



Public Health
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MEIGS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Board of Health Meeting Minutes July 9, 2024

Board of Health (BOH) President Roger Gaul called the convention to order at 5:06PM.

In attendance: Gaul; Administrator Courtney Midkiff; Director of Environmental Health Steve Swatzel; Health Commissioner Marc Barr; BOH Vice President Edna Weber; BOH Member Pam Patterson; BOH Member Eric Rock; Registered Environmental Health Specialist in Training Elizabeth Fisher. Absent was BOH Medical Member Wilma Mansfield, MD. Guests were: Willis Morris, Larry McCoy, Julie Thompson, Linda Chapman, James Heckaman and Justine Kope.

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Swatzel offered prayer.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Midkiff beseeched a motion to approve the 6/11/24 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.

Environmental Health:

The BOH opted to deviate from the agenda to accommodate guests present for the following scheduled public health nuisance hearings:

1. Willis Morris of 22727 Riverfront Road in Racine – failure to comply to correct a public health nuisance involving open dumping of solid waste, garbage and sewage. Morris was accompanied by McCoy and Thompson. Photos taken at the property were disseminated for Member review. The Meigs County Health Dept. (MCHD) received an initial complaint on Feb. 26th and staff conducted a first visit on March 7th. Violations observed were documented in a letter issued to Morris on March 8th. Morris contacted MCHD staff on March 11th and, during the phone call, was told he had 30 days in which to satisfactorily abate cited nuisances. Morris solicited the assistance of Portland Community Action (PCA), which is spearheaded by Brittany Lewis. Lewis contacted the MCHD to discuss the cited violations. On April 17th, PCA began assisting Morris by helping to bag loose trash on the property that was observed by MCHD staff during its March 7th visit. The MCHD issued another letter to Morris stating that staff would be making a follow-up visit to his property on or after May 31st. On May 15th, the MCHD received email photographs from the PCA. Meanwhile, remaining trash was blowing onto neighbors' property and bagged trash that had not been disposed of was being re-scattered by animals. Swatzel noted that the Village of Racine has allowed Morris to dispose of two trash bags a week in an

effort to help resolve the nuisance. According to Swatzel, there is no functional household sewage treatment system (HSTS) serving the residence or camper situated on the property. Swatzel said the easiest remedies were to remove the camper or cap the pipe going into the camper. Meanwhile, McCoy said that he has acquired a pickup truck to use to transport bagged trash for disposal. Rock affirmed to Morris that the situation is unacceptable and has been for too long. Morris was told about possible legal consequences if he fails to satisfactorily abate the nuisances. Rock made a motion to grant Morris an additional 15 days in which to satisfactorily abate the nuisances or else face immediate referral to the County Prosecutor for further legal action; Gaul seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Morris, McCoy and Thompson exited the meeting at 5:28PM.

2. Linda Chapman of 38690 State Route 124 in Pomeroy - failure to comply to correct a public health nuisance involving open dumping of solid waste and garbage. Photos taken at the property were disseminated for Member review. The MCHD received an initial complaint on March 1st and conducted its first investigation on March 8th. Violations were observed which prompted staff to leave a door tag on the residence door asking Chapman to contact the MCHD. Chapman called the MCHD the same day and advised she had no refuse disposal service at that time. Chapman was given 30 days in which to abate the nuisance satisfactorily. On April 4th, Chapman requested additional time to work on abatement because inclement weather had hampered her progress. She also indicated she would be renting a U-Haul truck to take solid waste to the Meigs Co. Transfer Station for disposal. During this call, Fisher suggested obtaining the services of a registered refuse hauler to expedite the process. Chapman was granted a two-week extension until April 23rd, which was documented in a follow-up letter. Fisher visited the property on April 23rd, observed additional solid waste and left another door tag because no one was available and Chapman's cell phone number had been disconnected. On April 25th, Chapman emailed her new phone number to the MCHD and advised she had secured Eblin's Trash Services. On May 7th, Fisher attempted to call Chapman and had to leave a voicemail message. Staff visited the property again on June 5th during which additional solid waste was observed. The MCHD issued Chapman a letter on June 11th that was hand-delivered announcing this scheduled hearing. On July 8th, Chapman advised that she had deposited 1.5 tons of solid waste at the Meigs Co. Transfer Station. Chapman explained that her former significant other had been occupying the residence and she had not stayed there because of personal safety concerns. Her efforts to work with Eblin's had been thwarted because of a lack of available vehicles/dumpsters. Meanwhile, staff told Chapman that a private pool situated on the property also needs drained or removed because it held water attracting mosquitoes. Chapman said it currently was only 25% full of water. Fisher offered to provide mosquito dunks as a short-term solution to limit vector breeding. Photos taken today were shared of cat litter bagged and ready for disposal. Rock affirmed to Chapman that the situation is unacceptable and has been for too long. Rock made a motion to grant Chapman an additional 15 days in which to abate satisfactorily the nuisances or else face immediate referral to the County Prosecutor for further legal action. Gaul seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. Chapman exited the meeting at 5:40PM. Fisher exited at 5:42PM.
3. James Heckaman and Justine Kope of 35235 State Route 143 in Pomeroy - failure to comply to correct a public health nuisance involving a failed HSTS and open burning. Photos were disseminated of the property for Member review. The couple confirmed that open burning had ceased. On June 23rd, the MCHD received a complaint that the HSTS serving the residence had failed. Heckaman and Kope were the recipient of \$6,300 in OEPA WPCLF funds to repair his HSTS after applying in Aug. 2023 and being approved in Nov. 2023. The repairs were completed by Dais Septic Services in Feb. 2024. In June 2024, Dave Williams noted that the pump was not running. When staff visited the property, it was observed that the leach field had been dug up and sewage was surfacing. On July 3rd, staff visited the property and noticed the pump was running and the water had dried up. The couple is purchasing the property via land contract from Jeremy Schneider and the neighbor, Andy Vance, has agreed to allow an easement for a drain installation. Heckaman and Kope have applied for additional assistance via the WPCLF Project with an application being submitted on July 8th. Swatzel's recommendation was for the

BOH to allow him time to review the application since Vance, was willing to grant the easement to have a drain pipe installed and to table the matter for now and revisit it at a later date. Heckaman and Kope exited the meeting at 5:57PM.

4. Gary Pickens 40614 Laurel Cliff Road in Pomeroy - failure to comply to correct a public health nuisance involving open dumping of solid waste and garbage. Pickens was not in attendance. Photos of the property were disseminated for Member review. The MCHD received an initial complaint on Feb. 26th. Upon investigation, a letter was issued by the MCHD on Feb. 27th to Pickens. Pickens told staff that he had "let the place go" as a result of grief and depression over the death of his child. Staff visited the residence on June 17th and observed no abatement efforts. Another letter was issued by the MCHD. On July 8th, Pickens visited the MCHD and presented staff with a receipt for the disposal of ¼ ton of solid waste. Rock made a motion to grant Pickens an additional 15 days to abate satisfactorily the nuisance or be referred to the County Prosecutor for further legal action. Gaul seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

Midkiff requested a motion to approve payment of BOH monthly bills as presented via spreadsheet including Then and Now Certificate; the June 2024 daily deposits to the Auditor's Office; June 2024 donations; June billing remuneration report; establish a new fund for PHEP FY 25 (T056) with following appropriations: T01 (salary/fringes) \$21,919.51, T02 (ODC) \$1,757.88, T03 (Equipment) \$0, T04 (Contracts) \$7,010, T05 (Advance Out) \$0 and with the following revenue: T01 (PHEP Revenue) \$29,900 and T02 (Advance In) \$20,000; an advance of \$20,000 into T056T02 (FY 2025 PHEP Advance In) from General Fund (S000S31); an original appropriation of \$3,000 into T045T02 ('06 Public Health Infrastructure Grant ODC). Midkiff advised that the June financial statements generated by the County Auditor were not available in time for her to compile the monthly BOH Fiscal Report; therefore, the report will be presented for approval during the July regular BOH meeting. Weber made a motion to approve the fiscal reports and items as emailed or presented; Gaul seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Midkiff sought a motion to approve retroactively the MCHD's annual continued adoption of the State of Ohio's Affirmative Action Plan effective 7/5/24. The Ohio Department of Development, Minority Business Development Division determined that the MCHD satisfactorily meets the requirements set forth in Section 125.11(B) of the Ohio Revised Code as required for participation in the State of Ohio procurement process. Gaul made a motion to approve the renewal effective 7/5/24. Rock seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Midkiff asked for a motion to approve retroactively the MCHD's First Amendment Audit Policy which was emailed to Members prior to the meeting for review. Rock made a motion to approve the policy as emailed; Patterson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Midkiff beseeched a motion to approve the revised MCHD Communication Policy, which was emailed to Members prior to the meeting for review. Weber made a motion to approve the revised policy as emailed; Patterson seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Midkiff requested a motion to approve the revised MCHD Nursing Policy and Procedure Manual, which was available for Member review. The electronic file was too large to email. The manual already has been reviewed and approved by contract Medical Director Douglas Hunter. MD and Barr. Gaul made a motion to approve the revised manual; Patterson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Midkiff sought a motion to approve retroactively a MOU by and between the MCHD and Bright Beginnings/Pike County Board of DD for the MCHD to be a Help Me Grow Kiosk Site. The equipment will be placed at the second-floor building entrance by the WIC waiting area to allow families to sign up for services. The MOU was emailed prior to the meeting for Member review. Rock made a motion to approve retroactively the MOU as emailed; Weber seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Environmental Health Continued:

In June 2024, there were three nuisance complaint resulting in two solid waste investigations and one food service operation inspection. There were seven animal bites investigated in June 2024 involving one cat and six dogs.

Swatzel and Barr provided an update on the post-closure of the Karrten C&DD Landfill. Owners Chris Tengolia and Wes Karr were issued a letter from the MCHD extending their five-year post-closure period giving them time to treat the leaking leachate with construction of a wetland. When Swatzel spoke with Tenoglia via phone, Tenoglia seemed unfamiliar with the contents of the letter. Upon consulting with his partner Karr, Tenoglia advised the MCHD on July 8th that engineer Ryan Buckley is in the process of designing the wetland for timely construction. After the work is completed and approved by the MCHD, the facility will be released from further monitoring.

Swatzel discussed the status of the Meigs County Landfill. Operation was shuttered in 1980. The Board of Meigs County Commissioners assumed ownership of the facility, which remains out of compliance with OEPA regulations because of leachate containing ammonia. Upon annual inspections, the MCHD continues to identify different locations of seepage. Swatzel has talked to County Engineer Eugene Tripplett, his assistant John Bentz and County Commissioner Zack Manuel about the situation. The plan is to construct a wetland to be installed by the Meigs Co. Highway Dept. since the facility cannot be sealed with dirt because the surface is not stable. The cost will exceed \$1,000,000. A timeframe for the construction is uncertain at this time because the County applied for a grant, which was denied.

Meanwhile, OEPA contacted the MCHD to see if the BOH would consider turning the solid waste program over to the State. OEPA then would be responsible for inspecting facilities such as the Karrten C&DD Landfill and the Meigs County Landfill for compliance. OEPA has taken issue with the way the MCHD has managed the solid waste program because of ongoing violations at these facilities and claims the MCHD should have prosecuted the owners. Swatzel, Barr and Midkiff participated recently in a virtual meeting with OEPA and told the State the BOH would be consulted before a decision was made to relinquish the program. It was noted that Jackson and Vinton County Health Departments voluntarily gave back the responsibility of the program to OEPA. There is limited revenue collected by the MCHD for inspections. Gaul made a motion that the MCHD retain the program for now to give Karrten the chance to close, if Tenoglia and Karr make strides with the plans they have in place; Patterson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Barr will notify OEPA about the BOH's decision.

Swatzel read a septic variance request on behalf of Shelly Johnson, who resides at 36270 Bailey Rd in Pomeroy. Johnson would like to situate a trailer on her property for her son, daughter-in-law and two children to live in for approximately three years. Johnson wants to connect the trailer to the HSTS that serves her residence. The HSTS was installed in 2006. Swatzel advised that the HSTS is capable of supporting both residences. Patterson made a motion to grant the septic variance request as presented; Weber seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Other New Business:

The Auditor of State (AOS) recently released a bulletin about the requirements to report fraud, theft in office, or misuse or misappropriation of public money pursuant to Ohio Revised Code (ORC) §4113.52 as amended by Ohio Senate Bill 91 of the 135th General Assembly. In addition, ORC §117.103 was amended by Ohio House Bill 33 of the 135th General Assembly requiring the Auditor of State to develop training material detailing Ohio's fraud-reporting system and the means of reporting fraud, waste, and abuse and required to be viewed by every employee and elected official of a political subdivision, state agency, and member of the general assembly. Current employees and elected officials are required to complete the training within 90 days of the date listed in the bulletin unless good cause exists for completion at a later date. Additionally, each new employee or elected official must confirm receipt of the material within 30 days after taking office or beginning employment. The training will be required every four years for all employees and elected officials. When Midkiff emailed the AOS to see if BOH Members had to complete the training as individuals or if the training could be viewed collectively during a regular meeting, the following response was received: *If viewing as a group, the individual in charge of training should maintain a sign-in sheet to document each person's participation. Please note, only the primary registrant's name will appear on the certificate of completion. Employers are also required to keep a record of the fraud training completed by each employee and employees also are required to fill out a Fraud Reporting Form to affirm that they have viewed the training video. Employers should keep all documentation on file to be examined during audit. Visit our website for Fraud Reporting Forms, a sample tracking spreadsheet, and more information.* The training was viewed by those BOH Members in attendance. The link will be provided to BOH Medical Member Wilma Mansfield, MD to complete individually.

Gaul exited the meeting at 6:33PM.

Midkiff asked for a motion to approve the MCHD's revised Health Equity Policy, which was emailed to Members prior to the meeting for review. Midkiff explained that, if approved, the MCHD will be adopting a subset of the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Antiracism) Glossary of Terms that staff will use for future policies, interactions, etc. As required by PHAB, staff received a copy of the revised Health Equity Policy containing the list of terms borrowed from the Glossary in advance and were invited to discuss any questions, concerns, or further contributions during the June Staff Meeting. After discussion, there were no objections to adopting the terms from staff members or BOH Members. Patterson made a motion to approve the revised policy as emailed; Rock seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

There was discussion about the MCHD's available Public Health Nurse (PHN) position. The MCHD advertised initially in late May for Registered Nurse (RN) with a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing (BSN). There were no applicants and limited interest. The MCHD then advertised for a RN with a BSN preferred and still received no applications. With today's economy, the MCHD's Salary Schedule for nurses is not competitive with those of regional hospital systems despite the other fringe benefits and opportunities public health provides. Midkiff sought permission to advertise for a license practical nurse (LPN), which can meet the MCHD's needs. To be competitive, Midkiff and Barr suggested a starting rate of pay of \$20 per hour. Adding this position will require the MCHD Salary Schedule to be revised since the agency has never before employed an LPN and the starting pay for a PHN (RN) 1 is only \$17.95 per hour. Attendees concurred that the MCHD should advertise for a LPN and that the starting pay seemed reasonable for today's workforce

Old Business:

Barr announced that the June Meigs County Infectious Disease Report was unavailable at this time because Dir. of Nursing Leanne Cunningham took annual leave from June 21-July 8. It will be posted at www.meigs-health.com.

Midkiff provided a brief building update. Local electrician Tony Maxey, who provided an estimate for the electricity update to accommodate OhioHealth's Wheels on Wellness mobile unit and to get electricity access to the MCHD carport, suffered multiple strokes and is currently hospitalized. It is unlikely his recovery and return to work will take place anytime soon. To facilitate its visits this fall, OhioHealth offered to pay for the electrical upgrade. Therefore, County Commissioner James Will gave his permission to allow Ohio Health's vendor: Claypoole Electric to perform the work at the Meigs Multi-Purpose Health Center. Will asked that Claypoole Electric contact Rick Dostal (Southeast Ohio building official) prior to performing any work involving the building. Bruce Gillogly, Claypoole Electric Project Manager, visited the MCHD today to assess what the job would require. Also, Midkiff reported that the CAT generator, which serves the Meigs Multi-Purpose Health Center, failed to start during a recent power outage on July 3-4. The issue, per Don Cook of Reliant Power Management, was not the transfer switch installed in March, but a faulty battery/charger. The estimate cost is \$3,000. Cook made the repair today.

The MCHD's 2022-2023 State Audit is on-going.

Miscellaneous Business:

An upcoming event is the July Staff Meeting on July 10th beginning at 8:15AM in the MCHD conference room.

Adjournment:

The next BOH Meeting will take place on 8/13/24 at 5:00 PM in the conference room of the MCHD.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM with a motion by Rock.

Marc Barr, MS
Health Commissioner

(Administrator Courtney C. Midkiff, BSC transcribed the 7/9/24 meeting minutes.)

