

**Western U.P. Board of Health  
Health Department Office  
540 Depot Street Hancock, MI 49930  
Virtual "Google Meet"  
Monday, January 30, 2023**

**Minutes**

Opening

Health Officer Kate Beer opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m. (EST). Present were G. Anderson, R. Britz, J. Cane, B. Dakota, J. Keranen, R. Nousiainen, and D. Rajala. Absent was J. Byrns, R. DeMarois, G. Eilola, and D Siirila. Also, in attendance were Dr Robert Van Howe, Medical Director; Pete Baril, Deputy Health Officer & Director of Community Planning; Tanya Rule, Environmental Health Director; Sara Heathman, Environmental Health Operations Supervisor; and Julie Heikkinen, Administrative/HR Assistant. There were 4 people in person and 5 people virtually in attendance as audience.

Beer began the board reorganization process with a call for nominations for Chair.

Nomination: Anderson/second Britz nominating D. Rajala to the position of board chair. Beer called for other nominations, three times, with no response.

Motion: Nousiainen/second Britz to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for D. Rajala as Chair. Motion carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

Beer then sought nominations for the position of board Vice Chair.

Nomination: Cane/second Britz nominating G. Anderson as Vice Chair. Beer called for other nominations, three times, with no response.

Motion: Nousiainen/second Cane to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for G. Anderson as Vice Chair. Carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

Secretary nominations took place next.

Nomination: Keranen/second Cane nominating B. Dakota as Secretary to the board. Beer called for other nominations, three times, with no response.

Motion: Nousiainen/second Cane to close nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for B. Dakota as Secretary. Carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

Next in the reorganization process, Beer asked board Chair Rajala to establish its Executive Committee for the 2023 year. One member from each county, including the board chair, make up the Executive Committee. Following a brief discussion, Rajala appointed these members to the Executive Committee: Nousiainen, Byrns, Keranen, Eilola and Rajala as Chair.

At this point, Chair Rajala assumed conduct of the meeting.

With reorganization complete, Chair Rajala requested action on the agenda. This action followed:

Motion: Cane/second Britz to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

Chair Rajala asked for public comment, one person spoke.

Kris Kyro from WMPL Radio requested to ask the Board a few questions on topics that listeners of her radio show would like to know.

Chair Rajala informed Kris Kyro that this is Public Comment, not exchange. He informed her that she could state her comments, and then the Board proceeds with the agenda items.

Chair Rajala called for additional comments and heard none.

Minutes of the November 28, 2022 meeting were reviewed and approved with this action:

Motion: Nousiainen/second Cane to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2022 Board of Health meeting as prepared. Motion carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

The board reviewed expenditures for the month of December 2022 & January 2023, leading to this action:

Motion: Nousiainen/second Anderson to approve the general expenditures for the period 11/2022 to 01/19/2023, voucher # 04, voucher # 05, voucher # 06, voucher # 07 and voucher # 08 in the amount of \$399,306.12. Carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

### Reports

Kate Beer, Health Officer:

Recent hires include a Program Analyst for Healthy Connections and a Social Worker for the Maternal & Infant Health Program. A retired employee was recruited to fill a Family Navigator position on a part-time basis. One sanitarian has resigned and that position has been posted. There are also open positions in the lab and billing areas.

The audit for the fiscal year 2022 is tentatively scheduled for the end of February.

The Healthy Connections program has earned CARF International accreditation and is now able to perform and bill for substance use disorder services.

There is a letter in your packet from our attorney regarding the process for the adoption of the new environmental health code. Please share with your respective boards.

Financials through December 31st show a typical seasonal loss. Additionally, there is some revenue for Healthy Connections and the Regional Lab that has not yet been recorded.

Dr Robert Van Howe, Medical Director:

Shigella bacteria cause an infection called shigellosis. Shigella cause an estimated 450,000 infections in the United States each year. Of the four Shigella species, *Shigella sonnei* is the most common species in the United States.

Shigella spread easily; it takes just a small number of bacteria to make someone ill. People with a Shigella infection can spread the infection to others for several weeks after their diarrhea ends.

You can get infected by swallowing Shigella. If you get Shigella on your hands by touching infected surfaces and when you touch your mouth you can become infected. You can also become infected from:

- Eating food prepared by someone with a Shigella infection.
- Swallowing improperly treated recreational water.
- Swallowing contaminated drinking water.
- Exposure to stool during sexual contact with someone with a Shigella infection or who has recently recovered from a Shigella infection.

Most people with Shigella infection experience high fever followed by diarrhea that can be bloody. There can also be vomiting, stomach pain, and feeling the need to pass stool even when the bowels are empty. Symptoms usually start 1–2 days after infection and last 7 days. In some cases, bowel habits (frequency and consistency of stool) do not return to normal for several months.

Young children are the most likely to get a Shigella infection, with many outbreaks occurring in childcare settings and schools. Other at risk of infection are travelers to areas with poor sanitation and hygiene systems. Travelers may also be exposed to contaminated food, water, or surfaces. Men who have sex with men are also at greater risk, as are people with weakened immune systems.

People who have shigellosis usually get better without antibiotic treatment in 5 to 7 days. People with mild shigellosis may need only fluids and rest. Pepto-Bismol may be helpful, but medications that cause the gut to slow down, like Imodium or Lomotil, should be avoided.

About 2% will experience reactive arthritis after infection. Another 0.4% to 7.3% develop bloodstream infections which brings at a higher risk of death. Generalized seizures in young children are seen associated

with a high fever, low blood sugar, or abnormal blood electrolytes. Hemolytic-uremic syndrome (HUS) is a rare complication of shigellosis seen most commonly in children. It is associated with Shiga toxin-producing *Shigella*.

#### Old Business

The board discussed scheduling a public hearing for approval of the U.P. Environmental Health Code, resulting in this action:

Motion: Anderson/second Cane to schedule a public hearing to approve the U.P. Environmental Health Code. The public hearing will be held 30 minutes prior to the Board of Health meeting on February 27, 2023. Carried on roll call, all voting yes.

#### New Business

The board reviewed the Accident/Incident Summary Reports for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2022 and the Annual 2022.

The board discussed updating the authorized signatures for the L’Anse office account, leading to this action:

Motion: Cane/second Britz to approve updating the signatures on the L’Anse office account. Carried on roll call, all voting yes.

The board reviewed the 2023 Board of Health meeting schedule, leading to this action:

Motion: Cane/second Keranen to approve the Board of Health meeting schedule, with the exception of one minor change; update the Keweenaw meeting location to the Hancock location. Carried on roll call, all voting yes.

#### Other

With no other business, Chair Rajala set the next meeting for 6:00 pm (EST), February 27, 2023, in person at the health department office in Hancock and also available via Google Meet.

Chair Rajala then asked for public comment and heard from several people.

Kris Kyro from WMPL Radio inquired on the Syringe Program that we offer. She then asked how much money is received by WUPHD for Covid tests/vaccines and if contact tracing is legal.

Chair Rajala reminded Kris Kyro again that this is Public Comment, not exchange.

Erik Kiilunen commented that the Board should consider approving the funding of research on vaccines.

Greg Putnam from U.P. Engineering addressed the Board on the verbiage of the U.P. Environmental Health Code.

John Fodermaier also addressed the Board on the same verbiage of the U.P. Environmental Health Code.

Derek Bradway addressed the Board on the challenges he faced attaining a state campground permit for Keweenaw Waters Resort Campground.

Kris Kyro from WMPL Radio commented that she is very pleased with WUPHD for keeping them informed on everything.

Karen Timonen asked the Board for a list of ingredients in the Covid injection and requested that they get posted to local newspapers and radio stations.

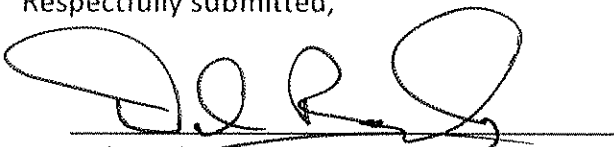
Chair Rajala called for additional comments and heard none.

#### Adjourn

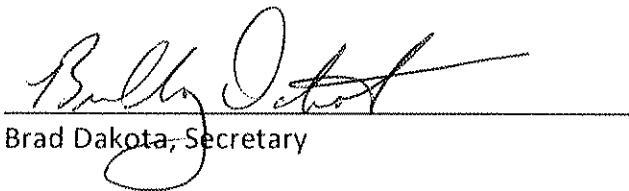
The final motion occurred at 7:06 p.m.

Motion: Anderson/second Keranen to adjourn at 7:06 p.m. Carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

Respectfully submitted,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Del Rajala', written over a horizontal line.

Del Rajala, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Dakota', written over a horizontal line.

Brad Dakota, Secretary

Prepared by Kate Beer  
KB/jh