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 was one other person present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Goergen moved to approve the minutes for the July 18, 2011 regular Board of Health meeting with the corrections that Mrs. Livers provided. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. The corrections were grammatical in nature and did not change the content of the minutes. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

IV. Current Expenses/Financial Report

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the Current Expenses July 14, 2011 to August 9, 2011. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes and Mrs. Livers, yes.

V. Environmental Health Program Update

a. Sewage Rules Update

Mr. Weisdack stated that ODH is currently reviewing the section of the proposed rules that there is great concern over. This section is in regards to the vertical separation distance, which is the distance between the bottom of the trench and the perched water table. ODH and the local health districts have used the Tyler Table in the past to determine the vertical separation distance. Now they are considering using a totally different table to determine the vertical separation distance, which may not be as favorable towards trench systems. Mr. Weisdack stated there are two individuals on the rules committee that are pushing strongly for the tables that are favorable for our trench system. Mr. Weisdack stated that he hopes that more support will come from other committee members.

It still does not appear that the proposed rules will be ready for implementation as planned for July 2012. Mr. Weisdack stated he stated that he does not anticipate these rules becoming effective until January 2013 at the earliest.

The Board inquired whether mandatory inspections were part of the rules. Mr. Weisdack indicated that mandatory inspections are not in the rules at this time, but he anticipates that they may be added sometime in the
future. The law states that rule revisions must be made every five years and that may be when ODH pushes for mandatory inspections.

Mr. Weisdack reviewed the number and type of sewage disposal permits issued to date. He stated that he would be watching the number of permits being issued very closely.

b. General Information

Mr. Weisdack stated he has reviewed the budget and at this time we are slightly ahead of our anticipated revenues but he will be watching the finances.

Mr. Weisdack recently received a letter from Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital along with a report of incidents within Geauga County regarding poison control. The Board had previously donated funds to Rainbow Babies & Children’s Hospital to assist in their poison control efforts.

Mr. Weisdack stated he is working on the long-range plan for the retirement of staff as the Board had requested. He will provide the information as soon as he has it finished.

The Association of Ohio Health Commissioners provided a map showing which counties lost staffing. Forty-three counties lost staff members from 2008 through 2009. Thirteen counties experienced no change in staffing, which included Geauga County. There were 242 public health workers that lost their job during this time period.

Mr. Weisdack was asked to attend a countywide zoning meeting in Hambden Township to discuss health regulations which pertain to zoning. Mr. Weisdack indicated he would be attending this meeting.

VI. Variance

a. Farris Excavating/Ed Babcock

Gregg Farris was present and sworn in by Mr. Benenati. Mr. Tusick was sworn in by Mr. Benenati and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this was a variance request by Farris Excavating in behalf of Ed Babcock for the property located at 7040 Old Mill Rd., Chester Twp. The request involves section 3701-29-02(C) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations, which states, “Each household sewage disposal system shall serve one dwelling on an individual lot and shall be properly maintained and operated by the owners. All the sewage from the dwelling shall discharge into the system.” (Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case) Discussion followed.

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the variance as requested. 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. Administrative Hearings

a. Jake & Susie Yoder; Campton Ridge Land Trust; Allen Denzine; Svetlana & Andrey Narinskiy; Eric Dunlap; Bojan & Carol Knez; and Andy & Carol Miller

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 Jake & Susie Yoder, 15892 Burton Windsor Rd., Middlefield Twp.; Campton Ridge Land Trust, 9590 Campton Ridge Dr., Chardon Twp.; Allen Denzine, 14731 County Line Rd., Russell Twp.; Svetlana & Andrey Narinskiy, 16585 Lucky Bell Ln., Auburn Twp.; Eric Dunlap, 13181 Marilyn Dr., Chester Twp.; Bojan & Carol Knez, 8853 Mentor Rd., Chardon Twp; and Andy & Carol Miller, 17633 Peters Rd., Middlefield 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.

Ms. Eppich moved that a code violation exists on the properties owned by Jake & Susie Yoder, 15892 Burton Windsor Rd., Middlefield Twp.; Campton Ridge Land Trust, 9590 Campton Ridge Dr., Chardon Twp.; Allen Denzine, 14731 County Line Rd., Russell Twp.; Svetlana & Andrey Narinskiy, 16585 Lucky Bell Ln., Auburn Twp.; Eric Dunlap, 13181 Marilyn Dr., Chester Twp.; Bojan & Carol Knez, 8853 Mentor Rd., Chardon Twp; and Andy & Carol Miller, 17633 Peters Rd., Middlefield Twp. 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.

Mr. Goergen moved that Jake & Susie Yoder, 15892 Burton Windsor Rd., Middlefield Twp.; Campton Ridge Land Trust, 9590 Campton Ridge Dr., Chardon Twp.; Allen Denzine, 14731 County Line Rd., Russell Twp.; Svetlana & Andrey Narinskiy, 16585 Lucky Bell Ln., Auburn Twp.; Eric Dunlap, 13181 Marilyn Dr., Chester Twp.; Bojan & Carol Knez, 8853 Mentor Rd., Chardon Twp; and Andy & Carol Miller, 17633 Peters Rd., Middlefield 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; Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Mrs. Livers, yes.

VIII. Personal Health Services Update

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

As reported last month, PHEP funding for 2012 has been reduced by $3,000,000.00 in Ohio. Our portion of the grant award is reduced by 18%, which is $19,750.00. The Board was asked to approve a revised budget.

Mr. Mix reported Geauga County Health District has received a CRI – SNS score for 2011 of 73. This is a 16-point improvement from 2010 and 33-point improvement since 2009. Our SNS is a measurement of our preparedness to respond to an event. Our score is comparable to Lake County, but is still 5 points below a desired score.

b. Nursing

Flu clinics are being planned for late September and October. Mr. Mix stated that they are intending to hold several drive-thru or walk-in clinics at various locations and to re-establish a clinic at the Department on Aging, which had been discontinued. Mr. Mix reported that they are planning to visit nursing homes, local business and schools as well.

The Board was asked to approve a contract with VaxCare as our flu vaccine provider for 2011-2012. We have always managed our own vaccine stock, which has resulted in financial loss from waste and expiration. VaxCare manages vaccine inventory and provides vaccine supplies. They will bill insurance, Medicare and Medicaid.

Mr. Mix explained that the benefits of this contract would be savings from vaccine waste and expiration, time saving of entering Medicare claims, allowing residents to use health insurance and non-Medicare plans, and an unlimited supply of flu vaccine.

c. WIC

The July caseload was 889.

Mr. Mix reported that our peer helper has completed Certified Lactation Consultant training is now certified. She has been holding a breastfeeding support group once a month at the Middlefield Library. Attendance has varied from one to nine participants for the first four months. She has also established a Facebook page to provide 24/7 support and announcements.
The 2012 WIC Grant application has been submitted.

August is Breastfeeding Awareness Month in Ohio. To raise attention to this effort, the department held a walk and picnic at the Eagle Splash Park in Middlefield. There was 59 participants plus five staff and volunteers. There was an essay contest “What Breastfeeding Means to Me” and Metzenbaum was nominated as a breastfeeding friendly business and employer.

Mr. Mix stated that the following companies donated goods, services and prizes which without the event would not be a success: Vinny’s Pizza, Zeppe’s Pizza, Maggie’s Donuts, Middlefield & Chardon Walmart, Ameda, American Cancer Society Discovery Shop, WIC, Giant Eagle, Lake County Captains, Middlefield Dairy Queen, Peebles, Pioneer Waterland & Dry Fun Park, Rosepointe Cottage Tea Room, Save-A-Lot, Tai Pan, and White House Chocolates. There were also many agency volunteers that assisted including Geauga County Deputy Sheriff Mike Matsik and his K-9 partner, Marco, Help Me Grow Coordinator Carrie Kowalski and Geauga County Librarian Kara Waler. The Geauga County Health District extends their deepest gratitude for their support.

d. Community Health Assessments

As part of our Community Health Assessment, the information gathered will be used to create countywide objectives and a health improvement plan. One crucial step in preparing for this plan is to identify a vision of health in the community. The NACCHO MAPP framework suggests community partners discuss and prepare a vision statement that guides our assessment process.

There will be two vision sessions to gather input from community partners. The director of United Way Services of Geauga will chair the meetings. The product of these sessions will be a shared vision of health in Geauga County.

e. Vital Statistics

The Geauga County Health District Vital Statistics issues birth records for anyone born in the State of Ohio. Since we have started offering the service our volume has dramatically increased. There also have had a push for online ordering which is made possible through an agreement with VitalCheck. This private company collects the fees and pays us for the certificate. Recent discussions with ODH revealed that some health districts charge a convenience/expediting fee for online or phone orders which ranges anywhere from $0 to $7.00. After discussion, the Board was asked to approve the first reading of a proposed convenience fee.

f. Continuous Improvement Project

Mr. Mix reported that the project has moved to production. The committee has assigned work to many staff members and begun measuring outcomes. A report will be prepared in September that will be shared at the next Board meeting.

As part of this project, a written Purchasing Policy was created to replace an unwritten policy that has been in practice for at least fifteen years. The Board was asked to approve an expenditure limit increase for the health commissioner to $2,000.00. The reason for this limit increase is a result of escalating prices.

IX. Old Business

a. Injection Well Chemical Water Sampling

Mr. Weisdack reported he had attended a meeting on July 21, 2011 at the Hambden Town Hall. There were 35 to 40 people in attendance. Senator Grendell’s aide read a letter on his behalf because he was unable to attend. Mr. Weisdack provided information on the well drilling overall.
A resident provided information that there are trucks and trailers removing soil at the Hambden well site. Mr. Weisidak stated that he has heard that ODNR had closed both the Hambden and Montville well sites due to violations.

At the meeting, Mr. Weisidak was asked to delay any well testing in hopes of getting more residents to agree to have their wells tested. Only nine out of twenty-eight homeowners responded to the letter that Geauga County Health District mailed to residents in the area offering the well testing service free of charge. Mr. Weisidak stated he would be attempting to obtain some other well testing sites in hopes of moving this project forward.

X. Executive Session

Mr. Goergen moved to adjourn for Executive Session at 8:50 pm to discuss pending legal cases. 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. The meeting reconvened at 9:00 pm.

XI. New Business

Mr. Weisidak reported that the current coverage for liability insurance is $2,000,000.00. We have received some discounts in the past, but the company is not offering the discounts this year. Mr. Weisidak recommended that keeping the insurance at the current coverage level. The Board expressed concern that $2,000,000.00 is not enough coverage. Mr. Weisidak indicated that if the Board wishes to increase the amount, it would be very tight within the budget but he felt that we could afford it. Funds could be transferred from other areas to cover the cost.

Mrs. Livers moved 8.11-a to approve the payment to Public Entities Pool of Ohio for $3,000,000.00 of Liability insurance in an amount not to exceed $21,330.00. 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 to approve the transfer of unused Worker’s Comp funds to the following funds: Board of Health Other Expense, $17,762.28; Trailer Park/Camps Other Expense, $74.80; Food Service Other Expense, $2,408.02; Infectious/Solid Waste Other Expense, $172.04; Private Water Other Expense, $655.38; Swimming Pools PERS, $20.00; Swimming Pools Other Expense, $198.44; and Sewage Other Expense, $3,982.86. 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 8.11-c to approve the first reading of the proposed Vital Statistics phone credit card handling fee in the amount of $3.50 per transaction. 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 8.11-c2 to approve the first reading of the proposed Vital Statistics expedited handling fee in the amount of $7.00 per transaction. 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 8.11-d to approve the PHEP GY2012 Budget Revision in an amount not to exceed $89,784.00. 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 8.11-e to approve the increase to the Health Commissioner’s expenditure limit to $2,000.00 per purchase order and an unlimited expenditure limit for all vaccine orders. 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 8.11-f to approve the agreement with VaxCare to provide flu vaccine for the 2011-2012 flu season, pending prosecutor’s approval. 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.

XII. Other Business
There was no other business.

XIII. Meetings

The AOHC Conference will be held September 19-21, 2011 and Mr. Weisdack must attend. As a result, the regular meeting of the Board will be held Monday, September 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon. Mr. Weisdack stated he would email the Board members to remind them.

XIV. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Mrs. Livers adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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