I. Call to Order

Mr. J. David Benenati, President, called the monthly meeting of the Geauga County Board of Health to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. J. David Benenati, Mr. Timothy Goergen, Ms. Melanie Eppich, and Mrs. Christina Livers. Dr. Janet O’Hara was not present.

Staff members present: Robert Weisdack, Health Commissioner, Daniel Mix, Personal Health Services Director, and Michael Tusick, Registered Sanitarian.

Others present: There were two others present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Benenati asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the minutes for the July 19, 2010 regular Board of Health meeting. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, abstain; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mr. Goergen moved to approve the minutes for the October 18, 2010 regular Board of Health meeting. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Mrs. Livers asked for a correction to the minutes. Mrs. Livers did not move to adjourn for Executive Session. She was not present at the meeting. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, abstain.

IV. Current Expenses/Financial Report

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the Current Expenses October 13, 2010 to November 8, 2010. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

V. Environmental Health Program Update

There was recently a skunk that was found in Lake County tested for Rabies. The results were positive for the raccoon strain rabies. Mr. Weisdack stressed being pro-active to be safe from exposure. Ohio has 45 confirmed cases of rabies so far in 2010. There were 41 bats, 2 raccoons and 2 skunks confirmed as having rabies.

Mr. Weisdack stated that there does not seem to be any problems with the 2010 budget. He stated that he does not anticipate any more layoffs.
Mr. Weisdack provided a report of sewage permits issued so far this year. There were nine sewage permits for new homes so far in November. He stated that he was delightfully pleased to say that the proposed sewage budget for 2010 will be met.

Mr. Weisdack has been in contact with Senator Grendell about the appeals panel that must be developed as a result of the new sewage rules. He stated that he will be working with Senator Grendell on this issue and others.

a. Sewage Rules Update

Mr. Weisdack stated that he will be on vacation and has given Mr. Tusick the sewage rule information and committee discussions for him to handle. In May 2011, they will be talking about the vertical separation distance. In December, permits, and the definition of replacement and repairs will be discussed. Mr. Weisdack stated that the last conference call was a mess. The video conferencing and the conference calls are not working. Mr. Weisdack and another committee member filed a protest because they could not hear nor see the meeting. The State just sent Mr. Weisdack the information from the meeting.

Mr. Tusick explained that from 1998 to 2007, permits for off-lot discharges were issued based on Board of Health variances. These permits were granted with the requirement that an inspection of the system is conducted by either a registered service provider or the health district annually. Letters have been sent to homeowners in June 2010 informing them that they need this inspection completed by October 15, 2010. The homeowners were informed that if they failed to have the inspection done, the Geauga County Health District would conduct the inspection and the fee would be assessed to their property taxes. We have the authority to do this based on the Ohio Revised Code. We had 80% compliance of the 900 systems. The staff will begin these inspections very soon.

Mr. Tusick stated that he and Mr. Weisdack wanted to make the Board aware that these inspections would be happening in the case someone disputes it. The Board stated they were in support of moving forward with the inspections.

Inspections are behind. Mr. Weisdack expects things to get back to normal and be caught up by the end of the year.

The yearly inspections of the off-lot systems are behind due to staff workload. Mr. Weisdack stated he is hoping to have them completed by the end of 2010.

VI Administrative Hearings

a. Ernie & Veronique Tucker

Mr. & Mrs. Tucker were not present. Mr. Tusick was sworn in by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this is an alleged code violation to the property owned by Ernie & Veronique Tucker located at 17521 Indian Hills Dr., Auburn Twp. This case is in regards to the following sections of the Geauga County Health District Sewage Disposal System Regulations, which states:

3701-29-02(D) states: “No household sewage disposal system or part thereof shall create a nuisance.”
3701-29-02(F) states: “No person shall discharge, or permit to be discharged, treated or untreated sewage... or offensive wastes onto the surface of the ground, into any street, road, alley, open excavation, or underground drain.”

Discussion followed.

Ms. Eppich moved that a code violation exists on the property owned by Ernie & Veronique Tucker located at 17521 Indian Hills Dr., Auburn Twp. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved that the owners be required to make application, pay for, schedule, and complete a For Sale of Property evaluation and/or obtain the necessary permits and install a new sewage disposal system within 30 days of receipt of Board order. Failure to follow these orders will result in referral to the prosecutor’s office for legal action. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

b. John Marcosson, Luca Manocchio, Ervin & Barbara Miller, Joseph Sterk, John & Norman Yoder, Laura Bellar, and Milan & Sanja Medved

None of the above mentioned were present. Mr. Tusick was sworn in again by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this is an alleged code violation to the properties owned by John Marcosson, 16925 Burrows Rd., Montville Twp., Luca Manocchio, 12790 Kenyon Dr., Chester Twp., Ervin & Barbara Miller, 16685 Madison Rd., Parkman Twp., Joseph Sterk, 7468 Mulberry Rd., Chester Twp., John & Norman Yoder, 16979 Nauvoo Rd., Middlefield Twp., Laura Bellar, 10695 Stafford Rd., Auburn Twp., and Milan & Sanja Medved, 11720 Tall Pines Dr., Munson Twp. These cases are in regards to section 3701-29-22(A) of the Geauga County Health District Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations that states: “An evaluation of a residential sewage system must be completed prior to the transfer of ownership of any parcel with said system. The evaluation shall be conducted by a member of the Health District and if necessary corrective action(s) required shall be accomplished within the time period(s) directed.” Discussion followed.

Mr. Goergen moved that a code violation exists on the property owned by John Marcosson, 16925 Burrows Rd., Montville Twp., Luca Manocchio, 12790 Kenyon Dr., Chester Twp., Ervin & Barbara Miller, 16685 Madison Rd., Parkman Twp., Joseph Sterk, 7468 Mulberry Rd., Chester Twp., John & Norman Yoder, 16979 Nauvoo Rd., Middlefield Twp., Laura Bellar, 10695 Stafford Rd., Auburn Twp., and Milan & Sanja Medved, 11720 Tall Pines Dr., Munson Twp. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Ms. Eppich moved that John Marcosson, 16925 Burrows Rd., Montville Twp., Luca Manocchio, 12790 Kenyon Dr., Chester Twp., Ervin & Barbara Miller, 16685 Madison Rd., Parkman Twp., Joseph Sterk, 7468 Mulberry Rd., Chester Twp., John & Norman Yoder, 16979 Nauvoo Rd., Middlefield Twp., Laura Bellar, 10695 Stafford Rd., Auburn Twp., and Milan & Sanja Medved, 11720 Tall Pines Dr., Munson Twp. be required to make application, pay for, schedule, and complete a For Sale of Property evaluation and/or obtain the necessary permits and install a new sewage disposal system within 30 days of receipt of Board order. Failure to follow these orders will result in referral to the prosecutor’s office for legal action. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

c. Wayne & Joyce Nix
Mr. & Mrs. Nix were present and sworn in by Mr. Benenati. Mr. Tusick was sworn in again by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this is an alleged code violation to the property owned by Wayne & Joyce Nix, 18771 Thorpe Rd., Auburn Twp. This case is in regards to section 3701-29-22(A) of the Geauga County Health District Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations that states: “An evaluation of a residential sewage system must be completed prior to the transfer of ownership of any parcel with said system. The evaluation shall be conducted by a member of the Health District and if necessary corrective action(s) required shall be accomplished within the time period(s) directed.” Discussion followed.

Mr. & Mrs. Nix stated that their realtor did not notify them that the inspection had to be done. They purchased the house as-is. They stated that they do not have the funds to pay the application fee. After discussion, Mr. Weisdack suggested that Mr. & Mrs. Nix consult with Veteran’s Services and Community Development for help.

Mrs. Livers moved to table this Administrative Hearing for 90 days. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

VII. Personal Health Services Update

Mr. Mix reported that he attended two statewide health assessment meetings in November. He is a member of the steering committee which will make decisions that will guide the process. The advisory committee will review all work before it is published. Leading health indicators that will be used for the assessment have been identified. Additional partners have been invited to participate in the project. Mr. Mix stated he has three more meetings scheduled within the next month.

Under the local health district improvement standards ODH has created a new project called Performance Management Capacity. This grant will provide $1.5 million to 128 local health districts. Geauga County will receive $11,935.09. The Board was asked to approve a contract with ODH for these funds. They will be used to seed a community health assessment. More agencies will be asked to be involved which include Family First Council, Dept. on Aging, Job and Family Services and UH Geauga Hospital. We already have a commitment from the Center for Health Affairs in Cleveland.

The Board was asked to approve an agreement which states that Geauga County Health District will not hire foreign contractors to perform local health district work. This is part of a gubernatorial executive order.

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The Ohio Department of Health has announced a 2011 Supplemental PHER grant which will award up to $8.5 million to local health districts. Geauga County is eligible for an additional $67,755.00 under this program. The funds are to be used to address the improvement plan identified in the H1N1 after-action report. A letter of intent has been submitted to seek the funding.

The funds will be used to improve our preparedness response to pandemic influenza which will make us more capable to respond to any threat. We will concentrate on communications, ICS training and volunteer pool retention.

Mr. Mix stated that he will be providing the Board with a PHER 2011 budget in December.
a. Nursing

We are still not seeing many people at the flu clinics. We have provided approximately 1,000 vaccinations this season.

There has been an increase nationally of pertussis cases. This has triggered a CDC campaign to immunize adult caretakers. We have not had any cases in Geauga County. We have immunized hundreds of adult caretakers free because of this initiative.

In the first ten months of 2010 we have exceeded the total number of children seen at children and adolescent clinics over last year. Some of this increase is directly related to the pertussis vaccination requirements that 7th grade students must now have.

Mr. Mix reported that a notification was received of a mumps outbreak in Lake and Cuyahoga Counties. There have been no reported cases in Geauga.

The Board was asked to approve contracts with Hiram College and Kent State University which will allow nursing students to assist at our clinics.

Mr. Mix stated that he and Mr. Weisdack interviewed four candidates for the Nursing Director position. They were pleased with all four and plan to have a second interview which will also have the public health nurses in attendance. This will allow them to evaluate their future team member.

Mr. Mix recently attended a presentation on Smoke Free Ohio. This is the mandate by the State to investigate complaints about smoking inside public places. We opted not to participate in this program because of the amount of time it would take to do it and the very minimal funding we would received. Cuyahoga County does any complaints that are received for Geauga County. The enforcement for this program has included inspectors visiting establishments to catch violators. The local health district can only fine the establishment for non-compliance. There is an 80% compliance rate. There have only been two complaints for Geauga County.

c. WIC

The WIC caseload continues to increase. The October caseload was 972.

The peer program helper has begun to assist in WIC. The staff is hopeful that this will increase awareness among clients and relieve some phone calls.

d. Health Education

There was no report for Health Education.

VIII. Old Business

a. Peet Operation

Mr. Weisdack provided the Board with a map of the peet operation being proposed in Newbury Township. A company is proposing a peet operation where horse manure would be mixed with sawdust. He was asked by the Newbury Board of Zoning Appeals to give his opinion of this case and to attend a meeting that was being held. Mr. Weisdack expressed his concern about groundwater contamination. He suggested to the BZA that a soils report be done of the area. Soils work was done and it was determined that there is fill material under the location. This would not
make a good area for this type of operation, but any approvals of such an operation could only be granted by the Newbury Board of Zoning Appeals.

The company is proposing a two foot clay liner for the area. Mr. Weisdack suggested that they get an engineer’s opinion about their design. He also told them that he wants an emergency plan in the case of a problem. There are still more questions that need to be answered before a final determination can be made.

b. Health Care Employee Contribution

Ms. Eppich moved 11.10-a to establish the employee contributions of health care for basic coverage at a standard rate for employees did not participate in the wellness program: Family- $19.48/month; Single - $7.60/month. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

IX. Executive Session

Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn for Executive Session at 8:50 pm to discuss a pending legal case. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes. The meeting reconvened at 9:11 pm. There was no action taken on pending litigation.

X. New Business

Mrs. Livers moved 11.10-b to Adopt Resolution 6-2010 for Food Service which gives the health commissioner and delegated employees the authority to begin actions for suspension or revocation of a food service or retail food establishment license for failure to maintain sanitary conditions. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Ms. Eppich moved 11.10-c to approve the agreement with Kent State University College of Nursing to allow nursing students to participate in our clinics. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mr. Goergen moved 11.10-d to approve the agreement with Hiram College to allow nursing students to participate in our clinics. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mr. Goergen moved 11.10-e to approve the ODH Standard Affirmation Form which states that Geauga County Health District will not employ foreign contractors in any work we subcontract. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 11.10-f to approve the ODH Personal Service Contract which will provide services described in our local health district improvement standards and performance management capacity. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 11.10-g to approve the salary range for the Nursing Director as $19.00 to $27.00 per hour. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.
Mr. Goergen moved 11.10-h to approve the purchase of postage in an amount not to exceed $1,500.00. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 11.10-i to approve the proposed fee change for the off-lot For Sale of Property evaluation from $500.00 to $420.00. The reason for the fee change is that we no longer test for BOD’s and suspended solids. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mr. Weisdack stated that he does not recommend the implementation of the Incentive Merit payment for 2010. The Board agreed.

XI. Other Business

Mr. Weisdack reported that he has received a notice from NACCHO requesting a membership fee of $375.00. We get information now from them without being members. He does not recommend signing up for the membership due to finances.

XII. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board will be held December 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m., 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon.

XIII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Goergen moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert K. Weisdack, R.S., M.A., M.P.H.
Secretary of the Board