



PUBLIC HEALTH

Danielle Pettit-Majewski, BS, MPH, Director

Board of Health
Joni Bosch, PhD, ARNP
Vice Chair, Zachary J. Pollock, PharmD, MS
Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS
Chair, Melanie Wellington, MD, PhD
Michelle Weckmann, MS, MD

JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
February 18, 2026
MEETING MINUTES
4:00 pm

Call to Order: Melanie Wellington, MD, PhD called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

Roll Call: Melanie Wellington, MD, PhD; Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS; Michelle Weckmann, MS, MD

Staff: Danielle Pettit-Majewski, Director; Sam Jarvis, Community Health Manager; Rob Thul, Environmental Health Manager; Chia Fu, Interim Fiscal Manager; Roberta Sloat, Clinical Services Manager; Jennifer Miller, Disease Prevention Specialist; James Lacina, Environmental Health Specialist II; Alissa Sotzen, Grants Analyst; Luis Torres, Environmental Health Admin Assistant

Others Present: David VanCompernelle, Assistant County Attorney

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Wallace to approve the January 21, 2026, meeting minutes; seconded by Weckmann. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Regular Meeting Date and Time: March 25, 2026, in Conference Room 203 at 4:00 pm in the Health and Human Services Building.

Citizen Comments / Questions / Issues: None.

Staff Updates: Rileigh Dodd, Public Health Nurse, resigned effective February 8, 2026, to pursue her DNP degree. Pettit-Majewski added that Nate Savage, Emergency Preparedness Planner, will also be resigning effective March 3, 2026 as he will be relocating to Boston.

Financial Update: None.

DISCUSSION / PRESENTATION(S):

- **Certified Application Counselor Program:** Jennifer Miller, Disease Prevention Specialist, gave a brief presentation over the Certified Application Counselor (CAC) program at JCPH, that was started in 2017 due to navigator funding cuts. The program assists individuals with health insurance applications. Miller talked about the importance of the program for lower-income clients, and provided

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metrics, saying that so far this year, 71 individuals have reached out for help, though there's been a decrease after COVID. Weckmann asked if the program has considered setting up a farmers market booth to increase local outreach.

- **Private Well and Sensitive Watershed 201:** James Lacina, Environmental Health Specialist II, gave a follow-up presentation to the January watershed discussion. Lacina talked about what makes a successful septic system, and common reasons that systems fail. Various illustrations were used to demonstrate small lots and overdevelopment in areas without sensitive area protections in Lake Delhi and Okoboji. Weckmann said it would be beneficial to have data to back up the pros of limiting higher density lots. She followed up by asking about shared systems, and who technically “owns” these systems. Lacina expressed worry that the DNR could change regulations regarding shared private systems.

ACTION ITEMS

Expenditures Over \$3,000: None.

Applications, Contracts and Agreements: None.

OTHER

- **RFA 26-06 AARP Grant:** Sam Jarvis, Community Health Manager, presented about seeking approval to apply for a \$15,000 AARP flagship grant in partnership with the Coralville Public Library. The grant would fund a portable generator for the library which has offered to open community space during emergencies. Weckmann inquired about who would be responsible for costs after acquiring the generator, to which Jarvis said that ongoing maintenance would be the library's responsibility. The application deadline is March, with ongoing notification expected in May.

Motion by Wallace to approve applying for the AARP Grant to fund a portable generator; seconded by Weckmann. The motion passed unanimously.

- **RFA 26-07 Tobacco Tax Increase Position Paper:** Susan Vileta, Community Health Educator, presented a position statement supporting a \$1.50/pack cigarette tax increase and a 50% tax on e-cigarettes, vapes, and nicotine pouches – products that are currently untaxed in Iowa. The paper mentions that Iowa's tobacco tax has not been updated since 2007, and the state ranks 33rd lowest nationally. The board discussed advocating that \$12.8 million of resulting revenue be directed towards tobacco prevention and cessation programs.

Motion by Wellington to approve the position paper with edits to the final paragraph; seconded by Weckmann. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Additional Position Paper topic considerations**
 - **Support for AAP Immunization Recommendations:** Pettit-Majewski asked if a position paper, an op-ed, or a press release affirming the board's support for immunizations, would be best in response to multiple bills proposing changes to K-12 and childcare immunization requirements. Wellington said that given time constraints before the March 25th meeting, a press release is the most actionable step. JCPH staff will draft one for Board approval, with staff also willing to engage media.
- **Additional topics for Wastewater discussions for future meetings:** Pettit-Majewski asked the board if they needed a refresher during April's meeting. Wellington said that a discussion item on the agenda would be better, with Lacina available for additional questions. Board members were

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encouraged to write questions and forward them prior to the meeting to be prepared. Wellington also expressed interest in bringing a DNR staff member to April's meeting to answer questions.

- **Utilizing CDC as a source:** Pettit-Majewski brought up reliability concerns with CDC content, mentioning that there have been multiple ongoing changes in official pages, but notes that the revision dates are visible to the public, with pre-2025 pages being the most reliable. Wellington suggested that requiring secondary sources would be ideal in content published in 2025 and onward. Weckmann agreed, saying that eliminating the CDC as a source is unreasonable.

Reports / Inquiries:

County Attorney: None.

Members, Board of Health: Wallace reported on his experience visiting the Capitol, emphasizing the importance of reminding legislators that Board members are experts in the health topics brought before the legislature. He mentioned that the primary goal is reinforcing that local Boards of Health are available as resources when health-related questions arise.

Director: Pettit-Majewski reported on Capitol visits, highlighting Senate Bill 3135, which proposes changes to local BOH appointments and funding structures. She notes that the bill has passed subcommittee to continued conversation, but no committee date has been assigned. Pettit-Majewski also mentioned that conversations have continued around immunizations, PFAS water quality, and water fluoridation.

Motion by Wallace to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Weckmann. The motion passed unanimously.

Wellington adjourned the meeting at 5:44 pm.

Approved by Board of Health Action on

3-25-26

Date

Signature on File

Melanie Wellington, MD, PhD, Chair

Submitted by:

Luis Torres

Enviro Health Admin Assistant