



**Board of Health
Minutes
February 3, 2026**

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	
X		Dan Lynch, Buffalo County Commissioner
X		Sue Hunter – Buffalo County Citizen
X		Bill Stewart – Dawson County Commissioner
	X	Nicole Thorell –Dawson County Citizen
X		Scot Grams – Franklin County Supervisor
X		Renee Grams – Franklin County Citizen
X		Glenn Hofman – Gosper County Supervisor
X		Daren Hatch – Gosper County Citizen
X		George Scott – Harlan County Supervisor
X		Yvonne Tolle – Harlan County Citizen
X		Heath Hofstetter – Kearney County Commissioner
X		Rick Streeter – Phelps County Commissioner
X		Cody Krull – Kearney County Citizen
	X	Kayla Knauss DO – Physician
X		Dr. Jessica Robb – Veterinarian
X		Melissa Hall PAC – Midlevel Practitioner
X		Melissa De La Torre- Minority Health Representative

Also, present: TRPHD representatives: Jeremy Eschliman – Health Director; Katie Mulligan – Chief Operating Officer; Andrea Shoemaker – Executive Assistant; Jesse Valenti – Finance Section Manager; Jacki Haley – Clinical Section Manager; Ashley Green – Environmental Health Supervisor; Tana Fye- Legal Counsel.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

The Board of Health (BOH) meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by Sue Hunter, Board President, as a virtual meeting in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act. As such, virtual participation (voting) is allowed by board members. The virtual option (Zoom) is available for public participation.

Roll call completed by Shoemaker; 14 members present (Lynch, Hunter, S. Grams, R. Grams, Hofman, Hatch, Scott, Tolle, Hofstetter, Krull, Streeter, Robb, Hall, De La Torre).

INTRODUCTIONS | ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Meeting notices: Hunter acknowledged the Nebraska Open Meeting Law was posted in the room with booklets available. Hunter noted the meeting notice publication has occurred in newspapers of record within each county of the district, in addition to an agenda being continually current and available at the TRPHD office and on the TRPHD website.



APPROVAL OF AGENDA. Motion by Hofman, seconded by Lynch, to approve the agenda with the correction to the agenda item of fiscal audit year, changing the typographical error from 2025–2026 to 2024–2025. **Roll call vote, 14 ayes, 0 nays, Motion carried.**

Introductions Acknowledgements

J. Eschliman, Health Director, informed the board that Lori Reiner, Phelps County Public Citizen, has submitted her resignation and expressed appreciation for her service. J. Eschliman then introduced Melissa De La Torre as the Minority Health Representative, welcoming her to the Board and noting the valuable perspective she will bring. J. Eschliman also welcomed Renee Grams to her first meeting after joining the board as a Franklin County citizen.

Approval of Minutes from the regular meeting on December 2, 2025. Motion made by Lynch, seconded by Hofman to approve the December 2, 2025, minutes as presented. **Roll call vote, 9 ayes, 0 nays, 5 abstain (S. Grams, R. Grams, Hatch, Streeter, Hall). Motion carried.**

MATERIAL AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY BEFORE THE MEETING & AVAILABLE AT THE MEETING

- Finance Committee
 - BOH Financials November 2025
 - BOH Financials December 2025
 - Program Financial Overview November 2025
 - Grant and Subaward Guideline
 - Trend Analysis November and December 2025
 - TRPHD – Auditor Submission Confirmation 2024-2025 fiscal year audit
 - Finance Committee Meeting Minutes 11/24/25
 - Finance Committee Meeting Agenda 11/24/25
 - Finance Committee Meeting Minutes 10/27/25
- Policy Committee
 - 1/27/26 Committee Meeting Minutes
 - 1/27/26 Committee Meeting Agenda
 - Quality Management
 - Department Owned Vehicle Use
 - Inclement Weather
 - Public Comment at Board Meetings
 - Public Records Request
 - Receipt of Funds
 - Payroll
 - Journal Entries
 - Accounts Payable Management
 - Healthy Foods
 - Tobacco Free
- 2026 BOH Meeting Schedule
- BOH 2025-2027 Terms and Committees
- BOH 2026 Committees
- BOH meeting minutes December 2, 2026
- BOH Meeting Agenda February 3, 2026



- Amended BOH Meeting Agenda February 3, 2026
- Contract Index Expenses and Revenues Jan Feb
- Environmental Health Authority memo
- February 2026 TRPHD Board of Health Presentation
- Fundamentals in Law and Procedure regarding the Board of Health
- Health Director Evaluation 2026 blank
- Kearney Wastewater Surveillance Facility Report 2026 Week 3
- Kearney WWTP
- Leg Natural Resources
- Nebraska 2025 LB760
- Nebraska 2025 LB898
- Phelps County Citizen Resignation 1.8.2026
- Resolution 2026-1 Support of LB760
- Resolution 2026-2 Support of LB898
- Role of a Local Board of Health Member
- Rural Health Transformed – The One Big Beautiful Bill and Rural Health Transformation Program

REORGANIZATION- ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBER TERMS.

J. Eschliman noted this meeting as the first of the calendar year, thus requiring reorganization and election of officers, approval of board members' terms, review of 2026 meeting schedule, and approval of fiduciary institution signatories.

Election of Officers and Board Member terms - Motion made by Hofman, seconded by S. Grams to approve the slate of election officers: Hunter-President, Lynch-Vice President, Hatch-Treasurer, Thorell-Secretary and renewal of board terms (as identified as Current Members Expiring) as presented. **Roll call vote, 14 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.**

Bill Stewart entered the board meeting at 6:13 PM.

Appointment of Committee Members - J. Eschliman and Hunter discussed potential committee assignments. Current openings on the Personnel, Clinical, and Advocacy Committee. Hunter asked for volunteers and appointed De La Torre to Personnel and Advocacy and Melissa Hall to Clinical committees, respectively. Motion to approve appointed De La Torre to Personnel and Advocacy and Melissa Hall to Clinical committees made by S. Grams, seconded by Streeter. **Roll call vote, 15 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.**

J. Eschliman presented the 2026 Board Meeting Schedule included in the board packet. Board member consensus to move forward with schedule as proposed.

Financial Institution Signatories - J. Eschliman discussed the finance committee recommendation to add Katie Mulligan, Chief Operating Officer, as a signatory. Motion to approve adding Katie Mulligan as an authorized signatory made by Lynch, seconded by Hofman to approve adding Katie Mulligan as an authorized signatory. **Roll call vote, 15 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.** The new approved list of signatories is presented: Dan Lynch, Cody Krull, Daren Hatch, Jeremy Eschliman, and Sue Hunter.



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

J. Eschliman presented an update on the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP), which supports state-driven strategies to improve access to care, sustainability, and workforce development in rural areas, noting the State of Nebraska was awarded \$218 million.

J. Eschliman noted that the program places a strong emphasis on workforce roles such as community health workers, who assist with health education and addressing social determinants of health. These roles support care coordination and enable community health workers to play an expanded role in preventive care efforts and other essential services.

In summary, by prioritizing workforce development and preventive care access, the RHTP has the potential to support expanded oral health services and strengthen the role of community health workers in rural Nebraska communities.

Hunter discussed the current health director evaluation form, asking for board member feedback with a timeline with a date to return to Hunter (President) by February 28, 2026. Hunter noted the evaluation presented is available in paper format tonight in addition to being in the board of health packet. J. Eschliman additionally noted it would be sent out electronically for board member via email.

J. Eschliman discussed current progress in the DrPH program and noted that the funding supporting the scholarship he has utilized has concluded. He stated that the annual value of the scholarship was approximately \$15,000.

Following discussion, the Board reached consensus to direct the Policy Committee to review and update the employee tuition policy.

J. Eschliman asked Board members what they were observing in the Lexington area following the closure of the Tyson meat processing plant and how they would describe the appropriate role and responsibilities of TRPHD in responding to community needs.

Board members discussed the current situation surrounding the plant closure and its impacts on the community. Several Board members noted the potential benefit of TRPHD providing interpretation services to assist individuals with enrollment in public or private payer insurance programs.

Tana Fye, legal counsel, provide an overview of the role and responsibilities of a Board of Health member. Board members play a central governance role in overseeing the operations and strategic direction of the local health department. Their responsibilities include organizing the board and establishing leadership and operating procedures; hiring, supervising, and evaluating the Health Director; and developing public health policies and community health strategies.

Board members also provide oversight of budgets and resources, adopt rules and regulations in accordance with Nebraska statutes, and ensure legal and regulatory compliance across all public health activities. In addition, they contribute to community health planning, promote transparency and



accountability, and actively participate in meetings and decision-making to ensure the health department effectively serves community needs.

J. Eschliman provided recommendations to take a position on current bills in the Unicameral due to their impact on public health.

J. Eschliman recommended supporting legislative bill LB760 (Brandt) Change and eliminate provisions of the Environmental Safety Act. The bill would amend and eliminate certain provisions related to environmental regulations concerning the regulation of swimming pools, recreation camps, and mobile home parks. It grants authority to counties, cities, and villages to regulate these facilities, remove outdated provisions, and repeal sections of current statute as part of an effort to modernize and streamline environmental safety laws. Motion to approve Resolution 2026-1 in support of Legislative Bill 760 made by Lynch, seconded by Hatch, to approve Resolution 2026-1 in support of Legislative Bill 760. **Roll call vote, 12 ayes, 2 nays (Hofstetter and De La Torre), 1 abstain (Streeter). Motion carried.**

J. Eschliman recommended supporting legislative bill LB898 (Lonowski) Change which political subdivisions may use virtual conferencing for meetings under the Open Meetings Act and change related requirements. The bill would amend and eliminate certain provisions on how local governments can conduct meetings. The bill allows for an increase in the number of meetings conducted virtually on an annual basis. Motion to approve Resolution 2026-2 in support of Legislative Bill 898 made by Hatch, seconded by Hall, to approve Resolution 2026-2. **Roll call vote, 14 ayes, 1 nay (Lynch). Motion carried.**

Chief Operating Officer Report – Katie Mulligan, Chief Operating Officer, provided an overview of the direction the team has established for the 2026–2029 Strategic Plan. The team identified four primary priority goals and is continuing work to align specific actions and initiatives under each goal to ensure coordinated implementation and long-term impact. Motion to approve the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan made by Lynch, seconded by S. Grams, to approve the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan as presented. **Roll call vote, 15 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.**

November and December 2025 Financial Reports- Valenti provided an overview of the financial reports. Valenti discussed the transfer of funds from operating accounts to the NPAIT account to support improved financial performance and achievement of financial goals. Motion made by Stewart, seconded by Thorell, to approve the November and December 2025 financial reports. **Roll call vote, 15 ayes, 0 nays, Motion carried.**

Internal Space Utilization – J. Eschliman provided an overview of the additional space planned for future expansion, outlining the long-term vision to support organizational growth and the continued development of Two Rivers Public Health Department. An update was given on the process of soliciting architectural design quotes. J. Eschliman also noted plans to serve in the role of general contractor during the development and planning phase.

Fee schedule addition: Swimming Pool Permit recommendation for approval – Mulligan and Ashley Green, Environmental Health Supervisor, presented an overview of the swimming pool program and introduced the proposed late fee structure, including the rationale for implementing late fees. Motion



to approve the implementation of a late fee schedule for the swimming pools program made by Lynch seconded by S. Grams. **Roll-call vote: 15 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.**

Recommendation to approve the Fiscal year audit 2024-2025 - Valenti welcomed Kerry Gustafsson, partner at Dana F. Cole & Company LLP to present a brief overview of the 2024-2025 audit, noting delay of the single audit due to the previous federal government shutdown. Motion made by Lynch, second by Hoffman to accept 2024-2025 financial audits as presented. **Roll call vote, 15 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.**

Recommendation to approve the modifications to 103.5 Quality Management, 105.7 Department-owned Vehicle, 107.8 Inclement Weather, 120 Public Records requests, 204.5 Receipt of Funds, 209.6 Payroll, 210.3 Journal Entries, 211.2 Accounts Payable Management, 305.1 Healthy Foods, and 306.2 Tobacco Free. Mulligan reviewed the changes to the policies per the policy committee and legal counsel recommendations. Motion made by Lynch, seconded by S. Grams, to approve the changes to the existing policies as presented to 103.5 Quality Management, 105.7 Department-owned Vehicle, 107.8 Inclement Weather, 120 Public Records requests, 204.5 Receipt of Funds, 209.6 Payroll, 210.3 Journal Entries, 211.2 Accounts Payable Management, 305.1 Healthy Foods, and 306.2 Tobacco Free. **Roll call vote, 15 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.**

Recommendation to approve the modifications to 109.4 Public Comment at Board of Meetings. Mulligan, J. Eschliman, and Fye reviewed the changes, noting the reasoning where the Public Comment is in the agenda, noting that the board president can accept comments at the board meeting at any time. Discussion to have a comment in the chat before the meeting addressing any public comment issues that might arise. Motion made by Krull, seconded by Lynch to approve the modifications to 109.4 Public Comment at Board Meetings. **Roll call vote, 15 ayes, 0 nays, Motion carried.**

Public Comment. The board accepted public comments.

Adjournment: Motion made by S. Grams and seconded by Hoffman to adjourn. The Two Rivers Public Health Department Board of Health meeting was called to adjournment by consensus at 8:26 PM by Hunter.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: April 7, 2026 (in person).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cody Krull", written over a white background.

Cody Krull
Secretary (AS/JE)