

# Environmental Health Specialist/Sanitarian Registration Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

DATE: March 10, 2022

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Tracie Zerwas

LOCATION: Due to COVID-19 meeting was held via videoconference

## Council Members Present

- Charles Dierker, R.S., MDH, State Member – Chair
- Lynn Moore, R.S., City of Bloomington, City Member – Vice Chair
- Duane Hudson, R.S., Hennepin County, County Member
- Nikki Coler, Public Member
- Neile Reider, Industry

## Council Member Absent

- Robert Anderson, Public Member
- Raymond Starin, R.S., MDA, State Member

## MDH Staff Members Present

- Jim Topie, R.S., Sanitarian Registration Program Coordinator
- Tracie Zerwas, State Program Admin. Tech Specialist

## Guest

- Linda Prail, MDH, Food, Pools, and Lodging Services Section Rules Coordinator
- Nick Anderson, MDH Legal Unit

## Call to Order

Charles Dierker

- Charles called the meeting to order and took rollcall.

## Approval of the Agenda

Charles Dierker

- A motion was made to approve the day's agenda with the correction of moving item 8 to item 6 as Linda Prail would be leaving the meeting early.

Motion: Charles Dierker

Seconded: Lynn Moore

MSC

## Approval of Minutes of September 16, 2021

Charles Dierker

- A motion was made to approve the minutes of September 16, 2021.

Motion: Charles Dierker

Seconded: Nikki Coler

MSC

## MDH Updates

### Rule Language Discussion

#### A. Sanitarian In-Training

- Linda informed the group that MDH does not have money to implement a sanitarian in-training program at this time and that this would need to go before the legislature before this could be added as part of the rule language revisions.

#### B. Professional Conduct

- Linda informed the group that professional conduct or code of conduct language would be added to the rule revisions.
- Linda then stated that Tracie would email out the new rule language revisions to the advisory council at the end of this meeting and that if they had any questions or comments that they could contact Jim, Tracie, or herself.

#### C. Period to Renew Credential

- Linda informed the group that the language to renew a credential has now been broken out into three sections and then language for an exception was added.

#### D. Disciplinary Process

- Linda informed the group that new language was added to the disciplinary portion of the revisions. This language included language that would allow the council to take action against someone who is not a registered sanitarian but holding themselves out as one.
  - Nick then stated that he had very little time to review this language but that he has concerns with the vagueness of this language. Nick's initial findings were as follows:
    - The language needed to be specific language to support misconduct.
    - This language should be baseline language to support misconduct.
    - What are the working requirements of a Sanitarian? What are the basics of this job?

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- The Council then had some discussion and decided to start fresh with enforcement/disciplinary language. Linda and Tracie would put together a spreadsheet of what other states are doing for enforcement and disciplinary actions and how they present the duties of a Sanitarian’s job then bring this information back to the Council for further discussion.

## **Approval of Candidates for Registration/Examination**

### **Michael J. Hargiss**

Michael Hargiss has a master’s degree in Natural Resource Management from North Dakota State University and meets the one-year of supervised employment. Michael is approved to take the examination. Upon successful completion of the examination, the candidate may be approved for registration.

Motion: Charles Dierker

Seconded: Lynn Moore

MSC

## **Candidates Applying for Reciprocity**

None at this time.

## **New Business**

### **David Determan Elective Studies Degree Request**

- Jim explained to the Council that Mr. Determan has 10 years’ experience as a public health educator. Mr. Determan does not have an Environmental Health degree; however, he does meet the science course credit requirement. Would the Council accept an Elective Studies degree?
  - The Council agreed that an Elective Studies degree would be approved if the science credit requirement and all other requirements were met.

## **Old Business**

None at this time.

## **Other Issues**

No additional items at this time.

## **Next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2022 and will be held remotely.

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A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion: Charles Dierker

Seconded: Lynn Moore

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Minnesota Department of Health

EH-FPLS

651-201-4500

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09/2022

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