

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH – MINUTES
1930 9th AVE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601
Zoom Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
February 23, 2023**

Members Present

Justin Murgel, chair
Dr. Mikael Bedell, vice chair
Commissioner Tom Rolfe
Mayor Wilmot Collins
Mayor Kelly Harris
Brie MacLaurin
Lisa Kaufman
Katherine Weber
Rex Weltz

Members Absent

Staff Present

Drenda Niemann
Jolene Helgerson
Beth Norberg
Jay Plant
Heather Parmer
Sarah Sandau
Carin McClain

Tabreez Kara
Valerie Stacey

Guests Present

Justin Murgel, chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was established.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

No changes were made. No public comment was given.

MINUTES

Mr. Murgel asked if there were any corrections or additions to the December 1, 2022, and January 26, 2023 minutes. There being none, the Board approved the minutes as written. No public comment was given.

INTRODUCTIONS

New Staff Introduction & Employee Recognition: Introduction of new employees Carin McClain, Tobacco Prevention Specialist, Tabreez Kara, Suicide Prevention CDC Associate, Angelique Frier, Big Sky Watershed Corps member. Drenda Niemann, Health Officer announced that Valerie Stacey, Sanitarian with the Environmental Services Division, received the Quarterly Employee Recognition award. No public comment was given.

ACTION ITEMS

Variance Request, Aaron and Windy Knutson, 5697 Birdseye Road, Helena, MT: Lisa Kaufman, Hearing Officer, read the hearing officer recommendation (on page 11 of the board packet) from the Knutson Variance held on February 1, 2023. She said the request met all of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality criteria for granting a variance. In answer to a question from Commissioner Tom Rolfe, Ms. Kaufman and Beth Norberg, Sanitarian, both replied that the number of animals processed for the year in condition #5 (on page 14 of the board packet) was set by the applicant when asked to determine

the amount of waste that would be going into the holding tank. Commissioner Rolfe noted that there should not be a limit on the number of animals to help with future business opportunities and to avoid having to submit another variance application for review by the Board. In answer to a question from Mayor Kelly Harris, Ms. Norberg, stated that if the City of Helena started to restrict dumping of septic waste into the City of Helena's Municipality, there is an approved land application site available to use. At this time the City of Helena has not restricted any septic waste unloading. Commissioner Rolfe moved to ratify the hearing officer recommendation. Mayor Wilmot Collins seconded the motion. No public comment was given. The motion carried 9-0 with Katherine Weber's response sent via email to Drenda Niemann, Health Officer (see Attachment "A").

BOARD MEMBER DISCUSSION

Finance Report for 2st Quarter FY23: Heather Parmer, Finance Coordinator, referenced the FY23 comparison to budget and cash flow for July through December 2022 (on pages 34-35 of the board packet). Ms. Parmer noted that the department is 50% through the fiscal year. Total revenue to date is \$1,570,481 or 54% of the amount budgeted; actual expenditures are \$1,570,643 or 55% of the amount budgeted. Revenues are under expenditures by \$162; total ending cash is \$599,206. Ms. Parmer said the current cash reserve is at 72 days. The recommended reserve is 90 days. Revenue has increased with the payment of November taxes. No public comment was given.

Air Quality Update: Jay Plant, Sanitarian, gave an update on the 2022-23 Air Quality Monitoring season (on pages 36-38 of the board packet). Mr. Plant noted this year's air quality during the monitoring season which runs from November 1 to March 1 was good overall. No public comment was given.

Customer Satisfaction Survey results: Ms. Niemann presented the Customer Satisfaction Survey Summary Report (on pages 39-49 of the board packet) in which she highlighted the purpose of the survey, methods, results and recommendations.

HEALTH OFFICERS REPORT

Ms. Niemann offered a short update on activities of the Montana Legislature related to public health:

[HB 2:](#) General Appropriations Act- In First House Committee

[HB 364:](#) Allow for independent subdivision reviews for past due applications- In First House—Third Reading

[HB 715:](#) Revise school immunization laws- In First House—Third Reading

[SB423:](#) General revise liability related to firearm hold agreements- Currently in Senate Hearing.

[SB450:](#) Personal Freedom /Right of Conscience Act related to immunizations and drugs- In First House—Third Reading

[SB465:](#) Require implementation of Medicaid community engagement requirements-Probably Dead

[SB 475:](#) Generally revise indoor vaping laws- In First House Committee--Tabled

CDC Infrastructure Grant: The CDC grant that provided funding for COVID-19 response is set to expire. This grant allowed Public Health to employ personnel to assist with COVID responses. 2 of the 3 FTE

positions will be terminated at the end of the grant, June 30, 2023. Ms. Niemann has submitted a new grant award to continue the employment of the Epidemiologist position.

Local Governing Body: The five member board met to review and discuss the Local Governing Body By-Laws. Recommended changes were discussed and the County Attorney is currently amending the draft by-laws.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

The meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Justin Murgel, Chair

Drenda Niemann, Secretary