

Louisa County Board of Health

12635 County Rd G56, Ste 103
Wapello, IA 52653



Meeting Minutes March 10th, 2026

Members Present: Shawn Maine, Randy Griffin, Ashley Bartenhagen, Dean Vantiger

Members Present via Zoom: None

Excused/Absent:, Lynn Mincer

Staff Present: L. McElhinney

Guests: Jim Rudisill, Brian Thye, Heather Bombei

Guests via Zoom: None

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Maine at 1730.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve March 10th, 2026 agenda by Griffin, 2nd by Bartenhagen. All approved, so carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Bartenhagen to approve February 10th, 2026, board minutes, 2nd by Griffin. All approved, so carried.

Environmental Health Update

New Business/Financial Report:

B. Thye presented EH stats for February 2026. Maine noted a trend in elevated nitrates. Thye gave an explanation that many wells in this area are sand points and because of this, he would expect to see more elevated nitrates.

Thye exited the meeting @ 1735

Approval of Private Well Grants Amendment-action item:

L. McElhinney reported that money in the private well grant had been reallocated to counties and that Louisa County was to receive a \$10,000 amendment increase. Motion by Bartenhagen to approve the \$10,000 Private Well Grant amendment, 2nd by Vantiger. All approved, so carried.

Old Business:

None

Public Health/Home Health Update

New business/Director's Report:

L. McElhinney presented financial data for Environmental Health through the month of February 2026.

L. McElhinney presented financial and home visit caseload data through February 2026.

McElhinney reported that in the past, when the county had a report of active TB, incentive funding for direct observed therapy was provided by Iowa HHS but she had recently learned that that funding was no longer going to be offered. McElhinney reported that DOT continues to be the standard of care for active TB cases.

Legislative Updates:

McElhinney gave an update on a new bill introduced at the state that concerns local boards of health: SF 2432. McElhinney explained that the language in the bill was confusing regarding discontinuation of city boards of health and mentions boards of health having to work with the hospital located in their respective county. McElhinney reported that the bill had passed the first funnel and had passed out of the senate to the house at this time.

Approval of FY27 Local Public Health Services Grant-action item:

McElhinney reported the FY27 Local Public Health Services grant was due for renewal. The projected total of the grant is \$36,512, an increase of \$67 from the previous year. McElhinney stated the grant continues to supplement any public health work done by LCPH. Motion by Vantiger to approval the FY27 Local Public Health Services Grant, 2nd by Bartenhagen. All approved, so carried.

Maine reported concerns that a trailer park located just outside of Wapello continued to not have running water to the trailers that people were living in. Maine questioned if the BOH could enforce or do anything to remedy the concerns he had. Board members agreed that the lack of running water could pose a public health concern. McElhinney stated an ordinance could be implemented by the Board of Supervisors and that the BOH could assist or advise on that process.

County Snapshots:

McElhinney presented and reviewed the HHS System Snapshot for Louisa County and the State of Iowa, stating these statistics can help drive policy and direction of public health in the county.

Charting Software:

McElhinney stated due to concerns with charting noted during DIA survey, questions had come up among the staff regarding the need for a new charting software system. McElhinney stated that she was exploring options and costs of changing software and trying to find a system that would be the best fit for the agency. McElhinney stated no changes were needed at this time but wanted to make the board aware of the plans to investigate other options.

Old Business:

None

Public Input

Heather Bombei, Community Health Consultant for Environmental and Local Public Health Bureau Iowa HHS reported that she had completed BOH orientation with Dean Vantiger. Bombei also reported on the upcoming Public Health conference and stated she would encourage McElhinney to attend. McElhinney stated office staff would be limited the days of the conference if she were to attend. The board members informally agreed that a closed sign on the door while other staff were completing their home visits would be sufficient.

Meeting

Next BOH meeting: Tuesday, April 14th @ 5:30pm

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion to adjourn by Bartenhagen at 1806, 2nd by Griffin.

Respectfully Submitted,
Leah McElhinney
Secretary Pro Tem

Motion to Approve:

1st: _____

2nd: _____