Seneca County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

The Seneca County Board of Health met on Thursday, March 23, 2023, at the North Central Ohio Education Service Center, 928 W Market St, Tiffin, OH 44883. With a quorum present, Board President Dr. Clay Wolph called the Board's regular meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The Board then recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Members Roll Call:

Edward Logsdon – Yes	Scott Lyons – Yes	McKenzie Posey –Yes
Dr. Sarah Sewell– Yes	Natasha Vitte - Yes	Robert Watson – Yes
Dr. Zachary West–Yes	Dr. Clay Wolph – Yes	

Others Present:
Anne Goon, MS, RD, LD, Health Commissioner
Trisha Kahler, RD, LD
Erika Handru, BA, Health Communications Specialist
Lisa England, Registrar

Dr. Clay Wolph started the meeting by reading the Mission Statement in the Seneca County Board of Health bylaws:

> The Seneca County General Health District, in collaboration with its citizens, promotes wellness, prevents disease, protects the environment, and assures access to quality health care.

Continuing Education – Foundational Public Health Services: Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program - Trish Kahler

Trish Kahler presented to the Board a slide show explaining the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program. Mrs. Kahler gave an overview of the WIC program used nationwide. She also had a hand out of Ohio specific WIC Benefits Stats and she explained WIC's funding. Mrs. Kahler reviewed the food packages and how they are to meet nutritional needs. WIC also offers breast-feeding support and does some health screening and referrals for local health care. Mrs. Kahler reviewed her staff, their time with the Health Department and their experience. Mrs. Kahler also explained the farmers market program which Seneca County participates in.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of Consent Agenda

Dr. Sewell made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda:

1. Minutes from Previous Meetings 02/23/2023
2. WIC Division Report – Trisha Kahler, RD, LD
3. Nursing Division Report – Andrea Barrell, RN, BSN
4. Environmental Division Report (including Landfill report) - Laura Wallrabenstein, MA, REHS
5. Health Commissioner Activity Report – Anne Goon, MS, RD, LD

Mrs. Posey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Health Commissioner Report

Ms. Goon provided the following updates:

1. PEOPLE PILLAR:
    - Ms. Goon started with the annual D.A.C. meeting which occurred on Monday and there were resolutions on the agenda that were related to the meeting.

- Ms. Goon then provided an update on the efforts to fill 3 full-time positions in the health department. Those positions are Epidemiologist, Health Educator 1 and Health Planning and Accreditation Manager.

2. QUALITY PILLAR:
    - Ms. Goon discussed that the Health Department reached out to John Spahr, Seneca County EMA Director, to help answer the questions that were asked at last month's board meeting and were sent in writing by Mrs. Brenda Kuhn. A copy of those questions and answers was sent to the board members and there are copies in the back of the room for the public.
    - Erika Handru also provided information via social media on our water testing program and how to interpret the results. There are also copies of this information on the table in the back for the public.
    - Mrs. Handru has set up a QR code that is also provided in the back of the room, for the public to submit questions. This link will help Mrs. Handru compiles those questions and gets them to the right person. She will then be able to respond by email to the person or persons asking the questions.
    - Ms. Goon also added that Mrs. Handru is also working on 2 YouTube videos, one with the private water well testing process and the second one is one related to the landfill inspection process.
    - In relation to the air quality monitoring stations, property owners near the landfill have been contacted about easements for the air quality monitoring stations and the consultants are working on the documents that will be necessary for a seal competitive proposal process. This will all need to go through the prosecutor's office.
3. GROWTH PILLAR:
    - Ms. Goon wanted to recognize Erika Handru for the work she spent on our annual report that had been shared by email and social media.
4. FINANCE PILLAR:
    - Ms. Goon discussed the Budget Bill that is now before the Ohio House finance committee. The Association of Ohio Health Commissioners (AOHC) reviewed the 4500 pages of the bill and there are several items the AOHC supports. The first item that the AOHC supports relates to funds for evidence-based community health interventions. This is new funding that would go to local health departments to support evidence-based interventions that improve the health of communities around the state. AOHC is also supporting enhanced tobacco enforcement and prevention measures. This includes the prohibition of the sale of flavored tobacco products to young people and regulation of vaping products. Also, an infant mortality score card that will have updated infant mortality data for the public. There are also proposed changes to scrap tire incidents cleanup. If passed, it would provide funds for a total clean up. Also, a provision related to child restraint usage that would move it from a secondary offence to a primary offence. A sales tax exemption for children's personal care items such as diapers, therapeutic or preventative creams, wipes, child restraints, booster seats, cribs and strollers to help parents with the care and safety of their children. An increase in Medicaid dental reimbursement rates. This will hopefully increase access to dental care for recipients. The AOHC also supports strengthening the authority of the Environmental Health Specialist Advisory board.
    - One item in the Budget Bill the AOHC strongly opposes is the proposed changes to the home sewage treatment systems related to dry wells. They are currently not allowed in new installed systems, but there are many systems in the state that have existing dry wells and as long as they don't get a nuisance complaint they are allowed to

continue. The proposed changes would eliminate dry wells in ten years, regardless if they are creating a nuisance.

Mrs. Posey asked about the Covid 19 Planning Response Team from Heidelberg University. Mrs. Posey would like to know if this involves vaccine requirements, what are their guidelines compared to other schools and what are the recommendations for campuses. Ms. Goon answered that Heidelberg established their own team and this is their internal planning team. They have involved the Health Commissioner since the beginning of the pandemic to provide them with community information since many students live off campus.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Dr. West made a motion to approve the following Personnel Action:

1. Accept resignation for purposes of retirement for Patricia Elchert, Public Health Nurse 2, effective 4/5/23

Mrs. Vitte seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. West made a motion to approve Resolution 2023.05:

2. Resolution 2023.05 - Resolution expressing appreciation to Bonnie Boroff for her service on the Seneca County Board of Health

Mrs. Posey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. West made a motion to approve Resolution 2023.06:

3. Resolution 2023.06 - Resolution expressing appreciation to Robert Watson for his service on the Seneca County Board of Health

Dr. Sewell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Out of county travel

Mr. Logsdon made a motion to approve the following out of county travel:

1. $30.00 – PHEP planning meeting – Fremont, OH - Anne Goon – 3/2/23
2. $35.00 – Introduction to Outbreak Investigation – Bowling Green, OH- Meranda Koehl – 3/17/23
3. $120.00 – World TB Day – Columbus, OH – Jeanne Wahrer – 3/28/23
4. $200.00 – Local Government Officials Conference – Virtual – Anita Gaietto – 3/28-3/29/23
5. $160.00 – Midwest workshop – Columbus, OH – Matt Beckman, Austin Nainiger, Nicki Rumschlag – 3/30/23
6. $125.00 – Ohio Public Health Association Public Health Nursing Section Meeting – Andrea Barrell – 8/11/23

Mrs. Posey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Out of state travel

Mrs. Posey made a motion to approve the following out of state travel:

1. National Preparedness Summit in Atlanta, GA (4/24/23-4/27/23)

Ms. Goon explained that this is to send 2 Public Health Nurses, Meranda Koehl and Betsy Miller, to the conference with up to $2,000.00 covered by the regional PHEP grant. With the remainder covered by our local PHEP grant.
Dr. Sewell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Financial Transactions

Payment of Bills
Dr. Sewell made a motion to approve the February bills as presented. Mr. Logsdon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approve 2024 Appropriations
Ms. Goon reviewed the 2024 appropriations that was presented to the D.A.C. On Monday March 20, 2023.

Mr. Lyons made a motion to approve the 2024 appropriations. Mr. Logsdon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Cash Advances
Mr. Logsdon made a motion to approve the following cash advance:

1. $30,000.00 from 7060-0705-5358-01 (General Fund-advances out) to 7082-0007-4029-00 (WIC–advances in)

Mrs. Vitte seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of February Intra-Fund Transfers (Appropriation Transfers)
Dr. Sewell made a motion to approve the following Intra-Fund Transfers:

1. $60.00 from 7062-0036-5306-30 (Water Systems-leases) to 7062-0036-5309-00 (Water Systems-other expenses)
2. $50.00 from 7164-0709-5308-00 (HSTS-Advertising/Printing) to 7164-0709-5303-00 (HSTS-supplies)
3. $3,000.00 from 7060-0705-5102-00 (General Fund-salaries) to 7060-0705-5306-00 (General Fund-Contract Services)

Mr. Logsdon seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Supplemental Appropriations
Dr. West made a motion to approve the following Supplemental Appropriation:

1. Fund 7130 Medical Reserve Corps - $5,000.00

Mrs. Posey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Contracts and Agreements
Mr. Logsdon made a motion to approve the following contracts:

1. Allen Excavating, Inc., for demolition services, 03/01/2023-12/31/2023, not to exceed $21,500.00 (payer)
2. Geophyta, Inc., for H2Ohio home sewage treatment systems soil evaluation & system design (Criblez property), 03/15/2023-04/28/2023, not to exceed $2,970.00 (payer)
3. A & D Excavating, L.L.C., for H2Ohio home sewage treatment systems installation (Finley property), 03/15/2023-06/12/2023, not to exceed $17,094.00 (payer)

Mr. Lyons seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. West asked Commissioner Goon, “have you ever adopted policies or (policy) revisions without Board approval?”
Commissioner Goon responded “not that I am aware of. It might be something where it was simply a matter of …something that needed…it was just a wording change. It wasn’t substantive. But, or along those kinds of lines. Otherwise, procedures, yes, per our policy, procedures don’t come to the Board. Those are handled at the administrative level.”

Dr. West asked "in your report to us (Board of Health), I know in the past this body has discussed trying to get back to local community meetings, specifically the Opioid Task Force one. Have you started going back to them?"
Commissioner Goon responded, "Yeah, starting next month."
Dr. West asked "So, not since our discussion in December?"
Commissioner Goon's response was inaudible.
Dr. West then asked "So you are intending to go in April?"
Commissioner Goon responded "Mmmhmm"

Executive Session

Dr. West made a motion to go into executive session at 6:53 to discuss the Health Commissioner's performance evaluation for 2022. Mrs. Posey seconded the motion. The motion carried upon roll call vote:

Edward Logsdon – Yes	Scott Lyons – Yes	McKenzie Posey –Yes
Dr. Sarah Sewell– Yes	Natasha Vitte - Yes	Robert Watson – Yes
Dr. Zachary West–Yes	Dr. Clay Wolph – Yes	

Dr. Wolph announced that at 7:41 the Board returned from executive session. No action was taken.

Public Comment

Mr. Ben Nutter, WIN Waste Innovations spoke first about the grass fire that the landfill had on Sunday afternoon. Mr. Nutter said the cause was most likely by something coming off the flare due to the high winds and dormant grasses with low temperatures that froze the ground. There were no structures damaged, no waste was burning and there was no danger to the landfill. Dr. Wolph asked questions in concern as to whether there was damage to gas wells near the fire. Mr. Nutter said they inspected the area and there was no damage to the gas wells.

Next, Mr. Daniel Straub from Seneca County, is concerned about the public being educated during the pandemic. He hopes that the Health Department will push to get all the information to save as many people as possible if there is another pandemic. He is also concerned about the East Palestine, Ohio incident. Mr. Straub states that an independent researcher has been testing around East Palestine, Ohio and he is finding contaminants. He would like to contact this person to do research at Sunny Farms Landfill. He left a packet of information for the Board that he had researched.

Mrs. Ashley Stahl who lives within a mile of the landfill spoke next. Mrs. Stahl would like to see an impact study done before the landfill is allowed to expand. She feels this will show the effects the landfill has on the farmland, the residents, the wildlife and the water. Mrs. Stahl is also concerned that if they expand there will be higher train traffic and truck traffic. She also feels an impact study would ease the local resident's concerns. She also would like random water tests in addition to the ones that are currently being done. Mrs. Stahl is also concerned that when she makes an odor call the meter person does not come out right away. She feels that the person should come immediately to the scene since conditions can change in the time they are waiting. Mrs. Stahl also wanted to know where to see or obtain a copy of the consultant's report on the water tests that were done.

Mr. Terry Love, of McCutchenville, Ohio, asked the landfill representatives how deep the liner is from the surface where the fire was. The landfill representatives stated they would submit their response to the board. Mr. Love was also concerned about whether exposure over time would affect the citizens around the landfill. He asked if anyone from the Health Department had considered attending an EPA training session.

Dr. Sewell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 pm. Motion carried.
The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2023, at 6:00 pm, at the North Central Ohio Education Service Center.

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Board of Health President Board of Health Secretary