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, Ms. Melanie Eppich, Dr. Janet O’Hara, and Mrs. Christina Livers. Mr. Timothy Goergen was not present.

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

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

Ms. Eppich moved to approve the minutes for the June 21, 2010 regular Board of Health meeting. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, abstain.

The approval of the minutes for July 19, 2010 was tabled.

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the minutes for the August 16, 2010 regular Board of Health meeting. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, abstain; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.

IV. Current Expenses/Financial Report

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the Current Expenses August 11, 2010 to September 14, 2010. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.

V. Environmental Health Program Update

Mr. Weisdack reported the Health Commissioner’s conference beginning September 21, 2010. He will be attending the conference.

a. Sewage Update

Mr. Weisdack stated that some of the new sewage law has become effective recently. They will begin developing the rules very soon. A committee is being developed. Mr. Weisdack has been asked to be a member at-large.

Mr. Weisdack was contacted recently about a peat farm in Newbury Township. The company has contacted OEPA to obtain a composting permit. Animal waste product from the
Cleveland Zoo would be brought to an industrial site and mixed with tree shavings and would be composted. It would be processed for eight to nine months until it becomes a soil product that would be sold.

They are proposing a retention pond on the low side of the property. Mr. Weisdack stated that he is concerned that the runoff would seep into the ground and make it into the water table. There is also a question of what type of soil is located there. Mr. Weisdack will be watching this issue as it progresses.

b. Muslim Cemetery

Mr. Weisdack reported he sent a letter to the Muslim representatives of Cleveland for the proposed cemetery in Huntsburg and has not had any contact from them since. There were some other things that have come out that may prohibit a cemetery at that property. The Corp of Engineers have designated about 14.3 acres as jurisdictional wetland which leaves only about 1 acre that could possibly be used with restriction for burial.

VI. Variances

a. Andrea Bedoya

Andrea Bedoya and John Boyk were present and sworn in Mr. Benenati. Mr. Tusick was sworn in by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this was a variance request by Andrea Bedoya for the existing property located at 12988 Chardon Windsor Rd., Hambden Twp. The request involves the section 3701-29-10(D) of the Geauga County Health District Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations which states that lots with a 0-2% slope cannot install a leaching trench system. (Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case) Discussion followed.

Ms. Eppich moved to approve the variance as requested. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.

VII Administrative Hearings

a. John & Heather Bilicic, T & C Homes, Erika Hemly, Ryan Cristopher, James & Christy Rosneck, Matthew & Kathryn Kurtz, Nancyann Greene, Park Thurling, Mark Dolan, Justin Bayer, Robert Cummings, Darrell Langford, Paul Yoder, Marlin & Ruth Miller, and Martin & Susan Miller

None of the residents were 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 properties owned by Jon & Heather Bilicic, 8687 Brakeman Rd., Hambden Twp.; T & C Homes, 13045 Cherry Ln., Chester Twp.; Erika Hemly, 6076 Clay St., Thompson Twp.; Ryan Christopher, 8485 Dewey Rd., Montville Twp.; James & Christy Rosneck, 9800 Horseshoe Dr., Auburn Twp.; Matthew & Kathryn Kurtz, 16256 Jug St., Burton Twp.; Nancyann Greene, 8537 Kent Rd., Russell Twp.; Park Thurling, 12391 Madison Rd., Huntsburg Twp.; Mark Dolan, 9306 Mentor Rd., Chardon Twp.; Justin Bayer, 8571 Music St., Russell Twp.; Robert Cummings, 15357 Rock Creek Rd., Montville Twp.; Darrell Langford, 14698 Westfield Dr., Newbury Twp., Paul Yoder, 13024 Bundysburg Rd., Huntsburg Twp.; Marlin & Ruth Miller, 16525 Farley Rd., Parkman Twp. and Martin & Susan Miller, 15124 Shedd Rd., Burton 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.


Mrs. Livers moved that Jon & Heather Bilicic, 8687 Brakeman Rd., Hambden Twp.; T & C Homes, 13045 Cherry Ln., Chester Twp.; Erika Hemly, 6076 Clay St., Thompson Twp.; Ryan Christopher, 8485 Dewey Rd., Montville Twp.; James & Christy Rosneck, 9800 Horseshoe Dr., Auburn Twp.; Matthew & Kathryn Kurtz, 16256 Jug St., Burton Twp.; Nancyann Greene, 8537 Kent Rd., Russell Twp.; Park Thurling, 12391 Madison Rd., Huntsburg Twp.; Mark Dolan, 9306 Mentor Rd., Chardon Twp.; Justin Bayer, 8571 Music St., Russell Twp.; Robert Cummings, 15357 Rock Creek Rd., Montville Twp.; and Darrell Langford, 14698 Westfield Dr., Newbury Twp.; Paul Yoder, 13024 Bundysburg Rd., Huntsburg Twp.; Marlin & Ruth Miller, 16525 Farley Rd., Parkman Twp. and Martin & Susan Miller, 15124 Shedd Rd., Burton 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. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

VII. Personal Health Services Update

Mr. Mix reported that Vital Statistics will begin statewide birth and death record issuance in the next few months. The staff will be attending additional required training to meet the requirements.

In 1988, the Institute of Medicine defined three core functions of public health including assessment, policy development and assurance. As part of our mandated local public health district improvement standards, we are required to conduct periodic assessments of the community. We have not conducted an assessment for at least five years. The Ohio Department of Health is asking us to complete the CDC public health performance improvement standards by 2012.

To begin the process, the Board was asked to approve a project that will begin in January 2011 called the Community Strength and Themes Assessment (CTSA). The CTSA is one of four National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) that make up the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) framework. This assessment is one of two that we will complete in 2011 as part of the National Public Health Improvement Standards. The Board was also asked to allocate $2,500.00 to conduct the assessment.

The CTSA involves a community survey and focus groups which will concentrate on subgroups that may experience disparities in health needs, including the Amish, Hispanic and elderly residents. Mr. Mix stated he would manage the project with Mr. Weisdack overseeing it. A professor from YSU who has some experience with community health assessments will provide some technical assistance and oversight. Some staff may assist in preparing the mailing materials and recording survey responses.
Mr. Mix indicated he would provide a written report and presentation for the community that will be available on the website and given to any organization interested. At that time, the second of the four MAPP assessments will be completed and the third and fourth assessments will be examined.

a. **Public Health Emergency Preparedness**

The PHEP staff will be participating in two drills within the next month. The first drill is the Perry Nuclear Power Plant drill which is a multi-agency response to a nuclear incident. In conjunction with the drill, the Illuminating Company sent out notice to residents within the 10 mile radius to obtain doses of Potassium Iodide (KI) from their local health departments in Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula Counties. Unfortunately, the phone number for Geauga was incorrect. We held a distribution event in Thompson in July and will continue to distribute the KI at the Health District office.

The second drill is a regional response to a biologic threat and involves the Hospice of the Western Reserve. Hospice serves many homebound patients. The Board was asked to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Hospice to allow sharing SNS supplies with them.

The Department on Aging helped with the acquisition of oversized-special needs cots. They paid for 10 of the 20 cots purchased. The balance came from PHER H1N1 funds.

The CDC will publish its report which will include individual CRI scores by MSA as well as various state performance measures. Our score was 58% which is an improvement over last year’s score of 36%.

b. **Nursing**

Seasonal flu clinic scheduling has been completed. Three drive-thru clinics will be held and Friday morning clinics are by appointment only. The MRC will provide support alongside the health district staff at the drive-thru clinics.

The Nursing Director position has been advertised internally and now with several newspapers. Mr. Mix stated that he has been doing the administrative functions of the Nursing Director. He stated that he would be completing the IAP application for 2011. There will be an annual CFHS audit within the next week.

Mr. Mix reported that there was a significant increase in Salmonella cases in Geauga County which was attributed to the summer heat. In August, there were 39 active cases. The heat also caused concern over Algal Blooms in inland lakes. The East Branch and Lake LaDue were under watch for blooms, but there were no reports of illnesses due to these concerns.

We will be participating with other agencies to collect unused or expired prescription medications in an event called Operation Medicine Cabinet. There has been a significant rise nationally in teenage prescription drug use. Additionally, there are numerous reports of pharmaceuticals in our drinking water supplies. This is directly related to improper disposal. Most pharmacies have begun recycling programs to take back unused and expired medication.

Dr. O’Hara asked about the disposal of sharps. Mr. Mix explained that people who use needles for injection can simply put them into a 2 liter bottle and once it is full, cap it and put it with their regular garbage. Dr. O’Hara asked if this information could be put on the website.

c. **WIC**

The WIC August caseload was 971. This is an increase from last month.
The Board was asked to approve the contract with Irene Olp as the WIC Peer Helper for 2011 GY. She will assist new mothers with skills and ways to overcome challenges. There is some training required for this position.

d. Health Education

There was no report for Health Education.

VII. Old Business

a. PEP Liability Insurance

Mrs. Livers moved 9.10-a to acknowledge the payment to Public Entities Pool of Ohio in the amount of $15,361.57 for liability insurance. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Mr. Weisdack explained that the bill for the insurance came due between August and September Board of Health meetings. He contacted each Board member by email and was given permission to pay the bill. **Motion carried with a roll call vote.** Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

b. Health Care

Mrs. Gerzeny explained that the Geauga County Commissioners asked all employees to attend a mandatory meeting and also to visit their physician for an annual checkup including a blood screening. All Health District employees attended the meeting and the notifications from the physicians that the employees have had the checkup and blood work done are coming in slowly. The Commissioners have indicated that employees who do not meet these two requirements will have an increase to their employee contribution for health care insurance beginning 2011.

The commissioners have hinted that the new premium will be an increase of 15%. The Health District worked 15% into the 2011 budget. The Commissioners did not figure in that increase. They are looking to cut into the insurance coverage to reduce the 15% increase in the way of higher co-pays and increasing the cost of emergency room visits.

The final proposal is expected on October 11. The final proposal will go to the County Commissioners the last week in October and be in place for open enrollment by November 1. The Board of Health meets October 18 before any final decisions are made.

Mr. Weisdack stated that he recommends that since the 15% increase was figured into the 2011 budget, that the Board keep the employee contribution the same. The final decision will need to be made at the October 18, 2010 regular meeting.

VII. Executive Session

Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn for Executive Session at 8:30 pm to discuss a pending legal case. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. **Motion carried with a roll call vote.** Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes. The meeting reconvened at 8:45 pm. There was no action taken on pending litigation.

X. New Business

Mrs. Livers moved 9.10-b to approve the contract with Irene Olp as WIC Peer Helper. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. **Motion carried with a roll call vote.** Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.
Dr. O'Hara moved 9.10-c to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Hospice of the Western Reserve to provide services when preparing for and responding to public health emergencies. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 9.10-d to allow Mr. Weisdack to sit on the Sewage Rules Committee. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 9.10-e to approve the purchase of a vehicle in the amount not to exceed $17,000.00 for Food Service. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Ms. Eppich moved 9.10-f to appropriate Food Service Funds in the amount of $17,000.00 to purchase a vehicle. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Ms. Eppich moved 9.10-g to approve the Community Strengths and Themes Assessment (CTSA) Project 2011. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 9.10-h to approve the CSTA Budget not to exceed $2,500.00 for printing, postage, and meeting supplies and materials. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 9.10-i to appoint Mr. Weisdack to the Geauga Community Action Board and Family First Council until further notice. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

XI. Other Business

There was no other business.

XII. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board will be held October 18, 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, Dr. O’Hara moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 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