

**Fergus County Board of Health Meeting  
July 24, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.  
Sheriff's Office Basement Complex**

**Present:**

Lisa Robinson, BOH member  
Heather Thom, FCNO Director  
Marlo Thomas, FCNO Staff  
Bridger Giglio, SIT  
Ron Hrubes, City Commissioner

Whitney Potts, BOH member  
Sue Irvin, Family Planning Director  
Penny Denning, Health Officer  
Jennifer Saunders, County Commissioner

**Online:**

Courtney Moline, BOH member      Laurie Ray, BOH member

Heather Thom called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

**Approval of Agenda:**

Agenda approved as presented.

**Public Comment on any agenda items:**

There were no comments.

**Approval of Board Minutes:**

Laurie Ray moved and Lisa Robinson seconded the approval of the April 24, 2023 Board minutes.  
Courtney Moline moved and Lisa Robinson seconded the approval of the June 29, 2023 Special Board Minutes.

**Public Hearing:**

No Comments

**Personnel Announcements:**

The Family Planning office interviewed and hired Clancy Hartman, NP to work up to three times a month.

**Announcements/Reports:**

- Fergus County Commissioners approved the Potts variances at the July 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - o Whitney Potts updated the Board that DEQ has also approved both variances. She is currently waiting on the official paperwork to begin operations.

- New building purchased for the Health Department
  - The Fergus County Commissioners did purchase the building on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Janeaux for the Health Department. The current tenants will be moving out soon. The Health Department will not be moving into the building until it has been remodeled. The Commissioners are actively working on design plans. Billings Clinic have staff with medical/clinic design experience that are willing to assist. Further communication will be needed with Billings Clinic before any decisions are made. There was discussion on being very specific with the architect of wants and needs, even on how Green to keep the building.
- Reports from Departments
  - Department reports were provided in the Board packets. There was discussion on Sanitarian complaints and how much information the Board would be provided. Heather Thom did state that complaints are available to the public, however the information is by request. In future Environmental Health reports, Bridger will provide the nature of the complaints excluding the business names. If there is closure of a business due to health concerns, the Board will be notified at that time. A complaint form is available on the County's website. There was discussion that complaints can be provided anonymously, however it makes investigations more difficult to perform a thorough investigation. The complaint form will be reviewed to possibly change the wording to encourage providing contact information.

As with across the state, Fergus County has seen an increase in Syphilis cases. Sue reported that her office received funds to increase advertising for testing. Sue also explained her role in schools for providing protection against STDs.

There was discussion about scenarios that would warrant providing PEP for an animal bite since there were two cases the last quarter.

Traveling employees have increased, especially in healthcare from other countries. This trend can cause additional investigations to latent TB cases.

### Discussion/Action Items:

- Election for Board of Health Chair and Vice Chair election
  - Lisa Robinson moved and Whitney Potts seconded to table the election of Chair and Vice Chair to the next meeting. Heather Thom will send an email to members of the Board to acquire names of interest to present at the next meeting.
- Possible Cleanup at the old Arro Oil and Refining site
  - Jennifer Saunders informed the Board about the beginning stages of looking into a possible cleanup at the old Arro refining site. The Arro Oil and Refining Company engaged in the manufacture of petroleum products. The refinery plant was located a few miles west of the city of Lewistown on Lower Spring Creek. The refinery was established in 1921. After the company closed in Lewistown, they did a cleanup of the site in the 1970s. Lead was used to help remove petroleum from the slug ponds. The cleanup did not involve complete removal of pipes in the ground. The current owners of the site are Gerry and Bertie Brown. They have noticed an increase of petroleum smells in the ground water. The

site is currently ranked on the Superfund list as M (medium priority). DEQ has been notified with new updates. Further testing of the soil and water may be required to have the site ranked as X (maximum) or H (High) priority. Jennifer will work with Bridger to see what type of testing is available. There was also discussion on Lead testing, health related issues and programs available to help with funding. The Board will be notified of any updates prior to the next meeting if available.

**Public Comment on Non Agenda Items:**

No Public comments

**Next Meeting Date:**

The next meeting will be held October 23, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

Lisa Robinson made a motion to adjourn. Whitney Potts seconded.  
Meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectively submitted by: Marlo Thomas, FCNO

Approved by: Donna Fantassal WPC Date: 1-22-24  
Secretary: Marlo Thomas Date: 01/22/2024