

**Western U.P. Board of Health
Public Hearing
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 hearing at 5:34 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 17 people in person and 28 people virtually in attendance as audience.

Chair Rajala requested action on the agenda:

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

Kate Beer, Health Officer/Administrator and Tanya Rule, Environmental Health Director provided opening comments.

Chair Rajala asked for public comment, several people spoke.

Lori Burford - Roscommon, MI, commented that she supports the Proposed Environmental Health Code.

Steve Sutton – Pontiac, MI, commented that he supports the Proposed Environmental Health Code.

David Halonen – Calumet, MI, commented on the verbiage of the Proposed Environmental Health Code and does not support it.

Kim Maki – Chassell, MI, commented that he supports the Proposed Environmental Health Code.

Mary Sears – Franklin Township, MI, presented a three-page document to the board with several edits that she feels needs to be done to the Proposed Environmental Health Code.

Derek Bradway – Dollar Bay, MI, commented that the Proposed Environmental Health Code does need to be updated and suggested edits.

Erik Kiilunen – Hubbell, MI, commented on updating the Proposed Environmental Health Code.

Mark Prevost – Eau Claire, WI, commented that he supports the Proposed Environmental Health Code.

Matthew Johnson – Walker, MI, commented that he supports the Proposed Environmental Health Code.

Drew Hall – Calumet, MI, commented that he is questioning why the code has to change.

Jim King – Connecticut, commented that he supports the Proposed Environmental Health Code.

Kris Kyro – WMPL Radio, Houghton, MI, commented that a lot of comments were from people outside of the U.P. and thought a previous comment earlier in the meeting regarding trust with the health department was a good point.

Karen Timonen – Chassell, MI, commented on lack of transparencies surrounding COVID and inquired on the ingredients in the injection.

William Pete – commented on how he appreciates the work that the health department has done and feels that everyone works very professionally.

Chair Rajala called for additional comments and heard none.

Chair Rajala asked for board comments and heard from five board members.

Glenn Anderson – inquired if the health department currently has authority to do commercial septic systems or if EGLE does. He also asked how flexible we are now with alternative septic systems compared to how flexible we would be with the code change. He then asked if the board will be making the suggested edits before moving forward with approving the Proposed Environmental Health Code.

Joel Keranen – inquired if the health code can be looked at annually or bi-annually. He also commented that he agrees with many of the comments that have been made by the public. He feels that he will have a hard time approving the code by not taking into consideration all of the suggested edits. He also commented on an email he received from Roy Britz. Britz inquired on the word potential and if there will be a language reference to go along with it. He also inquired if someone wins an appeal if they can get their money refunded.

Robert Nousiainen – commented that he feels that another meeting needs to be scheduled and sooner than 30 days, the construction season is coming soon.

Dan Siirila – commented on the tardiness of a three-page long document containing suggested edits. The public had a long period of time to submit these prior to the meeting. He felt that this will hold up the process.

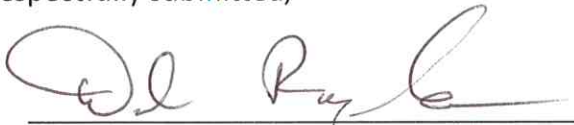
Jim Byrns – commented that it is a good idea to take time and look at the suggested edits from the public.

Adjourn

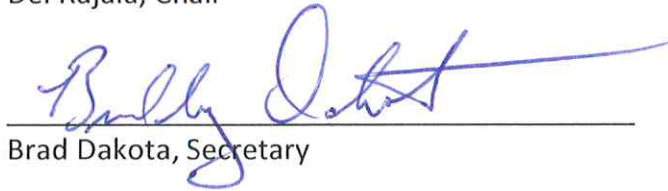
The final motion occurred at 6:32 p.m.

Motion: Nousiainen/second Eilola to adjourn at 6:32 p.m. Carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Del Rajala, Chair

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

Brad Dakota, Secretary

Prepared by Kate Beer

KB/jh