



Public Health
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MEIGS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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**Board of Health Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2023**

Board of Health (BOH) President Roger Gaul called the convention to order at 5:01PM.

In attendance: Gaul; BOH Vice President (VP) Edna Weber; Administrator Courtney Midkiff; Director of Environmental Health Steve Swatzel; Registered Environmental Health Specialist in Training (REHSIT) Carrie Cheek; Health Commissioner Marc Barr; BOH Member Pam Patterson; BOH Member Eric Rock and BOH Medical Member Wilma Mansfield, MD.

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Weber offered prayer.

New Staff Introduction:

Cheek was introduced to the Membership. Self-introductions ensued by each Member. Cheek, who is a Scioto County native that now resides in Meigs County, worked for the Soil and Water Conservation District in Lawrence County for 14.5 years. She has experience with flood plain and storm system management. She also has been a Township Fiscal Officer and a substitute teacher. Cheek currently has outside employment with the Southeastern Ohio Youth Mentoring Program's After School Program with which she was employed before being hired by the Meigs County Health Dept. (MCHD) on June 20th. After being welcomed by the Membership, Cheek exited the meeting at 5:09PM.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Midkiff beseeched a motion to approve the 7/11/23 BOH Meeting Minutes as emailed prior to the meeting for Member review. Rock made a motion to approve the document as emailed; Gaul seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

New Business:

Midkiff requested a motion to approve the July 2023 fiscal report as presented; payment of July 2023 bills as presented via the expenditure spreadsheet; the July 2023 daily deposit records as submitted to the County Auditor/Treasurer; the July 2023 billing remuneration report. There were no July donations. Rock made a motion to approve the fiscal items as presented; Gaul seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Midkiff asked for a motion to approve retroactively the consulting agreement with *HRinPerspective, LLC* effective 1/1/24 – 12/31/24 in the amount of \$2,500 via the Public Health Workforce 23 grant. The company will administer an employee engagement survey on behalf of the MCHD. Patterson made a motion to approve retroactively the agreement, which was emailed to Members prior to the meeting for review; Mansfield seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Environmental Health:

There were five nuisance complaints resulting in investigations in July 2023 including two sewage inspections; one food service operation inspection; one other investigation (involving living conditions at a residence) and one solid waste investigation. There were six animal bites investigated in July 2023 involving four dogs and two cats.

There were two complete bids for the following WPCLF Projects:
49349 State Route 124 Racine 45771 - Darla Tucker (HSTS repair)
30815 Lovett Road Portland 45770 - Stephanie Jones (HSTS replacement)
Both the projects will be 100% grant funded. Dais Septic Services bid \$13,325 and Duncan & Daniels Enterprises bid \$12,557. Gaul made a motion to approve the lowest bid from Duncan & Daniels Enterprises.; Rock seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Swatzel announced that the public health nuisance at 226 Cole Street in Middleport was abated satisfactorily by property owners Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Roush.

Midkiff initiated a discussion about the MCHD coordinating additional scrap tire amnesty by obtaining another trailer from Liberty Tire Services later this year. The agency continues to receive calls from the public inquiring about availability of the service. The MCHD can apply again for OEPA Mosquito Control grant funds in Oct. for 2024. The next Meigs County Cleanup Day will not occur until May 2024. Swatzel shared that Liberty Tire Services charges approximately \$3,000 per trailer. After discussion, the Members concurred that the MCHD should proceed with offering additional scrap tire amnesty by renting a trailer with general funds, but assess a fee per tire to help cover the expense. Rock made a motion to charge \$2 per tire; Weber seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Swatzel exited the meeting at 5:25PM.

Other New Business:

Senior Management decided not to apply for the FY 2024 Creating Healthy Communities Grant via ODH. An explanation with multifaceted reasons was emailed to Members previously. Midkiff solicited a motion to approve the MCHD's decision not to apply for the grant funds. Gaul made a motion to approve the decision, which was seconded by Mansfield. Motion carried unanimously.

Midkiff shared the results of the 2023 Employee Satisfaction Surveys with Members.

The WIC Management Evaluation, which is being conducted by ODH, is underway. ODH program personnel were on site today, but much of the survey has been done virtually and/or via desk review. Senior Management will share the results with the BOH upon receipt from ODH.

There was discussion about requiring patients to provide insurance cards and photo IDs when presenting to the MCHD for clinical services. Often patients or their guardians fail to bring these documents, which causes issues with registration and medical claim billing. Barr relayed that neighboring health departments

give patients the option of coming back with the appropriate documentation for services or self-paying for services (after being provided with a list of fees). Children who are eligible for the Vaccine for Children Program (which is a federal program) cannot be denied services and adults eligible for 317 (state funded vaccine) would only have to present photo IDs. The Members concurred that this would be a better option than turning people away while still requiring patients to take responsibility for their own healthcare.

Old Business:

Barr noted increasing vector-borne infections (especially those involving ticks) within the July Meigs County Infectious Disease Report. There were 10 new Lyme Disease cases noted in July. It is suspected there are more cases, but an underreporting of cases. Antibiotic use and the possibility of resistance is a concern for treatment. Meanwhile, the presence of the Asian long-horn tick in Ohio is a detriment to the health and longevity of livestock and pets. In addition, there were 17 confirmed COVID 19 cases in Meigs County in July, which was an increase of six since June.

Midkiff reviewed building improvements suggested by staff in the Employee Satisfaction Survey. Meanwhile, she mentioned First Amendment Audits, which were discussed during mandated County HR training conducted on behalf of CORSA by Fishel, Downey, Albrecht & Riepenhoff earlier today. First Amendment audits are a largely American social movement that usually involves photographing or filming from a public space. It is often categorized by its practitioners, known as auditors, as activism and citizen journalism that tests constitutional rights, in particular the right to photograph and video record in a public space (a right normally covered by the first amendment). Auditors believe that the movement promotes transparency and open government. Midkiff is attempting to schedule a staff training with a representative from Fishel, Downey, Albrecht & Riepenhoff soon.

Miscellaneous Business:

Upcoming events and closures include the Aug. 9 Staff Meeting beginning at 8:15AM; Sept. 4 Labor Day Holiday Closure; Sept. 20th Annual Workforce Development (WFD)/Employee Recognition Day at Rutland Bottle Gas BLDG on the Fairgrounds beginning at 8:15AM; Sept. 21 – Get Healthy Meigs Meeting 10:30AM at MCJFS.

Midkiff asked Members to RSVP for the Annual WFD/Employee Recognition Day so that she could have an accurate meal count for the caterer. Gaul indicated he planned to attend.

Adjournment:

The next BOH Meeting will take place on 9/12/23 at 5:00 PM in the conference room of the MCHD.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:04PM with a motion by Gaul.

Marc Barr, MS
Health Commissioner

(Administrator Courtney C. Midkiff, BSC transcribed the 8/8/23 meeting minutes.)

