

2026 Board of Health Meeting Minutes



Public Health
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Grand Forks Public Health

Coalition/Group Name:	Board of Health		
Date of Meeting:	Thursday April 9 th , 2026	Location:	Hybrid Meeting Zoom and in person at Grand Forks City Hall in Council Chambers

1. Purpose of Meeting

Approve meeting minutes from January 8th, 2026 meeting, discuss Old and New Business, inform of next regularly scheduled meeting details.

2. Attendees

Board members present: Dr. Joel Walz, Rebecca Osowski, Dr. David Bradley and Anthony Hodny

3. Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 9th meeting
3. Old Business
4. New Business
5. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting details
6. Adjournment

4. Meeting Notes, Decisions, Issues

Call to Order – Dr. Walz	Dr. Walz called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM
Moment of Remembrance for Cynthia Pic – Dr. Walz	Dr Walz took a moment to remember the late board member Cythia Pic. Ms. Pic served on the Board of Health for more than 10 years. She was a strong advocate for public health and will be missed.
Anthony Hodny Oath of Office – Dr. Walz	Mr. Hodny was sworn into the Board of Health and will serve on the Board as the county commissioner representative.

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<p>Approval of Meeting Minutes from January 9th– Board members</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>ACTION:</u> Ms. Osowski motioned for approval of the January 9th meeting minutes. Dr. Bradley seconded this motion. Motion passed unanimously.
<p>Other Old Business</p>	<p>NONE</p>
<p>National Public Health Week (NPHW) – Shaylee Miller</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GFPH held several community events during National Public Health Week, April 6-12. Events included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Healthy Selfie Challenge ○ Display table and reading list at the library ○ ND Stroll & Roll, a statewide event coordinated by local health units and supported by Governor Armstrong ○ Presentation of Public Health Champion Awards at the April 6 City Council meeting. Awardees included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ashley Bayne, UND ▪ Brian Samson, GFPD ▪ Taylor Restad and Jaimie Zuniga, GF Housing Authority ▪ Nancy O’Hara, United Way • Ms. Osowski inquired about the theme and priorities of NPHW, as well as the reading list, and requested to receive a copy of it. • Ms. Osowski expressed support of physical activity as a main priority of NPHW. • GFPH collected donated feminine hygiene products and packaged them in pouches to be donated to rural schools for students as part of NPHW.
<p>Emergency Preparedness & Response (EPR) Program Presentation – Marcus Lee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EPR program is tasked with being prepared for and responding to many types of emergencies including natural disasters, outbreaks and epidemics, bioterrorism threats, harmful chemicals, and mass casualties. • Responses follow an “all hazards approach” and guidelines are outlined in the GFPH Emergency Operations Plan. This plan includes sections on incident command system, investigation, surveillance, public info and communications, and preventing spread of diseases. • ND maintains the State Medical Cache that all local public health units have access to when needed. The Cache maintains a wide variety of equipment that can be requested, even if it is not a declared emergency.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution trailers house local assets within Grand Forks as well, for quick responses. Assets include evacuation equipment, personal protective supplies, sheltering supplies, and more. • The EPR program is a Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program which is federally funded by the CDC. The money is distributed to ND HHS who then distributes it locally among the 28 local public health units. • The statewide PHEP team is always looking for volunteers for the Medical Reserve Corps. Those who are interested in registering can visit www.ndhealth.gov/EPR/HP/PHEVR/Register.aspx • Mr. Hodny inquired about local communications With the National Guard during emergency situations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Someone from ND HHS would be the liaison between public health responders and the Department of Emergency Services by sitting within the coordinated Emergency Operations Center. • Ms. Osowski noted that the presentation was interesting and had not previously known the breadth of EPR programming.
<p>Pool Code Proposed Ordinance Change – Jake Anderson</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jake shared a presentation that provided a high-level overview of the changes being made to the statewide pool code. The new framework should give operators clearer rules and guidance to follow. • A few items to note about the changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A new section has been added that includes regulations for cold plunges, float tanks, and special aquatic facilities. These changes apply to public and semi-public pools, but do not affect private pools. ○ There will be a requirement for at least one individual responsible for pool maintenance to become a Certified Pool Operator (CPO). According to Brenda Bergman, Environmental Specialist who inspects pools in Grand Forks County, this requirement is intended to provide additional training and education on chemical levels and best practices for maintaining pools safely and effectively. • A few concerns were raised by board members regarding how these changes may affect public pools and whether any renovations would be required to comply with the new pool code. Both Jake and Brenda emphasized that the new pool code will primarily impact operational procedures.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board members requested that a meeting be held with stakeholders to gather their opinions and feedback regarding the new pool code. Following the stakeholder meeting, the board would like a week to review the feedback before reconvening for a special meeting to vote on whether to adopt the new pool code. • <i>See presentation attached below for more details.</i>
<p>Director's Report – Tess Wall</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Review report attached below.</i>
<p>Other New Business – Miscellaneous Items- Board Members</p>	<p>Measles Outbreak:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Bradley inquired about what Grand Forks Public Health is currently doing in response to the measles outbreak. Marcus Lee shared that the department has been communicating with schools and various community partners while also providing education and resources. Communication has also emphasized the importance of staying up to date on vaccinations to help prevent the spread of measles. He also noted that an internal group meets regularly to develop and maintain a response plan in the event measles is detected in Grand Forks County. <p>Financial Reports request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Osowski requested a budget breakdown of the various funding sources that support the health department. She also requested additional details regarding credit card expenditures and asked to receive updates related to spending on the City credit card. Ms. Osowski acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the assistance she has already received in addressing questions brought forward by community members. • Tess responded to this request via email and shared that the health department follows City financial policies. She explained that there are 13 credit cards assigned to the public health department and noted that many of the expenses charged to these cards are grant-funded, must comply with grant guidelines, and require approval from the grant oversight agency. She also shared that the department is currently working on the 2027 budget and that, once finalized, the budget will be available for review on the City website.

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	<p>July Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Bradley noted that the July meeting is typically poorly attended and inquired whether there was any interest in rescheduling the regular July meeting. After a brief discussion, it was decided to reschedule the meeting to June 18th. • <u>ACTION</u> Ms Osowski motioned to reschedule the July 9th meeting to June 18th. Dr Bradley seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.
Next Meeting details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The next regularly scheduled meeting is June 18th, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.
Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>ACTION:</u> Dr. Bradley motioned for adjournment at 4:58 PM. Ms. Osowski seconded. All voted to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Next Meeting

Date:	Thursday, June 18 th , 2026			Location/Time	Hybrid Meeting over Zoom or in person and Grand Forks City Hall in Council Chambers
Agenda:	TBA				

Attachments:

1. Issue listing
2. Pool code changes
3. Director's report

BOARD OF HEALTH ISSUE STATEMENTS

April 2026

Topic: Emergency Preparedness & Response (EPR) Program

Contact: Marcus Lee 701-787-8107

Background: Previous meetings have highlighted different programming within Grand Forks Public Health (GFPH), this presentation is intended to enhance the Board's knowledge of the EPR program. GFPH contracts with North Dakota Health and Human Services (ND HHS) to offer subject matter expertise and regional EPR coverage with access to state and federal resources in the event of an emergency.

Action: Information only.

Topic: Pool Code Ordinance Change

Contact: Jake Anderson 701-787-8106

Background: Grand Forks Public Health oversees all public and semi-public aquatic facilities within city limits, safeguarding water quality, sanitation, and patron safety, yet our municipal pool code, last amended in 1993, has not kept pace with decades of advances in national model codes and pool technologies; by adopting the 2021 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code published by the International Code Council, we will align with current best practices for design, construction, operation, maintenance, and safety, improve consistency across jurisdictions, and strengthen our Aquatics Program.

Action: Approve the proposed amendments to Chapter XIII, Article 8 – Swimming Pools.



POOL CODE ADOPTION CHANGES

Adoption by Reference Language Clarified

Current Code:

Adopts ISPSC 2021 with deletions.

Floatation tanks excluded from scope.

Revised Code:

Adopts ISPSC 2021 (Chapters 2–6 retained; 1,7,8,9,10 deleted).

Removes explicit float tank exclusion in §13-0801.

Adds formal definition and separate section for specialty pools.

Float tanks and cold plunge pools are now clearly categorized and regulated rather than excluded.

Definitions Expanded

Revised version adds:

Bulkhead definition

Cold Plunge Pool definition

Clarified Health Officer capitalization

Additional operational terminology

II. PLAN REVIEW & CONSTRUCTION CHANGES

Plan Review Expanded to Multiple Departments

Current Code:

Plans submitted to “city.”

Revised Code:

Plans submitted to city health AND building safety departments.

Allows routing to Fire Department for emergency system review.

Formalizes interdepartmental review.

Backflow Protection Added

Revised code explicitly requires:

All water supplies protected against backflow and cross-connections.

Explicit cross-connection prevention language added.

Bulkhead Specifications Added

Revised version adds detailed requirements:

Structural integrity

Slip-resistant surfaces

Visibility markings

Safe access/egress

Required inspection documentation

III. LICENSING CHANGES

Expanded Definition of Public Pool

Revised §13-0805 adds:

Pools offered via online rental platforms or shared use are considered public.

IV. HEALTH & SAFETY CHANGES

Diaper Language Updated

Revised code replaces “swim diapers” language with broader:

“Diaper-dependent persons required to wear swim diapers.”

Minor clarification.

Clarity Standard Maintained but Tightened in Wording

Drain visibility standard retained but clarified.

No threshold change, language cleaner.

V. OPERATIONS & TESTING CHANGES

Water Testing Language Strengthened

Revised code:

Requires accurate water testing kit.

Clarifies minimum testing every 4 hours OR twice daily.

Clarifies compliance trigger for closure if testing not maintained.

Microbial Sampling Language Refined

Revised code:

Clarifies laboratory reporting.

Allows increased sampling at discretion of health department.

Substantively similar, but clearer enforcement authority.

Cyanuric Acid Clarified

Revised language:

Applies to outdoor recreational aquatic facilities.

Clarifies scope.

Closure Triggers Codified More Explicitly

Revised code clearly states CPO must close pool for:

Microbial exceedance

Residual failure

Combined chlorine >0.4 ppm

Parameter violations

Stronger closure mandate language than prior version.

VI. RECORDKEEPING CHANGES

Contamination Response Protocols Added

Revised §13-0809 now requires:

Written contamination response protocols on site.

Previously not explicitly required.

Reporting Clarified

Revised:

Requires 72-hour reporting of closures.

Clarifies lab-direct reporting exemption.

Clarifies administrative burden.

VII. SPECIALTY POOLS – MAJOR ADDITION

Entire New Section 13-0811.1 – Specialty Pools

Not present in original code.

Adds regulation of:

Cold plunge pools

Float tanks

Specialty aquatic facilities

Cold Plunge Requirements Added:

<60°F temperature limit

6-hour turnover rate

Continuous filtration & disinfection

Weekly draining & cleaning

Safety signage

Health warnings

Float Tank Requirements Added:

Manufacturer sanitation compliance

Health department inspection authority

VIII. FEE STRUCTURE CHANGES

Reinspection Fee Authority Added (Earlier Draft Only)

Earlier revision included §13-0814 reinspection fee language

Final revised version instead:

Keeps fee authority under §13-0812.

Leaves reinspection fee to Council resolution.

IX. PRIVATE POOL SECTION

Private pool language largely maintained but clarified formatting and structure.
No major substantive changes except improved clarity.



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ISPSC Reference Summary

Included Chapters:

- Chapter 2: Definitions
- Chapter 3: General Requirements
- Chapter 4: Public Swimming Pools
- Chapter 5: Public Spas
- Chapter 6: Aquatic Recreation Facilities

Excluded Chapters:

- Chapter 1: Scope and Administration
- Chapter 7: Exercise Spas
- Chapter 8: Permanently Installed Residential Pools
- Chapter 9: Portable Residential Spas
- Chapter 10: Portable Residential Pools

Local Substitution:

- Section 303 (Private Pools) replaced with City Code Section 13-0811.



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Director's Report and Activity Highlights for January-March 2026

Communications: Compiled and completed the 2025 Annual Report.

Collaborated with other public health communicators to organize Stroll N Roll ND, a state-wide walking event recognized by Governor Armstrong.

Emergency Preparedness & Response: Attended kick off meeting for Grand Forks County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning, a five-year cycle.

Assisted ND HHS with facilitation of quarterly Medical Reserve Corp evaluation exercise in Devils Lake.

Environmental Health: Renewed agreement with ND Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the Hazardous Algae Blooms (HABs) program.

Presented at Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) classes at Schroeder Middle School.

Javin Bedard attended the NOWRA septic conference in Devils Lake in February.

Nursing and Nutrition & Public Health Professionals: Launched media campaigns to increase awareness of legal consequences of fake ID use and possession and smoke-free laws about indoor vaping.

Collaborated with GFPD on placing two new Forensic ID scanners at alcohol establishments proximal to UND. ~650 fake IDs were confiscated in Grand Forks in the past 6 months.

Launched 2026 Employee Wellness program.

Launched Meal Repack Program with Valley Senior Living and Grand Forks HeadStart. Over 200 meals have been repacked and donated to families.

Provided overhaul and technical assistance to Fargo Cass Public Health's *Women's Way* program as they had staff turnover.

Hosted breastfeeding skills training for 64 nursing students.

Taught On The Move Jr. and puberty curriculum at rural county schools.

Department-wide: Collaborated with Altru on the Community Health Improvement Process (CHIP).

2025 Annual Report

Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Annual Report submitted to maintain accreditation status.

Staffing:

- Welcomed Erin Lauckner, Public Health Dietitian