

MALEHA Environmental Health Forum

Minutes from August 18th 2022, 10:00 AM

Teleconference

Board of Directors:

Elizabeth Suggitt* LMAS Secretary
Sara Simmonds* Kent CHD President
Steve King* CMDHD Director
Kevin Green* Calhoun CHD Director
Andrew Cox* Macomb CHD Past President

Anthony Drautz* Oakland CHD President Elect
Tanya Rule* WUPHD Director
Steve Stoddard* Lapeer CHD Director
Chris Westover* Monroe CHD Treasurer

Members:

Randy Rapp* Allegan CHD
Jay Vanstee* Barry-Eaton DHD
Jodi Pessell (associate) Barry-Eaton DHD
Joel Kwiatkowski* Bay CHD
Eric Johnston* Benzie-Leelanau DHD
Brian Murphy (associate) Berrien CHD
Suzanne Lieurance* Chippewa CHD
Ian Nelson* Delta-Menominee DHD
Scott Withington* Detroit HD
Cori Upper* DHD#2
Kevin Prevost* DHD#4
Michael Kramer* DHD #10
Wade Dishaw* Dickinson-Iron DHD
Tina Moore (associate) Genesee CHD
Bill Hough* Genesee CHD
Tip MacGuire* Huron CHD
Rod McNeill* Ingham CHD
Chad Shaw* Ionia CHD
Don Hayduk* Jackson CHD
Lucus Pols* Kalamazoo CHD
Rachel Steining (associate) Kent CHD

Kasee Johnson* Lenawee CHD
Cindy Merritt (associate) Lenawee CHD
Matt Bolang* Livingston CHD
Amy Aumock (associate) Livingston CHD
Tom Barnes* Macomb CHD
Patrick Jacuzzo* Marquette CHD
Lonnie Smith* Mid-MI DHD
Jim Henry* Midland CHD
Michael Eslick* Muskegon CHD
Jeremy Fruk* NW MI DHD
Mark Hansell (associate) Oakland CHD
Claudia Terrell (associate) Oakland CHD
Laura Riddell (associate) Oakland CHD
Chris Klawuhn* Saginaw CHD
Steve Demick* St. Clair CHD
Casey Elliott* Shiawassee CHD
Kristen Schweighoefer* Washtenaw CHD
Brandon Morrill (associate) Washtenaw CHD
Theresa Brestovansky* Wayne CHD

*denotes voting member

Non-member Guests

Vern Johnson MDHHS
Kory Groetsch MDHHS
Norm Hess MALPH
Dana DeBruyn MDEGLE
Jeremy Hoey MDEGLE
Ian Smith MDEGLE
Sara Pearson MDEGLE
Brian Thurston MDEGLE
Becky Vought MDARD
Lara Edwards MDARD
Michelle Kusnier MDARD
Lisa Hainstock MDARD
Shane Green MDARD

Meeting called to order by Sara Simmonds at 10:00 AM

1. **Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve amended agenda by Westover, Support by Withington. Motion carried.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes from May 19th, 2022, by Hayduk, Support by Westover. Motion carried.
3. **Guest Speakers**
 - a) Executive Directive 9 – Kory Groetsch - MDHHS :
 - a. Reviewed what ED 9 was/is and gave an update on where we are at now. The Resource review is getting together the vision of where we would like to go and then will meet up with EGLE. MDHHS has assessed potential gaps in SDWA next step – public listening sessions arranged by EGLE. This is an opportunity to chime in. The workgroup has the resource review document in process. 3 major topics talked about is the regulatory lane and the obligations.
 1. There is inadequate funding for this.
 2. Discussed public health approach beyond regulation. Can we get to proactive status?
 3. Trying to get separation between funding sources for topic 1 and 2.

New resource and new funding would be an ask. All of this is a vision and not actual real money at this point. We need one shared plan around the state. There was work to figure out an FTE structure. There needs to be dollars for analytical, communication, IT, lead drinking water household exposure mitigation budget. Give or take \$85 M annually is going to be the ask.

- b. Questions/comments
 - i. Don stated the distribution won't be necessarily one FTE per department but dispersed by department size. Don asked if community engagement coordinators... will be a part of the regional response teams.
 1. Kory answered yes it would be reorganizing the staff in the division they currently have so LPH can say they know these resources and they can tap into it, similar mind set to the regional epidemiologists. Having a closer group that would allow better service.
 - ii. Kristen asked about water quality (with her recent experience with hexavalent chromium), appreciates the MDHHS updates but does not know what EGLE is talking about, what are they talking about and how do all of these parts and pieces fit together so there are not any gaps or duplication.
 1. Kory stated EGLE is doing the stakeholder groups looking for input. One way they are looking for LPH input is through these stakeholder groups. They are contracting with Cadmus through the EPA to do SDWA resource ... Brian Thurston stepped in and stated Cadmus is

doing the resource review. Dana has been working with a group on the side on NCWS program. The document will be handed over to Cadmus to review as well. Currently working through the stakeholders groups right now. Sara requested that the outreach team communicate with the health department prior to going out to the public so we can help make connections within the communities.

iii. Tony discussed some challenges he has faced and dealt with.

4. Officer & Affiliate Reports

a) President's Report:

a. NCWS document is almost complete, just needs some tidying up with some grammar. Election – we still do not have enough people to fill the vacancies on the board. Thank you, it has been a real joy to be president of the association. Tony will do a great job when he takes over.

b) Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report has been filed with the Secretary and shared with the membership. Only activity is \$20 of dues added for a new associate. 8-26-22 is the deadline for registration to the EH Director's conference.

c) MALPH Report:

a. Legislative perspective we are heading into interesting times as the senate, the house, and the governor are all up for election. The legislature is all off campaigning right now and in session very little. They passed a state budget where there were \$6 billion dollars not allocated yet. Have talked to Becky Beckler and her recommendation is that we resubmit any proposals that include covid to resubmit them with a much more broad proposal. The 2-year session ends in December and any bills not voted on will die and will need to be resubmitted. It takes a lot to re-orient the house in public health matters. This is a good time to think about any proposals MALEHA would like to see introduced. Let Norm know of any topics.

d) MEHA Report: Tanya Rule

a. No report, this month's meeting was cancelled.

5. State Department Reports:

a) EGLE:

a. Dana DeBruyn (written report submitted)

i. EPA has a first-ever SepticSmart Photo Challenge. The goal of this photo challenge is to engage the public and highlight the importance of septic systems in protecting family health and safeguarding local waterways. The decentralized community, including septic homeowners, wastewater professionals and engineers, and state and local officials, are encouraged to submit educational septic-themed photos. Some examples could be a photo of a water body that is protected from household sewage overflows, a drawing of a septic system, an illustration of Septic Sam, or a comic depicting steps to protect a

household septic system. Information on guidelines and schedule can be found on the EPA's website: <https://www.epa.gov/septic/2022-septicsmart-photo-challenge>.

- ii. Michigan's 2022 SepticSmart Proclamation: September 19-23, 2022: SepticSmart Week (michigan.gov)
- iii. Year-end closing procedures: Due to the State's year-end closing procedures, the fourth quarter DWEHD LHD Grant FSR is due October 5th. EGLE will be setting up payables based on what is submitted and will not be able to process payments until November. During that time, we will review and work with the LHDs to verify what has been submitted and make corrections, if needed, prior to issuing payment.
- iv. Since the budget passed in July this year, it is our intention to get the FY23 grant contracts to the LHDs prior to October 1st. As a reminder, the federal government switched to using a UEI number back in April in order to receive federal funding, and your SIGMA Vendor Self Service profile will need to be updated with the UEI number before we can issue payment for the FY23 grant. If you have questions about updating your SIGMA VSS profile, please contact the State of Michigan (SIGMA VSS) Support Center at SIGMA-Vendor@Michigan.gov or by calling 517-284-0550. If you have questions regarding your LHD Grant, please reach out to EGLE-DWEHD-Admin@michigan.gov.
- v. 2022 Source Water Protection Conference: The Source Water Protection Conference is October 12-13, 2022! LHD Staff are welcome to attend. This is a great opportunity for networking. When filling out your training request form, the cost is \$95 for staff. <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/outreach/upcoming-events/2022/10/12/2022-source-water-protection-conference>
- vi. Successful trainings: EGLE has organized some very successful trainings in the last month-thanks to all who participated. This includes Shop Talk Days, which were interactive presentations including drillers and health department staff at the Milan Supply and Valley Farms and offering first glimpses at SWDIS application for NCWS staff, with our vendor, GEC. Please reach out if you have specific training needs.
- vii. Appreciates the work we are doing and recognizes we have a lot on our plates. It continues to be eye opening everything you are working on.

b. Sara Pearson

- i. Discussed underground storage tanks. Have learned from LARA and they further reviewed their rules and they allow them to give a variance and they need to comply with the SDWA and part 127. They are developing a new process to request a variance for USTs. What they have for allowance in their rules is that they can tell the applicants to do a hydrogeological survey and they can submit a variance to request

reduced isolation. They have a 10 day window to review these. There is further engagement with management to talk over this process. Contractors should not be reaching out to LHDs for letters. LARA is telling consultants they need to apply for the variance and they will give it to EGLE.

ii. Questions

a. Hough asked if he should send the requests he gets back to LARA.

i. Yes, they need to be informed to work through the process with LARA.

c. Ian Smith

i. They are continuing to monitor intakes on the great lakes on PFAS and HABS. They have not seen anything yet and will continue to update the group.

b) **MDARD:**

a. Becky Vought

i. We appreciate all of the work you guys are doing every day, you're short staffed. MDARD is here to partner with you in any way we can. Please reach out if you need anything. We are trying to balance the need for training with all of our other competing stuff. October 20-21 for standardized trainer conference. Looking forward to seeing everyone in person. Agenda will be getting back to the basics. Rodney sent out a message this morning for an AFDO training on train the trainer, FD190. It is a free training. Kalamazoo and Oakland will be hosting food code/food law training. Anything else you feel you need please reach out. Still working on cold brew. Shane is working on what the accreditation will be looking like for the next 3 years. They have a meeting in September and will bring back to the directors training.

ii. STEC Outbreak

a. Michelle – collected 14 total samples, 9 from Ottawa Wendy's and the rest from Kent County Wendy's. Sampled burgers, roman lettuce chopped and full heads. There is interest in the heads of lettuce they will test all heads of lettuce.

b. Lauren – beginning of August there was a large increase in STEC in laboratory samples in people. Currently as of yesterday there are 98 STEC cases referred since August, 4 fold increase than normally seen. 10 cases are HUS cases (more severe manifestation). A lot of clustering in Kent, Ottawa, and Oakland occurring. Whole genome sequencing is in the process. 15 confirmed cases into an outbreak, OHIO has 14 cases that match the fingerprint, 1 from PA and 1 from Indiana. FDA has

picked up on this. CDC has deployed a more in depth questionnaire.

- c. Jennifer B. – thank you for everyone’s help within the investigation. Based on some of the trace back findings MDARD went and looked at a distribution warehouse and did not find any issues there.

iii. Questions

- a. Sara asked about the command structure and how many other health departments might be brought into the fold.
 - i. There may be 10-11 more jurisdictions that are not on the calls from the genome sequencing. Once the whole genome sequencing report is in on Friday more health departments will be brought in on the Monday call. They will be briefed prior to being brought into the call.
- b. Kristen asked has MDHHS reached out to LPH to ask more detailed questions about Wendy’s and lettuce?
 - i. Yes, the FDA created one and the CDC has created one and has sent it to all the HDs with matched cases.
- c. Kristen asked if the produce has been traced back to a grower or if there have been any other avenues explored?
 - i. No they have not shared that Wendy’s is currently involved. BOL has some interest in their plates and are waiting for them to grow. They are also interested in sampling tomatoes as well. The supplier does supply Michigan, OHIO, PA, and Indiana. They don’t have a true smoking gun yet on what the causative agent is.
- d. Tony mentioned that CDs are not being notified by MDHHS.
- e. Scott would appreciate press releases being sent to LPH prior to them being released.
- f. Adeline stated she feels like there is value in sharing the CDC questionnaire form with all health departments not just the ones with the lab confirmation.

c) **MDHHS:** No updates for the sake of time.

d) **LARA:**

a. Laura Remus

- i. Going through a reorganization right now. Their duties are being separated into two bureaus, Community of health systems and Bureau of Survey and Certification which will house all of CMS requirements. Laura’s team will be in the new Bureau of Survey and Certification. Job duties will be the same. Another piece is Andrew Brisbo will be the new director of the Bureau of Construction Codes...there will be a vacancy in the cannabis bureau with his reassignment.

- e) **MIOSHA:** No update.
- f) **MLCC:** No update, but will be engaging in the future.

6. **Committee Reports:**

- a. Food: met last week. Amanda Smith from MRLA as a guest. Had some good discussion of hotels and lodging facilities rebranding themselves and branching out into needing food service licenses. Food Committee will be looking at updating the continental breakfast memo. MDARD field staff will be looking to specialize into retail and manufacturing. Will be splitting their staff and are looking for a soft roll out October 1st. Sara would like to work with MDARD for updating the multijurisdictional outbreak document.
- b. Drinking Water: no update.
- c. Onsite: no update.
- d. Legislative: no update.
- e. Technology & Training: Director's conference is narrowed down to one session left to confirm. Looking good. Having a sponsor by Hedgerow with a couple of sessions with a Q and A. Wednesday evening after dinner or Thursday morning prior to the start of the first session. Please register.

7. **External MALEHA Efforts:**

- a. MALPH NCWS Workgroup – skip
- b. MDHHS/ MALPH/ MALEHA ED 9 Workgroup – skip

8. **Items from Board:**

- a. Andrew thanks Sara for her service as president and we will be in good hands with Tony. If you are thinking about nominating someone for an award, we have one more day to nominate.
- b. Sara stated she had an amazing experience working with Addie and her team during this outbreak and she thanked Addie for the experience.

9. **Items from Members:** None

10. Next meeting at the RAM Center during the Director's Conference September 14-16, 2022.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Bolang, Support Cox. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned 11:56 AM.

Submitted by Elizabeth Suggitt 09 13 22

Approved

MALEHA Secretary