

Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD)

Member Towns: Old Saybrook, Clinton, Deep River, Haddam, Chester, Killingworth, Durham

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Dunne, MD., Chairman, Old Saybrook Alan
Schwarz, MD., Old Saybrook
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Cynthia Lignar, RN, Chester
Carol Jones, Deep River
Vacant, Haddam
Eric Couture, Killingworth
William Kohlhepp, DHSc, PA-C, Durham



455 Boston Post Road, Suite 7 Old
Saybrook, CT 06475

Phone: 860-661-3300

Web: www.crahd.info

MINUTES

Wednesday August 19, 2026 - CRAHD Office

2:00 PM Regular Board Meeting

VIDEO ZOOM MEETING OPTION

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81736740942?pwd=QXiBGAQJ9LM5gOm1sWaJo6x6VbvkFz.1>

1. Call to Order.

Meeting called order at 2:00 PM

2. Roll Call.

Present:

Michael Dunne, William Kohlhepp, Michelle Benivegna, Rita Foster,
Carol Jones, Eric Couture, Alan Schwarz, Cynthia Lignar

Others Present:

Scott Martinson (DOH), Sherry Carlson (PHN), Melissa Neri (RS)

3. Approval of Minutes dated: 5/20/2026.

Minutes Approved – Couture – 2nd Schwarz – Approved 8-0

4. CRAHD/BOARD - Updates.

Martinson presented a power point presentation. Since the creation of tick removal kits, CRAHD has sold over one hundred kits. The kits are sold at cost. Other Health Departments have used the idea and now have them available as well. Martinson discussed the abundance of ticks this year. Martinson discussed the West Nile activity throughout the State this year and fortunately to date there have not been any reported fatalities in CT. Martinson discussed the beach sampling closure protocol and went over the 2026 sampling results. Like past years, closures happen after significant rainfall. Martinson discussed the recent boil water order issued by the CT Water Co. and the CRAHD response. Martinson shared a copy of the CRAHD annual report. Martinson went over the survey results from the vision development survey developed by Foster, Carlson & Couture. There was discussion regarding CRAHD having a social media presence on Facebook. Carlson updated the board regarding the increased number of lead cases in children and the vaccination schedule plan with Stop & Shop for 2026/2027. Martinson stated that July 1st, 2026, was the CRAHD 20-year anniversary.

The board discussed putting information on the website regarding the confusion created by the federal government regarding vaccinations and that CRAHD stands behind the facts and science regarding vaccinations. The board discussed the need for Haddam to appoint someone to the CRAHD board.

5. Adjournment.

The meeting ended at 2:55 PM.