

**Madison County Board of Health**  
Meeting Minutes  
July 16, 2020

On Thursday, July 16, 2020, a meeting of the Madison County Board of Health came to order at 4:39 p.m. via web/phone.

Board Members in attendance were, Douglas B. Young D.V.M, Melinda Tichenor - MVMC Lab Director, Dayna Therghesen – CPNP, Molly Biehl – D.O., and Margaret Bortko – FNP, DNP Clinical Professor MSU. Also in attendance were Melissa Brummell – MCPHD Director, Jennifer Martens - Public Health Clerk, Steve Primm – Ruby Valley Conservation District, Linda Owens – Madison Valley Ranchlands Group, Van Puckett – Sanitarian, Kacey Smart – Sanitarian assistant/Livestock Sales Committee, Robert Bates – MC Safety, Bonnie O’Neill – Chief Administrative Officer, Joe Brummell - Department of Emergency Services, Sheriff Phil Fortner – Madison County Sheriff, Jani Alt – Madison County Weed Board, Erin Montgomery - MCPHD Tobacco, Joe Lazarus– Sanitarian in Training, Amy Kelly – Gravel Bar, Christy Todd – 4H Rep, Melissa Rodgers - LureMelnn, Margie – Madison County Weed Board, Dan Allhands - Madison County Commissioner , Kristine De Leon – The Montana Standard. Community members: Cleve Witham, Jani Flinn, Elizabeth Barnett, Kathleen, Karen Talley, Heather Puckett, Sarah Davis, Kristy Turck, Michelle Chase, Mary Oliver, PK and various others phone numbers from the public that did not identify themselves.

**Sheridan Carcass Composting – Steve Primm**

Steve Primm returned for a 2<sup>nd</sup> review on the Sheridan Carcass Composting topic. He originally presented at the March 12th meeting and was asked to return with more information. Steve reiterated that the composting site is to help locals with eliminating wildlife using their livestock as a food source and eliminate their roaming of local ranches. He proceeded to address Chronic Wasting Disease concerns and previous concerns from the March meeting. He presented numerous scientific research documents to the Board for reference. Community members expressed concern for their property values and the potential aroma from the facility in proximity to their homes. The Board would like to make some amendments to the plan. They would like to request that this is specifically for livestock only, no wildlife, oversight buy the county sanitarian and no chemically euthanized animals. Steve shares concerns with the Board and is working on another project to deal with those issues. A letter of support was also presented from The Ruby Valley Strategic Alliance. Molly Biehl made the motion to accept the application with the amendments and conditions as presented. Melinda Tichenor seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion pass unanimously.

**Norris Carcass Compost Site – Linda Owens**

Linda Owens presented to the Board with the DEQ permit from the Norris Carcass Composting site from October 2019. She wanted to express her thoughts to the Board regarding the Norris Carcass Composting site success. Linda would like to invite the Board members to visit the Norris site. The Norris site started operations in January 2020.

### **Quarantine Recommendations and Clarification**

Melissa notified the Board that after researching CDC guidelines we found that Critical Infrastructure workers can return to work during their quarantine period after a close contact exposure if they follow strict protocol and quarantine when they are not on the job. During work they must prescreen, regularly monitor their symptoms, take their temperature, practice social distancing, mask wearing and disinfect their workspaces frequently. Karen Talley asked if business owners are notified of an employee that has tested positive. Melissa states no it would be a HIPAA violation. When patients are put in isolation or quarantine they are given a work excuse letter with approximate return to work dates from the Public Health Department. When they end their isolation or quarantine period as long as they meet the requirements to be released they will receive a letter to return to work from the Public Health Department. We encourage close contacts that are returning to work during quarantine as a critical infrastructure worker to work together with their employers. Melinda Tichenor made a motion that the Board of Health recommends businesses work with the Public Health Department and the County Sanitarian office regarding quarantine and/or isolated individuals. Molly Biehl seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

### **\*\*EMERGENCY TOPICS\*\***

#### **Discussion of Non-Compliant Business**

Melissa asked that this topic be included on the agenda due to a company that was non-compliant and posing a public health threat. After checking with legal it was determined that once you've exhausted all avenues to work with a non-compliant business, it is legal to notify the public about the business by name. Since the business became compliant last night the Public Health Department no longer deems it necessary to discuss in a public meeting. Melinda asked if the Sanitarian could help enforce the rules. Van has the power to deal with licensed establishments but this particular issue is not licensed by the Sanitarian. If the company becomes noncompliant again we will address it in another meeting. Van said that every complaint is taken seriously. Personnel is light right now but rest assured that each complaint will be addressed. We are starting with education first. Please do not call 911 with complaints. Please submit complaints for licensed establishments to the Sanitarian department. All others please call the Public Health Department and they will be dealt with accordingly. Amy Kelley wants to know if we can work with the Sheriff's department to notify them prior to responding to a known COVID-19 house. Melissa said that we are working with emergency responders on this situation.

#### **Septic Variance for Pony – Van Puckett**

Van presented the Septic Variance for a residence in Pony. Melinda Tichenor made the motion to approve as written. Molly Biehl seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Additional Agenda Items**

Community letters/emails were presented to the Board for review prior to the meeting that were in favor of a mask mandate. There will be no quarterly office updates at this time. All resources are focused on COVID-19 at the moment. We are currently on the agenda for Tuesday to ask the Commissioners for approval to hire 2 full time temporary COVID-19 assistants to help with contact tracing.

Van stated that the schools have been submitting their reopening plans. We will review them at the next meeting.  
Dayna said that they are working with the fair board to help with ideas and decisions regarding the Madison County Fair.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Due to the increase in COVID-19 cases the notes from July 9, 2020 will be finalized and ready for review by the July 30, 2020 meeting.

### **Next meeting date:**

The next COVID-19 meeting will be held on Thursday, July 30, 2020 at 5pm. Dayna would like COVID-19 to be the main focus at all meetings at this time. Anything non-urgent should wait until the next quarterly meeting. Melissa will work closely to work her grant requirements in with regularly scheduled meetings.

### **Meeting Adjourned:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Molly Biehl at 6:43 pm, Dayna Thergesen second the motion, all voted Aye, and the motion was passed unanimously.

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Douglas B. Young, Chairman  
Madison County Board of Health

Date Approved: July 30, 2020  
Minutes prepared by:

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Jennifer Martens, Public Health Clerk