

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Board of Directors Meeting
June 18, 2019**

**APPROVED MINUTES
March 19, 2019
1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
2601 Agriculture Drive
Madison, WI 53718**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Dr. Richard Moss, Vice-Chair Dr. Robert Corliss, Secretary Dr. Jamie Schauer, Jeffery Kindrai, Charles Warzecha, James Morrison, Barry Irmien, Gil Kelley (phone)

WSLH STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Allen Bateman (for Dr. Peter Shult), Dr. Vanessa Horner, Christine Gunter, Jim Sterk, Kevin Karbowski, Cynda DeMontigny, Jan Klawitter, Kristine Hansbery, Steve Strebel, Tracy Hanke, Erin Mani and Nathaniel Javid

DNR STAFF PRESENT: Zana Sijan

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Stephanie Schauer, Stephen Ales

Chair Dr. Richard Moss called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

Item 1. ROLL CALL

Chair Dr. Richard Moss initiated the roll call of the Board. All Board Member seats or their designated representatives were present and Gil Kelley participated over the telephone.

Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the minutes of the December 18, 2018 Board Meeting as submitted. **Charles Warzecha** made a motion to approve the minutes. **Jeffery Kindrai** seconded the motion. The voice vote approving the corrected minutes was unanimous.

Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA

There was no reorganization of the agenda.

Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

There were no public appearances.

Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS

Dr. Moss mentioned there is a new capability on campus, geo-coding, which may be useful for the functions of the WSLH. A center will be formed surrounding geo-coding and we will disseminate more information once it is available. Dr. Moss wanted to present this information to the Board, as it may be useful for them as well.

Item 6. FINANCIAL REPORT

■ Kevin Karbowski, Chief Financial Officer, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

Mr. Karbowski provided the budget report for the period of July 1, 2018 through January 31, 2019. Mr. Karbowski noted that our year-to-date actual net operating income is \$677,204, which is \$296,391 greater than our budget of \$351,520. Mr. Karbowski reviewed some of the major variances in the budget. Much of these variances have been expected. Overall, we anticipate being above budget this year, although we do not have the exact amount. Looking at our working capital, we see that with an increase in activity, there is an increase in cash flow. From January 31, 2019 to June 30, 2018, our available working capital has increased by \$48,512.

Mr. Karbowski presented the preliminary budget for FY20. Using a conservative approach, we project a net operating loss of \$455,385 and cash flow positive of \$310,028. We are expecting to be on track to create a break-even budget. A final budget will be presented at our Board Meeting in June.

Item 7. STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES

Cytogenetics Business Plan

■ Dr. Vanessa Horner, Director, WSLH Cytogenetics

Dr. Horner gave an update on the Cytogenetics Business Plan Strategic Initiative. The Department of Cytogenetics and Molecular Genetics at the WSLH is primarily concerned with genomic medicine in the setting of inherited disorders and acquired neoplastic conditions such as leukemia and lymphoma. The tools and methodologies used by the Cytogenetics department as well as expert knowledge of the human genome are applicable to many relevant public health fields. Therefore, a strong foundation in genetics and genomics will allow the WSLH to develop cutting-edge research and testing for the State of Wisconsin. The Cytogenetics Business Plan goals are to 1) develop larger research programs that leverage clinical expertise, basic science, and shared resources across campus, 2) clinical validation of new sequencing technologies that will benefit research programs as well as clinical activities, and 3) section director review and sign-out of all WiCell cases. The first goal is being executed by identifying grants to support new research programs, and writing and submitting grants. Dr. Horner highlighted several areas where grants were submitted. For the second goal, we have established a partnership with Prevention Genetics in the short-term. This will allow us to bring

on new sequencing technologies in a rapid and cost-effective manner. In the long-term, we are building WSLH infrastructure to support in-house genomics. For the third goal, WiCell works on characterizing and distributing human stem-cell lines. We began a contract with WiCell in May 2018, which has allowed for an immediate increase in test volume and revenue. The WSLH contract with WiCell has just been renewed for the next year. Dr. Schauer took a moment to thank Dr. Horner on all the work she has done in this area.

Space

■ Kevin Karbowski, WSLH Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Karbowski gave the update on space. Mr. Karbowski noted that space is emerging to be a critical issue for the WSLH as we continue to make significant scientific and equipment investments that address core mission needs and programmatic opportunities. Key areas of potential growth are in genomics, national monitoring programs, human biomonitoring, and collaborative research. Mr. Karbowski noted that the WSLH Agriculture Drive facility is at full or over capacity. The Henry Mall facility needs renovations to support current programs and to allow current unused space to meet future programmatic needs. The WSLH Walton Commons facility is not adequately supported as a critical state or campus facility for COOP. The Agriculture Drive facility expansion and/or the Henry Mall facility replacement will likely take twenty to thirty years through existing state programs. Mr. Karbowski noted some strategies to deal with building space issues ranging from the short term (e.g., working together to best use space along with minor renovations) to the long term (e.g., replacement of the Henry Mall facility and potential changes in state building procurement could allow for different scenarios).

Item 8. SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATION

Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

- Stephen Ales, Field Operations Director, WI DNR**
- Erin Mani, ESS Organics Supervisor, WSLH**

Mr. Ales presented on Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). Mr. Ales' area in the DNR deals with spills of hazardous substances. PFAS chemicals are man-made chemicals that are heat resistant, slippery, and do not naturally degrade. PFAS was used in food packaging, Teflon coated cookware, water repellent coatings, coated paper, among other consumer products. PFAS is problematic because it does not naturally degrade, it moves readily through the subsurface (does not attach to soil or organic matter), plumes can extend for miles, and it is highly bio-accumulative in fish. The EPA's health advisory limit is at 70 parts per trillion for cumulative PFOA and PFOS. Because this is an advisory limit, state agencies do not have regulatory authority to do something about it. Some health concerns for PFAS include lowered fertility in women and smaller birthweight babies, along with growth, learning, behavior effects in infants and children, interferences with the body's natural hormones, and cancer.

We currently do not have a ground water standard (NR140) in Wisconsin for this. WI DHS is working on making a recommendation to the DNR. Wisconsin does, however, regulate hazardous substances. Some PFAS sites in Wisconsin include firefighting foams, landfills, wastewater treatment plants, cookware manufacturing, and military sites.

Mr. Ales reviewed some cases of PFAS in Wisconsin including Johnson Control Incorporated, which serves as both a production site and Fire Training Center. The Fire Training Center plume has affected about 50 private wells. We have also found soil contamination and extensive surface water contamination. PFAS compounds do not appear to have stuck to sediment in the surface water. Mr. Ales also mentioned landfills and several military sites, along with more sites to be expected in the future in which we will be dealing with PFAS.

Mr. Ales discussed the responses the DNR has taken to address this PFAS issue. This includes creating an external web page gathering information about PFAS sites in Wisconsin. A Communication Team has been developed along with division teams including a drinking water response team, and a Division PFAS Steering Team. For the future, we will plan to develop a department-wide PFAS team.

Dr. Schauer introduced Erin Mani, WSLH, to give an update on what we are doing on the laboratory side for PFAS. Ms. Mani noted that we are using EPA 537.1 and we will seek NELAC and WI DNR accreditation when they are available. Ms. Mani noted the WSLH will use the ISO method for the following matrices: Non-potable water, soil/sediment, tissue, and serum. This method has thirty analytes. The current plan of action includes optimizing the instrument for each of the analytes. We will run standards for the entire list through extractions for non-potable water, tissue, serum, and soil/sediment. We will determine a possible subset of analytes for each matrix. Then, we will apply for NELAC and WI DNR accreditation. For drinking water, we currently offer analysis, and are seeking NELAC accreditation in May 2019 and DNR accreditation when available. For surface water and tissue, we plan offer testing in June, and will seek NELAC accreditation in the fall, seeking DNR accreditation when available. For water, we plan to offer testing late in the summer, and will seek NELAC accreditation in the fall, seeking DNR accreditation when available. For sediment and serum, we plan to offer testing in the fall and will seek NELAC accreditation in the fall, and will seek DNR accreditation when available. Lastly, for air we will look into methods in the late fall/winter. Ms. Mani discussed some future possibilities for PFAS in waste (ASTM method) and PFAS in air. Ms. Mani noted that there have been inquiries for these methods and more from our partners.

Item 9. SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATION

Measles

- **Stephanie Schauer, Ph.D., Immunization Program Manager, Wisconsin Immunization Program, Wisconsin Department of Health Services**
- **Allen Bateman, Ph.D., Assistant Director, Communicable Disease Division WSLH**

Dr. Schauer presented on Measles in Wisconsin. We do not have any cases in Wisconsin yet, although it is national issue. There was an outbreak in the Somali community in Minnesota in 2017. This is largely due to low immunization rates. In 2018, there were more outbreaks in New

York, New Jersey and Washington. Most of these cases are in unvaccinated individuals who travel to areas where measles are present. Measles is highly contagious and is airborne. It is estimated that it costs each state \$140,000 to contain one case of measles. Dr. Schauer mentioned the influence of social media on pro-vaccination and anti-vaccination. With respect to Wisconsin, we have school requirements, so children will get the vaccine that way; however, we have some personal exemption waivers. Overall, eighty-nine percent of children are covered with the measles vaccine. We need a herd immunity of ninety-five percent in order to prevent an outbreak. We also have received a number of calls about suspect measles cases, although none of them have turned out to be positive. We need to make sure all of our suspect cases have laboratory rule-outs. Another challenge we have is to make sure samples do not go out of state.

Dr. Bateman discussed the testing of measles. Measles testing is for direct patient care, but also a public health response. We perform PCR testing, and if the PCR test is positive, we perform genotyping. This is done to determine if there is a vaccine reaction or not. Genotyping also gives us a big picture of the strains that are circulating. The testing we do is also part of the vaccine preventable diseases program coordinated out of the CDC. The WSLH serves as a reference center, for surge capacity but also providing testing for other states that do not have the genotyping capability.

Item 9. HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

■ Cynda DeMontigny, Human Resources Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

Ms. DeMontigny went over the human resources report from December 8, 2018 to March 8, 2019. For recruitments, we have four in the Disease Prevention Division (DPD), four in the Environmental Health Division (EHD), none in the Laboratory Improvement Division (LID), two in the Communicable Disease Division (CDD), zero in Administration, and one in the Occupational Health Division (OHD) for a total of 11.

For hires, we had three in DPD, five in EHD, zero in LID, two in CDD, two in Administration, and two in OHD. For resignations, we had one in DPD, two in EHD, zero in LID, and two in CDD, zero in OHD, and zero in Administration. There were no retirements for this period.

Item 10. CONTRACTS REPORT

■ Christine Gunter, Financial Program Supervisor, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

For March 2019, we have received \$1,268,766.66 in contracts broken down by WSLH division: CDD (\$271,354), DPD (\$240,000), EHD (\$50,000), Newborn Screening (\$480,000) and Forensic Toxicology (\$219,267.66), and Proficiency Testing (\$8,145). Broken down by contractor, the funds are \$639,451 with WDHS, \$41,170.66 with WI DOJ, \$50,000 for the American Society of Cytopathology, \$50,000 from Kairos Power, \$480,000 from the State of Montana, and \$8,145 from the USDA. Jeffery Kindrai asked about timing with Newborn

Screening tests for samples from other states. Dr. Schauer replied that he would find out and report back to Mr. Kindrai at the next Board Meeting.

Item 11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

■ Dr. James Schauer, Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

Dr. Schauer asked Public Relations Director, Ms. Jan Klawitter, to present the Public or Environmental Health Incidents of Educational Interest to the Board. These include an APHL LabBlog that was published about flu funding, a WISC-TV story on newborn screening, and Science Day at the UW-Madison campus hosted at the WSLH, among others. Ms. Klawitter also mentioned the publishing of the CDC 2018 Antibiotic Resistance Investment Map, the National Biomonitoring Network, of which the WSLH is now a member. The UW-Madison Graduate Women in Science also toured the WSLH, and the WSLH's Toxicology Manager, Amy Miles, was interviewed by the Wisconsin Traffic Safety Reporter.

Ms. Klawitter mentioned that the WSLH conducts a laboratory surveillance report. In the latest report, it was noted that we are in peak flu season with an increase in rotavirus. However, Dr. Bateman noted that vaccine coverage has increased greatly, so there is a decrease in rotavirus overall. We have, however, noted a trend in which we see occasional upticks.

The Board reviewed the Water Systems Boil Notice Report for the period of December 2018 through February 2019. In this period, there were two boil notices for Columbia County, and one boil notice for Dane County. The Board discussed the March meeting date and it was confirmed, as scheduled, for Tuesday, March 19, 2019.

Dr. Schauer confirmed with the Board that the September Board Meeting will take place at the School of Medicine and Public Health on UW-Madison campus including a tour of the new human genomics and precision medicine facility. The Board did not formally vote on this topic, but agreed with the plan. Dr. Moss echoed that this would be a good plan.

Chair Dr. Richard Moss transitioned the meeting to discuss the Election of Officers. At this time, we would need to identify a Vice-Chair. The current Vice-Chair will assume the role of the Chair, and there is a default nomination to have Dr. Schauer remain the Secretary.

Jeffery Kindrai moved to nominate **Charles Warzecha**, seconded by **Barry Irmén**. Charles Warzecha accepted the nomination.

Jeffery Kindrai, seconded by **James Morrison**, made the motion to elect Dr. Robert Corliss as Chair, Charles Warzecha as Vice-Chair, and Dr. James Schauer as Secretary. The motion carried and all three Board Members were elected for the next term.

Dr. Richard Moss thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve.

Jeffery Kindrai made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:05 P.M. **Dr. Richard Moss** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James J. Schauer". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

James J. Schauer, PhD, P.E., M.B.A.
Secretary, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors