



Barry-Eaton District Health Department

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Eaton County, 1033 Health Care Dr., Charlotte, MI 48813
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Minutes of the Barry-Eaton District Board of Health

August 18, 2025

1033 Health Care Dr, Charlotte, MI 48813

1:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order	The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Mott at 1:00 pm
2. Attendance Roll Call	Board Members Present: Commissioner Jim Mott, Commissioner Keith Barber, Commissioner Jane Whitcare, Commissioner Bob Tuenessen, and Commissioner Bruce Campbell. Staff Present: Colette Scrimger (Health Officer), Rebekah Condon (Operations Manager) and Milea Burgstahler (PPE Director).
3. Motion to Approve the Agenda	Motion by Commissioner Tuenessen, Supported by Commissioner Whitacre to approve the agenda as provided. All ayes, motion carried.
4. Approve the May 16, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes (ACTION)	Motion by Commissioner Barber, Supported by Commissioner Tuenessen to approve the July 18, 2025 meeting minutes as provided. All ayes, motion carried.
5. Limited Public Comment	None
6. Finance Report	a. Review of the Monthly Financial Statement Sarah Jennings, Maner Costerisan, gave a financial update. b. Approve Payables in the Amount of \$284,808.95 (ACTION) Motion by Commissioner Barber, Supported by Commissioner Whitacre to approve the payables. All ayes, motion carried.
c. Standing Reports	i. Environmental Health Shane Adams and Allyson Diebel presented a comprehensive report on the Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB) detected at Thornapple Lake on August 4, 2025. Their presentation covered the detection protocol, water quality testing procedures, and public notification timeline. They provided an educational overview of HAB development cycles, associated health risks including potential neurological and gastrointestinal impacts,



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	and issued public safety recommendations including water use restrictions. The presentation prompted discussion among commissioners. ii. Planning, Promotion and Evaluation Milea presented the quarterly strategic plan progress report, highlighting mixed results across planned initiatives. While several key activities have advanced according to schedule, multiple projects were discontinued due to recent staffing reductions. Milea committed to distributing a detailed written update via email to provide specific metrics and revised timelines for remaining initiatives. iii. Personal and Community Health a. Jill delivered an educational presentation on animal bite protocols and rabies prevention. She outlined infection risks associated with various bite scenarios, identified the primary rabies vectors in the region (including bats, raccoons, and unvaccinated domestic animals), and provided step-by-step exposure response procedures. b. Bea presented the annual hearing and vision screening program report, detailing service statistics and outcomes from the past year. Colette formally recognized Bea's exceptional dedication in single-handedly managing the entire program since January following staff departures. The presentation also addressed proposed state budget modifications that would alter funding allocations for the program, potentially impacting service delivery.
d. Health Officer Report	a. Colette presented an analysis of Environmental Health (EH) fees as a potential revenue stream and recommended that the Board conduct a comprehensive fee structure review



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	during FY26 to establish formal policies governing fee determination and adjustments. b. Colette presented the revised FY26 budget proposal, which incorporates a 50% reduction in local government appropriations offset by a corresponding 50% increase in Environmental Health fees. The budget proposal sparked extensive Board deliberation regarding the appropriateness and necessity of such a substantial fee increase. Commissioners questioned whether additional operational cuts could be implemented as an alternative to the proposed fee structure changes. Following thorough discussion of budget reductions already implemented and potential alternatives, the Board declined to approve the budget and requested additional time for detailed analysis. Final budget action is scheduled for the regular September meeting. c. Colette provided educational content on the department's organizational structure and minimum staffing requirements necessary to maintain essential public health service delivery.
e. Other Business	None
f. Adjournment	Commissioner Mott adjourned the meeting at 3:07pm.

Jim Mott, Commissioner

Colette Scrimger, Health Officer

NEXT MEETING: September 18, 2025 in Hastings, MI

Should any person attending this meeting require accommodation, please notify the office three business days prior to the meeting at 517-541-2694.