

APPROVED MINUTES
Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Board of Directors Meeting
December 13, 2022
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Greg Pils, Vice Chair Dr. Robert Corliss, Secretary Dr. James Schauer, Dr. Christopher Strang, Dr. Jonathan Meiman, Mr. Gil Kelley, Mr. Jeffery Kindrai, Ms. Jennifer Buchholz

WSLH STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Errin Rider, Dr. Al Bateman, Ms. Jan Klawitter, Mr. Kevin Karbowski, Mr. Mark Conklin, Ms. Tip Vandall, Mr. Jim Sterk, Mr. Steve Strebel, Ms. Amy Miles, Ms. Camille Danielson; Mr. Jim Hermanson

DNR STAFF PRESENT: Alternate Members Zana Sijan, Steve Geis

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Christine Anhalt-Depies, Presenter

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 1. ROLL CALL

Chairman Pils called the meeting to order.

At 1:06 PM, Chairman Pils introduced a new board member, Jennifer Buchholz, who works for Davy Labs in La Crosse, and who will be representing the Environmental Laboratories. Jennifer was greeted and welcomed by the board members.

At 1:08pm, Chairman Pils initiated and conducted the roll call of the Board members. All Board member seats or their designated representatives were present except for excused members, Dr. Jon Audhya, Gina Green-Harris and alternates Paula Tran and Anna Benton.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

At 1:09 pm, Mr. Kindrai made the motion to approve the September 20, 2022 minutes as submitted and Chairman Pils seconded the motion. The voice vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA

There was no request to reorganize the agenda.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

None

BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS

Chairman Pils advised that DNR Secretary Preston Cole retired as in November. At this time, there is no word on a successor for the Secretary, or if anything will change as far as Chairman Pils' status. Chairman Pils expects to continue as the Secretary's alternate, at least through the March meeting. DHS Secretary Timberlake's retirement was mentioned, but at this time little is known and we will have to wait to hear more.

For future consideration, Dr. Strang mentioned the pending issue of radon testing requirements for daycare centers, coming into effect March 1st, with mitigation required if levels are at or exceed EPA recommendations. There will be different standards between commercial and residential daycare centers.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Item 6. COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING

- **Dr. Christine Anhalt-Depies, Research Scientist from the Office of Applied Science Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources presented on Community-Based Monitoring/Citizen Science:**

Citizen science, known by several different names, is the practice of advancing knowledge through research and monitoring done by, for, and with members of the public. This practice can be leveraged to achieve both scientific research and public engagement goals.

Citizen science programs can best achieve outcomes when designed with goals in mind. Programs typically differ based on the degree to which the public is engaged in the scientific process. Participatory citizen science engages the public as data collectors or processors, while co-created projects tackle real-world problems with scientists as facilitators of the research.

The field has grown tremendously starting in 2010 and early research focused on documenting scientific outcomes, as well as outcomes for individuals participating in citizen science. The field continues to evolve and is wrestling with how to build the technological infrastructure to support large, open datasets. There are also ongoing discussions about how to engage more diverse audiences.

To learn more about citizen science in Wisconsin visit dnr.wi.gov and search for "citizen-based monitoring."

BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 7. NEXT-GENERATION SEQUENCING: A POWERFUL TOOL FOR PATHOGEN SURVEILLANCE

- **Dr. Al Bateman, Director, Communicable Disease Division, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene**

Next-generation sequencing (NGS) involves massive amounts of genomic data to comprehensively characterize pathogens. NGS is rapidly growing in public health microbiology laboratories, particularly for surveillance and outbreak response. The use of NGS will continue to grow rapidly in the future, as NGS testing becomes cheaper and has higher throughput.

Dr. Schauer noted that Next-Generation Sequencing will also have future impacts on WSLH for the Board to consider, in terms of technological changes, space needs, staff equipment, and what will need to change to accommodate it.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 8. FINANCIAL REPORT

Description of the Item:

- Kevin Karbowski, WSLH Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Karbowski advised that we are expecting a loss in FY23 due to the underfunding of Newborn Screening and Forensic Toxicology programs.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 9. CONTRACTS REPORT

Description of the Item:

Tip Vandall, WSLH Revenue Manager, will provide a brief update on Contracts to the Board.

Ms. Vandall advised that we have active, signed contracts totaling 913,929.

She also advised of the departure of WSLH's contract manager and the need to replace her.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 10 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Dr James Schauer, Director, WSLH

- ❖ Strategic Planning
- ❖ FY24 Budget Planning

Dr. Schauer apologized that last meeting's notes reflected a prior strategic plan, and advised that the strategic plan in this meeting's notes, being presented today, is current.

WSLH has initiatives that are progressing satisfactorily: Our DEI, Bioinformatics, Clinical Biomonitoring, Point of Care Testing and Space Optimization.

Some initiatives are limited by budget, as there are issues to be resolved: Outreach, Modernization of Laboratory Information Systems, and eGovernment. Others are limited by staff capacity: Public Health and Scientific Investment and to Advance the Public Health Mission of the UW School of Medicine.

Our path forward includes a Faculty-Scientist Retreat in Spring 2023, along with seeking to allocate additional resources in FY24. WSLH will be coordinating its effort, setting priorities, and moving forward once things are squared away.

WSLH will update the Strategic Plan in Spring 2024 for the next 3-year cycle.

In response to a question from Dr. Strang, Dr. Schauer explained that when WSLH had first made the funding challenges known through formal channels, where no action was taken. WSLH is continuing to shed light on the issues and raise awareness, connecting with state agencies, including the Governor’s Office. One of the Governor’s Aides had met with the UW Health Government Relations; the Aide was familiar with the requests, which is positive. The Fiscal Bureau has been in frequent touch with Mr. Karbowski, asking a lot of questions.

❖ **Water Boil Notice Report**

- Camille Danielson

Ms. Danielson advised that two counties received a boil water notice for the period of September 1st through December 1st, 2022.

COUNTY_NAME	PWS_TYPE	NUMBER_OF_SYSTEMS	NUMBER_OF_UNSAFE	NUMBER_OF_BWO
Jefferson	TN	81	3	2
Polk	TN	70	5	1

❖ **Public Relations Report**

- Jan Klawitter

Ms. Klawitter updated Board Members on some of the highlights and referred them to the packet which provides details and further information about WSLH employee activities and accomplishments, including:

- WCLN Regional Meetings
- Article – Barriers to SARS-CoV-2 testing among employers (WisCon)
- Article – Cryptic SARS-CoV-2 variant (WW Surveillance)
- US DOJ Coverdell funding - new Forensic Tox instrument
- WSLH Staff Recognition Awards
- APHL Everyday Life Saver Award in Newborn Screening
- WCLN – WSLH PT webinar

CONCLUSION

At 2:55 PM Jeff Kindrai moved to adjourn and Greg Pils seconded. The meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted by:



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