

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

**Tuesday, July 30, 2024 Directly Following the Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting at  
12p.m.  
Leelanau County Government Center  
6527 E Government Center  
Suttons Bay MI 49682**

Chairperson Gary Sauer called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

**Members Present:**

Gary Sauer - Benzie County Board of Commissioners  
Dr. Barbara Conley – Leelanau County Member at Large  
Ty Wessell – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners  
Dr. Mark Kuiper – Benzie County Member at Large  
Art Jeannot – Benzie County Board of Commissioners

**Members Excused:**

Gwenne Allgaier – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

**Staff Present:**

Dodie Putney – Director of Administrative Services- via Teams  
Eric Johnston – Director of Environmental Health  
Michelle Klein - Director of Personal Health  
Dan Thorell – Health Officer

**Staff Excused:**

Dr. Joshua Meyerson – Medical Director

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion By:** Conley to approve the June 26, 2024 BOH meeting minutes.

**Seconded By:** Wessell

**Voice Vote: 5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried**

**Approval of the Agenda:**

**Motion By:** Conley to approve the agenda as presented.

**Seconded By:** Jeannot

**Voice Vote: 5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried**

**Public Comment - None**

**Health Officer Update- Dan Thorell**

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. There are five different sections to the Plan of Organization: legal documents, organizational documents with budget, mission and vision statements, local planning/collaboration description and the credentials for the Health Officer and Medical Director. This needs to be completed approximately every three years when the accreditation occurs. The process for this did not happen during Covid, so it has been five years since the last one was completed for BLDHD. There was a lot of new information that needed to be added to the plan. The Plan of Organization needs to be approved by the BOH sixty days before the actual accreditation process begins.

## **2024 Plan of Organization**

**Motion By:** Conley to approve the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department Plan of Organization as presented for Cycle 8 of Local Public Health Accreditation.

**Seconded By:** Kuiper

**Roll Call Vote:** Sauer- yea, Conley- yea, Jeannot – yea, Wessell – yea, Kuiper – yea  
**5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried**

## **Statewide Septic Bill Resolution**

Thorell had received draft five of the proposed statewide septic code. The requirement for a septic inspection was revised to be within 300 feet of a body of surface water, or have no record or permit for the existing septic system, or be evaluated at the point of property transfer and then every ten years after the last recorded inspection. Some of the biggest challenges of this change is being able to determine which properties have not been inspected before, keeping up with the ten-year cycle and enforceability. BLDHD BOH will create a subcommittee to create a draft resolution that can be sent to the House to support a statewide septic code. Wessell and Jeannot will be on this committee. They will refer to Johnston and Thorell for their opinions and interpretations of various languages. The Board would like the resolution to reflect the two Counties' current practice.

## **Accounts Payable**

**Motion By:** Jeannot to approve accounts payable and pay the bills in the amount of \$136,294.73.

**Seconded By:** Conley

**Roll Call Vote:** Sauer- yea, Conley- yea, Jeannot – yea, Wessell – yea, Kuiper – yea  
**5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried**

## **June Financial Statements**

**Motion By:** Conley to accept the financial statements as presented.

**Seconded By:** Sauer

**Roll Call Vote:** Conley- yea, Wessell- yea, Kuiper – yea, Jeannot – yea, Sauer – yea  
**5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried**

## **Candidates to Interview for the Health Officer Position**

**Motion By:** Wessell to interview candidate number two on August 28, 2024 at 1p.m. during the Personnel and Finance Committee meeting.

**Seconded By:** Jeannot

**Roll Call Vote:** Conley- yea, Wessell- yea, Kuiper – yea, Jeannot – yea, Sauer – yea  
**5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried**

## **Staff Reports:**

### **Personal Health – Michelle Klein**

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. The Hearing and Vision program became legislated as a mandatory program in 1949. This program will be provided to children through the ninth grade. BLDHD has two trained technicians who provide a couple of thousand screenings per year for both programs. Last year 169 children were referred for further vision assessment out of 2,000 screenings and 32 children out of 1,300 hearing screenings were referred for further hearing assessments. This program is audited by the State of Michigan every three years to ensure the quality of the exams. BLDHD administers these screenings in public and private school systems.

### **Environmental Health – Eric Johnston**

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. On the charts and graphs that were provided it showed that septic permit activity was up in Leelanau County. This is most likely due to the approximately 16% of septic systems being found to be unacceptable when they

were inspected. This trend began when the new septic and well code went into effect last year. It was mentioned that when a similar code had first gone into effect for Benzie County, approximately thirty years ago, the failure rate had been about the same for a period of time. It was asked how long it took Benzie County to have the number of unacceptable septic systems fall from double digit numbers to a 4% average after the septic inspection code went into effect. It took about six to eight years for this to happen.

**Administrative – Dodie Putney**

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. The Employee Picnic will be held on August 14, 2024 at the Almira Township Park starting at 5:15-5:30pm. All BOH members and their families are invited to attend.

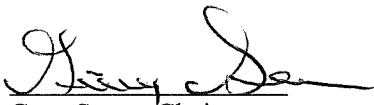
**Public Comment – None**


**Board Comments - None**

**Adjourn**

**Motion By:** Sauer to adjourn the BOH meeting at 2:53 p.m.

**Voice Vote:** 5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused **Motion carried**

  
Gary Sauer, Chair

  
Shelley Jablon, Recording Secretary