

APPROVED MINUTES

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors Meeting

September 19, 2023

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Dr. Robert Corliss, Secretary Dr. James Schauer, Dr. Christopher Strang, Dr. Mark Werner, Mr. Gil Kelley, Mr. Jeffery Kindrai, Ms. Jessica Blahnik, Ms. Andrea Poehling

WSLH STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Errin Rider, Mr. Allen Benson, Ms. Jan Klawitter, Mr. Kevin Karbowski, Ms. Tip Vandall, Mr. Mark Conklin, Mr. Steve Strebel, Ms. Camille Danielson

DNR STAFF PRESENT: Alternate Member: Steve Geis

GUESTS PRESENT: Ms. Meshel Lange (CER) and Ms. Ann Jurkowski (WisCon)

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 1. ROLL CALL

Chairman Corliss called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

At 1:00 PM, Chairman Corliss initiated and conducted the roll call of the Board members. All Board members or their designated representatives were present except for those excused. Members Dr. Jon Audhya, Ms. Gina Green-Harris and Ms. Jennifer Buchholz as well as Alternates Ms. Zana Sijan, Ms. Paula Tran, and Ms. Anna Benton were all excused.

Dr. Schauer provided an introduction and welcome for Andrea Poehling as UW-Madison Alternate. Dr. Schauer also gave the BOD an indication of staffing changes, with Sara Anderson starting as his Executive Assistant on October 2, 2023.

Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

At 1:15, PM, Chairman Corliss entertained a motion to approve the July 18, 2023, minutes as submitted. Mr. G. Pils moved for approval and Dr. C. Strang seconded. A voice vote to approve the minutes for the record was unanimous.

Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA

There was no request to reorganize the agenda.

Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

None

Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS

None

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Item 6. Chemical Emergency Response (CER)

- Meshel Lange – CER Manager

Ms. Lange presented an overview of the work undertaken at WSLH Chemical Emergency Response/Preparedness. Their unique role serves as a 24/7/365 first response team to address public threats in the CDC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEP). CER is involved with both clinical/human testing as well as analytical work for testing materials of concern. As part of the chemical program for the Laboratory Response Network (LRN) they play a major role as a Level 1 laboratory in responding to emergencies and also in shaping practices adopted by CDC for sampling, testing and analyzing threats. CER has become a well-respected and highly valued partner in these systems.

Ms. Lange provided several case studies with positive outcomes involving dynamics that gave testimony to the important work done by CER to advance PHEP and LRN.

Item 7. WisCon Public Sector Occupational Safety and Health Program

- Ann Jurkowski, WisCon Consultant

Ms. Jurkowski presented ongoing efforts undertaken in the WisCon Onsite Safety and Health Consultation Program to provide free public sector consultation around the state to reduce or eliminate workplace hazards. Ms. Jurkowski highlighted WisCon successes including on-site consultations and webinars; the proper fit, testing and use of PPE; materials for improving workplace health and safety issues of concern and the distribution of free kits for infectious disease training/testing, education/best practices in the workplace. Currently, as the result of effective outreach, clients have requested 1,114 fit test kits. WisCon recently distributed 720 of these. This fulfills a critical need for public sector organizations and businesses while promoting material distribution reducing WisCon's overhead costs for storage.

An offer for broader collaboration was made by Dr. C. Strang to assess and recommend best practices for improving workplace health and safety through education and training. Many others in the room endorse a wider collaboration.

Item 8. Financial Report and Proposal

- Kevin Karbowski, WSLH Chief Financial Officer

Mr. Karbowski provided a comparative analysis of FY 23 budgeted versus actual. After closing the books, FY23 ended up at about break even for the year. An improvement over the projected budget and the previous year's outcomes.

Mr. Karbowski noted the current numbers accounted for open invoices even though payments were lagging. About \$4M from CDC and DHS pass-through payments were/are still lagging.

Mr. Karbowski further noted, in order to allow for the proposed salary increases for staff to avoid negatively affecting the budget, additional revenue would be needed. Mr. Karbowski recommended an increase in testing fees (4%) to allow for this. He further recommended this increase not be uniformly applied to all services, but consideration would be made to create a 4% net increase without impacting customers already affected by recently-increased fees.

At 1:50 PM, Chairman Corliss entertained a motion to approve the rate increase as recommended by Mr. Karbowski. There was further discussion and at 1:58 PM, Mr. J. Kindrai motioned to approve, Dr. C. Strang seconded and a unanimous voice vote was recorded approving the fee increase as recommended.

Item 9. Contracts Report

- Tip Vandall, WSLH Revenue Manager

Ms. Vandall presented on FY 24 contracts. Currently, WSLH signed contracts will provide \$2.73M in services following a recent contract addition of \$57,500.

Item 10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Dr James Schauer, Director, WSLH

WOHL – Update on EPA's plans to revise lead dust testing

- Steve Strebel
 - Proposed lower standards for lead dust in residences - non-detect as proposed std
 - Clearance (abatement) standards affected as well - 3 mcg as proposed std for floors
 - Discussion on impacts to testing, abatement and regulatory standards
 - Comments on rule due by Oct 2

Key Public Health Notices

- Camille Danielson
 - PFAS in wells - Oneida Cty well testing resulted in 47 private well closures
 - DNR Drought Monitor - website up to monitor conditions and recommend actions
 - Waukesha Drinking Water - now drawn from Lake Michigan under Great Lakes Compact due to high radium concentrations in city's groundwater wells (radium testing of the city's wells has been performed by WSLH)

Public Relations Report

- Jan Klawitter

- WisCon received annual funding and continues their work
- NADP has been busy
 - Intl Acid Rain Conference (Japan) attended by David Gay and Dr. Schauer
 - Spring and Fall NADP conferences held in Madison (in-person and virtual)
 - PFAS monitoring and analysis for rainwater continues development
- Wastewater Surveillance testing receives many inquiries and remains strongly supported
- Forensic Toxicology Director Amy Miles received 2 awards recently for her work
- Global Hepatitis Outbreak and Survey Technology (GHOST) will be advanced
- CDC Director Dr. Mandy Cohen visited WSLH, made rounds to visit CER, CDD and EHD
- Quality and Safety Awards (QAS) were presented recently - 29 new awards were given to current staff and interim fellowship students
- Many new journal articles have been published – see the report for more on these
- Upcoming article of note will look at East Palestine, OH train derailment and fire resulting in a distinct chemical footprint in regional precipitation collected by NADP.

Dr. Schauer mentioned his proposal to shift the timing for upcoming meetings to remove conflicts with his teaching schedule. The new time proposed would shift the BOD's next meeting from December 12 to December 13. This would continue through the BOD's spring meetings. Dr. Schauer was hopeful this change would not create conflicts for others as he seeks to avoid conflicts for his schedule. A survey will be sent to all board members in October.

Adjourned

At 2:12 PM, Chairman Corliss entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn offered by J. Kindrai. All present were in favor. The chair adjourned the meeting at 2:14 PM