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 and Mrs. Christina Livers, Mr. Timothy Goergen and Dr. Janet O’Hara were not present.

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

Others present: There was no one else present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

The Board tabled the approval of the May 16, 2011 Board of Health Minutes.

IV. Current Expenses/ Financial Report

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the Current Expenses May 12, 2011 to June 14, 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 he spoke to Senator Grendell recently. Senator Grendell said that he was working with other legislators to break down the wording in the rules so that is not so abrasive. Mr. Weisdack stated that he has heard the rules may not be implemented until 2013. Senator Grendell’s aide continues to attend the committee meetings to monitor what is discussed.

b. Construction & Demolition Debris Survey

We had a survey recently of the Solid and Infection Waste and Construction & Demolition Debris programs. The Geauga County Health District is in substantial compliance and is on the approved the list to enforce the program.

c. General Information

Mr. Weisdack explained about a situation of urine being dumped on the pitchers mound at one of the local ball fields. This was being done by one of the local high school baseball team. After many phone calls from residents and the Superintendent of Chardon Schools, the situation was taken care of. It was also covered by the local media.
Our State audit was completed recently. Mr. Weisdack stated that the report should be available in the next few weeks.

The Illuminating Company is proposing a power line to run through Montville, Huntsburg and down Mayfield Road to Orwell. Mr. Weisdack attended a meeting in Montville about this issue. He was asked to provide some testimony on the environmental impact. There were several different proposals of the direction to run the line. They would entail the purchasing or the taking of resident's homes and properties even though there is another way that the Illuminating Company could take their line and not involve the resident's properties. Mr. Weisdack stated that he informed OEPA once he was aware of the other option.

VI. Administrative Hearings

a. David & Arlene Pincus

Mr. & Mrs. Pincus 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 David & Arlene Pincus located at 15054 Hemlock Point Rd., Russell Twp. This case is in regards to the following sections of the Geauga County Health District Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations:

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."

3701-29-02(G)(3 a, b & c) states: "Sewage effluent quality as measured at the point of discharge in the system shall comply with current effluent standards. (a) Biochemical oxygen demand shall not exceed twenty milligrams per liter; (b) Suspended solids shall not exceed forty milligrams per liter; (c) Fecal coliform-Water samples exceeding 5,000 fecal coliform counts per 100 milliliters in 2 or more samples shall be considered creating a public health nuisance."

3701-29-02(G) (4) states: "When test results indicate that the standards set forth in regulation 3701-29-02(G) (3) are not being met or nuisances are being created, additional treatment devices may be required by the Board of Health."

Discussion followed.

Ms. Eppich moved that a code violation exists on the property owned by David & Arlene Pincus located at 15054 Hemlock Point Rd., Russell Twp. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved that the owners be required renew the sewage permit and install a new sewage disposal system within 30 days of receipt of Board order. Failure to follow this order 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 and Mrs. Livers, yes.

b. Duane Mabe

Mr. Mabe was not 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 property owned by Duane Mabe located at 16965 Leggett Rd., Montville 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.
Ms. Eppich moved that a code violation exists on the property owned by Duane Mabe located at 16965 Leggett Rd., Montville Twp. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Ms. Eppich moved that the owner be required to make all necessary repairs, pay the re-inspection fee and schedule and complete the inspection 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. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes and Mrs. Livers, yes.

c. Sean & Monica Lennon; Michael Chappell; Augustine Kellis; Anthony Bennett & Sarah Johnson; Tony & Denise Suglia; Richard Button; James Maquire; Michael & Rosa Albino; Marty Byler; Daniel Byler; Andrew Pankuch; Glen Frohring & Bradford Kelley; and Yan Properties, LLC

Most 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 Sean & Monica Lennon, 11650 Bass Lake Rd., Munson Twp.; Michael Chappell, 9945 Belleflower Cr., Newbury Twp.; Augustine Kellis, 14751 Clydesdale Tr., Russell Twp.; Anthony Bennett & Sara Johnson, 13616 Hall Rd., Claridon Twp.; Tony & Denise Suglia, 9550 Weathervane Dr., Bainbridge Twp.; Richard Button, 9768 Bainbridge Rd., Auburn Twp.; James Maguire, 12524 Caves Rd., Chester Twp.; Michael & Rosa Albino, 12363 Chillicothe Rd., Chester Twp.; Marty Byler, 13946 Claridon Troy Rd., Burton Twp.; Daniel Byler, 9091 Madison Rd., Montville Twp.; Andrew Pankuch, 9276 Madison Rd., Montville Twp.; Glen Frohring & Bradford Kelley, 14721 Stone Rd., Newbury Twp.; and Yan Properties LLC, 9969 Taylor May Rd., Auburn 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.


VII. Personal Health Services Update

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness
The Board was asked to approve the out-of-state travel for Jay Becker to attend the national Strategic National Stockpile Summit in Atlanta, Georgia. This will provide SNS planning training and sharing practices with other agencies. The cost is fully paid by FEMA and includes travel, housing, food, and registration.

b. Nursing

There has been an increase in attendance at immunization clinics as well as newborn home visits.

A CFHS-WIC Consortium was held in June which brought together many local agencies that provide services to parents with infants. As a result of the meeting, the nursing staff will provide immunization information at a WomanSafe event this month.

c. WIC

The May caseload was 899. Mr. Mix reported that currently, they are working on writing the budget and grant project plan for 2012.

As part of its deliverables which the CFHS-WIC Consortium was part of, WIC solicits input from other community agencies. The WIC focus this year was to bring breastfeeding partners together. Geauga WIC is organizing a peer helper lead breastfeeding support group and plans to coordinate with other agencies such as Help Me Grow to promote the support group and encourage participation.

Representatives from Help Me Grow, LaLeche League, Lake Health TriPoint, Birthright, and WomenSafe attended the Consortium. Geauga WIC has the fourth highest breastfeeding initiation rates in Ohio (60.3%). The SMART objective for FY2012 is to increase the percentage of breastfed infants by 3%. It is very important for our many different partners in the community to promote breastfeeding to help us achieve the goal.

New AAP Child Passenger Safety Recommendations and resources for area car seat technicians were discussed. Geauga WIC is currently one of the primary resources in the community for car seat checks.

d. Community Health Assessments

Mr. Mix reported that we have successfully raised sufficient funds to conduct all three surveys including children 0 to 11 years, youth 12 to 18 years and adult. Appreciation was expressed for the many local partner agencies that made the funding possible. This includes the Board of Mental Health and Recovery Services, Job and Family Services, Family First Council, United Way Services of Geauga and Auburn, Burton, Chardon, Chester, Claridon, Hambden, Montville, Munson, Troy, Russell and Thompson Townships and Burton Village.

Mr. Mix stated that at a recent meeting the indicators and questions were selected that will be used for the adult and youth surveys. The children’s survey questions will be selected in the near future.

Mr. Mix stated that they have worked closely with the Board of Mental Health and the Educational Service Center to determine what surveys will be conducted in schools this fall. The ESC has determined a need to assess 4th and 5th grade children as well as surveying parents and teachers for a 360 degree evaluation.

e. Workforce Development

Mr. Mix had nothing to report.

f. Continuous Improvement Project

Mr. Mix reported that the work plan for our quality improvement project is completed. We kicked off the project last Friday as an introduction to the staff. Mr. Mix explained the events being planned to help get the staff more involved in the project.

This project is to bring all health district policies, procedures, plans and protocols to a standard. As a part of the plan, we have created job descriptions and tasks. Some jobs lend themselves better to staff that spend
more time out of the office, such as reviewer. We will begin next week, asking for volunteers first and then if no one volunteers, jobs will be assigned.

As part of this project, we will also be creating missing policies identified in the PHAB standards. During our recent audit, the Ohio State Auditor requested our credit card policy which was not written. One has been drafted and the Board is asked to adopt the policy. Mrs. Livers asked if the policy was approved by the Prosecutor? Mr. Mix indicated that it had not, but would forward it to the Prosecutor for approval. Mrs. Livers stated she strongly recommended it get approved by the prosecutor before the Board adopts the policy.

VIII. Old Business

a. Injection Well Chemical Water Sampling

Mr. Weisdack reported that the well testing is still to be done. We received the HapSite machine back from repairs on May 27, 2011.

Letters were sent out to 28 homeowners in the areas surrounding the injection wells on May 31, 2011 asking if they were interested in having their wells sampled. As of June 17, 2011 only 7 homeowners have responded to the letters stating they were interested. We are hoping that more homeowners will contact us. Mr. Weisdack will be attending a meeting on July 21, 2011 at Hambden Town Hall to provide an update.

Mr. Weisdack and Mr. Tusick attended a meeting recently about gas well drilling. There are 274,000 gas wells in Ohio. Approximately 40,000 gallons of chemicals per Marcellus well is being injected into those wells as part of the drilling process. Not to mention the contamination that may be occurring by the trucks getting chemicals on their tires and driving through the area. Mr. Weisdack and the Board expressed great concern at these facts. ODNR have indicated that 3 of those wells may have caused earthquakes. Mr. Weisdack provided more information to the Board regarding the way the wells are drilled.

b. Copy Fee Proposed Decrease 2nd Reading

Mrs. Livers moved 6.11-a to approve the second reading of the proposed fee decrease for copies from $.10 per page to $.05 per page. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes and Mrs. Livers, yes.

IX. Executive Session

Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn for Executive Session at 8:27 pm to discuss pending legal cases, Health Commissioner’s Evaluation and Personnel. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes and Mrs. Livers, yes. The meeting reconvened at 9:26 pm.

The Board made the following motion based on the discussion during Executive Session: Mrs. Livers moved that based on the recommendation of the Health Commissioner, the Board grants an increase in wages to employee Daniel Mix for an additional $2.50 per hour to be added to his current salary effective July 1, 2011. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes and Mrs. Livers, yes.

X. New Business

Mrs. Livers moved 6.11-b to approve the out-of-state travel for Jay Becker to attend the Strategic national Stockpile Summit in Atlanta, Georgia, July 25-28, 2011. All expenses will be paid by CDC. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes and Mrs. Livers, yes.

Ms. Eppich moved 6.11-c to acknowledge the retirement of Bill Wendell effective June 2, 2011 after 14 years of service to the Geauga County Health District. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes and Mrs. Livers, yes.
Mrs. Livers moved 6.11-d to Adopt Section F- Conduct, Subsection 27 – Credit Card Policy to the Geauga County Health District Personnel Policy. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Mrs. Livers recommends that due to lacking the other two members and prosecutor approval as well as the complexity of the policy change and that the Board tables this action until the next regular meeting. The Board agreed that the action would be tabled.

Mrs. Livers moved 6.11-e to allow the hiring of temporary employees for a time period not to exceed 6 months per Geauga County Health District Personnel Policy Manual with hours to be at the discretion of the Health Commissioner. The rate of pay will be the current hourly rate at time of execution. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Benenati, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes and Mrs. Livers, yes.

XI. Other Business

There was no other business.

XII. Meetings

The Board requested a Personnel work session to begin at 6:00 pm before the next Board of Health Meeting. Mr. Weisdack will send out an email to remind the Board.

The regular meeting of the Board will be held Monday, July 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon.

XIII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 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