George Bailey, Chairperson called the Regular Meeting of the Mid-Michigan District Board of Health (BOH) to order at 9:01 a.m. on Wednesday, November 27, 2019, at the Clinton County Office of the MMDHD, Saint Johns, Michigan.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by G. Bailey.

A. AGENDA NOTES, REVIEW, AND REVISIONS:

C. Murphy asked if members of the Riverdale Committee and Healthy Pine River could speak under item H.

1. G. Bailey indicated that he was not opposed.
L. Braddock asked if she could add PFAS, Grand Ledge as item H. 4.

**Motion made by B. Kellenberger and seconded by A. Petersen to approve the Agenda as amended. Motion carried.**

**B. CONSENT ITEMS:**

1. Meeting Minutes
   a. Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) Board of Directors Meeting held October 15, 2019
   b. Mid-Michigan District Board of Health (BOH) Regular Meeting held October 23, 2019
2. Communications – None
   The MALPH Board of Directors Meeting Minutes were not available for the meeting.

   **Motion made by B. Kellenberger and seconded by B. DeLong to accept Meeting Minutes B. 1. b. and place on file. Motion carried.**

C. **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

D. **BRANCH OFFICE EMPLOYEES:** M. Cheatham introduced Allison Schafer, Public Health Representative.

E. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. Finance Committee – Bruce DeLong, Chairperson
   a. MMDHD’s Expenses for October 12 through November 22, 2019

   **Motion made by B. DeLong and seconded by B. Kellenberger to approve payment of the MMDHD’s Expenses for October 12 through November 22, 2019 totaling $462,212.56. Motion carried.**

   b. MMDHD’s Monthly Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenditure Report for September 2019

   M. Bowerman stated that the agency ended with a surplus of $132,778.12. She reviewed the recommendations for distribution of the surplus:
   - $285,000 out of the fund balance for retirement;
   - $400,000 to a new fund for the Community Health Worker Program; and
   - $57,778.12 to a new fund for the OPEB Health Insurance Liability, using $40,000 from fund balance reserves and the remainder from the surplus.

   **Motion made by B. DeLong and seconded by B. Kellenberger to approve and place the Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenditure Report for September 2019 on file and approve the year-end recommendations as proposed. Motion carried.**
c. MMDHD’s Monthly Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenditure Report for October 2019 – Delayed due to year-end closing.

d. MMDHD’s Financial Status Report (FSR), FY 18/19

B. Delong mentioned that the FSR had been delayed and would be presented to the BOH next month for review.


F. **MEDICAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT**: Jennifer E. Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP

a. Rural Health Disparities

Dr. Morse reported on rural health disparities stating that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released a report showing that in rural areas, access to healthcare, socioeconomic status, health behaviors, and chronic conditions contribute to poor health among rural residents compared to the overall population. She explained that the differences between rural and urban areas have continued to increase since the 1980s. Maps of Michigan were reviewed showing disparities by county and population shifts. She said that she included a link in the References (see #7) to the County Health Rankings where a toolkit can be found to help work through strategies for improving rural health.

Dr. Morse’s BOH Monthly Healthy Living Recommendation for December is:

1. **Argue for need-based allocations of resources in rural areas rather than population based.**

2. **When ready to address the health of your rural community, engage a variety of stakeholders, and be sure to choose the right policies and programs for your community.**

Motion made by B. DeLong and seconded by B. Kellenberger to approve the BOH Monthly Healthy Living Recommendation for December as proposed and accept and place the Medical Director’s Report on file. Motion carried.

G. **HEALTH OFFICER’S REPORT:**

1. BOH Holiday Luncheon, December 18, 2019

M. Cheatham reminded the BOH of the holiday luncheon in December and encouraged them to bring their spouses or significant others.

2. Agreements Signed, October 19 – November 21, 2019

M. Cheatham mentioned that the topic was provided for information only.
3. Schedule January Organizational Meeting

   Motion made by B. DeLong and seconded by C. Murphy to schedule the January Organizational Meeting to January 22, 2020 at 9 a.m. at the Administrative Offices in Stanton. Motion carried.

H. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Riverdale Update

   B. Lombard provided an update regarding Riverdale and distributed a draft Resolution for Support of Private Septic Systems in Riverdale. He requested the BOH to adopt a Resolution similar to the draft provided. Representatives of the Healthy Pine River Group were in attendance today and also assisted with water testing. Gary Rayburn, Chair of Healthy Pine River expressed his support for the residents of Riverdale and their efforts to reduce pollution in the Healthy Pine River. Mikie VanHorn also commented that she was grateful for how the residents of the town have worked together to improve Riverdale. Sherry Havens commented that the smell was gone near her home; and she was very thankful to Mikie and Bob for their assistance.

   Tish Mallory also spoke regarding the progress in Riverdale stating that the work done in Riverdale could be shared throughout the State with communities suffering similar situations.

   M. Cheatham commented that his understanding is that approximately 60 Riverdale residents have not applied for permits or have started the permitting process and didn’t finish it. He is concerned regarding the future of Riverdale, stating that every homeowner using a toilet needs a septic permit.

   G. Bailey added that the proposed Resolution is asking the BOH to do things that the BOH doesn’t have jurisdiction over. Bob Lombard replied that obtaining support from the BOH was important.

   L. Braddock commented that the BOH approved Environmental Health Regulations governing septic systems within our district that meet the requirements of the Public Health Code. She said currently, the MMDHD does not have documentation and cannot verify that each home in Riverdale has a septic tank and disposal system. For that reason, EGLE became involved. Her understanding was that a report was forthcoming from Fleis & VandenBrink, the engineering firm hired by Seville Township by December 15th. Additionally, L. Braddock indicated a meeting would be schedule in January with EGLE.

   Tish Mallory responded stating that she has been working with the health department to provide documentation (to the health department) for updating their septic system records on properties in Riverdale.

   B. DeLong recommended a letter be drafted to EGLE encouraging Seville Township, MMDHD, and Riverdale residents to work together to develop a corrective action plan where the economics of the town are taken into consideration.

   A. Petersen added that he believes the BOH should support the good work that the Riverdale residents have done. He suggested that the new Environmental Health Educator work with Riverdale residents to clean this issue up responsibly.

   B. Kellenberger requested an additional statement be added to the Resolution stating that those on pump and haul would show assurances that their septic systems would be replaced.
Motion made by C. Murphy and seconded by A. Petersen to adopt the Resolution for Support of Private Septic Systems in Riverdale as proposed and outlined below. Motion carried.

REVISED:
12/18/2019

BOARD OF HEALTH
MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
RESOLUTION 01-2019
SUPPORT OF PRIVATE SEPTIC SYSTEMS IN RIVERDALE
(Adopted at the Regular Meeting of the Mid-Michigan District Board of Health, November 27, 2019)

WHEREAS, private septic systems in rural Michigan do provide long-term, cost-effective, environmentally safe onsite sewage treatment solutions; and

WHEREAS, it is the particular responsibility of Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) to protect human health and the environment from improperly functioning septic systems; and

WHEREAS, it is individual property owners that are responsible for the proper maintenance and care of their onsite septic systems; and

WHEREAS, it is the Seville Township Board’s responsibility to ensure water discharging from Riverdale is in compliance with Part 31 of the Clean Water Act;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mid-Michigan District Board of Health urges:

1. EGLE to allow the residents in the Village of Riverdale to keep their cost-effective and efficient private septic systems.
2. EGLE to recognize that previously published statements of poor soils, small lot sizes and mass direct connections was incorrect.
3. EGLE to recognize the outstanding success the township of Seville and residents of Riverdale have achieved in identifying and stopping the pollution;
4. Riverdale residents to follow through with their commitment to support and adopt a septic ordinance within the next 12 months that would require:
   a. Pumping of septic tanks every 7 to 10 years;
   b. A Time of Transfer (TOT) septic system inspection; and
   c. Semi-Annual testing of water discharges from Riverdale; and
5. Seville Township Board to continue its outstanding work of its environmental stewardship while at the same time looking out for its residents’ best interests and wishes in regards to private septic systems.

Yes: Bruce DeLong, Clinton County Commissioner
     George Bailey, Gratiot County Commissioner
     Chuck Murphy, Gratiot County Commissioner
     Adam Petersen, Montcalm County Commissioner
     Betty Kellenberger, Montcalm County Commissioner

No: None.

Absent: Dwight Washington, Clinton County Commissioner.

Abstain: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.
2. Flu Shots Administered

S. Doak provided information for the BOH regarding flu shots that the agency has administered from FY 16/17 through November 11, 2019. M. Bowerman added that the agency has seen a decline in the administration of the flu vaccine over the past 10 years.

3. BOH Accreditation Team

M. Bowerman stated that an update regarding the accreditation team would be presented to the BOH at the December meeting.

4. PFAS, Grand Ledge

L. Braddock mentioned that she attended a meeting yesterday with the National Guard at their facility in Eagle Township. They did some onsite testing where PFAS and PFOA were found in groundwater and surface water. They were cited with a violation notice by EGLE and told to conduct more testing. They were unable to complete the testing due to equipment sinking into the soil, so they decided to go off-site testing the drinking water wells of 14 homes in the area. She reported that a public meeting would be hosted by MPART on December 10, 2019 and indicated she would contact Commissioner Pohl and Ryan Wood, Clinton County Administrator regarding the upcoming meeting once details have been finalized. L. Braddock confirmed that local public health would participate in the meeting. She added that some of the wells being tested are in Eaton County. L. Braddock mentioned that a press release would be distributed by the National Guard today.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Cherry Health Promotion, Mid-State Health Network

M. Cheatham provided an overview of the Mid-State Health Network (MSHN) stating that they approached the MMDHD requesting us to assume a contract for Cherry Health Promotion serving Montcalm County. Cherry Health Promotion has three employees; the agency would take over those employees, establishing a behavioral health unit. He described Cherry Health Promotion’s activities within the community, stating that they’re very active working with youth in the schools. He said that many health departments have behavioral health departments funded by grants from MSHN. He indicated that he also requested MSHN to look at other locations to take over the program; but the staff had specifically requested partnering with MMDHD. M. Cheatham indicated that discussions are ongoing about how to fit their staff into the agency’s union structure.
2. **Emerging Issues**
   
a. **Processing Deer in Elwell**

   Tish Mallory explained that a resident of Elwell was processing deer against a Seville Township ordinance. She indicated that she had contacted L. Braddock regarding a huge pile of pelts being disposed of through residential trash collection. L. Braddock mentioned that she knew of a MDARD employee that would handle that type of situation in Gratiot County and would pass along contact information.

J. **LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** None

K. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

   1. Mid-Michigan District BOH Action Items, October 2019
   2. MMDHD Staffing and Longevity Report

      M. Cheatham reviewed the Staffing and Longevity Report. He mentioned that a new Environmental Health Educator was hired from the Genesee County Health Department with experience in PFAS, Flint lead, and has a master’s degree in public health.

L. **RELATED NEWS ARTICLES AND LINKS:**

   1. Riverdale Residents Have Only One Option, *Gratiot County Herald*, October 30, 2019
   2. Septic Summit Next Month Has County Chair For Panelist, *Gratiot County Herald*, October 31, 2019
   3. Gratiot’s Unvaccinated Kindergarteners Lower Than State Average, *Gratiot County Herald*, November 7, 2019
   4. Remediation Update Provided for Velsicol Chemical Superfund Site, *Gratiot County Herald*, November 7, 2019
   5. Health Department Honorees, *Daily News*, November 9, 2019
   7. [Michigan’s PFAS Cleanup Costs Are Mounting, Taxpayers May Get Stuck With The Tab], *Michigan Environment Watch*, November 18, 2019
   8. [Poisoned Michigan: How Weak Laws And Ignored History Enabled PFAS Crisis], *Michigan Environment Watch*, November 18, 2019

M. **AGENCY NEWSLETTERS:** None

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Signature]

Cynthia M. Partlo, Board Secretary
For George Bailey, Chairperson
Mid-Michigan District Board of Health