

**MARATHON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
April 7, 2020

Present: Via Zoom Web Conference: John Robinson, Kue Her, Tiffany Lee, Lori Shepherd, Dean Danner, Sandi Cihlar, Mary Ann Crosby

MCHD Staff: Joan Theurer, Dale Grosskurth, Eileen Eckardt, Judy Burrows, Chris Weisgram

Others Present:

**Call to Order**

**John Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:51 a.m.**

**1. Public Comment Period**

**None**

**2. Approval of the Minutes of the March 3, 2020 Board of Health Meeting**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the March 3 meeting made by Lori Shepherd, seconded by Kue Her. Motion approved.**

**3. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution**

A. None

**4. Policy Discussion and Possible Action**

- A. Recommendations to restructure the Recreational Pool Licensing and Water Testing Fees
  - i. Overview of changes made to decrease tax levy and improve efficiencies of the water lab.

Joan Theurer provided a background for the changes to the water lab.

Dale Grosskurth provided an overview of changes to scheduling of staff in the lab, as well as when water samples are accepted for testing. Additionally changes were made to some testing methods to improve efficiency, and reduce operating costs for the lab.

Joan highlighted changes regarding restructuring of licensing and water testing fees for recreational pools, and provided a comparison of fees from other agencies that provide testing. Joan shared that currently, due to COVID-19, recreational pools are currently closed.

Dean Danner asked if there has been an indication of if or when restrictions might be extended. Joan shared that the decision would be made at the state level, and would depend on the trend of new cases.

John Robinson asked for clarification on what is being asked regarding each of the two fee change proposals. Joan shared the idea is to separate the recreational pool licensing and water testing fees.

The Board discussed the effect to the budget as a result of COVID-19. Joan shared that due to projected lower sales tax collected, budget shortfalls are expected for this year and next year for Marathon County. A budget has been submitted to the state to be considered for the possibility of relief funding for public health COVID-19 activities.

Joan recommended moving forward with the fee structure, and a marginal increase for the water tests for pools. One option would be going with the new categories and fee structure and re-inspection fee, or waiving the re-inspection fee until the next licensing year. Changes to the regulation would also need to be made.

**Lori Shepherd motioned to move ahead with the increased water testing fee for recreational pools. Seconded by Dean Danner. Discussion was held on further options to move forward with accepting the licensing fee structure change, and water testing fees at half the rate of increase proposed. Lori Shepherd amended her motion to move ahead with changes to the recreational pool licensing fees, and a graduated increase (\$14 and \$8) to the recreational pool water testing fees. Motion approved.**

B. Overview of COVID-19 response and impact on Marathon County Health Department program services

Joan Theurer shared she has been providing weekly situational updates. The report was changed slightly this week, to be used more as a public document, and will now be shared with law enforcement, municipalities via MCDEVCO including the Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce, and health care organizations.

Joan shared an overview of the structure in place to respond. Regularly scheduled calls between Health Officers and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services occur daily with weekly joint call between Health Officers and Emergency Management Directors. A county leadership team meets throughout the week to look at County government, and public health response. Joan shared she serves on the North Central Wisconsin Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (NCW-HERC) which meets weekly reviewing regional system response. The Health Department is carrying out functions of reporting, surveillance, contact tracing, isolation/quarantine, and communications.

Impacts on programs and services at the Health Department include the need to continue carry out critical services that include communicable disease, water testing, human health hazards, and licensing complaints, and internal operations. The state has postponed the Chapter 140 review, and the Community Health Improvement Process has been put on hold.

Joan indicated that the work load in response to COVID-19 has varied daily. As testing increases, the Health Department will see increased work around contact tracing.

Joan shared that Marathon County is issuing voluntary isolation orders for individuals with a positive test result, as well as voluntary quarantine orders for those who are close contacts.

John Robinson thanked Joan Theurer and Health Department staff regarding the work being done to respond.

Discussion was held on how Board members could be helpful in sharing information in their circles using credible sources.

Joan shared an update on what is happening with today's primary election, and guidance provided to municipalities for maintaining health and safety for election workers and voters.

Dale Grosskurth shared what is being done to respond to complaints or concerns received about essential/non-essential businesses being open, and reports of group gatherings.

Judy Burrows shared how information is collected to help frame messages that are put out to the community through social media posts and press releases.

John Robinson asked if outreach to news directors could take place to help educate community members on appropriate social distancing. Joan asked Board members to connect with their contacts to reinforce the intent of Safer at Home.

- C. Report from the Health & Human Services Committee on policy issues impacting public health - March 23, 2020 meeting cancelled

**5. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**

- A. Role of Local Health Departments in the surveillance of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 – refer to notes captured above.

**6. Announcements**

**7. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location, Future Agenda Items: May 5, 2020**

- A. TBD based on COVID-19 response
  - i. Update on the Board of Health Self-Assessment Plan of Work
  - ii. Continuation of the identification of community health priorities with members from Healthy Marathon County

**8. Adjournment**

**John Robinson adjourned the meeting at 9:34 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Shepherd, Secretary  
Chris Weisgram, Recorder