

**Weber-Morgan Board of Health
Minutes of Meeting
September 28, 2026**

The Weber-Morgan Board of Health held its regular meeting on September 28, 2026, in the Health Department Annex at 455 23rd Street. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. with Dr. Lee Schussman presiding.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lee Schussman	Ryan Barker
Ken Johnson	Frank Brown
Jed Burton	Tiffany Bears - Virtual
Sharon Bolos	Cheryle Allen - Virtual
Bonnie Wahlen	Gina Butters - Virtual

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ali Martinez	Jeremy Peterson
Vaughn Nickerson	

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Cowan	Lori Butters	Amanda Jones	Cindy Landeros
Michela Harris	Scott Braeden	Amy Carter	Amy Colado
Bryce Sherwood	Lekelsi Talbot	Kelly McElwain	Brooklyn Richins
Kirk Spolar	Sandy Flores	Ryan Klinge	Paije Parker
Adriana Pruitt	Summer Day	Sherrie Waters	Jessica Juarez
Sean Hansen	Cami Sullenger	Brad Childs	

OTHERS PRESENT:

Courtlan Erickson

Welcome and Introductions – Dr. Lee Schussman

Dr. Lee Schussman calls the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and welcomes those in attendance.

New Board Member Introduction

Information Only

Dr. Lee Schussman welcomed the new Board member, Councilman Jeremy Peterson from Ogden City. **Brian Cowan** explained that Councilman Peterson was not present for the introduction and will introduce him at the next Board of Health Meeting.

New Employee Introduction

Information Only

Brian Cowan introduced several new employees across multiple divisions. In the Nursing Division, Jessica Juarez and Paige Parker joined as new registered nurses. In Community Health, Cindy Landeros transitioned from WIC to a Community Health Worker position, Amy Colado joined as a Community Health Worker, and Brooklyn Richins joined as a Health Educator. Dr. Lee Schussman welcomed all of the new employees and expressed appreciation for their hard work and expertise and stated that

their contributions are essential to the success of the Health Department.

Approval of Board of Health Minutes of August 24, 2026.

Motion Passes

A **MOTION** is made by Bonnie Wahlen and **SECONDED** by Jed Burton to approve the minutes as written. The **MOTION** passes unanimously.

2027 Budget Presentation and Approval

Motion Passes

Dr. Lee Schussman provided a brief overview of the 2027 budget review process, noting that the previously appointed ad hoc committee met with staff to review the proposed budget and the Health Fund. The proposed 2027 budget reflects a \$343,000 deficit, which would be covered by the Health Fund. Dr. Lee Schussman explained that the Health Fund is used for urgent and emergency needs, such as the COVID-19 response, as well as operational expenses and timing differences in federal reimbursements, including WIC funding. The Health Fund currently has approximately \$8.1 million, which is slightly above the recommended reserve level of approximately 35% of annual operating expenses. Annual operating expenses are approximately \$16 million. Dr. Lee Schussman noted that the committee reviewed the proposed use of the Health Fund and the Board's responsibility to maintain sufficient funds for emergencies while remaining accountable for county tax revenue. Adriana Pruitt introduced the 2027 proposed budget and explained that the current projection requires \$343,000 from the fund balance. The 2026 budget was originally approved to use \$900,000 from the fund balance but after budget adjustments, are currently approved to use \$580,000. Adriana stated that with updated projections, including salary savings and additional revenue, it is estimate that only \$181,000 will be used from the fund balance for 2026. The proposed 2027 budget includes approximately \$9,000 in additional requests, primarily for career ladder increases. A \$23,000 travel request is grant-funded and would be offset by corresponding grant revenue. The proposed deficit does not include potential county salary increases, which could increase the amount needed from the fund balance. Adriana also noted the decrease in grant revenue from approximately \$7.3 million to \$5.8 million, primarily due to the EVVAP grant being fully utilized in 2026. She stated that the decrease primarily impacts current expenses rather than salaries because the grant funds are largely used for dealership stipends. Adriana also discussed miscellaneous revenue, with interest earned on the Health Fund making up most of the revenue in that category. Adriana explained that county tax revenue is budgeted under the Administrative Division but is used to offset expenses across the other divisions. Adriana noted that the projected \$343,000 deficit could increase to approximately \$550,000 depending on county salary increases. Adriana stated the budget will be presented to the Weber County Commission on October 5th. Brian Cowan stated that staff would report to the Weber County Commissioners that the Board of Health had reviewed the proposed budget, provided comments and feedback, and approved moving forward with the projected budget. Dr. Lee Schussman stated that the group felt the proposed use of \$343,000 from the Health Fund was reasonable while maintaining sufficient funds for emergencies and remaining accountable for county tax revenue. The group felt the proposed budget could demonstrate the value provided to the County. Dr. Lee Schussman thanked Adriana and the accounting staff for their work on the budget. Dr. Lee Schussman also noted that the Health Fund is held and invested by the County Treasurer and generates approximately \$300,000 in annual interest. Sharon Bolos stated that the County's HR Department had presented a recommendation for a 3.5% total increase for Pay for Performance and COLA. Sharon noted that a salary increase could increase the amount needed from the Health Fund beyond the current projection.

Adriana stated that the initial projection was based on an estimated 3% salary increase due to the limited information available at the time. The projected use of the Health Fund was approximately \$550,000. Adriana stated that even with a 3.5% increase, the amount would remain generally consistent with the \$580,000 approved for use from the fund balance in the current year. A **MOTION** is made by Jed Burton and **SECONDED** by Sharon Bolos to support and approve the 2027 proposed budget. Roll call is taken; all in favor. The **MOTION** passes unanimously.

Environmental Health Alternative Wastewater Systems Presentation

Information Only

Summer Day presented an overview of the Environmental Health On-Site Wastewater Program and its role in protecting surface and groundwater quality. Summer explained that alternative on-site wastewater systems are used for properties with poor soil conditions, high groundwater tables, or limited separation distances from surface water or private wells. Alternative systems, including at-grade, mound, and packed-bed media systems, provide additional treatment or increased separation from groundwater. Summer explained that state water quality standards, inspection requirements, and the Department's renewable operating permit program, which requires regular inspections and monitoring of system performance. Summer highlighted the water quality benefits of alternative systems, including reductions in biological oxygen demand, nitrogen, and total suspended solids compared with standard septic systems. Summer explained the use of alternative systems throughout Weber and Morgan Counties. Approximately 700 at-grade systems are currently permitted, with the majority located in West Weber due to the area's high-water table and favorable soil conditions. Mound systems follow a similar pattern, with approximately 17 in Morgan County, 72 in the Upper Ogden Valley, and 157 in West Weber. Packed-bed media systems are most prevalent in the Upper Ogden Valley, primarily due to the soil conditions in that area. Summer also presented historical trends in the use of alternative systems in the permitting process. Alternative systems have been utilized since approximately 1994, when they were incorporated into Utah state code, and currently account for approximately 35%–50% of permits issued each year. Summer noted that the Department's efforts are to protect water quality through comprehensive site evaluations, permitting, inspections, and the renewable operating permit program. Dr. Lee Schussman asked about the cost difference between conventional and alternative septic systems. Summer explained that conventional systems generally cost approximately \$10,000–\$15,000, while mound systems are approximately \$30,000 and packed-bed media systems approximately \$40,000. Costs can vary depending on site conditions and material and labor costs. Dr. Lee Schussman Asked about power outages affecting pressurized systems. Summer explained that state code requires a secondary power source, such as a generator, for systems using pumps. The systems are also designed to provide approximately one day of wastewater storage in the septic tank during an emergency. Bonnie Wahlen asked about education and certification requirements. Summer stated that staff are licensed Environmental Health Scientists and must complete the required licensing process. Brian Cowan added that system designers, operators, and service providers must also complete state-required training and certification. Dr. Frank Brown asked whether compliance and maintenance

of mound systems have been an issue over the years, particularly with power outages and changes in property ownership. Summer stated that compliance has generally been good and that mound systems have proven to be very reliable. Property owners are required to record a deed and covenant with the property title, and the Department actively tracks required inspections and reports to ensure systems continue to meet water quality standards. Dr. Frank Brown asked whether algae blooms at Pineview Reservoir could be related to nitrogen from septic systems. Summer explained that septic systems installed in appropriate locations and properly maintained are designed to effectively treat wastewater. She noted that algae blooms can also be influenced by nutrients that have accumulated in the sediment over many years. She further noted that older septic systems in the Upper Ogden Valley, particularly systems installed before current state standards, may warrant additional consideration. Dr. Lee Schussman asked whether alternative septic systems are limited to private residences. Summer stated that the Department oversees systems with flows of 5,000 gallons per day or less, which can include commercial or multi-unit properties. Larger systems fall under state oversight. Dr. Lee Schussman asked how accessory dwelling units (ADUs) affect existing septic systems. Summer stated that adding an ADU increases the wastewater load and requires the septic system to meet current code. This may require an expansion of the existing septic system or installation of an additional system.

Healthy Homes Presentation

Information Only

Brad Child, the Healthy Homes Program Manager, provided an update on the Healthy Homes Production Grant, awarded in 2024 and running through 2027. The program addresses health and safety hazards in homes, including lead, radon, mold, moisture, structural, electrical, plumbing, heating and cooling, and accessibility issues. As of September 2026, the program has completed 51 projects. Completed projects included lead hazard abatement, mold and roof repairs, structural and flooring repairs, accessibility modifications, roof replacement, air conditioning installation, electrical and fire hazard corrections, radon mitigation, and plumbing repairs. With 36 additional projects in progress. The goal is to assist approximately 90 homes by the end of the grant period. Ken Johnson asked whether the grant could be renewed. Brad Child explained that the Department may reapply in 2027, although available funding has been reduced. Michela Harris also reported applying for a separate HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Grant to help continue addressing lead hazards and provide additional funding if the Healthy Homes Grant is not renewed. Dr. Frank Brown asked about radon as a public health concern. Brian Cowan explained that Weber and Morgan Counties are considered high-risk areas for radon, with approximately one in three homes potentially having elevated levels. Radon testing is not currently required during home sales or inspections, but testing is available, and results help inform state risk maps and community education efforts. Dr. Lee Schussman thanked staff for the program update and introduced the next agenda item regarding accreditation.

Accreditation Update

Information Only

Sean Hansen provided an update on the Public Health Accreditation process. The

Department has submitted all required documentation and is currently undergoing review by the Public Health Accreditation Board. A virtual site visit is scheduled for October 23, 2026, followed by an in-person site visit on October 29, 2026 with two accreditation representatives who will meet with Department staff, Board members, and community partners. Sean also reported that the accreditation representative is confident in the Department's progress and that the remaining process will focus primarily on reviewing submitted materials and answering additional questions. A report is expected in early November, with any additional documentation or adjustments anticipated to be minor. Brian Cowan stated that the Department's goal is to complete the accreditation process by the end of the year. Sean stated that the site visit will focus on Board and Department relationships, accountability, community partnerships, public interactions, communication, and examples demonstrating that the Department's processes are current and consistently implemented. Dr. Lee Schussman stated that the Board has been supportive of the accreditation effort and that maintaining accreditation demonstrates the Department's long-term commitment to quality assurance.

Director's Report

Information Only

Brian Cowan informed the Board of Health of a new update on federal changes affecting the WIC program. Brian stated that recent changes at the federal level may affect how participation in programs such as WIC, SNAP, and TANF is considered in certain immigration proceedings. Brian stated that WIC staff are not responsible for determining immigration status or reporting participants to immigration officials. Staff are providing information to WIC participants about the potential changes and encouraging individuals with questions about their specific circumstances to consult with legal counsel. Brian noted that the Department is concerned that the changes could discourage eligible individuals from participating in WIC and the importance of keeping participants informed and comfortable accessing the program. Brian Cowan provided an update on seasonal vaccinations. The Department is conducting flu vaccination clinics and continues to offer COVID-19, RSV, Tdap, shingles, and pneumonia vaccinations to qualifying individuals. Brian updated the board that COVID-19 guidance now allows individuals six months and older to receive vaccination, with additional doses available for certain immunocompromised individuals in consultation with their healthcare provider. Flu vaccination continues to be recommended for individuals six months and older, while RSV vaccination is recommended for certain pregnant individuals, infants, older adults, and individuals with qualifying health conditions. Brian informs the board of the Department's drive-through vaccination clinic that is scheduled for October 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Brian also reported that more than 500 Weber State University students received flu vaccinations during a recent clinic event. Brian Cowan announced the annual Governing Youth Council legislative dinner, scheduled for November 5 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Orion Junior High. Brian explained that the event brings together state legislators and youth participating in the program to discuss health concerns affecting youth and the community. The event is a collaborative effort involving multiple community agencies. Brian also announced that the Department has received two new grants, the DFC and CARA grants, to support comprehensive substance use prevention,

addiction, and recovery efforts, particularly among youth. Brian stated the funding will support the Roy Community That Cares Coalition, which was previously housed with Ogden-Weber Community Action Partnership and will now be supported through the Health Department. Brian noted that other community organizations have similar arrangements and that Department staff have experience working with these types of grants. Brian Cowan introduced a new community resource guide developed in collaboration with Weber Human Services, Utah State University Extension, USARA, and the Health Department. The guide provides quick, accessible information about local resources related to substance use, addiction, recovery, and mental health. The guide is intended to be a living resource that will be updated and reprinted as information and resources change. Dr. Frank Brown asked how the resource guide would be distributed and whether it should be made available in emergency department waiting rooms. Bryce Sherwood explained that the guide is being distributed through the Department's opioid response team and community partners. The resource is also available on the Department's website, and staff are working to make the guide and smaller information cards available throughout the community. Ken Johnson shared positive experiences receiving assistance through Weber Human Services and suggested that similar resources could be helpful to individuals navigating government services. Dr. Lee Schussman expressed appreciation for the Department's opioid response efforts and the Governing Youth Council program.

Chairs' Report

Information Only

Dr. Lee Schussman Dr. Lee Schussman reminded members to complete the Board survey, which is intended to identify members' areas of expertise, interests, and priorities and to improve communication among Board members. Dr. Lee Schussman stated that they will meet with Brian on October 4, 2026 to prepare the agenda for the next Board meeting. Dr. Lee Schussman invited the Board to submit any agenda items, comments, or concerns for consideration. No additional Board member comments or concerns were raised.

Board Member Comments/Requests **No comments or requests.**

Information Only

The Meeting adjourns at 5:14 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on October 26, 2026.