

**LEWIS AND CLARK CITY-COUNTY  
BOARD OF HEALTH – MINUTES  
1930 9<sup>th</sup> AVE, HELENA, MONTANA 59601  
In-Person/Zoom Meeting, 1:00 p.m.  
March 28, 2024**

Members Present

Dr. Mikael Bedell, vice chair  
Commissioner Candace Payne  
Mayor Wilmot Collins  
Mayor Kelly Harris  
Justin Murgel  
Lisa Kaufman

Staff Present

Drenda Niemann  
Jolene Helgerson  
Beth Norberg  
Nina Heinzinger  
Shelly Maag

Members Absent

Brie MacLaurin, chair  
Rex Weltz  
Katherine Weber

Guests Present

Bob Anderson, Hydrometrics, Inc.  
Bridget Williams, EPA  
Cynthia Brook, METG

Dr. Mikael Bedell, vice chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was established 1:02 p.m.

**REVIEW OF AGENDA**

No changes were made. No public comment was given.

**MINUTES**

Dr. Bedell asked if there were any corrections or additions to the February 22, 2024, minutes. There being no changes, the Board approved the minutes as written. No public comment was given.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Variance Request, Frank and Rose Osborne, 985 Ray Road, Helena, MT: Lisa Kaufman, Hearing Officer, read the hearing officer recommendation (See Attachment “A”) from the Osborne Variance held on March 26, 2024. She said the request met all the Montana Department of Environmental Quality criteria for granting a variance. Commissioner Candace Payne made a motion to ratify the hearing officer recommendation. Mayor Kelly Harris seconded the motion. No public comment was given. The motion carried 6-0.

Annual Board of Health Conflict of Interest: Drenda Niemann, Health Officer, presented the county attorney’s recommended amendments to the Conflict-of-Interest Policy for Boards of Health and Board of Health Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form (on pages 29-32 of the board packet) which were originally approved by the Board on February 22, 2024. Ms. Niemann asked board members to sign the amended policy and return via email or in-person. Mayor Kelly Harris made a motion to approve the amended Conflict-of-Interest Policy for Boards of Health. Commissioner Candace Payne seconded the motion. No public comment was given. Motion carried 6-0.

Board of Health Finance Committee: Ms. Niemann provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2025 budget process and asked for board member participation on the finance committee. Justin Murgel said that he

would participate in the meeting. Ms. Niemann noted that Brie McLaurin said that she would be in attendance also. Ms. Niemann will reach out to those not in attendance at today's meeting.

### **BOARD MEMBER DISUCSSION**

East Helena Arsenic and Selenium Plume Update: Bob Anderson, Hydrologist for Hydrometrics, Inc., along with Bridget Willams with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Cynthia Brooks with the Montana Environmental Trust Group (METG), provided an update on the East Helena Arsenic and Selenium plumes near the ASARCO plant in East Helena (see Attachment "B"). Mr. Anderson presented various slides in which he discussed the former smelter's operation history, sources of groundwater contamination, METG's corrective measures, groundwater monitoring, and updates on current groundwater quality and groundwater plume status.

2023 Communicable Disease Report: Public Health Nurse Supervisor Shelly Maag and Licensed Establishment Supervisor Nina Heinzinger gave an update on the 2023 Communicable Disease Report (on pages 35-36 of the board packet) in which they highlighted year end reportable communicable disease cases that occurred in Lewis and Clark County.

Workforce Development Plan Update: Ms. Niemann provided an update on the 2023-2026 Workforce Development plan (on pages 37-43) in which she provided a brief overview of the six phases within the plan and staff's goals and objectives.

No public comment was given.

### **HEALTH OFFICERS REPORT**

Ms. Niemann led board member video training on Financing Public Health.

No public comment was given.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was given.

The meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

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Mikael Bedell, Vice Chair

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Drenda Niemann, Secretary