I. Call to Order

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

Board members present: Mr. Timothy Goergen, President, Mrs. Christina Livers, Pro-Tempore, Mr. David Gragg, and Mrs. Catherine Whitright. Dr. Denis Rubal was not present.

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

Others present: Walter Lorenz and Jack Smith.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Welcome Catherine Whitright

The Board welcomed Mrs. Whitright. Mrs. Whitright will serve on the Board of Health for a 5-year term.

IV. Election of President and Pro-tempore

Mrs. Livers moved to re-elect Tim Goergen as President. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, abstained; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Mrs. Whitright, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved to re-elect Christina Livers as Pro-tempore. Mrs. Whitright seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, abstained; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Mrs. Whitright, yes.

V. Appointment of Committee Members

Committees will be formed when needed.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the minutes for the March 21, 2016 Board of Health meetings. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Mrs. Whitright, abstain.

VII. Current Expenses/Financial Report

Mr. Gragg moved to approve the Current Expenses and Financial Reports, March 17, 2016 to April 13, 2016. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Mrs. Whitright, abstain.

VIII. Variances

a. Walt Lorenz/WET Inc.

Walt Lorenz was sworn in by Mr. Goergen. Mr. Tusick was also sworn in and stated his experience.
Mr. Tusick stated that this is a variance request by Walt Lorenz/WET Inc. The request involves the section 3701-29-03 (C) (5) of the Household Sewage Treatment Systems Regulations which requires 6 continued education credits (CEUs) be obtained prior to the registration year for system installers, service providers and septic tank haulers.

3701-29-03 (C) (5) states: “Beginning with the registration year starting on January 1, 2016, proof of completion of at least six continuing education hours during the previous calendar year through educational programs approved by the department of health or demonstration of competency obtained through one of the following mechanisms:”

Based on 3701-29-03, Walt Lorenz/WET Inc. needed to obtain 6 CEUs in 2015 to become registered as a sewage system installer. The company obtained their CEU hours on March 4, 5, 6 & 7, 2016 and March 24, & 25, 2016.

The Ohio Department of Health informed us that businesses that were in operation in 2015 needed to obtain their CEU’s in 2015 or they would need to obtain a variance from the local board of health to become registered in 2016.

Walt Lorenz/WET Inc. is requesting approval of this variance to become registered as a sewage system installer in Geauga County for 2016. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the variance as requested. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Mrs. Whitrigh, yes.

b. Jack Smith/A-1 Septic

Jack Smith 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 Jack Smith/A-1 Septic. The request involves the section 3701-29-03 (C) (5) of the Household Sewage Treatment Systems Regulations which requires 6 continued education credits (CEUs) be obtained prior to the registration year for system installers, service providers and septic tank haulers.

3701-29-03 (C) (5) states: “Beginning with the registration year starting on January 1, 2016, proof of completion of at least six continuing education hours during the previous calendar year through educational programs approved by the department of health or demonstration of competency obtained through one of the following mechanisms:”

Based on 3701-29-03, Jack Smith/A-1 Septic needed to obtain 6 CEUs in 2015 to become registered as a sewage system installer. The company obtained their CEU hours on April 6, 2016.

The Ohio Department of Health informed us that businesses that were in operation in 2015 needed to obtain their CEU’s in 2015 or they would need to obtain a variance from the local board of health to become registered in 2016.

Jack Smith/A-1 Septic, LLC is requesting approval of this variance to become registered as a septic installer in Geauga County for 2016. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Livers moved to approve the variance as requested. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Mrs. Whitrigh, yes.

IX. Administrative Hearings


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

Section 3701-29-25(A) of the Geauga County Health District Household Sewage Disposal System Regulations states, “An evaluation of a residential sewage system must be completed at time of 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.


X. Environmental Health Program Update

a. Sewage Rules

1. SB118

Mr. Weisdack was not able to attend the hearing in support of SB118. He indicated that he provided written testimony for the hearing. There may be another hearing for this bill. If so, Mr. Weisdack is planning to attend if possible.

b. USGS Well Water Monitoring

Christina Livers asked for this topic to be brought to the Board because of an article she saw in the newspaper. The article stated that Commissioner Claypool would be speaking to a representative of the Board of Health. Mrs. Livers stated she felt that Mr. Claypool should address the whole Board, not individually. She stated that she did not want Mr. Weisdack to be placed in the middle of this very important discussion.
The Geauga Township Association is also concerned about the USGS Well Water Monitoring. The cost of this report from USGS costs $35,000.00. The county commissioners could have applied for a $10,000.00 grant, which they have done in the past. The date to apply for the grant has expired.

Mr. Weisdack stated he uses the data from this report to determine approvals for subdivisions. His concern is that depleting the water table within certain areas may be cause for bringing in public water and then, in turn, sanitary sewers.

A meeting will be held this week in which many department heads will be attending. Mr. Weisdack has also been invited to attend. Mr. Weisdack invited the Board to attend also.

Chris asked the Board to approve a letter of support to the Geauga County Commissioners to continue the water well monitoring through the USGS. Mr. Goergen stated he would prefer to vote on this as a group.

Mrs. Livers moved that the Geauga County Board of Health support the Geauga County Commissioners funding the USGS study as has been done in the past and into the future on an annual basis. Mrs. Whitright seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Mrs. Whitright, yes.

Mrs. Livers asked Mr. Goergen to draft a letter to the commissioners on behalf of the Board.

c. General Information

Ohio EPA received a complaint from a resident regarding a business in Auburn. They did sampling of thirteen parameters. Some of the homes had elevated lead levels. There were also other high levels of manganese. A conference call is scheduled with ODH and OEPA. Another set of samples will be taken to verify if there are in fact elevated levels.

We received the first installment of the penalty from Mr. Wolcott recently. Mr. Weisdack also sent a letter to Mr. Wolcott stating to hold work until May 16, 2016. At that time, Mr. Weisdack will consult with him about remediation.

XI. Personal Health Services Update

a. Public Health Emergency Preparedness

The staff continues to participate in the Regional Republic National Convention preparedness and Ebola planning. They will be participating in a Biowatch tabletop exercise soon. Personal protective equipment (PPE) training was held for the staff on April 15, 2016.

The Geauga Healthcare Coalition is meeting monthly to develop local plans in conjunction with Biowatch.

The Board was asked to approve an updated Mutual Aid agreement with all NE Ohio local health districts. This agreement allows the sharing of resources during public health emergencies and events when the requesting party lacks the resources to sufficiently respond.

b. Disease Surveillance

The disease count for March was 58, which is an increase from February. The majority of the cases are STD’s which likely indicates better lab reporting. Flu activity has tapered off.

c. Nursing Services

During the month of March, the nursing staff provided 2 Amish Well Child Clinics, 6 children and adolescent immunization clinics, 4 Friday Morning Adult clinics, and 3 Senior Center clinics. Included were visits for 28 children at the well child clinics, 274 vaccinations given to 85 children, 19 adult immunizations, 114 BP and 5 TB tests. The nurses also provided vision screenings that resulted in referrals for glasses for 38 children. They also conducted 6
maternal/ newborn visits and no BCMH home visits. The staff visited 6 parochial schools providing services to 194 students.

The Board was asked to acknowledge the hiring of Robyn Bull, RN as public health nurse.

The Board was asked to acknowledge the resignation of Julianne Hostutler, PHS clerk.

The Board was asked to approve the temporary part-time rehire of Helen Reighard to assist in the training of the newest PHS clerk.

Mr. Mix stated that it appears that funding for the Amish Well Child clinics may be drying up. He will keep the Board informed about the situation.

d. WIC

The WIC caseload for March was 732. This was a 2% increase since February. This includes 332 children enrolled in the program.

Mindy White attended the Child Passenger Safety Seat Conference. She spent nine hours as a car seat technician in March.

Geauga WIC has relocated into their new space within the department. There is a dedicated space for lactation/breastfeeding when counseling women with breastfeeding issues.

A University of Cincinnati dietetics student is receiving clinical exposure through Geauga WIC for March and part of April.

March is National Nutrition Month. WIC distributed educational and promotional materials to encourage fruit and vegetable consumption.

e. Administration

The Board was asked to acknowledge the hiring of Jan Dieterle as EH secretary.

f. Accreditation

On March 25, the staff received QI training provided by Amy Lee, MD, MPH from the Consortium of Eastern Ohio MPH program. The staff have formed five departmental QI teams who will use QI principals and tools to identify a problem in their department. They will then design, test and implement a solution.

Mr. Mix stated this experience will assist the staff to understand the culture of QI and allow identification of a handful of individual QI leaders who will form a QIPM Council for the agency.

Mr. Weisdack and Mr. Mix are still negotiating with public and private agencies to secure funding to conduct the 2016/2017 community health assessment.

Mr. Mix distributed the 2015 Geauga County Health District annual report to the Board. Mrs. Livers complimented the staff on obtaining the data and putting together the report.

XII. Old Business

a. HDAC Meeting

Mr. Weisdack presented the 2017 budget to the HDAC at the recent meeting. The budget was approved.
At the meeting, Mr. Weisdack was asked to draft a letter that all the townships could modify for their use, in opposition of accreditation. Mr. Weisdack drafted a letter and sent it to Erwin Leffel, HDAC Secretary. The townships are concerned because of the cost of becoming accredited.

XIII. New Business

Mrs. Livers moved 4.16-a to acknowledge the hiring of Janet Dieterle as EH Secretary effective April 4, 2016 at a rate of $10.25 per hour with a $.50 per hour increase upon successful 120-day probation period. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Mrs. Whitright, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 4.16-b to acknowledge the hiring of Robyn Bull, RN as public health nurse effective April 18, 2016 at a rate of $21.50 per hour with a $.50 per hour increase upon successful 120-day probation period. Mrs. Livers seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Mrs. Whitright, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 4.16-c to acknowledge the resignation of Julianne Hostutler, PHS Secretary effective April 8, 2016. Mrs. Whitright seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Mrs. Whitright, yes.

Mrs. Livers moved 4.16-d to approve the hiring of Helen Reighard as part-time PHS secretary effective April 4, 2016 for no more than 28 hours per week at a rate of $16.00 for a period of 4-6 months. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Mrs. Whitright, yes.

Mr. Gragg moved 4.16-e to approve the revised Regional Mutual Aid Agreement with Northeast Ohio local health departments. Mrs. Whitright seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Mrs. Whitright, yes.

XIV. Other Business

Mr. Weisdack stated that because of the requirements of the sewage rules and accreditation, staff would need to be increased. He will continue to look at the staffing requirements very closely. Mr. Weisdack stated that even though the staff is being stretched thin, they do an excellent job getting information to the customers.

XV. Meetings

Regular Board of Health Meeting, Monday, May 16, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the meeting room of 470 Center St., Bldg. 8, Chardon, Ohio.

XVI. Executive Session

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Mrs. Livers moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. Mr. Gragg seconded the motion. Motion carried with a roll call vote. Mr. Goergen, yes; Mrs. Livers, yes; Mr. Gragg, yes; and Mrs. Whitright, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

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