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BOARD OF HEALTH:

Bruce DeLong
Nicole Fickes

George Bailey
Steven Sopocy

Adam Petersen
Matt Murray

Draft

MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT (MMDHD)
BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING
at
Gratiot Office, Ithaca, Michigan

**Wednesday, June 24, 2026
9:00 a.m.**

MINUTES

We take action to protect, maintain, and improve the health of our community.

Members Present: Adam Petersen, Chairperson; George Bailey, Vice Chairperson;
Steven Sopocy, Nicole Fickes and Matt Murray

Members Absent: Bruce DeLong

Staff Present: Mari E. (Liz) Braddock, Health Officer; Melissa Selby, Director of Administrative
Services; Jennifer E. Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP, Medical Director; Lonnie Smith,
Director of Environmental Health (EH); Krishna Santana, Board Secretary

Staff Absent: Sarah Doak Director of Community Health and Education Division (CHED)

Guests: None

Adam Petersen, Chairperson, called the Regular Meeting of the Mid-Michigan District Board of Health (BOH) to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at the Gratiot Office of the MMDHD, Ithaca, Michigan.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by A. Petersen.

A. AGENDA NOTES, REVIEW, AND REVISIONS:

Petersen asked if there were any additions to the agenda.

Motion made by G. Bailey and seconded by M. Murray to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

B. CONSENT ITEMS:

1. Meeting Minutes

- a. Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) Board of Directors Meeting held May 11, 2026
- b. Mid-Michigan District BOH Meeting held May 27, 2026

Motion made by S. Sopocy and seconded by M. Murray to accept Meeting Minutes B. 1. a. and b. and place on file. Motion carried.

2. Communications

- a. Award Letter – HIV Prevention
- b. Special WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Funding FY2027

L. Braddock reviewed the award letter for the board.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS: - None.

D. BRANCH OFFICE EMPLOYEES: - None.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Finance Committee – George Bailey, Chairperson

- a. MMDHD's Expenses for May 17 through June 13, 2026

The expenses were reviewed for the board.

Motion made by G. Bailey and seconded by M. Murray to approve payment of the MMDHD's Expenses for May 17 through June 13, 2026, totaling \$575,036.53. Motion carried.

- b. MMDHD's Monthly Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenditure Report for May 2026

G. Bailey told the board the information was included in the packet and asked for any questions.

Motion made by G. Bailey and seconded by M. Murray to accept the Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenditure Report for May 2026 and place on file. Motion carried.

c. Hepatitis C Labs and Fees

L. Braddock told the board there are lab fees that need to be added, these are in addition to the Hepatitis C labs and fees discussed last month.

Motion made by S. Sopocy and seconded by M. Murray to authorize the agency to add the lab testing services and fees as proposed. Motion carried.

d. Health Educator Position

L. Braddock informed the Board that the agency would like to add a new Health Educator position focusing on harm reduction, funded through an award from MDHHS. She noted that Dr. Morse presented on the need for harm reduction services late last year. This grant-funded position would provide harm reduction services across all three counties. Approval is requested for the position in Fiscal Year 2026, after which it will be incorporated into the Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

Motion made by G. Bailey and seconded by N. Fickes to approve the addition of a new health educator position. Motion carried.

2. Personnel Committee – Nicole Fickes, Chairperson

a. T214 Negotiations

N. Fickes informed the Board that the parties have met and are currently in the information-gathering stage of negotiations. The next meeting is scheduled for June 29, 2026.

3. Program Committee –Matt Murray, Chairperson – No Report.

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

1. Hantavirus

M. Morse reviewed her report with the Board, explaining that Hantavirus and related viruses are spread through contact with rodent feces. She recommended increasing education on proper rodent prevention and safe cleanup practices, particularly for individuals working in high-risk occupations and public areas. She also encouraged support for One Health initiatives, which promote a balanced approach to the health of people, animals, and ecosystems.

Motion to approve and place on file the Medical Directors report made by G. Bailey seconded by S. Sopocy. Motion carried.

G. HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT: Mari E. (Liz) Braddock

1. Health Officer's Report – Refer to New Business.

H. OLD BUSINESS: - None.

I. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Special Finance Committee Meeting

With the budget scheduled for presentation next month, the Board decided not to hold a special meeting. Instead, the budget will be presented to the full Board in July, with a vote scheduled for August.

2. Vertigrid

L. Smith explained Vertigrid, a new technology being presented to the Health Department for potential use within the district. He noted that while new technologies are typically reviewed by the Program Committee, he did not believe committee approval was necessary in this case because Vertigrid would only be used as an alternative system when no size reduction is required. He then reviewed the process for its use. This item was presented for informational purposes only, and no Board action was required.

3. EGLE Well Construction Unit Hearing

L. Braddock told the board there will be a compliance hearing concerning a local installer that the EH department supervisors and Director will be attending.

4. New PFAS Site – Clinton County

There is a new PFAS site in Clinton County, L. Smith said there was a meeting concerning a site at the old Granger landfill, they are currently in the process of monitoring wells in the surrounding areas.

5. Emerging Issues

Referring to the harmful algal blooms previously investigated within the district; L. Braddock showed education material to the Board including collapsible dog bowls provided by MDHHS for distribution to remind pet owners that dogs can become ill if they enter waters when harmful algal blooms are present. She also shared tick removal kits assembled by the agency for distribution to clients as a tool to educate and prevent Lyme disease carried by ticks.

J. LEGISLATIVE ACTION:

L. Smith reported to the board concerning the septic bill, and at this time nothing has been finalized.

K. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Mid-Michigan District BOH Action Items, May 2026
2. MMDHD Staffing Report

L. RELATED NEWS ARTICLES AND LINKS: <https://www.mmdhd.org/2026-board-of-health/>

1. Public Health Advisory: Harmful Algal Bloom Confirmed at Lake Ovid (Sleepy Hollow State Park)
2. Public Health Advisory: Harmful Algal Bloom Suspected at Hubscher Park
3. Toxic Algal Bloom Advisory Issued at Hubscher Park – *Gratiot County Herald* – June 4, 2026

M. AGENCY NEWSLETTER: - Access [2025 Annual Report](#) - <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/0fdb86d78e.html>

There being no further business to come before the Board, G. Bailey made a motion to adjourn, seconded by, M. Murray the meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krishna Santana, Board Secretary
For Adam Petersen, Chairperson
Mid-Michigan District Board of Health