



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Panhandle Health District

# Panhandle Health District

## *Healthy People in Healthy Communities*

### **District One Board of Health Meeting Minutes**

February 20, 2025 | 2:00 p.m. | Kootenai Conference Room or Virtual Via Teams

#### **1. Call to Order -**

- a. Panhandle Health District Board Chairman Dr. Thomas Fletcher called the February 20, 2025, Board of Health (BOH) meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. in the Kootenai conference room of the Hayden Panhandle Health District (PHD) Office, located at 8500 North Atlas Road, Hayden, Idaho.

#### **2. Attendance -**

##### **a. BOH Board Members Present:**

Chairman .....	Dr. Thomas Fletcher
Vice Chairman .....	Dr. Jessica Jameson
Kootenai County Representative .....	Dr. Duke Johnson
Bonner County Representative .....	Glen Bailey
Benewah County Representative .....	Peggy Cuvala
Boundary County Representative .....	Commissioner Tim Bertling (virtual)

##### **b. PHD Staff Present:**

District Director .....	Erik Ketner
Environmental & Health Protection DA .....	Jason Peppin
Financial Officer .....	Christine Crummer
Communication & Health Promotion Manager ..	Kate Hoyer
Senior Desktop Support Analyst .....	Robert Keig
Management Assistant .....	Jess Eastin

##### **c. Guest Attendance:**

Members of the public were in attendance; Not all names were not provided.

#### **3. Pledge of Allegiance -**

- a. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

#### **4. Consent Agenda -**

- a. Panhandle Health District Chairman Dr. Thomas Fletcher opened the discussion on the consent agenda, inviting board members to extract any items for separate consideration.

The consent agenda included:

- i. Draft Minutes for the January 16, 2025, Panhandle Health District Board Meeting
- ii. Panhandle Health District Division Reports
- iii. Quarterly Financial Report for the Six Months Ended December 31, 2024
- iv. Monthly Financial Report for the Seven Months Ended January 31, 2025
- v. Grants and/or Contracts:
  1. HC7043: HIV STD Case and Epidemiologic Investigation
- vi. Cancellation of the June 19, 2025, Board of Health Meeting

**MOTION:** Bonner County Representative Glen Bailey moved to accept the consent agenda, extracting item vi. Cancellation of the June 19, 2025, Board of Health Meeting for

further discussion. The motion was seconded by Kootenai County Representative Dr. Jessica Jameson.

**VOTE:** With all in favor and none opposed, the Chair declared the motion carried unanimously.

b. Cancellation of the June 19, 2025, Board of Health Meeting

- i. The cancellation of the June 19, 2025, Board of Health Meeting was discussed, with clarification that it was due to Idaho recognizing Juneteenth as a state holiday, during which the office will be closed.

**MOTION:** Bonner County Representative Glen Bailey moved to accept item vi. Cancellation of the June 19, 2025, Board of Health Meeting back into the consent agenda and approve the consent agenda as a whole. The motion was seconded by Kootenai County Representative Dr. Duke Johnson.

**VOTE:** With all in favor and none opposed, the Chair declared the motion carried unanimously.

**5. Director's Report -**

a. Trustee Position:

- i. The Panhandle Health District Trustee position is currently vacant following the departure of former board member, Commissioner Tracy Casady. Commissioner Melissa Cowles has been elected as the new Shoshone County Commissioner replacing Ms. Casady; however, it remains uncertain at this time whether she will also replace Tracy Casady as the Shoshone County representative on the Panhandle Health District Board.
- ii. Given the uncertainty surrounding Commissioner Cowles' potential appointment to the board, it was determined that it would be premature to add this as an action item for the next board meeting. Chairman Dr. Fletcher advised to wait until Commissioner Cowles is officially seated before proceeding. Once she is seated, the matter will be added as an action item, with the anticipation of voting on a new trustee the following month.

**6. Public Comment -**

- a. Community members presented a range of perspectives on vaccine safety, informed consent, and environmental concerns. Several speakers emphasized the importance of fully informing patients of potential risks associated with vaccines, advocating for greater transparency in healthcare decision-making. Concerns were raised about long-term safety testing and the need for more disclosure of safety data.
- b. Environmental issues were also addressed, with calls for investigation into geoengineering and weather modification practices. Requests were made for the board to consider advocating for further examination of environmental contaminants.
- c. Overall, the comments reflected a wide spectrum of viewpoints, with a common call for informed decision-making and the responsible communication of medical and environmental information.

**7. Informed Consent -**

- a. Dr. Duke Johnson, Medical Director and Kootenai County Representative on the Panhandle Health District Board, highlighted the importance of transparent and balanced communication regarding vaccines. He emphasized the need to provide patients and parents with comprehensive information on both the benefits and risks, relying on sources like the World Health Organization (WHO) and Center of Disease Control (CDC).
- b. The Panhandle Health District Board acknowledged the challenge of ensuring clarity while addressing concerns about liability and the healthcare system's role in maintaining trust among conflicting information.

- c. No motion was made on this action item; however, a proposal was discussed to form a committee with diverse community stakeholders to help improve vaccine information forms, presenting a balanced view of vaccine risks and benefits.

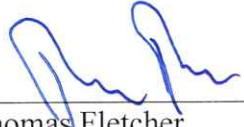
**8. Meeting adjournment -**


- a. With no further business to discuss, Panhandle Health District Board Chairman Dr. Thomas Fletcher called for a motion to adjourn the meeting on February 20, 2025, at 3:52 p.m. PST.

**MOTION:** Kootenai County Representative Dr. Jessica Jameson moved to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Bonner County Representative Glen Bailey.

**VOTE:** With all in favor and none opposed, the Chair declared the motion carried unanimously.

- b. The next regular scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 2: 00 p.m.

  
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Dr. Thomas Fletcher  
Chairman

  
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Date

  
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Erik Ketner  
District Director & BOH Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date