BOARD OF HEALTH COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 17, 2026

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Dan Hess, Vice Chair William "Casey" Crump, Lenore Lopez, Robb Jensen, Ann Huntoon

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sandy Hamburg, Dr. Khrystyne Lindgren

STAFF PRESENT: Linda Conlon, Rebecca Wold, Breanne Vos, Venette Tess, Beth Hoerchler and Joneil Tess

OTHERS PRESENT: Kathleen Cooper, Erik Rempala

Call to order: Chairman Hess called the meeting to order at 9:00am on the second floor of the Health & ADRC Building, 100 W. Keenan Street, Rhinelander, WI. The meeting was posted in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law and the facility is handicap accessible.

Approval of agenda: Motion by Jensen/Lopez to approve today's agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion to move around. All ayes; motion carried. Hamburg, Lopez.

Minutes of October 13, 2026: Motion by Crump/Huntoon to approve the October 13, 2026, Board of Health Committee minutes. All ayes; motion carried. Hess abstained from voting.

Public Comment/Communications: Cooper and Rempala commended Linda and the team for their work on PFAS testing efforts. Erik also asked about expanded testing and how results will be shared with the public. Linda Conlon mentioned that grant applications are being worked on and will talk more about this further in the meeting.

Staff Report – Venette Tess:

Wisconsin Well Woman Program: Tess introduced herself as the Wisconsin Well Woman Program Coordinator. She provided an overview of the Wisconsin Well Woman Program, including the counties she serves, program services, and increased enrollment and county participation. She reviewed her 2026 activities, including participation on the Wisconsin Cancer Advisory Boards, attending the Fall Cancer Conference, and working with tribal communities through Share to Care. She plans to continue building partnerships and recruiting additional providers.

Conlon emphasized the importance of having local providers, so residents do not have to travel long distances for services. She also noted the importance of having northern rural representation on state advisory boards. Huntoon asked about mobile mammography services. Tess explained that mobile services require at least 75% of the schedule to be filled for Marshfield Clinic and a filled schedule for Aspirus before a visit can be arranged.

Monthly / Quarterly Report:

Communicable Disease: Wold reviewed the Quarter 3 Communicable Disease Report (July–September).

DRAFT

Rural Health Transformation Grant Award: Conlon provided an update on the five-year grant application submitted jointly with Human Services. The grant includes funding for four new community health worker positions: one with Aging Disability Resource Center (ADRC), one with Human Services, and two with Health Department. These positions will work in the community to connect residents with needed services. Some focus areas include the Fatherhood Initiative, Strengthening Families Program, and Healthy Housing, including housing hazards such as hoarding. Community Health Workers (CHWs) will work together to create a cohesive program, streamlined referral and follow-up process.

Conlon explained that Oneida County was part of the first grant round for the full five-year grant. The Health Department and Human Services strengthened the application by applying together, with the Health Department overseeing the grant.

Motion by Hess/Huntoon moved to approve the Rural Transportation Grant as presented and forward it to the Executive Committee. All ayes; motion carried

PFAS: Conlon provided an update on the PFAS grant application. The grant team includes Michele from Land Conservation, Mark Pauli from the DNR, Crump, Conlon, and Wold. Pauli has been a valuable resource during the application process. Conlon explained that additional planning is needed, including determining the in-kind contributions required. The goal is to complete 125 tests in Oneida County, with additional testing possible for wells that require more extensive and costly testing.

The team is working with the DNR to identify priority areas and determine testing requirements. If needed, the Health Department may issue a press release and social media posts to encourage residents to apply for testing. Education and communication will also be part of the effort. Letters will be sent to town to communicate the county's intent to test in their townships.

Conlon noted that the next steps will depend on an upcoming meeting with the DNR. A resolution is expected to be brought forward in December to both the BOH and Land and Water Conservation Committee, with presentation to the County Board in January.

Rempala referenced Katie Thorsen's PFAS map and asked if we were using it for determining potential testing sites. Crump noted that Pauli's map provides more detailed information, so we are utilizing that as a reference. Interest in testing was also noted in the Nokomis area near Bubba's. Conlon encouraged continued advertising and outreach to increase awareness and encourage residents to apply for testing. She explained that in-kind contributions remain the biggest challenge and that applications may be prioritized based on available information, including elevated PFAS results from nearby wells. The team will discuss these concerns further with the DNR.

Vouchers, purchase orders, line-item transfers and other fiscal matters: Hess asked if everyone had reviewed the report. Conlon shared that additional funding has been received for Reproductive Health, improving the program's financial outlook. Hess commented on the presentation of the vouchers, purchase orders, and line-item transfers.

Date and Agenda items for next meeting: Next meeting slated for Tuesday, December 8, 2026. Conlon stated that her evaluation will be done December 8, 2026, PFAS resolution

Public comment/communications: Rempala expressed concerns about the grant requirements.

	Joneil Tess
Committee Chair or Designee	Committee Secretary