

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

February 17, 2026

The St. Lawrence County Board of Health (hereafter known as SLCBOH) met on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in the Large Conference Room, Human Services Center, Canton, New York 13617.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Andrew Williams, Dr. Kathleen Terrence, Rita Curran, Nancy Potter, Mark Deavers, Dr. Jessica Scillieri Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Gregory Healey

OTHERS PRESENT: Erin Streiff, Public Health Director; Whitney Atkins, SLCPHD Program Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Williams, President, called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Nancy Potter and seconded by Dr. Scillieri Smith, the minutes from the January 20, 2026 meeting were approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

OTHER ITEMS AND QUESTIONS

Erin Streiff shared the monthly sanitarian report, including routine monthly statistics and two formal nuisance complaints. The first complaint was related to septic odor from a property neighboring the complainant; code enforcement has been contacted, and a dye test will be offered in the spring - no immediate action is feasible due to winter conditions. The second complaint referenced noise and vibration produced from the Alcoa plant in Massena. The complainant has previously contacted the New York State Department of Health, OSHA, and the DEC with complaints dating back to 2010, referencing vibroacoustic disease. The complaint has been registered and will be tracked.

Whitney Atkins provided an update on the Mass Fatality Plan. The plan, last updated in 2014, is under review and has been reformatted to align with other Emergency Preparedness (EP) plans. Two planning meetings were held with the County Coroners, Emergency Services, Sheriff's Department, and Board of Legislators representatives. Roles and responsibilities were clarified, a purpose section was added, and contact lists are being updated. The Mass Fatality Plan addresses management of decedents when normal operations are overwhelmed, addressing medical response and ambulance distribution. It was noted that the local morgue capacity can accommodate approximately nine decedents. SLCPHD is exploring the purchase of a portable morgue unit to increase capacity. In larger events, operations may include ice arenas for temporary storage, refrigerated trucks provided by the state, and potential assistance from Fort Drum.

It was also noted that EP planning is also being reviewed through the lens of public health accreditation standards, as the department applies for accreditation. The Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition (HEPC) may expand to include broader community partners. An upcoming Incident Command Structure Planning Section Chief training will be held in Oriskany.

Erin reminded members that SLCPHD is the Health Officer, by default, for any municipality that has not designated its own officer (which is currently all but one municipality). A Zoom meeting will be held with municipal supervisors to review nuisance guidance and sanitary code summary, as well as to clarify the Health Officer role.

Erin provided additional updates, including that SLCPHD has student interns currently assisting with vital statistics data entry and developing a public health listening session to assess public understanding of public health functions and identify community expectations.

Erin will be attending the New York Association of Counties conference in March; members agreed to cancel the March meeting - public notice will be made. Tentative agenda items: April agenda will include a fiscal year wrap-up and 2027 outlook, the May meeting will include a presentation on the department's data dashboard project, and the June meeting will include an accreditation update from contracted consultant Ascendient.

Erin noted that the Medical Consultant position has been posted and applications are being accepted.

There was a rabies-positive raccoon identified in Morristown, which was submitted to Wadsworth Laboratory by USDA. The raccoon had exposure contact with a domestic cat. Appropriate follow-up actions were taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm. Next meeting will take place on April 21, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

ACTION ITEMS FOR FOLLOW UP

N/A