

**Minutes – Clinton County Board of Health
Public Meeting held
January 9th, 2025 – 7:30 a.m.
Clinton County Satellite Office, large conference room and Via ZOOM**

<u>Board Members</u>	Dr. Mary Malcom	Present
	Jean Morgan, RN, BSN, MSED	Present
	Don Thiltgen	Present
	Chelsea Sullens, DPT	Present
	Jenna Lovaas	Present

Staff Present Shane McClintock, Director to the Board of Health
Kelli Eggers, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Health

Others Present Michele Cullen, Public Health/Genesis VNA
Nancy Burns, Emergency Management
Lauren Schwandt, Gateway Impact Coalition
Amber Smith, CSAC
Kristin Huisenga, CSAC
Carolyn Weets, CSAC
Mary Kay Wirth, ECI
Jim Irwin, Board of Supervisors
Glinda Gonzalez, Bridgeview Community Mental Health Center
Angie Eacker, Community Health Care
Dr. Chris Ollson, Ollson Environmental Health Management
Dr. Robert McCunney, Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Arvind Dandekar, Bright Future Iowa
Swati Dandekar, Bright Future Iowa
Ron Boesch, citizen of Clinton County
Ryan Keller, L52
Tim Arnold, citizen of Clinton County
Erin Kuehn, ASAC
Olivia Regenwether, ASAC
Gwen Rickertsen, citizen of Clinton County
Jenn Kutsch, citizen of Clinton County

Malcom called the meeting to order at 7:33 a.m. The hybrid meeting was held with the option of teleconference participation. Roll call showed 5 members present. 4 members were in the meeting room, and 1 was via ZOOM due to unforeseen circumstances. It was **moved** by **Thiltgen**, seconded by **Morgan**, to **APPROVE** the October 31st, 2024 minutes as submitted. Motion carried 5-0.

AGENDA ITEM III – BOARD OF HEALTH

The Board of Health unanimously elected calendar year 2025 committee assignments to be as follows:

Finance: **Malcom, Sullens, Thiltgen**

Personnel: **Malcom, Thiltgen, Lovaas**

Total Quality Management- **Sullens, Morgan**

The 2025 calendar year Board of Health chairperson was elected as **Malcom**. The 2025 calendar year Board of Health vice chairperson was elected as **Thiltgen**.

Lovaas recommended to check laws regarding open meetings and having three or more members being considering a quorum. If there is a quorum, then the meeting must be public with notice. If there are two members, it does not need to be an open meeting.

AGENDA ITEM IV – COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Finance – Eggers** noted the budget director anticipates the budget session with the Board of Supervisors to possibly be next Wednesday or Friday. She will update the committee as soon as possible.
- B. Personnel –** No updates.
- C. Total Quality Management –** No updates.

AGENDA ITEM V – DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- A. Environmental Services- McClintock** noted the 2024 Mosquito Surveillance Report. This was the first year an invasive species was detected in our county. This species is known to carry West Nile, Dengue, and Yellow Fever. They do like to breed around tires; however, he expects to find the species in other locations in the future.
- B. Genesis VNA & Hospice–** Report submitted. **Cullen** requested approval to carry over funds for Emergency Preparedness. It was **moved** by **Lovaas**, seconded by **Thiltgen**, to **APPROVE** the request as submitted. Motion carried 5-0. **Cullen** stated regarding the Avian flu, that they had money for dairy farmers to contact them and give them education on the flu vaccine. Now they are rolling that into poultry and flocks. The funding will help with contact investigation such as on the recent backyard case. **Cullen** requested approval on the carryover of said funds. It was **moved** by **Thiltgen**, seconded by **Lovaas**, to **APPROVE** the request as submitted. Motion carried 5-0. It was noted that the recent positive case was indeed a backyard flock or a hobby farmer. So they notify IDALS and IHHS of the case. **Burns** with EMA stated anyone with questions or issues that arise in the future can reach out to their office for information or referrals. **Cullen** noted this particular flock has been depopulated (buried) and they will continue to monitor for 10 days. Regarding the Let's Live Healthy group, **Carrie Donier** is their rotary president this year and she is very passionate regarding food insecurities. They will be having a food

summit on March 26th. When she has the flier with information she will pass on to **Eggers** to post. **Malcom** questioned whether or not Clinton has a Presbyterian church because there is a National Presbyterian Church Hunger Fund program, and it could be possible to get a grant to pay for some of the cost of the program mentioned.

- C. Maternal Child and Adolescent Health (MCAH)- Not in attendance.**
- D. Hillcrest Family Services/WIC– Kaczinski** was unable to attend.
- E. Early Childhood Iowa/DECAT- Wirth** stated that they contract with MercyOne Genesis for the Bright Beginnings and Nurse Family Partnership programs. Right now, they are serving 44 children in 42 families. There have been 443 home visits so far this fiscal year since July 1st. She is very proud of the work being done in our county.
- F. Women’s Health and Family Services– Montgomery** requested approval of the 3rd quarter Rapid HIV Testing claim and 3rd quarter Teen Success claim. It was **moved** by **Thiltgen**, seconded by **Lovaas**, to **APPROVE** the Rapid HIV claim as submitted. Motion carried 5-0. It was **moved** by **Lovaas**, seconded by **Thiltgen**, to **APPROVE** the 3rd quarter Teen Success claim. Motion carried 5-0. **Montgomery** noted that **Cheek** is still very busy in schools. They continue with Rapid HIV and Syphilis testing with no new positive cases since our last meeting.
- G. Community Health Care, Inc- Eacker** was in attendance but having microphone issues. Her typed update was that they have 4 nurses who are fully trained and are taking patients for MAR services which are medication assistance recovery.
- H. Clinton Substance Abuse Council (GIC & CDC)- Huisenga** noted the CRUSH meetings will resume. The next one is January 14th at 1:00 at the Rediscovery Recover Center and online via Teams. They focus on treatment, intervention, recovery, and drugs. The Gateway Impact Coalition will have a meeting on January 23rd at noon. **Schwandt** noted that the next Camanche DeWitt Coalition meeting is on February 4th at the Camanche Police Department. In the last legislative session, there was a bill that was passed dealing with vapes and a new registry for Iowa on what products could be sold legally. Retailers are now suing the state with claims that this is unconstitutional. Thus, the bill has been placed on hold until at least March 5th. They are hopeful that it will be similar to the FDA approved one that only allows about 20 to 30 products to be allowed and they are not flavored. This Sunday from 1-4:00 at the DeWitt Community Center, they will host a parent of one of the youth of the coalition that is a representative from the University of Wisconsin. Next month will be Day on the Hill where youth get to go to the Capitol. **Weets** works on the RX Grant regarding prescription drug misuse. She has been busy in the community with different events including Narcan training and upcoming physician meetings for best practices. **Malcom** noted the upcoming election for the vacant State Senate seat is January 28th. **Smith** noted they performed saturation patrols the night before Thanksgiving with the Clinton Police Department and Sheriff’s office.

- I. **Area Substance Abuse Council (ASAC)/New Directions-** Regenwether noted that the program that allows 20 hours of outpatient counseling a week has been very successful and has had solid attendance. The Quitline Iowa program has been very successful with 23 new participants since the beginning of the fiscal year. Their ISTEP youth group will also attend Day on the Hill.
- J. **Bridgeview Community Mental Health Center– Gonzalez** was online with no updates to share.
- K. **Emergency Management- Burns** noted again that they have resource numbers for any questions regarding the bird flu situation. They advise that if you see sick or dead birds, do not touch them and contact the IDNR or IDALS. As of December 31st, the outdoor weather sirens that were owned by the EMA Commission are no longer used for weather emergencies. The cities of Clinton and Camanche have not made decisions yet regarding theirs. EMA is having a weather radio giveaway. If you go to the DeWitt Community Library and fill out a family emergency plan, you can get a free radio. This will extend to other libraries in the county soon. They also continue with their school safety and reunification initiatives. Two active shooter tabletop exercises have been completed at both MercyOne locations in DeWitt and Clinton.

AGENDA ITEM VI – BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Irwin stated that yes, the open seat for State Senate election is on January 28th. Requests to the County Auditor for an absentee ballot must be completed by January 13th. Due to the circumstances, we do not know what the final ballot will look like, however Democrats have chosen **Mike Zimmer** and Republicans have chosen **Katie Whittington**. The administration building remodel is nearly complete and should be final by the end of the month. Finance meetings start next week for next fiscal year.

AGENDA ITEM VII – PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Ollson and **Dr. McCunney** prepared a slideshow presentation to the board regarding the possible county wind turbine project. **Ollson** noted he has a PhD in environmental health. He noted they are candidly being paid by NextEra Energy to present information to the board. **Ollson** stated he has been practicing for over 25 years. He has experience in everything from air quality issues to refineries around incinerators doing public health risk management. About 15 years ago, he got engaged with the renewable energy side and has since spent that time in research looking at the proper setting of renewable energy products for public health. **McCunney** noted he is a practicing physician at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston with his focus being in occupational and environmental medicine. He trained at Northwestern and at Harvard School of Public Health. For the last 40 years the focus of his clinical research has been that of understanding the implication of exposure to hazards on human health. 15 years ago, that started to include wind turbines. He was asked to be part of an expert panel of potential health implications on turbines which lead him to publish a handful of papers. For the last decade, he was director of Environmental Medicine at MIT, and past President of American College of Occupational Environmental Medicine. **McCunney** stated his

focus has really been on that of noise and health and how it can affect sleep. **Ollson** stated that he has submitted three letters and literature review to **Eggers** who has passed them on to the board. One of the letters is from that of a senior acoustician. He has done over 100 wind projects in the US. The three of them were asked to review the letter that the Board of Health sent to the Board of Supervisors on October 31st and highlight the main aspects in that letter. Frankly, they disagree with the letter. They presented a video version of a proper wind project set up. There are over 72,000 turbines in the US that are operating and active and 6000 are in Iowa. Since this began over 20 years ago under **Senator Grassley** and **George Bush**, there have been 150 publications authored from around the world. What determines a proper wind project set up is based on evidence-based medicine and evidence based environmental health and risk. The noise range can be anywhere from 103 to 110 decibels depending on the model. Shadow flicker is 30 hours or less of shadow per year. What they suggest for setbacks is 2 times the tip height of the total turbine height to the home. A federal study in Canada focused on 1200 people living around wind turbines. What they found was no difference from those living a thousand feet or 7 miles away from the turbines. There was no difference in health, sleep, migraines, tinnitus, or any of the other claimed issues. Since this study, numerous others have been done in Australia and Europe with similar findings. **Ollson** disagrees with the board's recommendation of 20 decibels for sound. He said that 50 decibels are common in ordinances across the Midwest. He noted the board recommended zero hours of shadow flicker. He states that shadow flicker is an indoor phenomenon not outdoor. He stated that turbines don't spin fast enough to cause seizures. The 30 hour per year shadow flicker average is about 1 % of the hours in a year. Regarding ice throw, the way the turbines are designed now is to shut themselves off from an imbalance on the blades, thus they don't see as much ice throw as in the past. The setback recommendation, because they still can throw ice, is 1.1 times the tip height to neighboring property lines. Again, there are over 20 years of research in the field and there are over 72,000 turbines operating across the US. Most of them are properly sited and without adverse health effects. **Ollson** stated a three-mile setback to homes is not needed and if that were the case not a single wind turbine would be able to go up. **McCunney** stated he has never seen noise levels proposed this low in any project that he has been involved with. His main concern is indeed keeping the noise levels down especially in regard to sleep. The 45-50 range is usually acceptable and supported by scientific studies. He agrees with the recommendation to have a noise assessment prior to any establishment of wind turbines and also to have them done at periodic intervals. He also stated that 30 hours per year of shadow flicker is an international guideline or standard. **Morgan** questioned the 1200-foot setback from a home. **Ollson** stated they used to be 500-foot-tall turbines and are now 600 and 700 feet tall, so yes somewhere between 1000 and 1500 feet. He stated several meetings were held in the fall and now the Board of Supervisors and the Planning and Zoning Commission have taken it from the public realm, and they are working on their set of ordinances now. There is no new set ordinance yet, this is the time for input on said ordinance. **Morgan** questioned the timeframe of having to clean up debris if one of the towers come down especially with weather and storms. **Ollson** stated the top reasons for one coming down is mechanical failure or lightning strike. He stated when they fall, it is just physical debris cleanup. There is nothing leaching from the blades. **Irwin** noted the issues with the turbines in Mechanicsville having been struck by lightning several times and that company did not take care of the issue and it should never have happened. Things are being discussed regarding decommissioning of the

turbines and what would happen in the future if a company didn't do clean up like they should. **Ollson** stated there should be a bond in place to ensure that if the company who owns the turbines isn't going to clean up, the county has money in place to protect themselves. **Morgan** questioned both **Ollson** and **McCunney** if they had a turbine built on their own property, would 1200 feet setback be sufficient for them personally. **McCunney** stated that absolutely and he understands the concerns about people not wanting them near their homes for a variety of reasons. He stated their role with input is not whether the county should get turbines or not but rather if the turbines are placed and the things that have been noted from around the world. He stated 1500 feet seems reasonable, but he would prefer a noise assessment prior to construction and periodically thereafter as stated before. **Ollson** stated that the turbines can actually be slowed down if they are not meeting the sound requirements. If they have to be turned down, they obviously do not produce as much and are not as efficient. This is why it is important to get the modeling standpoint correct before the construction. Issues have arisen in other states where cicadas and mosquitoes make more noise than the turbines. **Morgan** stated that she lives on the river and noted about a thousand geese on the riverbank recently. She fears they will fly in the direction of the turbines. **Ollson** stated the counties that have enacted 3-mile setbacks have no turbines. What they recommend is shying away from putting in standards that knowingly exclude turbines with no scientific basis for it. **McCunney** reiterated that it is the county's decision whether or not they want turbines, but at least have some scientific basis of whatever regulations the county proposes. He noted sleep being his particular main concern and to look at the Canadian studies that are out there to become more informed. **Irwin** said he is pushing to go with a multiplier of some sort. He feels there is not likely a way they will have the setback at 1200 feet. It will likely be greater than 1500 feet. **Irwin** noted his frustration with the letter. He immediately received numerous phone calls from those in the city limits to those in the country regarding the Board of Health putting in a 20-decibel rule from 6 pm to 6 am and a 30-decibel rule from 6 am to 6 pm. He was contacted because people want to pass that rule on to others. Farmers have grain bin driers running and that is even louder. They can hear it from their homes and want it to stop. Rules like this would apply to anyone such as LyondellBasell, ADM, River Valley Coop and many more. We cannot discriminate against one business over the other. He asked how to explain himself when KWQC, WQAD etc. come up and ask the Board of Supervisors why they did not take into consideration the suggestions from their Board of Health. A 20 or 30 decibel limit would put every farmer out of business. **Ollson** noted that NextEra will be providing the Board of Supervisors further information such as Karst and groundwater and he will make sure **Eggers** gets that and passes along as well. **Kutsch** typed in several rebuttal comments and asked **McClintock** to read them as she was unable to be present. She stated that Kosciusko County in Indiana has no higher than 32 decibels; Dawson County, Nebraska has no more than 40; Worth County, Iowa has night limits of 35. Farmersville, New York has 42-45; Dallas County, Iowa has 30; Jasper County, Iowa allows no shadow flicker and no more than 35 decibels. Vermont state has a nighttime limit of 39 and daytime of 42; whereas Maine has 42 at night. **Kutsch** went on to explain that there are several Nebraska counties who have changed their setback to be greater than one mile. Some up to 3 miles. She is happy to provide all of that information, and she feels that NextEra is only speaking of audible noise, not inaudible noise. She stated that she believes the reason for representatives wishing for greater noise allowance is to keep production levels as high as possible. She mentioned that **Dr. Alex Salt** has pointed out why

these turbines need to have greater setbacks to protect from sound both audible and inaudible. In recent history, there have been many examples of counties further restricting these limits. She stated they have ample science fact-based literature that continues to contradict the information **Ollson** and his associates keep mentioning. **Lovaas** questioned whether **Dr. Boesch** had anything to share. **Boesch** reiterated that their letter as presented utilized a number of studies that were previously submitted. There is more information to come, and he will forward that on as well. He feels as a voting member and taxpayer of the county, he has the right to voice his concerns. He feels we need to make sure we are looking at inaudible sound levels that are below 20 hertz.

AGENDA ITEM VIII – OLD BUSINESS

None.

AGENDA ITEM IX – NEW BUSINESS

None.

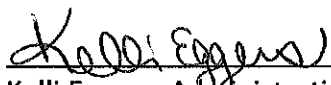
AGENDA ITEM X – NEXT MEETING DATE

March 6th, 2025 and May 1st 2025 at 7:30 am at the Clinton County Satellite Building, large conference room. Meeting also available via Zoom.


AGENDA ITEM XI – ADJOURNMENT

Motion by **Thiltgen**, seconded by **Morgan**, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kelli Eggers, Administrative Assistant to
the Board of Health

Approved 

Dr. Malcom, Chairperson, Board of Health

Attachments can be viewed by contacting the Board of Health at the Clinton County Satellite offices.