I. Call to Order

Mr. Timothy Goergen, Pro-Tempore, called the monthly meeting of the Geauga County Board of Health to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

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

Others present: There were three others present.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Approval of Minutes

The Board tabled the October 17, 2011 minutes until the December meeting.

IV. Current Expenses/Financial Report

Ms. Eppich moved to approve the Current Expenses October 12, 2011 to November 8, 2011. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.

V. Environmental Health Program Update

a. Sewage Rules Update

Mr. Weisdack stated that ODH is still in discussion about whether the Tyler Table or the Mancel Table will be used to determine perched water tables. Mr. Weisdack is in contact with Wes Vins from Columbiana County who is on the rules committee. Mr. Vins is keeping him informed of the direction that ODH seems to be taking with the proposed rules.

Mr. Weisdack reviewed the number and type of sewage disposal permits issued.

b. General Information

1. Election Results

During the most recent election, Dave Snively, Newbury Township Trustee and President of the HDAC was unseated. A special meeting of the HDAC will need to take place to appoint a new president and secretary before January 2012 so that a meeting schedule can be set up.

The Governor has signed an executive order to enforce exotic animals. This order may affect the local health districts that would be required to inspect places thought to be in violation in the case of a nuisance. The Board of Health may adopt regulations regarding the keeping of wild animals. Currently, there is a location in Middlefield Township where a resident is raising bobcats.
The Board discussed the possibility of putting together some regulations for Geauga County. Mr. Weisdack stated that he feels that for now any complaints can be handled as nuisances. If it becomes more of a problem, then adopting regulations could be considered.

VI. Variances

a. Robert Hershberger

Robert Hershberger and John Burkholder were present and affirmed by Mr. Goergen. Mr. Tusick was sworn in by Mr. Goergen and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this was a variance request by James Hershberger for the property located at 15275 Georgia Rd., Middlefield 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.” and section 3701-29-10(D) which states: “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 with the stipulation that the sewage area be fenced to keep livestock off it and that no structures are to be constructed over the replacement area. Dr. O’Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Dr. O’Hara, yes.

VII. Administrative Hearings

a. Mr. & Mrs. James Leslie

James Leslie was present and sworn in by Mr. Goergen. Mr. Tusick was sworn in again by Mr. Goergen and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this is an alleged code violation to the property owned by Mr. & Mrs. James Leslie located at 12932 Chardon Windsor Rd., Hambden 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. Leslie indicated that he knows the sewage system will need to be replaced but does not have funds available to do so. He has already contacted Community Development about obtaining funds to help with the installation but has been told that he does not qualify.

Discussion ensured on whether Mr. Leslie’s system could possibly pass an evaluation. He was instructed to find the discharge line and contact Mr. Tusick for further instructions.

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

VIII. Personal Health Services Update

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The MRC staffed a drive-thru flu clinic on September 24, 2011. They tested new protocols and conducted a time study to determine our ability to vaccinate the entire county in 72 hours. The clinic was successful and we are appreciative of the support of our MRC volunteers.
The Ohio Department of Health PHEP staff conducted a site evaluation on October 4, 2011. Preliminary reports show two deficiencies, but the staff who conducted the evaluation were impressed overall with our improvement over last year.

The nursing and communicable disease staff are dealing with two possible active TB patients in Geauga County. So far, any close contacts with the patients have been found to be negative.

b. Nursing Services

The 2011 flu season has been slow. To date, nearly 700 flu shots have been administered. Several clinics have been held and the nurses have visited seven assisted living centers. Because of our arrangement with VaxCare, we are able to accept most Medicare supplemental insurance plans as well as standard Medicare. We are also able to accept many private insurance plans. To date, we have administered 456 of the 600 vaccinations required using VaxCare stock.

We have agreements with Kent State, Hiram College and Notre Dame College to provide learning environments for nursing students at public health clinics. We have had six nursing students working with the staff at our Amish Well Child clinics.

Chris Pintchuk completed services on American Academy of Pediatrics issues, including revised Polio vaccine recommendations, Whooping Cough vaccine recommendations, and Hepatitis A Vaccine.

c. WIC

The October caseload was 856. This drop coincides with a statewide trend however, Geauga WIC has not lost as much as the average county program. This could possibly be based on changes to allowable foods and the problems grocers are having with outdated systems.

Mr. Mix reported that we are still awaiting a final decision on budget cuts for WIC. We have been tentatively notified of a possible 3% cut.

d. Community Health Assessments

Preliminary letters about the survey have been mailed to approximately 3,000 residents. This includes parents of children under 11 years old and adults. Several articles have run in the local newspapers to advise the public of the importance of the surveys. To date, more than 320 adults have returned the survey.

A copy of the final vision statement for our community health assessment was provided to the Board.

The in-school survey has been scheduled for the week before Thanksgiving at Berkshire, Cardinal, Chardon, Kenston, and West Geauga. Ledgemont will be completed in December. Newbury schools will not be participating. There was some controversy over some of the questions regarding sexual behavior. Those questions have been dropped in order to salvage the survey.

The Board was asked to approve an expenditure for a health survey of adult students at Kent State University, Geauga Campus. The money will be used as compensation for participants. The funds will come from the quality improvement funds, which now stands at $9,000.00.

e. Continuous Quality Improvement Project

The poster presentation at the Fall AOHC Conference went very well. Our poster was visited by more than three dozen public health professionals and we received very positive feedback. The quality improvement project to update our policies will continue through this winter until we are complete. At that time, we will form a committee and begin work on another project, which will help us achieve the requirement for accreditation.

IX. Old Business
a. Injection Well

Mr. Weisdack provided some information about Marcellus, Utica and Huron shale to the Board. He indicated that the injection well presentation on October 27, 2011 went well and was well attended. Mr. Weisdack still has major concerns over the well drilling.

X. Executive Session

Ms. Eppich moved to adjourn for Executive Session at 9:22 pm to discuss pending legal cases. Mr. Goergen seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes. The meeting reconvened at 10:13 pm.

No action was taken as a result of Executive Session.

XI. New Business

Dr. O'Hara moved 11.11-a to approve and adopt the Emergency Reading and Implementation of Inclement Weather Occupancy Permit Regulation, effective immediately. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Mr. Weisdack explained that this regulation is used during wet conditions or inclement weather conditions and the sewage system cannot be installed. Funds are put into escrow to cover the cost of the sewage system. The owner can then install the septic tanks and pump them as needed until the weather becomes better. This allows the homeowner to obtain an occupancy permit and occupy the home. This was removed from the regulations but because of record rainfall, needs to be put back into the regulations. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Dr. O'Hara moved 11.11-b to approve the agreement with the University of Pittsburgh for National Retail Data Monitor (NRDM) to collect data for epidemiological use. The agreement expires June 30, 2012. Ms. Eppich seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Ms. Eppich moved 11.11-c to approve the transfer of $8,000.00 from Health Insurance to Other Expense with the Board of Health fund. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Ms. Eppich moved 11.11-d to approve the expenditure of $1,200.00 from quality improvement funds for an Adult Student Health Survey at Kent State University, Geauga Campus. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Ms. Eppich moved 11.11-e to approve payment for $1,027.00 to AOHC for 2012 dues. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

Ms. Eppich moved 11.11-f to order a special meeting of the HDAC to appoint a President and secretary. Dr. O'Hara seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Ms. Eppich, yes; and Dr. O'Hara, yes.

XII. Other Business

There was no other business.

XIII. Meetings

The regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, December 19, 2011 at 7:00 p.m., 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

XIV. Adjournment
As there was no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Goergen adjourned the meeting at 10:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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