
Board of Health Meeting Minutes January 13, 2026

Board of Health (BOH) President Eric Rock called the convention to order at 5:02PM.

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

Attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Swatzel offered prayer.

New Staff Introduction:

REHSIT Matthew Metzger was introduced to the Membership. Metzger, who initiated employment with the Meigs Co Health Dept (MCHD) on Dec. 1, 2025, is a native of Perry County. He currently resides in Athens County and graduated from Ohio University where he worked in a dining hall. Metzger interned at the OEPA. He stated his work experience at the MCHD has been exciting and fast-paced to date. He credited Registered Environmental Health Specialist Elizabeth Fisher, who Metzger has accompanied on various inspections, with being a good teacher. He indicated he is a bit apprehensive about conducting inspections by himself for the first time. The Membership welcomed Metzger to the MCHD and thanked him for attending. Metzger exited the meeting at 5:15PM.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Midkiff beseeched a motion to approve the 12/9/25 BOH Meeting Minutes as emailed prior to the meeting for Member review. Rock made a motion to approve the document; Mansfield seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

New Business:

Midkiff requested a motion to approve the Dec. 2025 BOH Fiscal Report; payment of BOH monthly bills as presented via spreadsheet; 2025 encumbrances; the Dec. 2025 daily deposits to the Auditor's Office; Dec. billing remuneration report. There were no Dec. 2025 donations. Rock made a motion to approve the fiscal items as presented; Patterson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Midkiff asked for a motion to approve retroactively the custodial contract with Maria Lemler as emailed, which is effective Jan. 5, 2026 for 15 hours per week at \$12 per hour. Patterson made a motion to approve the contract as emailed; Mansfield seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion. Lemler signed a HIPAA Business Associates Agreement with the MCHD.

Midkiff solicited a motion to approve retroactively the resignation of part-time WIC Breastfeeding Peer Stacy Paul effective 12/29/25. Rock made a motion to approve retroactively Paul's resignation; Patterson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Paul will receive no vacation payout

because she was not eligible to accrue leave based upon the number of hours worked. Midkiff informed attendees that this part-time position likely will be combined with other maternal health duties as per an awaited contract from Holzer Health System increasing the hours from 12 per week to 28 per week. More details will be provided when available.

Midkiff beseeched a motion to approve the revised Project Dawn Policy (to include the provision of Xylazine test strips) as emailed. Patterson made a motion to approve the revised policy as emailed; Rock seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.

Environmental Health:

In Dec. 2025, there were four nuisance complaints resulting in three solid waste investigations and one food service inspection. There were 3 animal bites investigated in Dec. 2025 involving one dog, one hamster and one cat.

There was no nuisance hearing conducted for Pamela Cross of 30986 SR 325 in Langsville. Swatzel reported that Cross recently has been working to abate solid waste disposal violations, which the MCHD has been monitoring since the initial complaint was received 10/23/25. Cross has self-reported medical concerns and limited assistance with the abatement. Swatzel circulated pictures taken at the site from the initial inspection through today. Swatzel advised Cross that she has 10 days in which to complete the abatement to the MCHD's satisfaction or face legal referral to the County Prosecutor. Patterson made a motion granting Cross 10 days in which to complete the abatement to the MCHD's satisfaction or face legal referral to the County Prosecutor; Mansfield seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Swatzel provided an update for the Solid Waste Inspection Program. The MCHD relinquished the program back to the OEPA effective 12/31/25. On Jan. 8th, the OEPA issued Karrten C&DD Landfill a permit to construct a wetland to contain leaking leachate at the facility. OEPA did require facility owners Chris Tenoglia and Wes Karr to pay financial assurance effective 12/31/25. OEPA did extend the post-closure care period by two years.

Swatzel discussed an update to the Non-Emergency Food Protection Enforcement Policy to include BOH notification as nuisances of all administrative hearings held to resolve repeating non-critical food violations. Food service operation (FSO) or Retail Food Establishment (RFE) failure to resolve violations will now be presented to the BOH for license suspension or revocation.

It was announced that the MCHD would not be applying for the competitive 2026 OEPA Mosquito Control Grant because of time restrictions. The grant requires a lot of staff time, which Swatzel needs to work on assigned PHAB accreditation documentation (with the MCHD's requirement to submit starting Jan. 2027). Current scrap tire abatement efforts will continue until April 30th with existing grant funds or until funds are expended.

Swatzel reported on the Gallia, Jackson, Vinton, Meigs Solid Waste District Meeting he attended on Jan. 8th. No elected officials from Meigs County appointed to the District Board attended the meeting. At the meeting, the 25-year plan update was discussed and it should be drafted by Fall 2026 for submission to

the OEPA. Of the fees collected, the majority go towards Rumpke's contract that leaves only 25% of fees being available for non-recycling activities. Out of state waste collected by Rumpke is not being disposed of within the District, which means no revenue for the District. Consequently, there are no funds available for local health department efforts.

Swatzel announced that the annual Rabies Clinic is schedule for June 6th in conjunction with the Meigs Veterinary Clinic.

Other New Business:

The annual District Advisory Council (DAC) Meeting is scheduled for March 24th beginning at 6PM at the Rutland Bottle Gas Building on the Meigs Co Fairgrounds. The terms of BOH Members Roger Gaul and Edna Weber will expire March 31st. Gaul is not seeking nomination and re-appointment. Steve Ohlinger has expressed interest in being considered for nomination and appointment. Meanwhile, Weber has agreed to accept another term if appointed. The guest Speaker will be Tammi Matthey, who is the Clinical Nurse Manager-Community Outreach OhioHealth Wellness on Wheels-SEO. Broken Bread Catering will prepare the meal on behalf of the MCHD.

Happy Ears Audiology contacted the MCHD wanting to bring its mobile services into Meigs County. The initial visit to the MCHD is scheduled for Jan. 14th.

Midkiff relayed that the MCHD is communicating with The Ohio State University (OSU) College of Dentistry about bringing its new dental coach to Meigs County. Barr, Midkiff and Michelle Willard will participate in a virtual meeting with OSU on Jan. 23rd to further discuss a collaboration.

Midkiff shared MCHD staff and local funeral director frustration with ODH's Vital Statistics recently implemented Ohio Vital Records System (OVRS). The MCHD has not received ACH payments from Vital Chek for disposition permits and certified records ordered via the system since the death side was phased in Dec. 15, 2025. Midkiff is working with Vital Chek to correct the problem.

Old Business:

Midkiff informed attendees that Robin Swain, who accepted the part-time WIC Clerk position effective Dec. 15, 2025 and then postponed employment until Jan. 12th because of personal reasons, ultimately decided to decline employment because of ongoing personal issues. The position has been reposted.

Infectious Disease Update:

The Dec. 2025 Meigs County Infectious Disease Report as compiled by Regional Epidemiologist Nathan Christian can be reviewed at www.meigs-health.com. Meigs County had one resident hospitalized with influenza in Dec. Meanwhile, there was one case of HIV/Syphilis reported.

Building Update:

Swatzel mentioned that a sewer smell emits from sink drains periodically when traps dry out.



Meigs County Health Department
112 E. Memorial Dr., Suite A
Pomeroy, Ohio 45769
P: (740) 992-6626 F: (740) 992-0836
www.meigs-health.com



Miscellaneous Business:

Upcoming events and closures include a Staff Meeting on Jan. 14th from 8:15-10AM; Get Healthy Meigs! Meeting on Jan. 15th from 10:30AM-noon at MCJFS; Holiday Closure on Jan. 19th: MLK, Jr. Day.

Barr discussed the annual state-requirement for two hours of continuing education for BOH members. While the OABH is a source for training, Barr requested that Members relay some topics of interest so that he could coordinate trainings to be conducted during regular BOH meetings.

The next BOH Meeting will take place on 2/10/26 at 5:00 PM in the conference room of the MCHD.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:18PM with a motion by Rock.

Marc Barr, MS
Health Commissioner

(The Jan. 2026 meeting minutes were transcribed by Courtney Midkiff, Administrator.)