



Environmental Health Continuous Improvement Board Notes

Date: June 16, 2025

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Attendance

Amanda R Buell
Angie Wheeler
Bill Groskreutz
Dan Symonik
David Boberg
Diana Ditsch

Jesse Harmon
Kent Severson
Kim Carlton
Lisa Brodsky
Rick Toms
Sagar Chowdhury

Sarah Grosshuesch
Sodik Adelani
Tom Higgins
Tom Hogan
Wendy Spanier

Welcome

Meeting Purpose: To provide updates and a forum for continuous improvement board members.

Review and approve meeting notes from March.

Board approved March 17, 2025, Meeting Notes.

Regular Updates

- **Mobile Food Unit Workgroup:** Planning on quarterly meetings instead of monthly. Finishing up small short-term projects (one-stop shop, rubric of requirements), have legislative language be in the hands of the industry leaders (with MDA/MDH there for review and feedback).
- **Delegation Agreement Workgroup:** Consensus among group is to focus on Food, Pools, and Lodging Delegation Agreements and the process to obtain an agreement. Discussion of delegation agreement process documents with feedback. Planning to develop a “Considerations for delegation agreements” type document for the county level. This document would help counties before they apply so they understand what is involved and what it will look like when going to their county commissioner.
 - Question about federal elimination of food inspectors of large food manufacturing and how that will affect environmental health programs.
 - What is delegated by MDH and the inspection activities that MDH does are not done at a federal level so no foreseen impact from federal cuts there. Probably not

significant changes. MDH does not currently have any FDA grant fund dollars for our program.

- The MDA Manufactured Foods program has responsibility for food manufacturing plants in Minnesota, and they conduct some of the FDA inspections under contract. There have been discussions about the numbers of contracts that are allotted to the states. Additionally, in Minnesota, manufacturing activities are not currently allowed to be delegated as the statutes are written. So big-picture shifts would require big-picture planning.
- **FPLS Program Evaluation Workgroup:** Summary of Evaluation Progress
 - **What's happening now**
MDH evaluators are working with delegated programs to finalize the verification of self-assessments for Standards 5 and 7:
 - Standard 5 focuses on Illness and Investigation Response.
 - Standard 7 covers Industry and Community Relations.
 - **Next Steps – Draft Reports**
 - Draft reports will be available later this year.
 - The MDH team greatly appreciates the time, dedication, and collaboration of delegated programs throughout this evaluation process.

Revised charter approved by State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC).

- Charter is posted in the EH CIB SharePoint library ([Environmental Health Continuous Improvement Board Charter](#)).
- EH CIB has one SCHSAC member. EH CIB would like to include a second member.
- Tom Hogan asked if the EH CIB meetings are meeting the needs of members or do we need to make any adjustments? Are we on the right track? Members can share thoughts or comments with Amanda and Tom.

Legislative Update

- Tom Hogan provided a Legislative Update. With the Special Session completed last week, the Governor having signed all the budget bill over the weekend. This means our state budget is set for the next state budget cycle [July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027]. MDH and EH did very well through this process. As an Agency, many of MDH programs were able to maintain efforts in those areas. In addition to fee increases in several EH programs through the HHS budget, MDH were successful in the Clean Water Fund [Legacy budget] and transfer of funds from MPCA [Environment budget].

- Most new budget items along with fee increases become effective July 1, 2025 – of course there are always exceptions that are detailed out in the budgets.

EH Successes

HHS Omnibus

- All fees increases:
 - DWP
 - FPLS
 - IER: Asbestos/Radioactive materials/X-ray
 - Wells
- Hot tubs in rental vacation units exempt from public pool regulations.

Legacy Omnibus/Clean Water Fund

- All MDH projects:
 - Contaminants of Emerging Concern
 - Groundwater Restoration & Protection Strategies
 - Source Water Protection
 - Private Well Initiative
 - Drinking Water Action Plan
 - Beach Monitoring

ENV Omnibus - Transfers in language

- A number of transfer funds to MDH/EH/ESA:
 - Toxic Free Kids
 - Biomonitoring/Tracking
 - TCE evaluations at contaminated sites
 - Closed landfill monitoring
 - PFAS communications/Ban Food packing
 - PFAS communications/Ban all products
 - Firefighter Study -
 - Extend timeline to complete
 - Includes additional funds

Bonding bill was also passed that supports drinking water infrastructure work

MDH Tracking Update and Discussion

- Federal budgets and updates on. EPA is planning on zeroing out any clean water act funds from EPA and radon funding. MPCA will have dramatic reductions for climate change funding. Some of this MPCA funding comes to MDH. CDC have seen reductions and potential eliminations including lead surveillance work which is dependent on CDC funding and elimination of Minnesota Environmental Public Health Tracking funds.
- Discussion of Cannabis issues at the local level by members:

- Sarah Grosshuesch shared information of a nursing student project looking at what was being sold at cannabis establishments. They came across vaping material, selling whippets, stores providing samples, etc.
- Wright has the distinction of having one of the two medical marijuana vertically licensed facilities in the state. Toured them about 18 months ago and it was incredibly helpful.
- Standing up licensing process and standards in the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM).
- For questions about cannabis, Margaret Wiatrowski would be a good contact at OCM - margaret.wiatrowski@state.mn.us.
- Everyone is dealing with cannabis in different ways. Looking at implications in environmental health work.
- Some counties are involved, and some aren't.

Possible Agenda Topics for Future Meetings

- Discuss issues that EH CIB would like to see put forward in the next legislative session.
- Discuss how communications are disseminated to Environmental health professionals around the state. Where is the role of the EH CIB in communication channels? Do we build that out?
- EH Division Quality Management Plan completion/roll-out. EHD is working on a draft. Mostly focused on the division about data exchange and data management.
- Office of Cannabis Management presentation of an overview of their activities and how environmental health fits in with their program.

Word on the Street Forum

- Organizations possibly working on future legislation around mobile food units.
- MDA is working on a program evaluation process with their delegated agencies.
- MDA is developing guidance on safety of mushroom products for consumers.

Next Meeting: September 15, 2025

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