



## MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

July 07, 2021

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chair Peer at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Health Members Present: Chair Peer, Supervisor Rynes, Dr. Meyers, Dr. Winter, Dr. Somaraju, Debra Kolste, and Supervisor Williams.

Board of Health Members Absent: Eric Gresens

Staff Members Present: Katrina Harwood – Health Officer/Director; Michelle Bailey – Assistant Health Officer/Director; Rick Wietersen – Environmental Health Director; and Melissa DeWitt – Public Health Support Specialist.

Others Present: Rick Richard – Board of Supervisors; Rich Bostwick – Board of Supervisors; Jim McMullen – Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin; Lorin Cox – WCLO, Sheryl – Citizen

### Roll Call

Chair Peer asked for the roll call. At roll call Chair Peer, Supervisor Rynes, Dr. Winter, Ms. Kolste, Dr. Meyers, Dr. Somaraju, and Supervisor Williams were present. Eric Gresens was absent. 7 PRESENT. 1 ABSENT.

### Adopt Agenda

Supervisor Rynes made a motion to adopt the agenda. Dr. Meyers seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

### Approval of Minutes – 6/2/2021 & 1/27/2021

Dr. Winter made a motion to approve the minutes of the 6/2/2021 & 1/27/2021 Board of Health meetings. Debra Kolste seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

### Citizen Participation

#### Presentation

New Facility for the Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin

### Resolution: Providing Funding to Support the Construction of a New Facility for the Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, does hereby direct the County Administrator to include in the 2022 budget's Community Agency Initiatives funding a one-time payment of \$100,000, to be funded with sales tax proceeds, to the Humane Society of Southern Wisconsin for its capital campaign, with the intent that this funding be matched by the Hendricks Family Foundation.

Supervisor Rynes made a motion to accept the resolution. Dr. Winter seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

## **New Business**

### **Administrative Division**

#### **Transfer of Funds Over \$5,000**

No transfer of funds over \$5,000.

#### **Review of Payments**

The Board reviewed the Health Department's June payments in the amount of \$9,198.39.

### **Health Department Report**

#### **COVID Response Update**

Katrina Harwood shared a slideshow of the representation of the work that the Health Department is involved in for the county-wide COVID-19 response. The Rock County Public Health Department was the recipient of the Community Partnership Award from Blackhawk Technical College. For testing, the Health Department is continuing to provide staff support and communications for the Wisconsin National Guard (WING) staffed testing site at Blackhawk Technical College. The test site at BTC will end on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021. The full-time AMI vaccine clinic at BTC will end on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021. However, vaccines will still be administered in the parking lot at BTC on Tuesdays (11 a.m. – 5 p.m.) and Thursdays (11 a.m. – 3 p.m.). They will continue to serve as a resource for home-based vaccine administration on an as-needed basis. School-based clinics are being held on a regular basis with the primary goal of vaccinating as many eligible students before the new school year begins. The Environmental Health Division continues to provide support to businesses.

Surveillance: Katrina Harwood provided the Board members with the current COVID-19 data.

#### **RCPHD Program Spotlight**

##### **Rock County Groundwater Nitrate Issue**

- Why are Nitrates an Issue?
- Known Health Impacts
  - Contributing cause to blue-baby syndrome
  - Health Standard set at 10 mg/L
- Possible Other Health Impacts
  - Links to birth defects?
  - Thyroid disease, diabetes, cancer links?
- “Indicator” of Groundwater Health
- Nitrates in drinking water around Wisconsin
  - Nitrate levels are too high in wells used by an estimated 94,000 Wisconsin households that have private water wells. Agricultural areas and those with porous bedrock or sandy soil are most



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susceptible to nitrate contamination. It comes from fertilizers, including manure, and other sources.

- Collection of Local Nitrate Data
  - Municipal Well Impacts
  - Transient Non-Community Well sampling
    - 150 public wells tested annually for nitrates
    - Costly well replacements and/or treatment
  - Private Well Testing at Rock County Public Health Lab
    - Approximately 800 wells tested annually for nitrates
    - Many require water treatment, bottled water or well replacement
- Nitrate is a priority in Rock County
  - 26% of private wells test above the EPA's maximum contaminant level (10 ppm) over the last 5 years
- Modeling Nitrate Risk to Drinking Water in Rock County
  - We identified 4 main risk factors for nitrates in ground water
    - Land cover/Fertilizer Use
    - Septic system density
    - Soil properties
    - Irrigation
- Rock County Nitrate Work Group
  - When was it formed?
    - County Resolution 2017
      - Amended in Dec. 2017 to extend to Dec. 31, 2020
  - Who is in the work group?
    - 12 people
    - Rock County Public Health Department
    - Rock County Land Conservation
    - At Large Rock County Board Members
    - Ag Growers and Service Industry
    - UW Extension Rock County
    - Planning, Economic & Community Development
- Nitrate Work Group Mission Statement
  - The Rock County Ground Water Nitrate Workgroup will analyze existing ground water nitrate data, evaluate known best management practices to reduce nitrate leaching, and provide practical recommendations on short term and long term methods to improve ground water nitrate quality
- Evaluation of Potential Nitrate BMP Demo Area(s)

- We identified potential BMP Groundwater Areas (2017/2018)
  - Geology, ground water impacts, availability of indicator wells
  - Work with Wisconsin Natural History and Geologic Survey
- We evaluated potential landowner cooperation (2018)
  - Farm community support
  - Develop landowner contracts
- Established base funding (Winter 2018)
  - ATC Funding
    - Used to install monitoring wells
- Installation of Monitoring Wells
  - Three wells installed (June 2018)
    - Up gradient well
    - Near-down gradient well
    - Additional down gradient well
  - Background data (2018 – present)
    - Nitrate levels
    - Ground water elevations
      - Ground water flow direction
    - Evaluate trends over time
- County Farm and Nitrate Watershed Nitrate-Friendly Management Practices
  - 5 year contract with grower (2019 – 2023)
    - Required to follow nitrate-friendly management practices
    - Required to provide crop fertilizer and harvest data
    - Evaluate ground water and ag economics
  - Implement best management practices (2019 – 2023 and longer?)
    - Establish cover crops
    - Utilize crop rotations
    - Consider fertilizer sources
    - Soil testing
    - Fertilizer application timing
    - Variable rate applications
    - Proper nitrogen crediting
    - Setting realistic yield goals
    - Irrigation scheduling (if applicable)
    - Tillage practices
    - Split applications of fertilizer
    - Plant tissue testing?
- What's next...?
  - Long-term Initiatives
    - Farmer-led Initiatives “Farmers on the Rock”
      - Open conversations about nitrate issues
      - Innovative grower-led ideas to reduce nitrates
    - Land conservation watershed projects
      - La Prairie and Turtle townships
    - Potential partnerships with DNR, USGS, UW-Madison
      - State nitrate initiative
        - Nitrate decision support tool
  - Short-term Initiatives
    - State legislative funding?



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- County resolution?
  - Increased well testing/awareness
  - Assistance to impacted well owners

### **Public Health Spotlight**

#### **10 Essential Public Health Services**

- Essential Public Health Service #7
  - Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy
  - This service includes:
    - Connecting the population to needed health and social services that support the whole person, including preventative services
    - Ensuring access to high-quality and cost-effective healthcare and social services, including behavioral and mental health services, that are culturally and linguistically appropriate
    - Engaging health delivery systems to assess and address gaps and barriers in accessing needed health services, including behavioral and mental health
    - Addressing and removing barriers to care
    - Building relationships with payers and healthcare providers, including the sharing of data across partners to foster health and well-being
    - Contributing to the development of a competent healthcare workforce
- Essential Public Health Service #8
  - Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce
    - This service includes:
      - Providing education and training that encompasses a spectrum of public health competencies, including technical, strategic, and leadership skills
      - Ensuring that the public health workforce is the appropriate size to meet the public's needs
      - Building a culturally competent public health workforce and leadership that reflects the community and practices cultural humility
      - Incorporating public health principles in non-public health curricula
      - Cultivating and building active partnerships with academia and other professional training programs and schools to assure community-relevant learning experiences for all learners
      - Promoting a culture of lifelong learning in public health

- Building a pipeline of future public health practitioners
    - Fostering leadership skills at all levels
  - Examples from our work:
    - Edgewood College Students
    - VISTA students
    - Duffy students
    - AHEC interns
- Essential Public Health Service #9
  - Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement
    - This service includes:
      - Building and fostering a culture of quality in public health organizations and activities
      - Linking public health research with public health practice
      - Using research, evidence, practice-based insights, and other forms of information to inform decision-making
      - Contributing to the evidence base of effective public health practice
      - Evaluating services, policies, plans, and laws continuously to ensure they are contributing to health and not creating undue harm
      - Establishing and using engagement and decision-making structures to work with the community in all stages of research
      - Valuing and using qualitative, quantitative, and lived experience as data and information to inform decision-making
- Essential Public Health Service #10
  - Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health
    - This service includes:
      - Developing an understanding of the broader organizational infrastructures and roles that support the entire public health system in a jurisdiction (e.g., government agencies, elected officials, and non-governmental organizations)
      - Ensuring that appropriate, needed resources are allocated equitably for the public's health
      - Exhibiting effective and ethical leadership, decision-making, and governance
      - Managing financial and human resources effectively
      - Employing communications and strategic planning capacities and skills
      - Having robust information technology services that are current and meet privacy and security standards
      - Being accountable, transparent, and inclusive with all partners and the community in all aspects of practice

### **Budget**

Katrina Harwood reported on the current year to date expenses (as of 6/30/2021)

- Budget: \$5,564,279.00
- Actual: \$1,821,345.43
- Encumbrance: \$337,540.48
- Balance: \$3,414,993.09 (61.4%)

Pending Grant Applications



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- Wisconsin Partnership Program, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health: Strengthening Community Solutions to Improve Black Maternal and Infant Health
  - Partnering with Head Start & SSM Health
  - Letter of intent submitted 6/28/21
- Alzheimer's Association and the National Association of County and City Health Officials: Healthy Brain Initiative Road Map Strategists
  - Application due 8/2/21
- 2021 Personnel Resolutions
  - Creation of the following positions:
    - Public Health Policy Specialist
      - Responsibilities:
        - Gather and facilitate the analysis of multiple policy options
        - Evaluate policies against ethical standards for public health practice
        - Evaluate policies for impacts on health equity
        - Aid in the selection of policies that are likely to achieve desired outcomes
        - Conduct Health Impact Assessments on proposed policies, plans, and laws
    - Public Health Planner
      - Responsibilities:
        - Coordinate the development, implementation, and monitoring of a department-wide plan
          - Performance Management System
          - Quality Improvement Plan
          - Workforce Development Plan
        - Facilitate department-wide trainings on performance management and quality improvement
        - Support the development and implementation of the department's strategic plan
    - Public Health Data Scientist
      - Responsibilities:
        - Apply predictive analytics to public health concerns, to inform the identification of appropriate strategies
        - Develop processes to allow for streamline reporting

- Applies network analysis techniques to develop an understanding of the public health system in Rock County and to develop strategies to improve collaboration and partnership
- Health Educator (Health Equity Alliance of Rock County Coordinator)
  - Currently a project funded position
  - Responsibilities:
    - Facilitate the Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (convene and facilitate meetings; coordinate with community partners, advocate for practices that advance health equity across Rock County)
    - Facilitate the development of a Community Health Assessment (CHA)
    - Facilitate the development, implementation, and evaluation of a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)
- Organizational Structure
  - Current Structure
  - Transitional Structure (Q4 2021)
  - Proposed Future Structure (2022)

### **Workforce**

Katrina Harwood reported on current workforce updates.

New staff

- None

Current Position Vacancies

- PT Environmental Health Specialist
- Public Health Supervisor

### **Resolution: Directing Rock County Staff to Explore the Feasibility of Creating Programs to Address Nitrate Mitigation in Rock County's Ground Water**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_ directs that staff from the Rock County Planning Department, Rock County Public Health Department, County Administrator's Office, Land Conservation and Corporation Counsel to explore the feasibility of creating and administrating programs to address excess nitrate levels in Rock County Groundwater including, but not limited to, implementation of a program to subsidize the cost of nitrate testing for ground water well users in Rock County, and a program to subsidize the cost of installation of reverse osmosis, or similar, water treatment systems that filter out groundwater nitrates to levels lower than federal maximums.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that any such program evaluated and considered use Sales Tax collected in Rock County or the American Rescue Plan Act funds as the funding source.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the group of staff shall report on their findings to the Rock County Nitrate Working Group by July 1, 2021.

Debra Kolste made a motion to accept the resolution. Dr. Meyers seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

### **Resolution: Create the Positions of Public Health Planner, Public Health Policy Specialist, and Public Health Data Scientist; Create Class Descriptions; Establish Pay Ranges, and Amend the 2021 Budget**





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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021 moves to create the position of a 1.0 FTE Public Health Planner, a 1.0 FTE Public Health Policy Specialist, and a 1.0 FTE Public Health Data Scientist; create class descriptions; and establish the positions in Pay Range 22 (\$63,120 -\$76,776) in the unilateral pay grid as Unilateral C positions (under the Fair Labor Standards Act).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the 2021 Rock County Public Health Department budget be amended as follows:

<u>Account/Description</u>		<u>Budget</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Amended</u>
<u>Source of Funds</u>		<u>1/1/21</u>	<u>(Decrease)</u>	<u>Budget</u>
<u>Federal Aid</u>	Cost Allocations	\$303,604	\$66,860	\$370,464
<u>Use of Funds</u>				
31-30000-0000-61100	Wages	\$2,187,756	\$47,340	\$2,235,096
31-30000-0000-61400	FICA	\$167,363	\$3,621	\$170,984
31-30000-0000-61510	Retirement	\$147,674	\$3,195	\$150,869
31-30000-0000-61610	Health Insurance	\$566,432	\$12,350	\$578,782
31-30000-0000-61620	Dental	\$16,281	\$355	\$16,636

Debra Kolste made a motion to accept the resolution. Supervisor Rynes seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

**Resolution: Create the Position of a Health Educator (Health Equity Alliance of Rock County Coordinator)**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021 moves to create the position of a 1.0 FTE Health Educator (Health Equity Alliance of Rock County Coordinator).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that there are no budget implications for the current budget year.

Supervisor Rynes made a motion to accept the resolution. Dr. Winter seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

**Communications and Announcements**

Nothing to report.

**Adjournment**

Supervisor Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Debra Kolste seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa DeWitt, Recorder

Not Official Until Approved by the Board of Health