

**Western U.P. Board of Health
Michigan Tech Lakeshore Center Community Room
600 E. Lakeshore Drive Houghton, MI 49931
Virtual "Google Meet"
Monday, February 27, 2023**

Minutes

Opening

Chair Rajala opened the meeting at 6:45 p.m. (EST). Present were G. Anderson, J. Byrns, B. Dakota, G. Eilola, J. Keranen, R. Nousiainen, D. Rajala, and D. Siirila. Absent was R. Britz, J. Cane, and R. DeMarois. Also, in attendance were Kate Beer, Health Officer/Administrator, Dr Robert Van Howe, Medical Director; Pete Baril, Deputy Health Officer & Director of Community Planning; Tanya Rule, Environmental Health Director; and Julie Heikkinen, Administrative/HR Assistant. There were 8 people in person and 17 people virtually in attendance as audience.

Chair Rajala requested action on the agenda with the addition of new business. This action followed:

Motion: Nousiainen/second Siirila to approve the agenda with the addition of new business, 9a. Agenda Format and 9b. Environmental Health Fee Schedule. Motion carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

Chair Rajala asked for public comment, one person spoke.

Teresa Kariniemi - Copper City, MI, commented that she is against the Proposed Environmental Health Code.

Chair Rajala called for additional comments and heard none.

Minutes of the January 30, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved with this action:

Motion: Siirila/second Dakota to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2023 Board of Health meeting as prepared. Motion carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

The board reviewed expenditures for the month of February 2023, leading to this action:

Motion: Nousiainen/second Siirila to approve the general expenditures for the period 01/20/2023 to 02/16/2023, voucher # 09 and voucher # 10 in the amount of \$107,559.06. Carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

Reports

Kate Beer, Health Officer:

Kindergarten Dental Program – Several health departments are participating in this screening program. We need to cover about 650 incoming Kindergarten students. Looking at staffing that would be involved.
Updated strategic plan – Will share with Board soon for comments.

County Board Meetings scheduled for Code Approval

Gogebic – 03/08/2023
Baraga – 03/13/2023
Keweenaw – 03/15/2023
Ontonagon – 03/21/2023
Houghton – 04/11/2023

Dr Robert Van Howe, Medical Director:

On the tail of the release of the UP Community Health Needs Assessment published this past summer, I have been facilitating workshops in Baraga, Gogebic, Ontonagon, and Houghton/Keweenaw counties aiming to develop a Community Health Improvement Plan. The goal of the workshops is to develop a coalition of community groups and member to point to what is needed to improve community health. My job is to facilitate, not lead discussion. So far what has come out has surprised me. Many of the leading causes of death and illness in our counties are not on the communities’ radar. These include cancer, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and lung disease. In all of the sessions so far, none of these have been mentioned. This may reflect that these diseases have an impact on the individual level. The topics getting the most attention is transportation, housing, child care, health education, mental health, and substance abuse treatment. Without prompting, workshop members are identifying social determinants of health.

When discussing these potential targets for intervention, one common theme has emerged: these problems need policy solutions that are politically supported. Members of the community know what the issues are but do not have the resources to address them. It has been said that all politics is local, so do not be surprised if county boards in the coming months encounter calls to address these issues with local solutions.

Old Business

The board discussed in great detail and reviewed suggested edits from the public to add revisions to the U.P. Environmental Health Code before presenting to each county board meeting, resulting in this action:

Motion: Siirila/second Nousiainen to approve the U.P Environmental Health Code with suggested edits and to present the revised U.P. Environmental Health Code to each county board meeting for review.
Carried on roll call, 7 yes and 1 no.

New Business

The board discussed agenda format at meetings, leading to this action:

Motion: Siirila/second Byrns to limit the 1st public comment period to agenda items only and the 2nd public comment period to any matter. Carried on roll call, all voting yes.

The board discussed the Environmental Health Fee Schedule for an appeal, leading to this action:

Motion: Siirila/second Eilola to amend the Environmental Health Fee Schedule for an appeal and add this as an agenda item on the next Board of Health meeting. Carried on roll call, all voting yes.

Other

With no other business, Chair Rajala set the next meeting for 6:00 pm (EST), March 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 three people.

Mary Sears commented on some suggestions for the Proposed U. P Environmental Health Code.

Pete Baril thanked the Board of Health for their support and discussed how people can address questions or concerns to the health department.

Tanya Rule also thanked the Board of Health for their support.

Chair Rajala called for additional comments and heard none.

Adjourn

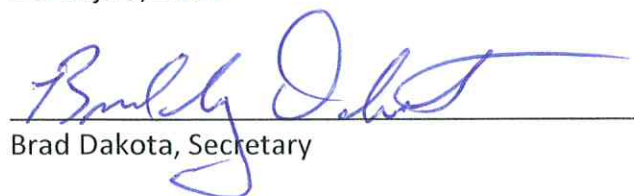
The final motion occurred at 8:00 p.m.

Motion: Keranen/second Byrns to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

Respectfully submitted,



Del Rajala, Chair



Brad Dakota, Secretary

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4

Prepared by Kate Beer
KB/jh