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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, September 23, 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, Bruce DeLong, Steven Sopocy, and Nicole Fickes

Members Absent: Matt Murray

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

Staff Absent: Lonnie Smith, Director of Environmental Health (EH); 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, September 23, 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, L. Braddock requested to add to the Health Officer Report, District Wide Meeting.

Motion made by N. Fickes and seconded by B. DeLong to accept 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 August 10, 2026
- b. Mid-Michigan District BOH Meeting held August 26, 2026

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

2. Communications – None.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS: - None.

D. BRANCH OFFICE EMPLOYEES: -None.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. Finance Committee –

- a. MMDHD's Expenses for August 9 through September 5, 2026

The expenses were reviewed for the board.

Motion made by G. Bailey and seconded by S. Sopocy to approve payment of the MMDHD's Expenses for August 9 through September 5, 2026, totaling \$605,426.76. Motion carried.

- b. MMDHD's Monthly Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenditure Report for August 2026, including an amended budget

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 B. DeLong to accept the Balance Sheet, Revenue and Expenditure Report for August 2026 and place on file. Motion carried.

Motion made by G. Bailey and seconded by B. DeLong to approve the amended budget. Motion carried.

c. Non-Union Employees' Proposal

M. Selby reviewed the non-union employees' proposal, explaining that the request is to amend the wage bands, resulting in a 3% increase. The new wage bands would also guarantee a 3% increase for the next few years.

Motion made by G. Bailey and seconded by N. Fickes to approve the Non-Union Employees' Proposal. Motion carried.

2. Personnel Committee – Nicole Fickes, Chairperson

- a. Health Officer Annual evaluation to immediately follow this meeting.

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

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

1. Eastern Equine Encephalitis and Mosquitoes

M. Morse reviewed her report with the Board and noted that EEE is primarily seen on the East Coast; however, Michigan has the third highest number of human cases in the country. She reported that, following the cases in 2020, more counties have begun trapping and testing mosquitoes. Her recommendations include supporting mosquito surveillance activities and funding, encouraging vaccination for horses against EEE, and reporting sick or unusually behaving wildlife to the DNR, which may help identify EEE before it spreads to humans.

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. Beach Monitoring Report

L. Braddock reviewed this year's beach monitoring program for the board, noting that all tested beaches consistently remained well below the acceptable CFU limit of 300. She also discussed the harmful algal blooms identified over the summer. This program is made possible through grant funding, which the agency plans to reapply for to ensure the continuation of both beach monitoring and the mosquito and tick surveillance programs.

2. Together for Health

The board was told Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH), in partnership with

Together for Health, is launching a new awareness initiative. Over the next few weeks, community members may begin seeing promotional signs and billboards, as well as hearing radio advertisements highlighting the services provided by local health departments. Additionally, L. Braddock told the board that beginning in October, she will assume the role of MALPH president. MALPH provides support to local health departments across the state, including grants and funding to send staff members to training events.

3. MMDHD District Wide

L. Braddock advised the board the MMDHD annual district wide meeting is being held this coming Friday, September 25, 2026, and extended an invitation for them to join.

Motion made by S. Sopocy seconded by B. DeLong to accept and place the Health Officer's report on file. Motion carried.

H. OLD BUSINESS: - None.

I. NEW BUSINESS: - None.

1. Emerging Issues

L. Braddock mentioned to the board that the agency did issue a public health advisory for Crystal Lake because of the harmful algal bloom.

J. LEGISLATIVE ACTION: - None.

K. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Mid-Michigan District BOH Action Items, August 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 Crystal Lake Public Beach in Montcalm County – Press Release – September 2, 2026
2. Harmful algal bloom at Crystal Lake public beach – *Daily News* – September 3, 2026

M. AGENCY NEWSLETTER – <https://conta.cc/4yLp2qB>

There being no further business to come before the Board, G. Bailey made a motion to adjourn, seconded by N. Fickes, the meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

DRAFT