



Public Health
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MEIGS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Board of Health Meeting Minutes May 14, 2024

Board of Health (BOH) President Roger Gaul called the convention to order at 5:00PM.

In attendance: Gaul; Administrator Courtney Midkiff; Director of Environmental Health Steve Swatzel; Health Commissioner Marc Barr; BOH Medical Member Wilma Mansfield, MD; BOH Vice President Edna Weber, who entered the meeting at 5:02PM; BOH Member Eric Rock; BOH Member Pam Patterson; Registered Environmental Health Specialist Elizabeth Fisher.

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Midkiff offered prayer.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Midkiff beseeched a motion to approve the 4/9/24 BOH Meeting Minutes as emailed prior to the meeting for Member review. Rock made a motion to approve the document as emailed; Mansfield seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

New Business:

Midkiff requested a motion to approve the April 2024 BOH Fiscal Report; payment of BOH monthly bills as presented via spreadsheet; the April 2024 daily deposits to the Auditor's Office; April 2024 billing remuneration report; an original 2024 appropriation into T063T02 (Cardiovascular Health Supplies) of \$748; increase 2024 original appropriation of T073T02 (PHEP ODC) by \$1,690.49 for a total appropriation of \$3,190.49; increase 2024 original appropriation of T073T04 (PHEP contracts) by \$7,101.13 for a total appropriation of \$7,901.13; increase 2024 revenue for T073T01 from \$26,875.37 to \$39,650. There were no April 2024 donations. Rock made a motion to approve the fiscal reports and items as emailed or presented; Gaul seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Midkiff asked for a motion to approve retroactively the CORSA annual commercial insurance premium in the amount of \$3,357 (\$74 increase from 2023). Mansfield made a motion to approve retroactively the CORSA annual premium; Patterson seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. Midkiff sought a motion to approve retroactively the Public Entity Pool (PEP) of Ohio annual liability insurance premium in the amount of \$5,762.85 (\$77.88 decrease from 2023 with a \$397.15 member distribution credit). Gaul made a motion to approve retroactively the PEP annual premium; Rock seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. Members concurred that the Meigs County Health Dept.'s (MCHD) Cost Allocation Plan should be used to assess a portion of the costs from both premiums to reimburse the General Fund.

Midkiff asked for a motion to approve the revised MCHD Record Retention and Destruction Policy, which was emailed to the Membership prior to the meeting for review. Gaul made a motion to approve the revised policy as emailed; Weber seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Midkiff beseeched a motion to approve retroactively a Service Agreement by and between the MCHD Public Health Workforce (PHWF) 23 Grant and Holzer Hospital Foundation in the amount of \$3,125 effective 5/1/24-12/31/25 for staff training. The agreement was emailed to the Membership prior to the meeting for review. Gaul made a motion to approve retroactively the agreement as emailed; Rock seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Midkiff requested a motion to approve retroactively the FY 2025 contract by and between MCHD/WIC and Ellen Mingus of Nutrition Consulting Services of Southeast Ohio effective 10/1/24 in the amount of \$2,160. Mingus is an RD/LD who reviews the work of WIC Certifying Health Professional Jenna Petry as required by ODH. The contract was emailed to the Membership prior to the meeting for review. Mansfield made a motion to approve retroactively the contract as emailed; Patterson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Environmental Health:

In April 2024, there were nine nuisance complaints resulting in one sewage investigation; five solid waste investigations; two food service operation inspections; one tick identification. There were five animal bites investigated in April 2024 all involving dogs.

Midkiff sought a motion to approve retroactively the OEPA 2024 Mosquito Control Contract effective 4/30/24-4/30/25 in the amount of \$24,942. The contract was emailed to the Membership prior to the meeting for review. Rock made a motion to approve retroactively the contract as emailed; Gaul seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

A nuisance hearing was conducted for Gary and Linda Freeman, who reside at 42015 Seneca Drive in Pomeroy, for Notice of Violation: *Ohio Administrative Code, Section 3701-29-06(I)-Whenever a sanitary sewerage system becomes accessible to a dwelling or structure served by a STS, the dwelling and/or structures shall be connected to the sanitary sewerage system and the STS abandoned in accordance with rule 3701-29-21 of the Administrative Code.* The new SR 833 Pomeroy sewer expansion is accessible to all the homes on Seneca Drive including the Freemans. All other residents have connected except for Freeman. Mr. Freeman has gotten into physical altercations with two contractors working on the project. Swatzel explained the details of the MCHD's involvement with the situation to date. He explained that grant funds were available to assist residents with connection that the Freemans failed to take advantage of. Swatzel stated that a public health nuisance that occurred on property along Pomeroy Pike owned by Meigs Local School District was likely as a result of failed household sewage systems on Seneca Drive. Rock made a motion to refer Gary and Linda Freeman to the County Prosecutor for further legal action; Weber seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

A nuisance hearing was conducted for Sikoriski's Family Restaurant located at 301 South Third Street in Racine. The MCHD conducted an Administrative Hearing on 4/05/24 with Stephanie Sikorski for ongoing violations of clean food-contact surfaces, date marking foods held more than 24 hours and properly storing wiping cloths in sanitizing solution. To assist with compliance, Swatzel required checklists for both shift

and closing crews along with any persons-in-charge (PIC) to pass an approved "Level 1" food safety course. Swatzel announced that the MCHD was notified today at 3:17PM that the facility has complied with one employee taking and passing the PIC "Level 1" food safety course.

There was one WPCLF project out for bid including two repairs at 30485 Rose Valley Road in Syracuse for Linda Johnson (100% funded) and at 32119 Welshtown Road in Pomeroy for Julie Will (100% funded). The MCHD received two complete bids from Dais Septic Services in the amount of \$8,350 and from Duncan & Daniels Enterprises in the amount of \$7,577. Rock made a motion to approve the lowest bid from Duncan & Daniels Enterprises; Gaul seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

There was a septic variance request from Branson Cleland of 31495 Lasher Road in Rutland. *Ohio Administrative Code, Section 3701-29-06(G)(4): A STS shall be sited on the same parcel as the structures or dwelling served by the STS.* Because of a very unusual lot split where the property line cuts diagonally in front of the home, the leach field will set on another property. An easement has been established for this propose. Patterson made a motion to grant the variance retroactive to 4/9/24; Weber seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

There was a septic variance request from Denise L. Manuel of 43510 Lavender Road in Racine. *Ohio Administrative Code, Section 3701-29-06(H)(1) A new STS shall not be sited in an area identified as a flood way, and only below grade soil absorption components of a new STS may be sited within any part of the one-hundred-year flood plain except where prohibited by federal, state, or local regulations or ordinances.* Manuel is requesting the installation of a holding tank for gray water only and the use of an incinerating toilet. The property is too small for the installation of a soil absorption component. Swatzel reported that Manuel's neighbors are complaining about the situation. Rock made a motion to approve the variance; Gaul seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

A nuisance hearing was conducted for Shade River Ag - Chester for operating a retail food establishment without a license. Owner Wesley Karr was ordered by the MCHD to obtain a food license because he was offering pre-packaged, frozen meat and farm fresh eggs from Valley View Farms (owner Rebecca Scott) within the facility. After reviewing the requirements to obtain the food license he declined to continue to pursue licensure; meanwhile, he has not removed the items requiring the license as of April 16. Swatzel shared the MCHD's involvement with the situation to date. Fisher visited the store today (5/14/24) to verify compliance. Fisher observed that the freezer containing the frozen meat had been removed from the retail sales area. An employee of the facility told Fisher the eggs had also been removed and no longer offered for sale. that the freezer had to be removed. Fisher was denied access to the back storage area where the fridge that stored the farm fresh eggs was located. The Membership concurred that Karr should be issued a letter stating that any future sales of frozen meat, farm fresh eggs or other potentially hazardous foods without a food license would be a violation of law resulting in further legal action.

Swatzel shared preliminary results from the 2024 Meigs Co. Cleanup Day. There were 347 vehicles and 91 trailers participating (an increase from the 2023 event). Seventy-eight workers assisted with the event including kids and parents from Meigs County Juvenile Court. The Meigs County Highway Dept. was instrumental with on-site logistics providing three pieces of heavy equipment with operators. There were 1,479 scrap tires deposited and four dumpsters of scrap metal collected. Approximately 10 solid waste dumpsters were filled on May 11th with 30-40 appliances requiring freon removal prior to being disposed of.

Swatzel provided 2024 Mosquito Control Grant updates. The MCHD received one application for its

Mosquito Control Technician contract position from Bostic Eason whom Swatzel will interview in the near future. Today Liberty Tire Services dropped off one trailer at the MCHD for scrap tire abatement. Grant funds, when received, will be used to purchase supplies for educational and promotional mosquito control kits to be disseminated to residents living in areas of concern as well as during outreach events. Funds also will be used for maintaining MCHD's surveillance equipment.

Swatzel and Barr provided an update on the shuttered Karrten CD&D Landfill. All hazardous debris is supposed to remain within the parcel. Natural water flow goes into a leachate tank. When Swatzel and Barr recently visited the site, the tank was full and overflowing into the dike allowing heavy metals to deposit into a nearby tributary (which is a violation of the Clean Water Act). Barr and Swatzel consulted with Athens City-County Health Dept. Environmental Health Director Patrick McGarry, who reviewed all documentation collected by the MCHD about the Karrten CD&D Landfill including water test results. After meeting with McGarry and discussing the situation with other Health Commissioners at a recent conference, Barr drafted a letter to the facility's owners Wes Karr and Chris Tenoglia extending the post-closure period and ordering them to treat the water by constructing a natural wetland. The MCHD will review the extension of the post-closure period in one year from the date of the letter or when/if water tests results are within acceptable range. This means the MCHD's oversight of the facility is extended. Barr noted that Tenoglia acknowledged receipt of the letter.

Fisher exited the meeting at 6:03PM.

New Business:

Midkiff announced that the ODH Bureau of Vital Statistics has completed the first round of user testing of its new vital records system, which is scheduled to launch on Jan. 1, 2025. The current birth and death record software applications – the Integrated Perinatal Health Information System (IPHIS) and the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS) – will be replaced by the single Ohio Vital Records System (OVRS) that will offer features requested by funeral home directors, physicians, and other stakeholders, including enhanced security, accessibility on a mobile device, and integrated payment and ordering capabilities. Consequently, the MCHD will begin receiving payments from ODH/Vital Chek via electronic fund transfers, thus, ODH is requesting a completed Authorization for Electronic Deposit of Customer Payment. Midkiff contacted the Meigs County Treasurer's Office (MCTO) to obtain information for the form and was told that MCTO receives too many EFTs to manage and prefers the MCHD open a separate checking account via a local bank into which deposits can be made and from which one check can be issued by the MCHD monthly to pay into the County Auditor/Treasurer Office. Midkiff solicited an opinion from the Auditor of State's Office and approval from the County Prosecutor to open a separate checking account into which to receive EFTs. Midkiff asked for a motion to open a checking account at the Farmers Bank and Savings Co. (FBSC) to accept EFTs and to approve Barr and her as account signers. Gaul made a motion to approve opening a checking account at the FBSC and to approve Barr and Midkiff as account signers; Rock seconded the motion; Weber abstained. Motion carried.

Midkiff relayed that Village of Pomeroy Mayor Don Anderson recently contacted her to request funding to construct a publicly available pickleball court within the Village. Midkiff told the Mayor that the MCHD did not apply again for the ODH Creating Healthy Communities (CHC) Grant. Meanwhile, there are some remaining funds in Cardiovascular Health (T063). After discussion and while the MCHD has been able to support physical activity initiatives within the Village in the past with CHC grant funds, it presently is unable to do so because the MCHD did not apply for the grant again (because of workforce issues) and will not be able to for another 4-5 years because of the competitive grant cycle. The BOH concurred that remaining, limited Cardiovascular Health funds should be reserved to maintain existing programs including but not limited to the Book a Bike Program,

which is available at the Meigs County Public Library (Pomeroy Branch). In addition, there are not sufficient remaining funds to support other communities' requests.

Midkiff announced that MCHD Harm Reduction Program Coordinator Juli Simpson will attend the *National Meeting on Health Equity - Enhancing Equity in Fatality Review Together* on June 4-6 in New Orleans, LA. Juli applied for and received a scholarship. Her airfare, hotel accommodations and conference registration fee will be paid and the MCHD will receive a \$525 reimbursement for her other travel expenses. Since fatality review includes child fatality review, the MCHD will use Prenatal and Child Health (T076) funds to cover Simpson's expenses. The \$525 reimbursement will be returned to that line item.

Midkiff reported that Ohio University (OU) is applying for NIH grant: *Strategies to Improve Health Outcomes and Advance Health Equity in Rural Populations*. Through utilization of Community Health Workers (CHW), on-site vital sign kiosks, and vital signs kits, the program will assist in providing residents with access to digital monitoring of vital signs, and in-person education on the use of digital devices for physiologic health measurements and health communication. OU would implement a pilot project, at sites where people congregate, to evaluate the benefits, opportunities and barriers of extension of health services to community-based locations. If awarded, MCHD would be a sub-grantee able to hire a CHW for five years. It is anticipated that the program will begin in Sept. 2024, if funded.

Midkiff said that the MCHD expressed interest in receiving a harm reduction vending machine (HRVM) for Meigs County via Rescue POD, if funding is awarded to the company via OneOhio. HRVMs provide an easily accessible method for people who use drugs (PWUD) to obtain a range of risk reduction supplies with minimal to no requirements for usage. HRVMs also may offer resources for their participants, such as naloxone administration instructions, overdose education, safer drug use tips and contact information for referral services.

Midkiff told attendees that the MCHD's 2022-2023 Audit begins on May 20th. It is being conducted by the Ohio Auditor of State Office.

Old Business:

Barr provided the Meigs County Infectious Disease Update. He reminded attendees that the monthly infectious disease reports are available at www.meigs-health.com. In April, 20 COVID 19 cases, 0 Influenza cases and three HEP C cases were reported. There was an increase in HEP C cases from the prior month.

Midkiff provided a brief Building Update: Local electrician Tony Maxey is supposed to visit the MCHD on May 15th to assess what it will take to get electricity to the carport for lighting and to power OhioHealth's Wheels on Wellness Mobile [requirements: 240 volts ac, 4 wire/4 gauge (L1, L2, N and a safety ground), Signal phase, 50 amp.]

Midkiff asked for a motion to approve retroactively an agreement with OU's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service for its scope of work social return on investment analysis effective 4/30/24-5/31/25 in the amount of \$25,000. The document was emailed to the Membership prior to the meeting for review. Patterson made a motion to approve retroactively the agreement as emailed; Mansfield seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Midkiff beseeched a motion to approve retroactively changing the BEAM monthly premium for dental and vision insurance coverages effective 5/1/24 (to coincide with Anthem renewal) from 75/20 to 80/20. Rock

made a motion to approve retroactively the change effective 5/1/24; Mansfield seconded the motion. The motion carried with Gaul voting against the change.

Midkiff mentioned that she has been inquiring about the MCHD's Ohio Association of Boards of Health (OABH) membership status since the application and fee was remitted several weeks ago. After getting no responses from the Executive Director to email inquiries, Midkiff emailed the President with no response. According to Southeast Ohio AOHC Representative Jack Pepper, "They're are in the middle of a re-org...good news is they are trying to improve their presence.....bad news.....I think it's a mess at the moment."

Miscellaneous Business:

Upcoming events/closures include the Staff Meeting on May 15th from 8:15-10AM; Get Healthy Meigs! Meeting on May 16th from 10:30AM -noon at MCJFS; Groundbreaking Ceremony for Meigs Co. Transportation Hub on May 23rd at 11:30PM at 115 E Memorial Dr in Pomeroy; Memorial Day Holiday Closure on May 27th; Rabies Vaccination Clinic on June 1st from 1-2PM at MCHD.

Adjournment:

The next BOH Meeting will take place on 6/11/24 at 5:00 PM in the conference room of the MCHD.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM with a motion by Rock.

Marc Barr, MS
Health Commissioner

(Administrator Courtney C. Midkiff, BSC transcribed the 5/14/24 meeting minutes.)

