reimbursed. She told the board that while some counties had experienced a reduction of Grant-In-Aid funding for Fiscal Year 2003, Fayette County would receive a little less than \$5000 more. She said that when family planning and administration fees were recently increased, as referred to by Ms. Crowe, it resulted in a significant increase in revenue, and that we were ahead of predicted revenues. She brought to the board's attention that many fees slide, and offered to provide the board with a schedule of those fees that do slide. She said that family planning fee increases will only affect those people who pay 100%; people who have private insurance but

prefer to come to the health department for personal reasons. She said the majority of patients who come in for family planning do not pay 100%. She said the board had been provided a copy of the latest MMWR report from the Centers for Disease Control, which enumerated changes in immunization requirements. She mentioned audits the health department had done on about fifty daycare centers, saying that workers had expressed concerns about knowing immunization requirements, and that in-services were planned to educate day care workers on state requirements for immunizations as a result of these audits.

She mentioned that she was involved in restructuring the health curriculum in the Fayette County School System, which was due for an update and review this year. She said students were not up to date on information on how to protect themselves from sexually transmitted disease. She said students had complained that school videotapes were from the late nineteen sixties, and that they had no relevance to life today. She said the purpose of this restructuring was to teach students how to stay well, so the committee was looking at new textbooks and so on. She said the committee consisted of educators, parents whose children attend local schools, and the health department. She said there had not been a lot of success with the parent component. She told the board that there was a meeting that night at the LaFayette Center from seven to eight o'clock, to discuss these issues. She mentioned the list of words that are forbidden in STD (sexually transmitted disease) education, and the difficulty of teaching prevention of STD if relevant words cannot be used. She felt that good judgement could possibly be relied on in some cases, and that those teaching the classes would need to be inserviced.

New Income Source: Dr. Brackett mentioned that new sources of income were very important; that costs could be cut only so far and payment for case management would be invaluable. He said that fees could be received for such case management. He said that penetration of Medicaid market, multiplied by an applied administrative factor, would determine the amount of these fees the health department would receive. He said that this quarter the amount to be received was about \$15,000, which was money which had never before been received, and that was one of the few bits of good financial news.

Bioterrorism: Mr. VanLandingham praised the Tabletop Bioterrorism Exercise that Fayette County conducted. He said Dr. Brackett had contributed much to this exercise and that he "tooted our horn" a little at the ACCG meeting in Savannah. He said that there are a lot of counties way behind Fayette.

Dr. Brackett said that District IV consisted of twelve counties and that Fayette County was a stellar performer in the district.

Lake Edith: Ms. Redwood updated the board on Lake Edith, saying that the EPD was monitoring the situation closely and would continue to do so. She said she would contact the EPD to stay on top of this issue.

**West Nile Virus:** Mr. Bowman asked about ongoing education on West Nile Virus.

Ms. Grant replied that quite a bit had been done last year. She said that she and Robert Kurbes had done in-services at fire stations and that information had been developed for the schools. She said nothing was going on right now.

Mr. VanLandingham said he had gotten a question about spraying for mosquitoes, and asked if there is such a program in Fayette County. He said he had informed the citizen that asked the question that there was no such program, since no mosquitoes carrying the virus had been identified.

Dr. Brackett replied that it was true that no cases of West Nile virus had been identified in District IV, adding that such cases might be here and currently unidentified. He felt that surely cases had gone through, but were not caught. He said that spraying for mosquitoes involved putting chemicals in the environment, and that was controversial; especially since it may or may not have an impact on what it was hoped to achieve. He said to have an impact would require killing the entire population of mosquitoes, which was not possible. He said the most effective prevention was protection of the individual by spraying on insect repellent.

Mr. Bowman said he had recently attended a Metro Atlanta Civilian Task Force meeting and that one of the main subjects discussed was updating their position paper on West Nile virus. He said he would attempt to get copies of that information to the board.

Ms. Peterson pointed out that interest in West Nile Virus waned after 9/11 last year.

Mr. Bowman said when the first case appeared in Atlanta interest would be high again.

Dr. Brackett said that overall people should fear Influenza and Eastern Equine Encephalitis far more than West Nile Virus. He said these were endemic, had a higher mortality rate, and would kill totally healthy people. He felt that West Nile was more a scientific curiosity than a public health problem and that as a board he advised that efforts be concentrated in these other areas, especially since a good monitoring / reporting system was already in place for West Nile virus.

**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Peterson and seconded by Mr. Bowman. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

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Michael Strain, MD

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Merle Crowe, Admin. Ops. Coord. II

