



August 2023 Board of Commissioners Activity Report

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HIGHLIGHTS

- 1. Materials Management Planning Update** - There has been a request to hear a presentation from the Van Buren Conservation District and Southwest Michigan Planning Commission regarding Materials Management Planning opportunities and requirements. To consider how Van Buren County may or may not engage neighboring counties in the planning process and how the County will complete the attached Notice of Intent. Michigan's Solid Waste Program has recently been updated with the passage of significant amendments to Part 115, Solid Waste Management, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, 1994 PA 451, as amended (Part 115). These changes were signed into law in December 2022 and became effective on March 29, 2023. The EGLE Director will initiate the MMP development process in September 2023, as required by Part 115. Once the process is initiated, the law establishes deadlines for plan development and local approvals. The Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approved the joining in a multi-county plan with Berrien and Cass Counties with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission as the Designated Planning Agency. Visit the Agenda's and Minutes page to view their full report!
- 2. Road Commission Monthly Update** - Managing Director for Van Buren County Road Commission, Bret Witkowski gave the monthly update on projects being completed around the County. Visit their website for the full report! <https://www.vbcrc.org/weeklyupdates2023>
- 3. VBCD Quarterly Update** – Kalli Marshall presented the Van Buren Conservation District Quarterly Update. To view their full report, visit the Agenda's and Minutes page!
- 4. Van Buren/Cass Health Department Monthly Update** – See attached for their full monthly report!
- 5. Early Voting Grant Application** – There was a request to authorize, at the August 22, 2023, Board of Commissioners meeting, the Clerk to submit the Early Voting Grant Application and for the Board Chair to sign the appropriate documents on the Board's behalf. The application was just released with a due date of September 8, 2023, the request for the item is to be expedited during the August 22, 2023, Board Meeting. There is no impact to the General Fund. The grant is to subsidize costs necessary to accommodate early voting requirements such as the renovations we are doing to create county-wide polling site. The Board approved the Clerk's authorization to submit the Early Voting Grant Application and the Board Chair is authorized to sign the appropriate documents on the Board's behalf.
- 6. Use of County Property - Paw Paw Vineyard Classic Bicycle Tour** - There was a request for the use of county property by Kalamazoo Experiential Learning Center to use the parking lot for registration on September 10th from 7 am-1 pm. Tents will be used (10 by 10) for registration – KELC will bring our own tables and chairs. They would like to place a porta john in the corner of the lot as well. Dropped off on Saturday, September 8th, and picked up on September 11th. The Paw Paw Vineyard Classic Bike Tour has been a tradition (with the best

oatmeal cookies) in Paw Paw for a long time. The Paw Paw Women's Service League decided not to continue to host this event as part of their Wine and Harvest Festival event footprint. When no one stepped forward to take over the event, we decided to offer our management portfolio to host the event and continue the tradition and spirit of the community event that celebrates the "wine and harvest" country surrounding Paw Paw, Lawton, and beyond. KEC Events is an experiential learning center that teaches and coaches college interns in marketing, public relations, and event management. The college students (primarily from WMU) work at the center learning how to host both community and sporting events. This event is a great opportunity for the students to learn how to host a biking tour. We host nearly 50 events a year here in Southwest Michigan. A similar event that we manage is the KalHaven Ultra Trail Run (April) where over 600 runners participate in either the ultra or relay events from Kalamazoo to South Haven. It's a great event. We are honored to bring our WMU students to Paw Paw to have them learn about events and bicycling. The fact that this will remain part of the Paw Paw Wine and Harvest Festival's calendar of events is also a tribute to the work that the Paw Paw Service League has done to make it a great tradition. The Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approved the request for use of the parking lot on 801 Hazen Street, Paw Paw, for the 2023 Vineyard Classic Bike Tour on September 10th, 2023, from 7:00AM – 1:00PM and continues this bike tour tradition of the Paw Paw Wine and Harvest Festival.

7. **Use of County Property - Courtside Ministries** – There was a request to consider granting permission to Courtside Ministries to use space on County property for religious purposes, starting August 30, 2023, through November 30, 2023. Courtside Ministries is a prayer ministry in various States that sets up a table outside of courthouses to offer prayers for those who wish to utilize their services. They have asked for permission to set up a table on County property outside of the Courthouse on Wednesday mornings 8:30 am to 12 noon. Typically, requests from non-profit entities are placed in the County Park. The Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approved the request to use County property to Courtside Ministries starting August 30, 2023, through November 30, 2023.
8. **Use of County Property - Grape Lake 5K Race** - There was a request for the use of the Human Services East parking lot located at 801 Hazen Street, Paw Paw, during the Wine and Harvest Festival for the annual Grape Lake 5K Run/Walk on September 9th, 2023, from approximately 6:00AM - 4:00PM. This annual event is sponsored by Freshwater Church. They will hold the registration for the event in the parking lot of the 801 Hazen Street parking lot. They estimated that they should be done with the area at 4:00 PM. They have event insurance coverage. Race registration will be set up in front of the Community Mental Health building. The request was expedited because they just submitted it on August 19th, 2023, and the August 22nd, 2023, meeting is the last meeting before the festival. The Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approved the use of the Human Services East parking lot located at 801 Hazen Street, Paw Paw, during the Wine and Harvest Festival for the annual Grape Lake 5K Run/Walk on September 9th, 2023, from approximately 6:00AM - 4:00PM.
9. **August 2023 Claims** – Claims in the amount of \$4,966,193.48 for August 2023 were submitted, reviewed, and approved by the Board of Commissioners during the August 22nd Board meeting.
10. **Auction of County Property - Liquidation of County Vehicles** - There was a request for the Board to approve the disposal of a 2013 Dodge Caravan, a 2013 Ford Van, and two 2008 Ford Pickup Trucks through the Biddergy Auction site. The sheriff's office purchased a 2013 Dodge Caravan (VIN: 2c4rdgb8dr659423) for use within our undercover narcotics division. This vehicle is now past the life expectancy of the vehicle, and it is not cost effective to repair. The three remaining vehicles were in the possession of the Buildings and Grounds department.

The 2013 Ford Van (Vin: 1FTNE2EW6DDA29940), and both 2008 Ford Pickup Trucks (VIN: 1FTFP14V88FB61584 and VIN: 1FTRX14W38FA84685) are in very bad condition. The Board of Commissioners approved the sale of the 2013 Dodge Caravan (VIN: 2c4rdgb8dr659423), the 2013 Ford Van (VIN: FTNE2EW6DDA29940), and both 2008 Ford Pickup Trucks (VIN: 1FTFP14V88FB61584 and VIN: 1FTRX14W38FA84685) to Biddergy.

11. **Amended DHS-2091** – There was a request for the Board to approve the amendment to the Child Care Fund Annual Plan & Budget to cover juvenile detention costs. Detention costs have returned to pre-covid levels and have continued to increase due to lengthy placements while waiting for residential treatment beds (statewide shortage). Expenditures for juvenile detention have exceeded the budgeted amount. Signature of the amended DHS-2091 will allow us to continue to bill the State for 50% reimbursement from the childcare fund. Amendments MUST be submitted by 8/30/2023. The Board of Commissioners approved the amendment to the Child Case Fund Annual Plan and Budget to cover Juvenile detention costs and authorized the Board Chair to sign the appropriate documents.
12. **Purchase of Patrol Vehicles for the 2023-2024 Fiscal year** - There was a request for the Board to approve the purchase of 8 patrol vehicles for the 2023-2024 fiscal year not to exceed \$500,000.00. With the supply chain issues that face our nation, the four vehicles we ordered for this fiscal year will not be delivered. To stay current with our vehicle replacement plan we must order 8 vehicles this year. Unspent funds from 2022-2023 for 4 vehicles will be rolled over into 2023-2024 and funds for additional 4 vehicles will be budgeted in 2023-2024. The Board approved the request to purchase 8 patrol vehicles for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, not exceeding \$500,000.00.
13. **District Court Deputy Clerk - Salary Exception** – There was a request for the Board to approve the starting salary exception for the District Court Deputy Clerk position at the R20 C step (\$18.50 per hour). The chosen candidate has several years of experience working in a District Court Criminal Department. She brings considerable experience and skills that would be beneficial to the District Court. Over the last month, District Court East has had two long-term employees leave, so the knowledge this new candidate brings will be very helpful. The Board approved the starting salary exception for the District Court Deputy Clerk at the R20 C step.

Appointment/Reappointment Requests

- 1. Opioid Committee – Cande Rutherford** – There was a request to approve the appointment of Cande Rutherford to the Opioid Committee. due to the retirement of Becky Fatzinger, there is a vacancy on the Opioid Committee. Deb Hess, Director at Van Buren County Community Mental Health, recommended Ms. Cande Rutherford to fill the vacancy. Ms. Rutherford is employed at VBCCMH as the Division Manager of Community Services. The Board of Commissioners approved of Cande Rutherford's appointment to the Opioid Committee.
- 2. Remonumentation Committee – Jerry Happel** – There was a request to approve the appointment of Jerry Happel to the Remonumentation Committee. There are no term expirations for this committee that meets on an as-needed basis. The Director of GIS (formerly Land Services) typically sits on this Committee because the work involves the mapping of section corners and maintaining the files that support the program, which are stored in that Department. The Board of Commissioners approved the appointment of Jerry Happel to the Remonumentation Committee.

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All board meeting agendas and minutes can be found on the county website:

<https://www.vanburencountymi.gov/129/Agendas-Minutes>



Hours of Operation

Monday - Thursday 8am - 5pm
Friday 8am - 2pm

Cass County

Immunizations
1st & 3rd Wednesdays

STD testing & treatment
Thursdays

Dental
Monday - Friday

Van Buren County

Immunizations
Thursdays

STD testing & treatment
Wednesdays

Dental
Monday - Friday

Newsworthy

We continue to see increases in individuals diagnosed with Lyme Disease in our District and throughout the state. Visit our website for graphs and more information.

The 2022 Medical Examiner's Annual Report, an overview of death statistics for each county, is now available. Visit mimedicalexaminer.com to view.

Administration

- Accreditation Cycle 8 begins; on-site visits will occur the week of September 25. Local Public Health Accreditation assures and enhances the quality of public health in MI, evaluating and accrediting local health departments' ability to meet standards.
- Public Health in Michigan is celebrating our Sesquicentennial (150 years!) this year. Learn more about all the great accomplishments over the past 150 years: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/inside-mdhhs/sesquicentennial>
- New and improved website is now live: www.vbcassdhd.org

Medical Director/Nursing

- Staff hosted booths for the week at the Van Buren County Youth Fair and Cass County Youth Fair
- Hearing & Vision Tech's provided screening & outreach at Project Nomad
- Facilitated a 4-hour TB Skin Testing Workshop for area providers to become certified in TB Skin Testing at no cost
- HIV Testing and Immunizations provided at the Cass County Jail
- HIV/STI Nurse attended NACCHO 360 Conference in Denver, CO

Community Health

- Distributed 200 health promotion bags and over 100 "MyPlates" at the county youth fairs
- Participated in the Migrant Farmworker Appreciation Event, connecting with 137 families
- Attended the Van Buren Conservation District's Annual Meeting
- 2 staff attended the NACCHO 360 conference and presented on our latest vaccine hesitancy project
- Wrapped up the NACCHO COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Grant (\$100,000) received in 2022.
- Applied for and awarded a 2023-24 \$150,000 grant from NACCHO to develop strong partnerships with at-risk communities and stakeholders to improve vaccine confidence.

Environmental Health

- Raw sewage from a Municipal Lift Station caused by a mechanical failure discharged and flowed into Dewey Lake in the Sister Lakes area on 8/4/2023. The Health Department cannot take further action. EGLE can close public access but has not chosen to do so at this time. Public notice has been posted on our website and sent to the local newspaper.
- In the month of July, the department reports:
 - 51 septic permits
 - 41 septic final inspections
 - 49 well permits
 - 31 final well inspections
 - 13 campground inspections
 - 12 pool inspections
 - 50 routine restaurant inspections
 - 37 restaurant follow-up inspections
 - 21 temporary food license inspections

Dental Clinic & Dental Outreach

- Dowagiac Dental Clinic saw 579 patients in the month of July
- Lawrence Dental Clinic saw 458 patients in the month of July
- Dowagiac Dental Clinic is booked through March 2024 for treatment
- Lawrence Dental Clinic is booked through February 2024 for treatment
- Both Clinics are booked through August 2024 for regular hygiene (cleanings)
- Our Dowagiac Dental Clinic currently employees 1 full-time and 1 part-time dentist. Beginning mid-September, we will be down to 1 part-time dentist. We are working diligently to find a replacement but the clinic schedule could be impacted if we do not find one in time.
- Dental outreach screenings were provided at Bangor Migrant School: 37 kids were screened; 136 sealants were placed to prevent decay; 1 child needed urgent care; 25 kids were uninsured ~ approximately \$4,000 worth of dental services provided at no cost
- Dental outreach screenings were provided in Covert at Project Nomad: 139 kids were screeng; 491 sealants were placed to prevent decay; 5 kids needed urgent care; 70 kids were uninsured ~ approximately \$12,500 worth of dental services provided at no cost

