

**Western U.P. Board of Health
Health Department Office
540 Depot Street Hancock, MI 49930
Monday, June 22, 2026**

Minutes

Opening

Chair Dakota opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m. (EST). Present were R. Britz, J. Cane, B. Dakota, J. Keranen, W. Menge, and R. Nousiainen. Absent were G. Anderson, J. Cayer, R. DeMarois, D. Rajala, and M. Yon. Also in attendance were Pete Baril, Health Officer/Administrator; Dr Robert Van Howe, Medical Director; Roy Manninen, Director of Finance; and Julie Heikkinen, Administrative/HR Assistant. There was 1 person present online as audience.

Chair Dakota requested action on the agenda. This action followed:

Motion: Cane/second Menge to approve the agenda with the addition of 9e. Lab Purchases: i. Hologic Supplies & ii. Avidity – New Water Treatment System & Warranty. Motion carried on voice vote, all ayes.

Chair Dakota asked for public comment, no one spoke.

Minutes of the April 27, 2026 meeting were reviewed. This action followed:

Motion: Menge/second Britz to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2026 Board of Health meeting. Motion carried on voice vote, all ayes.

The board reviewed expenditures for the period: 04/10/2026 to 06/04/2026, leading to this action:

Motion: Cane/second Menge to approve the general expenditures for the period 04/10/2026 to 06/04/2026, voucher #15, voucher #16, Voucher #17 and voucher #18 in the amount of \$307,795.39. Carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

Reports:

Pete Baril, Health Officer:

General:

Effective June 3rd, 2026, the Marquette County Health Department issued a public health order banning the sale of Kratom extracts, derivatives, and other non-leaf products. The order language will be sent to Board Members as requested. We anticipate a statewide ban and will be monitoring the situation.

We have submitted a letter of intent to apply for funds through MDHHS for Rural Health Transformation funding. WUPHD has applied for \$295,000 in funding to work on community health worker retention, administrative efficiency, community partner communication, and internal process improvement. The goal of the initial project will be to have systems in place for additional funding cycles with significant impact to the community.

Environmental Health field season is seeing demand similar to last year thus far.

Dr Robert Van Howe, Medical Director:

Bundibuyo is the new strain of the Ebola virus emerging in central Africa. There are over 100 confirmed deaths. The virus is spread through contact with bodily fluids of those infected during the “wet” phase” of the illness. Careful use of protective equipment is essential to prevent spreading to medical personnel. Monitored doffing of gowns, gloves, and masks is essential.

As of this writing (June 1), there have been no reported cases in the United States. People flying into the United States from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda and surrounding regions are being screened by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at four airports in the United States. The CDC is alerting state health departments and local health departments of people who require monitoring after the screening. Rather than returning sick Americans to the two treatment facilities in the United States, a treatment facility is being erected in Kenya. This decision has been met with criticism by those who have battled Ebola in the past.

The outbreak initially progressed unimpeded as testing of the new strain was not available and much of the medical treatment infrastructure was dismantled following the withdrawal of funding from USAIDS and PEPFAR. While the Zaire strain Ebola strains have a vaccine, there is no vaccine or specific treatment for the Bundibugyo strain.

We are carefully watching how this outbreak unfolds and meet regularly with the CDC to co-ordinate potential monitoring efforts. So far, no one in our jurisdiction has been tagged for monitoring.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

The board was presented with the Financial Audit – Year Ending 9/30/2025 by Roy Manninen, Director of Finance; which led to this action:

Motion: Cane/second Nousiainen to approve the Financial Audit – Year Ending 9/30/2025 as presented. Carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

The board reviewed the FY2027 CPBC Contract, leading to this action:

Motion: Menge/second Cane to approve the FY2027 CPBC Contract as presented. Carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

The board reviewed the Model Resolution – Local Health Department, less than 1,000 gallons, leading to this action:

Motion: Menge/second Cane to table the Model Resolution – Local Health Department, less than 1,000 gallons. Carried on voice vote, all ayes.

The board reviewed the changes to Criminal Background Checks, Status Review for Employees with Variable Schedules, and Health, Vision, and Dental Insurance; leading to this action:

Motion: Nousiainen/second Cane to approve the changes to Criminal Background Checks, Status Review for Employees with Variable Schedules, and Health, Vision, and Dental Insurance as presented. Carried on voice vote, all ayes.

The board reviewed the Proforma Purchase for Hologic Supplies, leading to this action:

Motion: Cane/second Nousiainen to approve the Proforma Purchase of Hologic Supplies in the amount of \$126,992.00. Carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

The board reviewed the Avidity New Water Treatment System & Warranty, leading to this action:

Motion: Menge/second Cane to approve the Avidity New Water Treatment System & Warranty purchase in the amount of \$58,669.59. Carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

The board discussed the FY27 County Allocation Schedule & Budget Process.

Other

With no other business, Chair Dakota set the next meeting for 6:00 pm (EST), July 27, 2026, in person at the health department office in Bessemer and available via Google Meet.

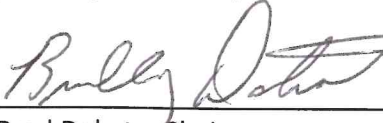
Chair Dakota then asked for public comment, no one spoke.

Adjourn

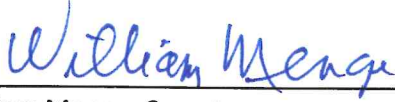
The final motion occurred at 7:36 p.m.

Motion: Menge/second Keranen to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. Carried on voice vote, all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Brad Dakota, Chair

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

William Menge, Secretary

Prepared by Pete Baril
PB/jh