

**BENZIE-LEELANAU DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

January 28, 2016
4:00 p.m.

Tentative minutes to be acted upon at the March 24, 2016 meeting.
Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Griner

A Quorum Was Present With the Following Members in Attendance:

Gary Sauer, Benzie County Board of Commissioners
Dr. George Ryckman, Benzie County Member at Large
Roger Griner, Benzie County Board of Commissioners
Marge McCulloch, Leelanau County Member at Large
Carolyn Rentenbach, Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

Pledge of Allegiance

Administration Present:

Lisa Peacock, Health Officer
Dodie Putney, Director of Administrative Services
Tom Fountain, Environmental Health Director
Michelle Klein, Personal Health Director
Dr. Joshua Meyerson, Medical Director

Staff:

Bill Crawford
Clay McNitt

Guests:

John Popa
Larry Fleis
Amy Hubbell
Nick Fleezanis
Larry Kabot
Chloe Willetts
Jim Kobberstad
Hugh Farber
Frank Clements
David McCulloch
Lisa Vogler, Attorney

Griner stated the agenda included the election of chair. Griner did not realize it was a two year term and would like to continue to chair the meetings for another year.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: by Sauer, seconded by Rentenbach to approve the amended agenda with the removal of Election of Chair.

Voice vote: 5 ayes Motion carried

Approval of Minutes:

Motion: by Rentenbach, seconded by Sauer to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2015 meeting.

Voice vote: 5 ayes Motion carried

Motion: by McCulloch, seconded by Sauer to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2015 special meeting.

Voice vote: 5 ayes Motion carried

Public Comments:

Nick Fleezanis, Lake Leelanau Lake Association, stated in 2010 the association sent a letter to the board stating the need to approve the disposal of wastewater. Feels there are many septic systems and holding tanks on the lake not doing what they are supposed to do. Urges the board to make the necessary changes to the code to allow mound systems.

Jim Kobberstad, Sunset Shores on North Lake Leelanau, stated the mound systems that are approved throughout the state and are approved in Leelanau County was brought to the board at prior meetings. Would like to reiterate the need for mound systems, especially for those properties on holding tanks. Only going up two feet. Other areas are at four feet, such as Muskegon area and Saginaw Bay. Wish this would be pushed to the forefront so people can upgrade their systems.

Clay McNitt, Sanitarian stated a 2010 review of the 465 holding tanks at that time in Leelanau County, showed that of 255 newly constructed holding tanks, roughly 11% which would be 29 residences, would be candidates for a possible mounded system under the two foot proposed code change. It's misleading to think this code change is going to impact the vast majority of holding tanks when in reality it's only about a 10% number. The same review showed that 172 holding tanks installed for existing residences, which means they had some type of existing onsite system in place at the time of the permit issuance, roughly 10% (17 residences), are already candidates for a mounded system where two foot of natural soils are present. In 2007 the board changed the code to allow two foot of fill on sites that had two foot of native soils, so that is already in place. McNitt stated in his opinion this code change is misleading, knows John's purpose is to find a solution to holding tanks, but the reality is this code change will have very little impact on a very limited number of people. McNitt stated he does not support the code change. It's going to allow greater development in sensitive areas and have a greater impact on our environment. We have a good code and a responsible code. The other areas in Michigan that allow mound systems such as the Muskegon area and Saginaw Bay simply do not have the same soils as we do, and that is why they do not have the same codes that we do. We have a very precious resource in our area that I feel is our job to protect. (Handout provided by McNitt on file with the minutes).

Hugh Farber, Lake Leelanau Association and Lake Leelanau Clean Water, stated he has been a member of both associations for a long time and therefore very interested in septic systems and effluents into the lake. Stated if you have a good designed mound and appropriate materials in the mound, you can end up with a better system than many that are being permitted now.

Preston Lewis, Sunset Shores, stated he would support a mound system on his lot. As Mr. Farber stated, mound systems will work, they just have to be given a chance.

Tim Cypher, resident of Leland Township, stated he does zoning and planning for four other townships and headed a sewer options task force for Leland Township a number of years ago promoting community drainfields. Would like to have the board consider the two feet but with some guidelines. Not for new land divisions as this is just creating additional parcels that are going to get the benefit of something that a lot of other property owners didn't have that right in the past. Stated the county, the board of health and the townships need to look at adopting point of sale inspections. Cypher works for Glen Arbor Township where point of sale has been adopted and it has been found to be very beneficial for the buyer, seller and the water quality.

Chris Fry stated he would like to add support to the comment just made on the point of sale inspection and would like to see the board be more pro-active about it. Benzie County has a county wide point of sale in place. Proud the Village of Empire has the point of sale and Glen Arbor Township recently passed it. It makes no sense to not be pushing forward with a county wide structure on this subject.

Lautner, Leelanau County Board of Commissioners arrived at 4:20 p.m.

Griner asked Fountain or Crawford to explain what is out there at this point for the point of sale in both Leelanau and Benzie County.

Fountain stated Benzie County adopted the ordinance in 1990 and it has been a success. Fountain explained in Leelanau County there is a modified ordinance that was passed five or six years ago in the Village of Empire and they have private contractors doing the inspections, not just the health department. In July, 2014 Glen Arbor Township adopted a mandatory ordinance and contracted with the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department to perform those inspections.

Griner stated as far as jurisdiction, the Benzie County Board of Commissioners passed the ordinance, not the health board. So to have a county wide ordinance in Leelanau, it needs to be passed by the Leelanau County Board of Commissioners.

Environmental Health Proposed Code Change –

Popa submitted a one page document with his comments and requests prior to the meeting to Tom Fountain which is on file with the minutes.

John Popa stated there may be some confusion as to what he is proposing. The code already permits a mound system; we are just asking to get rid of the section that says the date the house was built. That is what is discriminatory. None of the other counties that allow mound systems have a cutoff date. Mound systems are good systems. Leave that in the code but strike the date. Popa went on to explain his reasons for proposing this code change. Popa responded to Fountain's response to Popa's comments and requests from the one page document submitted. Fountain's response is on file with the minutes.

Ryckman requested Fountain explain the change in 2007. Fountain went on to explain the code change in 2007 to allow alternative treatment systems.

Fountain read his response to Popa's comments and requests. Fountain commented he received a letter today that was passed out to the board members before the meeting from the Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay urging the board to not change the code to allow mound systems. (Letter on file with the minutes)

Lautner commented she was not on the board when this proposal was first presented. Lautner stated ATS systems are not working for summer homes. Feels the board should go with the change as recommended.

Sauer stated there is an appeals process in place. Questioned if any of these parcels have been brought to the appeals board. Sauer stated he is in favor of community septic systems. Fountain stated in the three years he has been the Environmental Health Director, not once has this been brought to the appeals board.

Rentenbach stated she believes we have a good code in place, to keep the code as it is as she feels science supports the current code.

McNitt and Crawford both commented on the 2007 code change.

Discussion followed.

Motion: by Sauer, seconded by Rentenbach to continue with the way the code currently exists.

Ayes: Ryckman, Griner, Sauer, McCulloch and Rentenbach **Nays:** Lautner

Bill Crawford –

Crawford read a letter he had written to the board. (On file with the minutes)

Health Officer Update-

Peacock commented on the following programs.

1. **Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance:** Two new projects are underway:
 - District Health Department #10 is taking the lead on a Regional Immunization Improvement project; the goal of which is to improve immunization coverage of adults and children across the northern region. Each participating health department will likely receive a small amount of funding to work on a specific immunization issue they feel could be improved in their area.
 - Health Department of Northwest Michigan is taking the lead on a Tobacco Dependence Health Systems Change project aimed at incorporating a strategy around identifying and treating tobacco dependence in clients seen in the family planning clinics. The goal is to have an impact on tobacco use specifically during the pre-conception period – before a woman is pregnant – which would ultimately result in better maternal/child outcomes. Again, each

health department will likely receive a small amount of funding to participate in this regional project.

- Environmental Health Directors have met as a group to discuss potential opportunities for agency support and collaboration. Personal Health Directors have been meeting regularly to improve the quality of the MIHP program.
- The NMPHA met with MDHHS staff overseeing the State Innovation Model (SIM) project to further explore their capacity assessment. No final decision has been made at this point to identify the entities that will serve as the Community Health Innovation Region.

2. Public Health Emergency Planning (PHEP): This project has moved into the implementation phase. The steering committee, which consists of the Health Officers of each Health Department, has been meeting with the Finance Directors to establish a final budget which includes each agency retaining base funding for PHEP activities and contributing a percentage to regional planning and exercising activities. There are two large scale regional exercises being planned this year – one in June and one in October. The first will be a “tabletop” exercise which will involve staff representation meeting together and discussing the steps of regional response. The second will be a full-scale exercise with all staff from all agencies involved and will likely be centered around community flu clinics – to practice all elements of a large response effort.

3. Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA): This regional collaborative process is well underway across the region. The 8 counties at the tip of the mitt have completed data collection and identification of priorities. BLDHD is collaborating with Grand Traverse County Health Department and Munson Medical Center to complete data collection for our counties. County-level community conversations have taken place in both Benzie and Leelanau counties and were well attended. A community conversation is scheduled in Grand Traverse County in February. In addition to these conversations, we will be distributing a “What Matters to You?” survey to the community in both hard copy and electronic format. Wide distribution is the goal and we will be engaging staff, clients, partner agencies, as well as social media sharing. Munson has also been distributing a health care provider survey. Once the data has been collected it will be reviewed for identification of community priorities. This information will guide health departments, hospitals and other community partners in making resource decisions.

4. Regional Insight Software Project: The Northern Michigan Public Health Alliance (NMPHA) secured 2 mini-grants from MDHHS in 2015 to pursue opportunities to secure efficiencies and effectiveness in purchasing and implementation of Insight Electronic Medical Record software and connectivity to the Health Information Exchange. Insight is used by 5 of the 6 local health departments to support their personal health services. During this exploration, we became aware that the Netsmart Insight software is

being replaced with MyInsight, a web-based and more efficient upgraded version. Through much exploration and negotiation with Netsmart, we have negotiated a plan which results in significant cost savings and efficiencies for the NMPHA partner health departments. Because of this agreement between 4 local health departments and grant funding received by Health Department of Northwest Michigan and District Health Department #4 which covers upfront costs, we are able to realize significant savings for annual maintenance cost – collectively a decrease of \$94,000/year. In addition to significant ongoing cost savings this arrangement will allow for:

- A common data base which enables us to benefit from efficiencies in implementation and maintenance of the software.
- Positions health departments to share data across MyInsight and the Health Information Exchange to better link clients to services and more efficiently serve their needs.
- Implementation of population health strategies to improve the health of our population.

5. Northwest Michigan Health Services Inc.(NMHSI): The exploration of the concept of the BRC refinance/renovation by the Benzie Board of Commission has continued steadily. Dodie and I attended the Board of Commission meeting on 12/22/15 and presented the same options to consider that we had previously presented to the BOH. The Benzie commissioners were receptive to exploring the concept and want to carefully consider all of the options for this project. They advised us to present the information at the upcoming Building and Grounds committee which we did on 1/13/2016 and this committee made a recommendation to the full Board of Commission to move forward with the plan to waive upcoming reversionary rights and transfer ownership to the Northern Health Foundation who would proceed with refinance and remodel project.

Their recommendation included reversion of ownership to Benzie County at the completion of the term of financing. The full Board of Commission meets on 1/26/2016 and a draft resolution has been submitted with their agenda for consideration.

Peacock stated the Benzie County Board of Commissioners voted to waive their reversionary rights to the Benzie Community Resource Center building and allow the Northern Health Foundation to go forward with refinancing and renovation of the building. Met with an architect prior to the meeting and he mapped out three viable options and are working on numbers to bring back to us. There may be a need to call a special board meeting before our March meeting if we do get an estimate so we can continue to move forward. The partnership is very strong, all entities have agreed to non-cancellable leases for the term of the financing so there is a lot of security with that plan.

6. Additional Collaborations HDNWM: Welcome to our new Medical Director, Dr. Joshua Meyerson! Dr. Meyerson officially began his duties for the BLDHD as of January 1, 2016 and brings a great deal of skill and

experience as a Pediatrician and Health Officer for many years! A warm thank you to Dr. Michael Collins for his many years of leadership at BLDHD. **Healthy Futures/Munson:** Healthy Futures has received one of the grants they applied for which will enhance the program through expanded use of technology and focused efforts to identify and engage eligible pregnant women. Partner health departments may be involved in piloting additional methods of outreach and engagement.

- 7. BLDHD Program Highlight:** In response to BOH members request for increased information about services provided we will continue to highlight 1-2 programs per meeting to provide the program details without causing the meetings to become too lengthy. This month we will focus on the Immunization program and the impact widespread immunization coverage has on health of our community.

Peacock stated it was announced today that immunization waiver rates have gone down by 39% across the state since the rule was enacted in 2015. However, two House Bills (5126 and 5127) threaten to overturn the waiver rule. Klein stated Leelanau County has seen a 38% decrease in waivers. Discussion followed. Peacock passed out two Immunization handouts on file with the minutes.

- 8. Flint Water Crisis:** I would like to acknowledge the important work carried out by our colleagues at the Genesee County Health Department. The Health Officer, Environmental Health and Personal Health Directors and staff, and County Commissioners have been standing up for the health and safety of their community along with their community partners since the first concerns about water safety arose. Since this has not been the focus of media attention I wanted you to be aware of the efforts of Local Public Health to alert the public to the potential and then proven danger through public health advisories and emergency alerts as well as their work with United Way, U of M Flint, and other donors and volunteers to coordinate efforts to get safe water to the community, including WIC moms so they could mix formula for their babies. Additionally, they have been working with local doctors and health professionals from Hurley Hospital and MSU College of Human Medicine to assist the community in mitigating the risk of lead exposure through prevention efforts that increase Flint resident's access to nutrition, education and health care which can significantly reduce the risk of long-term adverse effects of lead exposure. Their call to action for all of us is the reminder to be vigilant advocates for a "Health in All Policies" approach, keeping health as a top priority in all efforts and initiatives.

Fountain commented on the Flint Water Crisis and passed out a letter from the Kettering University's office of the President, to the parents of students and alumni. (On file with the minutes) Discussion followed. Ryckman stepped out of the meeting.

2. Personnel and Finance Committee Report:

A. Accounts Payable-

Motion: by Sauer, seconded by McCulloch to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$175,084.55

Voice vote: 5 ayes Motion carried

B. December 2015 – Financial Statements-

Motion: by Lautner, seconded by Sauer to place the December 2015 financial statements on file.

Ayes: Griner, Sauer, McCulloch, Rentenbach and Lautner **Nays:** None

C. Adoption of Family Planning Fees –

Klein reported every year we are required to go through our family planning fees and Dodie does a cost study. For the most part the fees have stayed the same, however, there are a few increases as when we start billing commercial insurances we cannot charge less than what they will reimburse. We do use a sliding fee scale so anyone that comes through the door is charged based on their income and will serve them regardless of their ability to pay. The new fees will go into effect February 15, 2016. Discussion followed.

Motion: by Sauer, seconded by Ryckman to approve the family planning fees.

Ayes: Griner, Sauer, McCulloch, Rentenbach and Lautner **Nays:** None

D. 2016 Board of Health Meeting Dates –

Motion: by McCulloch, seconded by Lautner to approve the 2016 meeting dates.

Voice vote: 5 ayes Motion carried

Ryckman returned to meeting.

3. Staff Reports:

A. Administrative- Dodie Putney

Putney reported this past week we had our financial audit by Anderson, Tackman. Ken Talsma will be at our March meeting to report on the audit. Before he left he didn't cite anything unusual and his report will be coming soon.

Putney stated her and Heidi are working with the new financial software. The financial statements you see now will be changing in format, but the same information will be available.

Putney thanked Lisa Peacock for doing an amazing job, the health department is going places and it is a direct result of Lisa's hard work and dedication to the agency.

Putney reported on January 15, 2016 we were notified of the result of the hearing of the Federal District Court. Lisa Vogler is here to answer any questions. We didn't know if she could be here or not so she was not put on the agenda.

Vogler stated she is happy to answer questions, however, because of a re-hearing or potential appellate hearing still viable and pending, that we should go into closed session if you have any questions about how it was resolved.

Ryckman inquired if all of the health department employees are at-will employees. Vogler stated the current employee policy, particularly the Sexual Harassment section need to be revised. Putney stated we will probably bring a formal request to revise the policy at the March meeting.

Vogler stated in general comment; this was clearly the right result. Our position was very well received.

B. Environmental Health- Tom Fountain

Fountain reported for 2016 the public beach e-coli monitoring has been approved and distributed. Fountain stated the summer sampling program will be the same as 2015 using composite sample results vs. the geometric means of three individual samples. The one day a week samples will start around Memorial Day and run through Labor Day. Great Lakes sites include Frankfort, Empire, Northport, Suttons Bay Marina, Suttons Bay Park and Greilickville. Inland lake sites will include Lake Ann, Beulah Beach, Crystal Lake, Bellows Beach Crystal Lake, South Bar, Nedows Beach Lake Leelanau.

Fountain reported January is Radon Action Month in Michigan and the Health Department has been offering free Radon test kits. Thanks to the press and Benzie Chamber "blast" we have distributed nearly 70 radon kits this month. A twelve dollar charge is required the remainder of the year for the test kit. Generally speaking, radon is not a big problem in our region of Michigan but without testing you will not know your home may have elevated levels.

Fountain reported he and Eric Johnston attend a two day DEQ workshop in Mt. Pleasant. The Revised Total Coliform Rules (RTCR) goes into effect April 1, 2016 and the meeting provided additional training for the implementation of the new rules. These rule changes as reported previously will impact the Health Department as well as the water supply owners. The EPA rule change requires more aggressive sampling and reporting.

Fountain stated the new EH software Healthspace is moving forward. The practice modules should be available to staff soon and the data transfer from CMHC to Health Space is in the works. The Health Department of Northwest Michigan currently houses our EH data (CMHC) and will assist in the transfer. Fountain stated he has assigned Eric Johnston to be the lead employee during this transition.

Fountain stated the Well Driller Advisory Committee will be meeting on January 29, 2016 in Lansing. The group is led by Jim Sygo, Chief Deputy Director for the DEQ. Sygo replaced Dan Wyant who recently left the DEQ. The key topic for the next meeting revolves around the Draft Geothermal Statute proposed in Michigan.

Fountain mentioned the Micro bead-Free Waters Act recently signed by President Obama. These tiny plastic scrubbing beads found in many products end up in the environment and water system causing havoc. The law will prevent the manufacture of these beads in 2017.

C. Personal Health- Michelle Klein

Klein reported a new nurse was hired and will start February 16, 2016. Klein passed out the three year communicable disease case report.

D. Medical Director- Dr. Joshua Meyerson, MD, MPH

Dr. Meyerson introduced himself to the board. Meyerson reported he is also the Medical Director for The Health Department of Northwest Michigan and District 4 since 2000. Meyerson stated he also has a clinical practice in Petoskey and is there on Monday's seeing patients.

Meyerson stated the Zika Virus is spreading. It's a virus that was transmitted in Africa and Asia but has found its way to Brazil. It's spreading throughout Central America, the Caribbean, it's in Puerto Rico and Mexico. This mosquito goes up into Florida and Texas, but unless we get a lot of global warming we are probably not at risk in Northern Michigan. Discussion followed.

Public Comments:

Nick Fleezanis stated the Lake Association's primary issue this year is Swimmer's Itch and this is a public health problem. Crystal Lake, Higgins Lake, Glen Lake and Lake Leelanau are part of a pilot program and are going to the state asking for \$900,000.00. Fountain stated this department could write a letter of support to the Association. Fountain will write the letter of support and Griner will sign it. Griner suggested Dr. Meyerson sign as well.

Chloe Lewis introduced herself. She is a new resident of Leelanau County, just moved here from Chicago. She is a student pursuing a Masters in Public Health and is here on assignment and wanted to introduce herself as we will probably see more of her at future meetings.

Board Comments:

Griner encouraged the board members to talk to Tom Fountain about the discussion regarding the code change from earlier. Rentenbach stated she supports the point of sale ordinance.

Motion: by Rentenbach, seconded by Ryckman to adjourn the meeting.

Voice vote: 6 ayes Motion carried

Chair Griner adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Roger Griner, Chair

Heidi Roper, Recording Secretary