

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

MINUTES

**The Watertown Board of Health has scheduled a REMOTE ZOOM meeting on
Wednesday March 17, 2021 at 7:00 pm**

PRESENT: Dr. John Straus, Chairperson and Dr. Barbara Beck, Secretary; Richard Arnold, Board Member.

Staff: Larry Ramdin, Director of Public Health, Maureen Foley, Head Clerk
In attendance Heather McManus, BioSafety Committee, Isaac Wolf, Safety Partners, Greg McKenzie, Prolacta, Tom Fenton, Rae Moore, Rosemary Sheehan, MRC

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Straus called the meeting to order 7:05 pm

Minutes

Minutes were approved for February 17, 2021 meeting,
Motions granted (Beck, Arnold) 2-0.
All in favor.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Watertown Biosafety Committee (WBSC)

Heather McManus, Chair, WBSC Biosafety Committee, indicated and reviewed the application for registration and recommended registration of **Werewolf Therapeutics**.

Safety Partners; Isaac Wolf of Safety Partners gave a short synopsis of Werewolf's activities .

BioSafety Committee flagged issues to be changed or eliminated:

1. Chemical hygiene plan, hydrogenation is concerning and requires a higher level of registration or permitting based on NIH Guidelines. Hydrogenation process has been removed.
2. Changes to the safety plan; the fire department contacts have been changed to a 911 response.
3. Provide finalized minutes of the initial IBC

All the recommendations have been met.

Motions granted (Beck, Arnold) 3-0.

All in favor.

Heather McManus, Chair, WBSC Biosafety Committee, indicated and reviewed the application for registration and recommended registration of **ALS Therapy Development Institute**, non profit.

BioSafety Committee flagged issues to be changed or eliminated:

1. Changes to the safety plan; the fire department contacts have been changed to a 911 response.
2. Provide finalized minutes of the initial IBC

All the recommendations have been met.

Motions granted (Beck, Arnold) 3-0.
All in favor.

Heather McManus, Chair, WBSC Biosafety Committee, indicated and reviewed the application for registration and recommended registration of **Root Path**. Root Path submitted a thorough application.

BioSafety Committee flagged issues to be changed or eliminated:

1. Chemical hygiene plan, hydrogenation is concerning and requires a higher level of registration or permitting based on NIH Guidelines. Hydrogenation process has been removed.
2. Changes to the safety plan; the fire department contacts have been changed to a 911 response.

All the recommendations have been met.

Motions granted (Beck, Arnold) 3-0.

All in favor.

Heather McManus, Chair, WBSC Biosafety Committee, indicated and reviewed the application for registration and recommended registration of **Prolacta** BLS2. Prolacta submitted both BLS1 and BLS2 applications. This BLS1 was approved by Larry Ramdin; Director of Watertown Public Health.

Greg McKenzie, VP of Product Innovation, gave a short synopsis of Prolacta's activities.

BioSafety Committee flagged issues to be changed or eliminated:

1. Editing the waste process.
2. Changes to the safety plan; the fire department contacts have been changed to a 911 response.
3. Provide finalized minutes of the initial IBC

All the recommendations have been met.

Motions granted (Arnold, Beck) 3-0.

All in favor.

Dr. Strauss inquired whether any of the BioSafety regulations need to be clarified or adjusted?
Dr. McManus responded with the definition of Low Risk needs to be addressed and clarifying what meets the requirements.
Thank you Dr. McManus and the members of the BioSafety Committee.

Vaccine Volunteer

Rosemary Sheehan, MRC volunteer asked what are the challenges Watertown Health has in operating vaccine clinics and why other communities are having clinics? Mr. Ramdin response, the state requires we inoculate 650 to 750 people per day for a total of 3750 in 5 days. Watertown has requested those doses but has been denied. Watertown has only been promised vaccines for homebound populations.

COVID 19 Updates

Watertown Health has conducted COVID vaccine clinics for Watertown Housing Authority (Janssen), Perkins School for the Blind (Moderna) and our older residents (Moderna). Presently in conjunction with the medics at the Watertown Fire Department, we are vaccinating our homebound population (Janssen). Homebound must qualify based on criteria we have posted on our website based on the State's requirements.

Once we have provided the second vaccine to those who have received their first, Watertown Health will not be provided anymore vaccine clinics. Our residents as they become eligible will need to go to the Mass Vaccine sites or CVS/Walgreens locations to vaccinated. Handicap/disabled populations are at a disadvantage to receiving their vaccine due to the large inaccessibility.

Response from Watertown Public Health Director

The Commonwealth is entering Phase 4 Step 1 with relaxing COVID guidance. With the new phase, we experience more complaint calls regarding the lack of compliance. Restaurants and sites will be reopening and require reopening inspections.

Staffing and Department Update

We have a candidate for the ACO position. We are going through the approvals and background checks.

Next Meeting

Scheduled for Wednesday April 21, 2021

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Larry Ramdin, Director of Public Health