

## Spokane County Commission Meeting Transcript July 19th, 2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kuLB8RWcSWc>

26:01

Al French: Evidently, i'm still trying to put the history together on this so um I might be uh fairly... but um, Evidently there was an opportunity to get a grant from ecology an amount of about \$450 thousand that would do well testing out in the west plains for he PFAS and PFOs. And as I'm ferreting through this, evidently uh it was a grant that was put together by Mike Hermansen. And then at some point in time it was determined that maybe the Health District ought to be the lead on it since it's a health issue as opposed to a water resource issue. But I could be wrong there so I don't want, don't hold me to that, but now evidently the health district got it and they want to partner with the county because they don't have the ability to execute on the grant but they don't want to lose the grant so we've got to either agree to partner with them or the money goes away and stuff and so um and so I...Do either one of you remember this conversation or not? *(looking to woman in beige shirt and man in blue shirt, woman shakes her head slowly "no")*

27:16

Al French: I, I was challenged by when I had constituents in right before two o'clock and they were sharing this with me and and I was, I was challenged with trying to remember it. But I could, it would make sense to send it over to the health district since it's a health issue but I gotta be honest with you, I'm a little vague on some of the details and stuff...And if, setting all that aside, would be would we be willing to partner with the health district to go ahead and take advantage of the grant get the testing done? Because a lot of wells out there and in the palisades area and the west plains and stuff don't know what level of contamination they have. And every one of the tests is like a four or five hundred dollar cost and not everybody has the four or five hundred dollars to do a test on their well so they don't know whether they're contaminated or not stuff so it seems to me like god this would be an easy lift for us to just partner with health district or whatever and say you know let's go let's let's execute on the grant so we can get the at least get the information.

28:14

Man in Blue shirt: Does that mean county staff would be going to each of these properties and taking a sample and then go or

Man in white shirt: We would probably do that in concert with um third parties assistants but we could we could help oversee the program administer the program because we have some knowledge and our, our uh, Rob Lindsey's team is, is aware of this and um we could, we could step into that so I could, I could

have Rob come and give a briefing to the board give you a little more overview of what this would look like would entail how much lift on county team it would be and just timing when we could take this off

28:52

Al French: Evidently based on the information i got before or two o'clock um ecology is saying to the health district, either execute on the on the grant or we're going to take it away. And so there's a window of opportunity for us to say, "yeah we'll support you",um but that's as much as you know about it and stuff. And so it seems to me like something we would do.

29:20

Al French: But I might have missed something so I that's why I'm bringing it back and saying is this something we ought to be participating in i mean it's it's, it's grant money that's going to come to you the health district of the county uh to administer and why would we not do it.

29:40

Woman in Beige: Do you know when that was? For some reason I remember some conversation back when Bob was here.

French: Yeah it you know, based on the information thats given to me today, it was my current study that actually put together the grant and, and they put together a partnership to go after the grant money and ecology said god this is a great grant we'd fund it but at some point in in that discussion it went from the

30:02 county to the health district i thought, well okay maybe they treat it as a health issue, which i could understand, but then it just kind of got out idle and stuff. nd so the constituents are saying the county is saying, **'no and i'm going i don't**

**remember this coming to us to say yes or no' so I told him I would get back to**  
30:30 **him but I said I'd be surprised if the county was standing in the way but maybe**  
**there's something I didn't know or meeting I didn't attend or whatever. So, this is**  
**something you guys be in favor of partnering with the help district on or not?**

30:39

Woman in Beige: I think so, I think I mean Rob came in at one point and briefed us on some tests, well testing a couple of years ago this

30:52

French: Evidently, his started back in 2017 and so there have been a number of different efforts ever since the Fairchild discovered the PFOS PFAS there have been a number of different efforts to get testing and there was a grant that was issued for testing but it was for all the wells that lied west of Hayford and these properties (*refers to map*)

31:18

French: green is the properties that would be impacted that lie east of Hayford and so these didn't get any of the testing money, these did. **And so maybe it got lost ...and so anyway that's what i know, and i apologize for being cryptic on it it's what i know that i've learned in the last two hours, so that's it, so but if it sounds like something we'd lean into then you know i can go ahead and coordinate that i think we've got somebody that can administer everything**