I. Call to Order

Mr. Timothy Goergen, President, called the monthly meeting of the Geauga County Board of Health to order at 7:10 p.m.

Board members present: Mr. Timothy Goergen, President, Mrs. Christina Livers, Pro-Tempore and Mr. David Gragg were present. Dr. Janet O'Hara and Mr. J. David Benenati were not present.

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

Others present: Cody Garrett, Robert Kramer, Linda & Richard Sacash, David Campbell, and Angela Selar.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Re-appointment of Christina Livers

Mr. Goergen announced that Mrs. Livers was re-appointed to the Board of Health by the HDAC.

IV. Election of President and Pro-Tempore

Mrs. Livers moved to appoint Mr. Goergen as President. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved to appoint Mrs. Livers as Pro-Tempore. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

V. Appointment of Committee Members

Mr. Gragg moved to table the appointment of committee members until the May 2014 Board meeting. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the minutes for the March 18, 2014 and April 1, 2014 Board of Health meetings. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

VII. Current Expenses/Financial Report

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the Current Expenses and Financial Reports, March 14, 2014 to April 17, 2014. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

VIII. Variances

a. Richard & Linda Sacash
Richard & Linda Sacash were both present and sworn in by Mr. Goergen. Mr. Tusick was also sworn in by Mr. Goergen and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this is a variance request by Richard & Linda Sacash for the property located at 15135 Hill Dr., Russell Twp. This request involves section 3701-28-07A (D) of the Private Water Well Regulations, which requires a 10-foot isolation distance from a building foundation to a well. (Written background information was provided to the Board for consideration in this case) Discussion followed.

The owners have stated they understand that if a problem arises with the well, they may have to abandon it and drill a new one.

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the variance request to allow the foundation to their addition be within 3-1/2’ of the well. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.


David Campbell was present and sworn in by Mr. Goergen. Mr. Tusick was sworn in again and stated his experience.

Mr. Weisdack stated that this was a variance request by Jack Smith/A-1 Septic in behalf of John Marcosson for the property located at 16925 Burrows Rd., Montville Twp. The request involves section 3701-29-10(D) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations, 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.

Mr. Gragg moved to approve the variance request by Jack Smith/A-1 Septic in behalf of John Marcosson for the property located at 16925 Burrows Rd., Montville Twp. The variance involves section 3701-29-10(D) that lots with a 0-2% slope cannot install a leaching trench system. This request carries homeowner liability if the system fails to function. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

c. Bob Kramer

Bob Kramer 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 a variance request by Bob Kramer for the property located at 7456 Jackson Rd., Bainbridge 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 owner. 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.

Mr. Gragg moved to approve the variance request by Bob Kramer for the property located at 7456 Jackson Rd., Bainbridge Twp. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

IX. Administrative Hearings

a. Mladen & Angela Selar

Angela Selar was present and sworn in by Mr. Goergen. Mr. Tusick was sworn in again by Mr. Goergen and stated his experience. This case was tabled from the March 2014 Board meeting.

Mr. Tusick stated that this is an alleged code violation to the property owned by Mladen and Angela Selar located at 10379 Thwing Rd., Chardon Twp. This case is in regards to section 3701-29-22(A) of the Geauga County Health District Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations, which 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. Selar stated it was her intent to install a new system and forego the For Sale of Property evaluation. She has contacted a soils professional. Ms. Selar also has contacted Geauga County Community Development about obtaining a low cost loan.

Mrs. Livers moved to exempt Mladen & Angela Selar, the property owners of 10379 Thwing Rd., Chardon Twp. of the For Sale of Property requirement based on the fact that the owners will be applying for a permit for a new septic system. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

b. Cody & Kathryn Garrett and Ronald & Christine Meister

None of the above mentioned were present (Cody Garrett was present at the beginning of the meeting, but left). Mr. Tusick was also sworn in by Mr. Goergen and stated his experience.

Mr. Tusick stated that this is an alleged code violation to the property owned by Cody & Kathryn Garrett, 11194 Madison Rd., Huntsburg Twp. and Ronald & Christine Meister, 7873 Mulberry Rd., Chester Twp.

This case is based on section 3701-29-22(A) of the Geauga County Health District Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations, which 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. Tusick explained that the property owners have started working on installing a new system.

Mrs. Livers moved that Cody & Kathryn Garrett, 11194 Madison Rd., Huntsburg Twp. and Ronald & Christine Meister, 7873 Mulberry Rd., Chester 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 90 days of receipt of Board order. Failure to follow this order will result in referral to the Prosecutor’s office for legal action. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

c. Wendy Milite, Mr. & Mrs. Richard O’Connell, Elizabeth Conlin, John Buettner, Theodore Whaley, Kay Holland, Kristine Sheets, Linda Riehl, Jacob Hostetler, Thomas McHenry, Robert & Ruth Miller, Jesse Bookshar, Ruth Morlocke, Anthony & Elizabeth Calvelage, Cedar Gem, Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Hoetzel, Dawn Clemens, Timothy Serazin, Sara & Christopher Madrid, Ray & Marion Detweiler, Curtis Cook, David Lopresti, Dennis Hart, Kristen Ropp, Mr. & Mrs. Darin Dillon.

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


These cases are based on the failure to have a For Sale of Property Evaluation conducted at the time of property transfer as per Section 3701-29-22 (A) of the Geauga County Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations, which 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 any corrective action(s) required shall be accomplished within the time period(s) directed.” Discussion followed.


X. Environmental Health Program Update

a. Sewage Rules Update

Mr. Weisdack stated he received the third revision of the proposed sewage rules recently. This version actually shows the changes within the content. None of the concerns Mr. Weisdack had voiced previously were addressed in those changes.

b. General Information

Mr. Weisdack and the other supervisors will conduct staff evaluations and submit them to the Board of Health at the May 2014 meeting.

The For Sale of Property cost analysis was completed. The Board requested a copy.

A report that Mr. Weisdack has received shows that there is not any positive rabies cases near Geauga County. Some are contributing this to the oral rabies-baiting program.

We have received a request from an intern to shadow our employees for class credit. We have done this in the past. She needs 300 contact hours. The Board was agreeable with the idea. Mr. Weisdack stated he would bring a motion to the Board once he has more details.

XI. Personal Health Services Update

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness
Mr. Mix reported that he has received our annual SNS Program Evaluation from ODH. We received a score of 100%. This is the highest score we have ever received. Mr. Mix thanked Tammy Spencer for her hard work.

The staff continues to work with the Geauga County DES to update the County Mitigation plan and is planning to complete a facility risk assessment on April 16, 2014.

The Board was asked to approve the FY2015 PHEP Budget, which represents a 6.7% decrease from the base funding for FY2014, and an 18.2% decrease from our total award for FY2014.

c. Disease Surveillance

Nothing was discussed.

d. Nursing Services

During the month of March, the nursing staff provided two Amish Well Child Clinic, 5 children and adolescent immunization clinics, four Friday Morning Adult clinics and 3 Senior Center clinics. That included physician visits for 26 children, 384 vaccinations given to 101 children, 20 adult immunizations, 5 flu vaccinations, 2 TB tests and 39 blood pressure screenings. The nurses also provided 51 vision screenings that resulted in providing glasses for 38 children. There were ten newborn and one BCMH home visits as well. The staff nurses conducted six school visits, providing services to 235 students. Seventeen communicable disease investigations were conducted.

The Board was asked to approve a revised CFHS contract for FY2014. This revision is to move funds from one category to another.

The Board was also asked to approve the FY2015 CFHS budget.

e. WIC

The WIC caseload for March was 759. This is a 7% decrease since February.

The Board was asked to approve the FY2014 WIC budget due to receiving additional funding from the Ohio WIC.

f. Administration

We were recently notified by the Commissioner’s office that drug-screening policies for new employees has been changed. We do currently have a drug screening policy, but it is not in line with the required changes. The Board was asked to approve the revision to the Geauga County Health District Personnel Policy, which deals with drug screening.

Due to the changes in the drug screening policy, the Board was asked to approve an agreement with both Lake Health and UH Geauga Medical Center. This testing costs approximately $40.00 and would be paid by the health district. The drug screening company would handle any issues with positive results.

g. Accreditation

The Strategic Planning Committee continues to meet to create a 3 to 5 year plan as part of our accreditation preparation and ODH standards program.

On April 24, 2014, we will conduct our National Public Health Performance Standards assessment (NPHPSP). This assessment involves a large number of public and private agencies that deliver public health services to residents. This assessment is a CDC and NACCHO instrument and has been used for the past 8 years by local health departments.

There are 65 confirmed participants. This group is comprised of many different county agencies. The intent of this assessment is to identify what is going on and what the gaps are. There will be a report generated in approximately six weeks after the meeting. The Board members were encouraged to attend.
XII. Old Business

a. HDAC Meeting

Mr. Weisdack reported that the meeting was held, but there was no quorum. At a recent Geauga Township Association meeting, a quorum was established and Mrs. Livers was re-appointed to the Board.

b. Re-adopt State Camp Fees (3rd and final reading)

Mrs. Livers moved 4.21.14-a to approve the third and final reading of the re-adoption of the swimming pool fees according to section 3709.09 of the Ohio Revised Code and section 3701-31-03 (D) of the Ohio Public Swimming Pool, Spa and Special Use Pool Rules as follows: Swimming pool only- $200.00; Spa only- $200.00; Special Use Pool- $200.00; School/Gov’t.- $172.00. The re-adoption will become effective May 4, 2014. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

c. Re-adopt Pool Fees (3rd and final reading)

Mr. Gragg moved 4.21.14-b to approve the third and final reading of the re-adoption of the recreation vehicle park, recreation camp, and combined park/camps fees according to section 3709.09 of the Ohio Revised Code and section 3701-26-05 of the Recreational Vehicle Parks, Combined Park Camps, and Temporary Park-Camps rules as follows: 50 or less sites- $72.00; More than 50 sites- $72.00 plus $1.00 for each site above 50. The re-adoption will become effective May 4, 2014. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

d. Strategic Priorities

Mr. Mix distributed information about the PHAB readiness assessment to the Board. He explained that the Strategic Planning committee has met 12 times this year. Using the NACCHO Strategic Planning Guide as an outline, he discussed what has been completed so far.

The committee has identified many different weaknesses. Some of those weaknesses include not collaborating well with other agencies in Geauga County and not documenting our process well. The lack of documentation is due to the lack of staff. The jobs are done, they are just not documented.

Discussion continued on what the next steps will be. Mr. Mix reported that he and Mr. Weisdack will be meeting with an individual that will assist with doing the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

Mr. Mix stated that becoming accredited will be very costly both financially as well as in manpower.

Mr. Goergen stated that some components of this assessment are valuable to know if we are successful as a health district. However, it seems we are expending limited resources just for another organization to say we are accredited. He stated he does not think bringing on another person for this project will benefit the workload of the staff. He felt that another sanitarian would be more useful.

Mr. Weisdack stated that we do not have a choice if we want to be competitive as a health department. We will most likely need to become accredited in order to receive grant funding. Mr. Mix stated Lake County Health District has offered to send one of their staff to assist us in our process. They are already working through the accreditation procedure.

Mr. Mix stated that the overall hope would be by developing a strategic plan for our organization it will set us on a course to improving our organization. Mr. Goergen stated he feels there is value in strategic planning, but what he sees is everyone gets fixated on what the regulator wants and loses sight of the overall philosophy of what we are trying to do as an organization.

Discussion ensued regarding the burden this will cause on the health district on both finances and personnel.
Mr. Mix stated that the staff was surveyed and the data will be reviewed and used. We have completed an internal environment scan identifying those organizations and mandates that are put upon the Geauga County Health District. A SWOT analysis has also been completed. The committee has identified strategic issues such as PHAB Accreditation and ODH Public Health Indicators, as well as others.

The committee will be identifying and proposing priorities next. An example of a priority would be to increase the broader understanding of what the Geauga County Health District does.

The Board thanked Mr. Mix for all the work he has done.

XIII. Executive Session

There was no need for Executive Session.

XIV. New Business

Mrs. Livers moved 4.21.14-c to approve the CFHS 2014 Budget Revision not to exceed $66,000.00. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 4.21.14-d to approve the CFHS 2015 Budget not to exceed $66,000.00. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 4.21.14-e to approve the PHEP 2015 Budget not to exceed $87,987.00. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 4.21.14-f to approve the WIC 2014 Budget Revision not to exceed $194,302.00. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 4.21.14-g to approve the revision to Section F: Conduct, 17: Alcoholism and Drugs of the Geauga County Health District Personnel Policy as presented. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 4.21.14-h to approve the agreement with University Hospitals Geauga Medical Center to perform drug testing at Geauga County Health District’s cost (pending prosecutor’s approval). Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 4.21.14-i to approve the agreement with Lake Health Systems to perform drug testing at Geauga County Health District’s cost (pending prosecutor’s approval). Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.

XV. Other Business

Mr. Weisdack advised the Board of a possible case he will be bringing before the Board next month. The case has to do with two homes on one lot.

XVI. Meetings

**Regular Board of Health Meeting.** Thursday, May 15, 2014 at 7:00 pm in the meeting room at 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

XVII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 p.m. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; and Mr. Gragg, yes.
Respectfully submitted,

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