Call to Order  
Chairperson P. David Myerowitz called the meeting to order at 1:00.

Attendance

Approval of Agenda  
MOTION  Bill Burg to approve the agenda.  
SECOND  Ronalee Skees  
MOTION CARRIED

Approval of Minutes  
MOTION  Wayne Miller to approve the minutes for the January 18, 2018 meeting.  
SECOND  Burg  
MOTION CARRIED
Approval of Minutes

MOTION Sokol to approve the minutes for the January 23, 2018 Special Meeting.
SECOND Miller
MOTION CARRIED

Citizen Comments
There were no citizen comments.

Public Hearing to Amend The Flathead County Construction Standards for Subsurface Wastewater Treatment Systems

Chairman Myerowitz: This hearing is called to order. Let the record show it is 1:05 PM on February 15, 2018. I am Dr. David Myerowitz, the Chair of the Flathead City-County Board of Health. Other members of the Board who are present are: Bill Burg, Wayne Miller, P. David Myerowitz, Mike Nicosia, and Ronalee Sokol.

“The purpose of this hearing is to give interested persons the opportunity to present their views to the Board of Health about the modifications proposed to the Flathead County Sewage Treatment System Design and Construction Standards. We will first hear from proponents of the rule modification, then opponents of the rule modification and then anyone else who wishes to speak to this matter. Please state your name, the agency you represent or your address prior to giving your testimony. If you have written testimony, please provide a copy to Tonya or Wanda.”

We will now hear from proponents: There were no proponents present.
We will now hear from opponents: There were no opponents present.

Myerowitz closed the Public Hearing at 1:07.
“After testimony: We will now end the public hearing. Thank you for your testimony. Board members, we will now enter into executive session on the rulemaking. Board members, this is your opportunity to ask questions of the staff and others. Please work through the Chair when asking questions.”

Hillary Hanson gave an overview of the request to amend the Flathead County Construction Standards for Subsurface Wastewater Treatment Systems. The proposed changes would alter the Flathead County Standards to match the Department of Environmental Quality standards to create continuity with the State regulations. After the proposed changes were presented at the last meeting, Hanson said changes were made to correct the date as pointed out by Miller, and some clarifications that Aaron McConkey recommended. The proposed amendments will be on the agenda as an action item at the next meeting.

Ground Water Monitoring Policy
Hanson said that the development of the Ground Water Monitoring Policy is so the Environmental Health Staff and the applicants have a clearly defined and consistent process. The Board had no questions or comments.

MOTION Miller to approve the Ground Water Monitoring Policy.
SECOND Burg
MOTION CARRIED
Mosquito Program Discharge Management Plan
Hanson had introduced the Mosquito Program Discharge Management Plan in a prior meeting. Since that initial introduction of the Plan the Commissioners had expressed concerns regarding the future use of a remote piloted aircraft for pesticide application and related privacy issues. Hanson brought these concerns to the County Attorney who added legal language regarding privacy. Hanson added that timing to approve this plan is imminent because it will serve as the guide for the Mosquito Control work that will begin in early spring. Hanson stated that since the Mosquito District Board was suspended, the Board of Health now serves in that place. An update and review of the plan has not been completed since 2012.

MOTION  Miller to approve the Mosquito Program Discharge Management Plan.
SECOND  Skees  MOTION CARRIED

Medicaid Health Improvement Fund
Jody White explained that the Medicaid Health Improvement Program (MHIP) will end March 31, 2018. Currently there is a balance of $273,090.00 in the MHIP fund. A request has been made of the Board of Health to dissolve the MHIP Fund and transfer the balance into the Flathead Community Health Center Fund. Board of Health permission must be given before this action can be taken.

MOTION  Burg to approve the dissolving of the Medicaid Health Improvement fund and the transfer of the remaining funds into the Flathead Community Health Center fund.
SECOND  Miller  MOTION CARRIED

Flathead County Employee Insurance
Myerowitz opened a discussion regarding the issue of a shortfall in premium payments for the 2018 fiscal year and the County paying it with taxpayer funding. Nicosia explained how insurance programs should be budgeted and is concerned because a properly executed insurance program should have reserve funds built into it and not fall short mid-year. Burg and Nicosia offered to give input to county officials regarding budgeting and spending for an employee insurance program. Myerowitz asked Hanson to notify Mike Pence, County Administrator and Tammy Skramovsky, Human Resources that Nicosia, Burg and Myerowitz are available to provide assistance and expertise on this topic.

Departmental Reports

Community Health/WIC
Lisa Dennison reported for Community Health.

- A pertussis cluster of three cases was quickly isolated and contained through the rapid and well-managed actions taken by the EPI team and the attending school nurse.
- In follow-up to a question from Myerowitz at the January Board meeting, Dennison received feedback from the State regarding the number of influenza cases and outbreaks in Flathead County compared with other counties in Montana. The State reported that they believe it is a reflection of the Department’s strong relationships with reporting partners.
Myerowitz expressed concern that the State appears to not be alarmed that other counties are not providing accurate information. Miller asked for an update of February’s Influenza cases.

- Dennison reported that as of the first week in February there have been 20 influenza related hospitalizations. Most cases were unvaccinated and those vaccinated usually had comorbidities.

A discussion continued regarding the efficacy of the flu vaccines.

Kerry Nuckles reported for WIC and Home Visiting

- WIC experienced a slight drop in numbers in January, however for the previous 5 months they have maintained a steady participant caseload after having seven years of declining numbers.
- The WIC program has increased outreach efforts with the hospital, working with prenatal women and getting them in the program early.
- The Home Visiting program continues to struggle with caseload due to staffing shortages, however, these positions are being filled and as the new staff acclimate to their roles, the caseload is expected to increase.

Environmental Health
Kate Cassidy reported for Environmental Health.

- Area contractors are expecting this to be a busy building season, which will in turn be busy for the septic program.
- Only one poor food establishment score was reported in January which was with a vendor at the Wedding Expo Event at the Fairgrounds. Usual follow-up cannot be conducted however, the organizer will assure vendors have refrigeration and functioning handwashing stations for the event next year.

Hanson reported on an establishment that has received six inspections in their first year of business and has had fluctuating scores. Myerowitz suggested waiting to see how they performed on the next inspection and if improvement does not occur scheduling a meeting with management. Others agreed and Miller brought attention to another problem establishment.

Community Health Center
Jody White Reported for the Community Health Center.

- Health Resources and Services Administration funding was approved for two years.
- The Coordinating Committee met and discussed how the Flathead City-County Health Department and Flathead Community Health Center can eliminate redundancies to work more efficiently together.
- John Felton, President and CEO of Riverstone Health in Billings and Cindy Stergar, Executive Director of Montana Primary Care Association will give a presentation regarding co-applicant agreements February 26th at 6:30. Members of the Coordinating Committee are advised to attend.

Miller asked White how reserve funds will be used. White answered that much of the funding will go to the Hungry Horse clinic expansion and dental services. Burg asked if vacated positions are being filled now that funding has been approved. White said the positions are now posted. Burg asked for an update about the expansion remodel of the Hungry Horse facility. White said it is nearly complete.

Health Promotion
Jennifer Rankosky reported for Health Promotion.
• The Suicide Prevention program received a $65,000.00 grant. Jennifer Blodgett will increase community outreach and training, as well as work closely with the Nate Chute Foundation. Hanson added that the funding of this program fits into what was laid out in the Strategic Plan with Trauma Informed Care. Myerowitz gave input regarding Trauma Informed Care and shared what he has learned through lectures and books. Because this is part of the emphasis of the Health Department, Myerowitz encouraged the Board Members to do research on the subject.

• Health Promotion will submit a report to the Board monthly featuring the individual programs offered in the Department. At this meeting, the Buckle-Up program was featured with a chart that Wendy Olson submitted explaining the program funding and details of service. Miller commented that this information is helpful for the Board’s education. He asked for clarity regarding some of the facts. A discussion regarding the statistics of how wearing seatbelts saves lives continued. Myerowitz added that the Board would support the Health Department to be actively involved in creating legislation for a primary seatbelt law. Burg asked for clarification of how the percentages of those screened for the cancer programs are determined. Hanson explained that the Health Promotion report is based on the number of screenings of those who are underinsured or uninsured who would not get screenings for early detection. Burg asked if a report of percentages statewide could be provided to display the need for this program. Hanson asked Rankosky to request a report from the State. A discussion continued regarding the effectiveness of these programs locally and nationwide. Miller asked for verification of the number of child highway deaths that occurred in Montana in the past 10 years. Rankosky will verify this with Olson.

Home Health
Paul Conrad reported for Home Health.

• Conrad thanked the Operations Committee for their time and discussion at a meeting prior to the Board of Health meeting.

• Home Health has a new brochure that celebrates their 45th year of service to the community.

• Several referrals were received in January from Kalispell Regional Medical Center and North Valley Hospital, which is a noticeable improvement.

• Home Health has a good relationship with The Springs with the nurse manager being a past Home Health employee.

• A $30,000.00 loss in revenue was reported for January.

• The cost per visit is down.

• Home Health has contributed over $350,000.00 to the Health Department’s Capital Improvement Plan in the last eight years.

Miller asked Conrad why Home Health is not receiving many Medicaid patients. Conrad said that he has no clear answer for him at this time.

Animal Shelter
Cliff Bennett reported for the Animal Shelter.

• The Animal Shelter is operating with a full staff again. The Commissioners approved an increase of hours for the .6 FTE position that was vacant to a full time staff after Hanson showed them the increase in activity over the past 4 years. This is helping with staffing and workload.

• Efforts are underway to strengthen the Barn Cat program. The Barn Cat program allows the Animal Shelter offer to spayed/neutered feral cats to residents that have a property with outbuildings. The residents agree to feed the cats and allow shelter in the outbuildings.
Information has been added to the Animal Shelter website to educate the public on what to do and not to do when a litter of kittens or a stray cat.

Mosquito District
Bruce Gunderson reported for the Mosquito District.
- Gunderson thanked the Board for supporting the Mosquito Program Discharge Management Plan, saying that this is an important working document for the program. It is good that it will be in place before they begin their activity this spring.
- The Department has also created a new internal procedural document titled “Landowner’s Permission, Accusation and Review”. This is important because so many bodies of water in Flathead Valley crosses multiple properties. When the properties are sold, the Department is not always aware and may enter a property which previously had granted permission. This procedure outlines how permission from owners is received.
- Gunderson and Rubow attended the Montana Mosquito Vector Control Association meeting in Great Falls the second week of January. Rubow was elected vice-president of the Association.
- Rubow is putting the finishing touches of the Northwest Mosquito Vector Association Newsletter which covers Montana, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, and Alberta.
- Two seasonal workers from last year are returning for this season, and a student from Flathead Valley Community College will be hired.

Myerowitz asked if the “Drone” project has been tabled. Hanson said that it is going in front of the Commissioners again on March 5th. Gunderson added that the “Drone” will be used a little this season on targeted sites, but will be fully operational for the 2019 season. Gunderson said that this will save the County money, is much safer and, more accurate than current methods.

Finance Report
Lucie Shea gave the Finance Report.
- Shea has begun working on the budget for the 2019 fiscal year.
- The main challenges in working with the budget this year are the added health insurance cost, the proposed 2.1% Cost of Living Adjustment for 2019, and not knowing what grant awards will be.

Miller asked if the elevator is original to the building or was added with the third floor addition. Tonya Buxton said that it is original and was modified for the addition. Shea added that she is budgeting for elevator repairs or replacement.

Health Officer’s Report
Hanson presented the Health Officer’s Report.
- The first required annual report was submitted to the Public Health Accreditation Board. The report summarizes the Department’s activities for the past 12 months with a focus on performance management and quality improvement. Re-accreditation is required every five years, and the Department staff are beginning the necessary work for the application process. Myerowitz asked if Hanson knew how many Health Departments are accredited. Hanson said that in the State most of the larger Health Departments are accredited but she will find the data and report back to the Board.
On February 1st a public hearing was held in Helena to hear proposed changes to the Medicaid rule, including the rule for Targeted Case Management for Children with Special Healthcare Needs, which impacts the Health Department Home Visiting program.

Although the Health Center received funding for the next two years, there are still funding concerns regarding proposed cuts to the Public Health and Prevention funds. Hanson will keep the Board updated.

Committee Reports
There were no committee reports.

Other Business
There was no other business.

Board Member Comments
Skees congratulated Rubow on his appointment. Burg had tickets for the symphony to give away. Miller commented about the conversations in the news regarding the need to address mental illness pertaining to the school shooting tragedy in Florida. There was a discussion about this tragedy.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 2:30.

Transcribed by Wanda Forbes.