

Weber-Morgan Board of Health
Minutes of Meeting
January 25, 2021

The Weber-Morgan Board of Health held its regular meeting on January 25, 2021 by conference/teleconference call in the Health Department auditorium at 477 23rd Street. The meeting is called to order at 4:01 p.m. with Neil Garner presiding.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Neil Garner	Frank Brown	Gage Froerer	Tina Kelley
Ali Martinez	Jer Bates	Jared Andersen	Donna Chapman
Leonard Call	Kevin Eastman	Bonnie Wahlen	Alex McDonald

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ken Johnson

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Bennion	Brian Cowan	MaryLou Adams	Jesse Bush
Michela Harris	Jarelyn Cox	Skyler Pyle	Michelle Cooke
Amy Carter	Bryce Sherwood	Lori Buttars	Summer Day
Heather Wilkerson	Norma Patino	Autum Whitten	JoAnn Wengreen

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chris Crockett	Jeremy Shinoda	John Bergen	Richard Jex
Brandan Quinney	Jennifer Bodine	David Nielsen	Lee Schussman
Joseph Marsello			

Welcome and Introductions-Neil Garner

Neil Garner calls the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and welcomes those in attendance and excuses Ken Johnson. New board members Jared Andersen, Bonnie Wahlen, and Alex McDonald are welcomed and appreciation is expressed to outgoing board members Roland Haslam, Jennifer Bodine, and Cole Brinkerhoff. He reads the Authorization to Conduct an Electronic Meeting Without an Anchor Location document.

Executive Closed Session-Neil Garner

Motion Passes

A **MOTION** is made by **Gage Froerer** and **SECONDED** by **Bonnie Wahlen** to move into an Executive Closed Meeting to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual in regards to the position of Executive Health Officer. A Roll Call Vote is taken.

Bonnie Wahlen Aye
Alex McDonald Aye
Tina Kelley Aye
Frank Brown Aye
Leonard Call Aye
Jared Andersen Aye
Gage Froerer Aye
Donna Chapman Aye
Jer Bates Aye
Neil Garner Aye
Kevin Eastman Aye
Ali Martinez Aye

The **MOTION** passes unanimously.

Reconvene Regular Meeting-Neil Garner

Neil Garner opens the Regular Meeting indicating all board members are present except for Ken Johnson. He asks to adjust the agenda as there is no action needed for the Health Officer Action item and will proceed with legal moving forward this week and to also hold the Elections for Chair and Vice-Chair just prior to adjourning.

Approval of Board of Health Minutes of November 30, 2020 Motion Passes

A **MOTION** is made by **Gage Froerer** and **SECONDED** by **Jer Bates** to approve the minutes as written. The **MOTION** passes unanimously.

Approval to Amend Tobacco Sales and Permitting Regulation-Bryce Sherwood Motion Passes

Bryce Sherwood informs board members that a public hearing was held for comments to amend the Tobacco Sales and Permitting Regulation on January 12 with no public attendance and no comments received. Amendments to Section 6.0, 8.0, and 11.0 would include minor changes to align with the state statutes and requirements. He asks for approval to make the requested amendments to the regulation. A **MOTION** is made by **Alex McDonald** and **SECONDED** by **Bonnie Wahlen** to amendment the Tobacco Sales and Permitting Regulation. The **MOTION** passes unanimously.

Request for Wastewater Variance-Summer Day Motion Passes

Summer Day explains the request for a wastewater variance for John Bergen, Parcel #22-030-0017. She says a plan was submitted by Jex Environmental Solutions, reviewed by health department staff, who found the property suitable for installation of the proposed system. All requirements for lot size slope percentage had been addressed and found adequate and meet all portions of Utah Administrative Code R317-4 as well as the Weber-Morgan Health Department Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Regulation design requirements and recommends the variance be granted. A **MOTION** is made by **Frank Brown** and **SECONDED** by **Tina Kelley** to approve the wastewater variance request. The **MOTION** passes unanimously.

2020 Budget Review-Brian Cowan Information Only

Brian Cowan explains to board members there is still revenue coming in and expenses going out for the 2020 year so final numbers are not complete. \$2.5M subsidy money for WIC is not included in the chart he shares in order to prevent skewing percentages as this money is put into the budget and taken right back out. Some revenue sources, mainly permit fees, declined this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic but the department was very fortunate to receive available funding through state funding and local and federal CARES Act funding. Projections of \$9,628,146 in Revenue and \$9,009,617 in Expenses leads to the addition of \$618,529 into the health fund balance bringing that balance to \$4,820,482. There is about \$200,000 of the 2020 COVID relief funds that will be spent in the 2021 budget cycle to be pulled out of the fund balance. Board members question the amount held in the fund balance and express appreciation that the health department has been able to maintain such a healthy balance through budgeting.

COVID-19 Update- Skyler Pyle/Amy Carter**Information Only**

Skyler Pyle updates board members on the vaccine distribution plan and thanks our community partners for being instrumental in carrying out the plan and for the support to the health department. She explains how the state sends an allotment of 8.3% of the vaccines that they receive each week (based on population) and how appointments are scheduled, with additional appointments opening up each week once confirmation of the number of doses is received. Information is constantly changing and the health department is adapting the plan to accommodate those changes. Mass clinics will be held at the Dee Events Center on the Weber State University campus as well as in Morgan. **Amy Carter** reminds board members that the pandemic officially started in Utah on March 6, 2020. Utah has now surpassed 337,000 cases with over 13,000 hospitalizations and over 1,500 deaths. Weber-Morgan ranks fourth in the state for the highest number of cases behind Salt Lake, Utah, and Davis counties. Weber-Morgan has had 25,509 lab confirmed cases with over 150,000 people being tested, and 1,058 individuals hospitalized. Total number of deaths are at 135 with the highest death rate in the 65-84 age group. The most cases reported are in the age group of 25-44 followed by 45-64 year olds and then the 15-24 year olds but when looking at the rate, which is the percent of population testing positive, the ages of 15-24 has the highest rates followed by 25-44 then 45-64 year olds. About 59% of the cases are Caucasian with 29.8% being Hispanic, which is the highest risk population. Cases peaked the week of January 3-9 with over 2,000 cases that week but have been declining since. Weber County has had 24,445 cases which is roughly 9.5% of the county's population. There have been 128 deaths which is 0.5% mortality rate and currently has around 4,000 active cases at this time. Morgan County has had 1,064 cases which is roughly 8.5% of the county's population. There have been 7 deaths which is 0.7% mortality rate and estimate around 100 active cases currently. The total number of cases in schools is 2,023 cases in 93 schools. Both Weber and Morgan counties are still at the high transmission index level. State ICU capacity is currently at 84.8%. Changes to guidance from CDC include quarantine times lowered to a 10-day instead of 14-days, a test-out early option depending on place of exposure, threshold of schools are a percentage of student body, and the state implemented an automated contact tracing system (ACTS system) used for case investigations, contact tracing, and identifying contacts. Board members express thanks for staff and their continued work on COVID response.

Director's Report-Brian Bennion**Information Only**

Brian Bennion reports that Governor Cox sent a memo today supporting legislation to improve outcomes and customer access to social services by consolidating the Department of Health with the Department of Human Services and also moving Medicaid from the Department of Health to the Department of Workforce Services. He reflects how proud he is of the Weber-Morgan Health Department staff and all those who have helped with the issues that have surfaced.

Election for Chair and Vice-Chair-Neil Garner

Motion Passes

Neil Garner opens the floor for elections. A **MOTION** is made by **Tina Kelley** and **SECONDED** by **Ali Martinez** to nominate Frank Brown for Chair. The vote is unanimous. A **MOTION** is made by **Gage Froerer** and **SECONDED** by **Leonard Call** to nominate Ali Martinez for Vice-Chair. The vote is unanimous.

Chair’s Report-Neil Garner

Information Only

Neil Garner expresses thanks for the opportunity to Chair this Board for the past two years and is honored to work with the health department and will continue to serve as a board member as Ogden City allows.

Public Comment

Lee Schussman congratulates Frank Brown for his nomination to Chair. He also congratulates the health department for the incredible roll-out of the vaccinations. He says he is very grateful for the set up at the Dee Events Center which will help get us out of this pandemic. He asks if second doses have been saved for those who have received their first dose and if all appointments for the month of February are full. All that have had first doses will have a second dose waiting for them. The number of February appointments were scheduled conservatively with additional appointments opening up as the number of doses is verified each week.

The meeting adjourns at 5:52 p.m.