

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Board of Directors Meeting
March 19, 2025
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

DATE: March 19th, 2025

TO: Dean Robert N. Golden, MD, UW-SMPH – Dr. Jon Audhya, Designated Representative
Kirsten Johnson, Secretary-designee, DHS – Dr. Mark Werner, Designated Representative
Dr. Karen Hyun, Secretary, DNR – Greg Pils, Designated Representative
Randy Romanski, Secretary, DATCP – Gilbert (Gil) Kelley, Designated Representative
Greg Pils, Chair
Dr. Christopher Strang, Vice Chair
Dr. Jon Audhya, Member
Jessica Blahnik, Member
Dr. Robert Corliss, Member
Gina Green-Harris, Member
Gilbert (Gil) Kelley, Member
John Larson, Member
Hasmik Mkrtchyan, Member
Becky Rowland, Member
Dr. Mark Werner, Member
Zana Sijan, DNR Alternate
Anna Benton, DHS Alternate
Paula Tran, DHS Alternate
Dr. Sheryl Bedno, DHS Alternate
Andrea Poehling, UW-Madison Alternate

FROM: Dr. James Schauer, Secretary
Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

RE: Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors Meeting
Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
In-Person/Online Meeting
March 19, 2025, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

CC:	Dr. Errin Rider	Camille Danielson
	Allen Benson	Tip Vandall
	Kevin Karbowski	Dr. Al Bateman
	Jan Klawitter	Jim Sterk
	Nancy McLean	Mark Conklin
	Steve Strebel	

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Board of Directors Meeting
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WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING NOTICE

for

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

MEETING LOCATION

2601 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718

Notice is hereby given that the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors will convene in person and via teleconference at **1:00 pm on Wednesday, March 19, 2025.**

Notice is further given that matters concerning Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene issues, program responsibilities, or operations specified in the Wisconsin Statutes, which arise after publication of this notice may be added to the agenda and publicly noticed no less than two hours before the scheduled board meeting if the board Chair determines the matter is urgent.

Notice is further given that this meeting may be conducted partly or entirely by teleconference or videoconference.

Notice is further given that questions related to this notice, requests for special accommodations, or requests for a public appearance are addressed by the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Administrative Offices by phone at (608) 890-0288 or in writing to the Secretary, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors, C/O WSLH Director, 465 Henry Mall, Madison, WI 53706

ORDER OF BUSINESS: See agenda.

Respectfully submitted,



James J. Schauer, PhD, P.E., M.B.A.
Secretary, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors
Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
465 Henry Mall, Madison, WI 53706

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AGENDA

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

- Item 1. ROLL CALL**
- Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA**
- Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES**
- Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS**

BUSINESS ITEMS

- Item 6. WISCONSIN PFAS BUDGET INITIATIVES**
Maggie Hunter – DNR Budget Director
Mimi Johnson – DNR Office of Emerging Contaminants Director
- Item 7. WSLH FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATE**
Kevin Karbowski – WSLH Chief Financial Officer
- Item 8. INFECTIOUS DISEASE UPDATE**
How CDD works with partners to respond to H5N1, measles and other infectious diseases
Dr. Allen Bateman – WSLH Communicable Disease Division Director
- Item 9. FINANCIAL REPORT**
Kevin Karbowski – WSLH Chief Financial Officer
- Item 10. CONTRACTS REPORT**
Tip Vandall – WSLH Accounts Receivable and Contracts Manager
- Item 11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
FDA Rule – **Dr. Errin Rider** – WSLH Associate Director for Clinical Lab Services
Key Public Health Notices – **Camille Danielson** – WSLH Environmental Chemistry Program Director
Public Relations Report – **Jan Klawitter** – WSLH Communications Manager
- Item 12. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**
- Item 13. WSLH DIRECTOR HIRING PROCESS**
Dr. Jon Audhya - Professor and Senior Associate Dean for Basic Research, Biotechnology, and Graduate Studies, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health
Dr. Benjamin Schultz-Burkel – Director of Faculty and Executive Recruitment, University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

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PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 1. ROLL CALL

Description of Item:

Roll call of attendance at Board Meeting led by Board Chair

Suggested Board Action:

Submit roll call

Staff Recommendation and Comments:

Board Secretary will record the roll call

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PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Description of Item:

The draft minutes of the December 18, 2024, board meeting are submitted for approval

Suggested Board Action:

Motion: Approve the draft minutes of the December 18, 2024, board meeting as submitted

Staff Recommendation and Comments:

Approve draft minutes

Once approved, minutes become part of the public record and are posted on the WSLH website:

<http://www.slh.wisc.edu/about/board/board-meetings-agendas-and-minutes/>.

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March 19, 2025
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

APPROVED MINUTES

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, December 18, 2024

<1:00 PM – 4:00 PM>

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair, Greg Pils (WDNR) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hasmik Mkrtchyan |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair, Dr. Christopher Strang | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Becky Rowland |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secretary, Dr. James Schauer | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Mark Werner (DHS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jon Audhya (SMPH) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Becca Fahney (WDNR alternate) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Blahnik | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zana Sijan (WDNR alternate) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Robert Corliss | <input type="checkbox"/> Paula Tran (DHS alternate) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gina Green-Harris | <input type="checkbox"/> Anna Benton (DHS alternate) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gil Kelley (DATCP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Sheryl Bedno (DHS alternate) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Larson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrea Poehling (SMPH alternate) |

WSLH STAFF PRESENT:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Errin Rider | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Camille Danielson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allen Benson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tip Vandall |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Karbowski | <input type="checkbox"/> Jim Sterk |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jan Klawitter | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> James Kaeder |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nancy McLean | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Strebel | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Al Bateman | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Conklin | |

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GUESTS PRESENT: Grace Kilpatrick (from UW-Madison Office of Strategic Consulting), Kurt McMillen and Sabrina Messer (from UW-Madison AIP), Adam Paulick (from UW-Madison WEST), David Honma (from UW-Madison Business Services) and Steven Hopper (from Universities of Wisconsin) are all present for their UW System Administrative Transformation Project presentation.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 1. ROLL CALL

Chair Greg Pills called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

At 1:01 PM Chair Greg Pills initiated and conducted the roll call of the Board members. All Board members or their designated representatives were present except for those excused. INDICATED ABOVE

Current board members introduced themselves to our newest board members, John Larson, who is the new Private Environmental Labs representative on the WSLH Board, and Becky Rowland, who is the new Local Health Department representative.

Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

At 1:09 PM, Chair Greg Pils entertained a motion to approve the September 18, 2024 minutes as submitted. Chair Greg Pils moved for approval and Dr. Chris Strang seconded. A voice vote to approve the minutes for the record was passed unanimously and accepted.

Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA

No requests made

Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

See Guests Present section for public appearances

Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS

None

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Item 6. UW Administrative Transformation Program (ATP) Presentation. Steven Hopper from Universities of Wisconsin introduced himself and began by providing an overview of the UW Administrative Transformation Program and its potential impact on the WSLH. Steven stated

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that this is a modernization project for the Universities of Wisconsin that will assist in unifying the systems we have and introducing modern types of technology. The central focus to this project provides enormous benefits for UW employees as the implementation of Workday will allow for easy management of elements such as time cards. Adam Paulick from UW-Madison WEST introduced himself and discussed why Workday implementation is being initiated across UW-Madison. Adam stated that being a top-ranked public university requires modern, responsive, efficient, and secure administrative systems to support mission-critical activities. He said current human resources and finance systems fail this test. Additionally, current systems and the way we work with them are outdated and inefficient. They create information security risks and limit access to reliable data for decision-making. Put simply, staying the course is simply no longer an option. Workday will be a tool that will bring administrative tasks into a single platform by replacing the Human Resource System (HRS), Shared Financial System (SFS), and hundreds of related ancillary systems. When we look at the investment that the market is making into the space, the product that we're on today is not being invested in. Adam stated that it is important to note that Workday training opportunities will be provided for faculty and staff across the system. David Honma from UW-Madison Business Services introduced himself and zeroed in on the specifics related to Workday and its many benefits. On a broader scale, David shared that Workday's implementation goals center around a sustainable environment with simplified processes that will deliver a high-quality user experience with better data while reducing cyber risk. Workday will benefit each individual role within the university. For example, David shared that Workday will provide finance staff members with automated bank statement line matching for daily reconciliation and comprehensive/uniform onboarding for HR staff. All employees will benefit from Workday's self-service features to manage personal information, access pay slips, and view employment details in one place. While the transition to Workday may be daunting for some employees, David assured that ongoing support, training, and guidance from ATP will help support a smooth transition and prompt responses to challenges that come up. ATP's post go-live continuous improvement approach will also support adoption of planned and potential Workday and process enhancements. From a technical readiness standpoint, David pointed out that both Acumatica and EPIC billing were approved for the WSLH on November 14, 2024 to remain ancillary systems running alongside Workday at go-live. This will ensure continuous financial systems operations for WSLH. Post-go-live, required financial data will be uploaded through validated upload templates to Workday. From a functional readiness standpoint, David said that prior to Go-Live the uploaded templates will be created and tested to ensure data from Acumatica and EPIC will be transferred correctly to Workday. Adam Paulick discussed the Workday Roadmap. Adam shared that Cutover activities and End-User training began in November 2024 and will be continuing until June 2025. Workday Go-Live will begin on July 1, 2025 with ongoing training and enhanced support remaining in effect from July 2025 to December 2025. Operations and continuous

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improvements on the Workday platform will commence in January 2026 and be ongoing from that point forward. Adam informed the Board that ATP is expecting a lot of innovation to continue in Workday. ATP will continue to look at their business processes and where they can improve and how they can interact best with Workday. Two times a year, Workday will release significant updates. This format will encourage everyone to get out of old patterns where we work with the same platform for 10 years and then undergo one large update. The ATP program presentation concluded with questions and responses with the Board.

Item 7. Data Modernization Update – Office of Information Systems (OIS) Supervisor James Kaeder introduced himself as speaking on behalf of OIS Director Al Benson regarding the Data Modernization Strategic Plan Initiative update. James informed the board that the WSLH is a complex and growing organization that requires change from year to year and OIS tries to provide systems that stay abreast with this. The WSLH is moving off of unsupportable systems and replacing them with flexible and secure systems that provide timely decision making, improved surveillance, data integration, and data scalability/privacy. As OIS moves forward the team is developing a management system around projects and efforts and identifying gaps in automation needs. James then discussed business system implementation and enhancements, such as utilizing Acumatica Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) for LID fulfillment processes. Leveraging ERP reporting for sales analysis and completing conversion of EHD/WOHL from legacy systems to Acumatica ERP for order management and invoicing are two other implementation processes that were shared. In summary, James said OIS looks for systems that are capable of handling the breadth of our organization, yet deep enough to handle the complexities of each section/division of our organization. The WSLH is moving from custom systems that were built to handle a small set of functions to a system that can handle a broad range of functions. From a customer perspective, James shared that customer portal strategies for all areas of the laboratory are high in demand at this time; including portals for customers to place orders and for customers to send us information. Updating websites for more comprehensive information and replacing paper forms with interactive web forms to streamline work and reduce errors on submissions from the field are highly requested. OIS is working with UW-Madison DoIT to eliminate redundancy of applications alongside full digital transformation to reduce/eliminate need for paper and external file storage solutions. James added that OIS is looking at opportunities for bar coding and updating/replacing instruments to align with current Windows standards. In terms of LIMS updates, James said that scanning options for direct connection to LIMS environments is a priority. Completing installation and initial training for the EPIC “Slicer/Dicer” interactive reporting tool and expanding use of Clinisys LIMS systems for those divisions on unsupported or outdated LIMS platforms is on the radar as well. In regard to next steps, James shared that OIS is currently completing the EHD/WOHL

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Acumatica project and reviewing, prioritizing, and mapping investment plans for data modernization needs of programs. Some of the short-term priorities include getting project intake forms completed to begin the continued replacement of old and outdated systems currently at risk at WSLH, as well as reviewing open project requests to ensure prioritization is aligned with senior management. Additionally, completing the initial setup for the EPIC Slicer/Dicer project so testing can begin in quarter 1 of 2025 is a priority. The Data Modernization Update presentation concluded with questions and responses with the board.

Item 8. Laboratory Improvement Division (LID) Presentation – Mike Argall, Director of the WSLH Laboratory Improvement Division, introduced himself and began an overview by sharing that LID runs environmental and clinical laboratory Proficiency Testing (PT) programs. It is a national PT program with ~ 3,800 clients inside and outside of Wisconsin. LID has 15 staff members in total: 7 technical coordinators, 2 customer service reps, 2 shipping specialists, 1 outreach specialist, and 3 management team members. Mike explained that the purpose of PT is to evaluate laboratory participant performance against pre-established criteria through inter-laboratory comparisons. The primary benefit of PT is that it offers independent, impartial evaluations of lab testing capabilities and systems. LID has samples that have a target or known value. LID sends blind samples to their clients, which test them as part of their routine operations, and send the test results to LID for evaluation. Once results are evaluated, LID sends a score back to the clients and to the federal government and agencies that oversee those labs. Mike shared the CLIA requirements for PT providers – including regulatory compliance with private nonprofit organizations, federal or state agencies, or entities acting as a designated agent for the state. Quality Assurance, result evaluation through proficiency testing, agency reporting and customer support are all part of the CLIA requirements as well. Clinics, hospitals, and public health labs nationwide make up a majority of LID's clinical customers – while wastewater treatment plants and environmental labs in Wisconsin make up their environmental customers. Internationally, the largest group of customers is in Canada and a distributor in Malaysia. Mike wrapped up the presentation by sharing LID Public Health Lab Mission Support information. Shipping supports CDD surveillance samples and diagnostic testing – while the shipping and customer portal support Chemical Emergency Response PT programs. Shipping and communications support the Wastewater Surveillance PT program. Mike noted that LID is making updates to their system, including adding 29 new analytes to their analyte list and tightening tolerance criteria on existing analytes. Additionally, CLIA has better defined microbiology categories of testing that require PT.

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Item 9. Financial Report – Chief Financial Officer Kevin Karbowski provided the Board with the Statement of Income for the period of July 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024. For the first four months of the fiscal year, the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene made around \$900,000.00. Kevin explained, however, that since the WSLH uses accrual accounting and UW-Madison uses cash basis, there will be financial adjustments as time progresses. Kevin informed the Board that - in total – the WSLH is on track to meet our anticipated positive budget bottom line of \$121,714.00 or performing a little better.

Item 10. Contracts Report – Accounts Receivable Manager Tip Vandall shared the Contracts Report executed since September 2024. Tip shared that the WSLH has signed a total of 18 new contracts since the Board’s September 2024 meeting. Most of these newly signed contracts are with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WDHS) – while a select few are with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The WSLH had 3 annual contract renewals amounting to \$231,718.00 and 4 multi-year renewals amounting to \$21,937,99.00. Tip finished the presentation by sharing that the total contracts amount for this period equates to \$29,981,223.00.

Item 11. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

FDA/LDT Update – Associate Director for Clinical Lab Services Dr. Errin Rider shared an overview of the previously discussed FDA/LDT update. She stated that the FDA published their final rule in 2024, which states that laboratory developed tests (LDTs) will from this point forward be considered medical devices, and that any lab operating LDTs are now considered manufacturers of medical testing. Therefore, any new laboratory developed tests that the WSLH wants bring on are now subject to FDA premarket review. Specifically, any LDT’s offered after May 6, 2024 will have to go through this premarket review process. The FDA offered a phased-in approach, with phase one starting March 6, 2025. Dr. Rider said this initial phase will not be a monumental lift for WSLH department(s) beyond some standard training. Phase two, starting May 6th 2026, will be a much larger lift as the WSLH needs to examine what is involved with FDA labeling and what more needs to be added alongside evaluation of current testing to ensure we’re meeting validation requirements for the FDA. At this time, she said that the WSLH is taking pause until early 2025 to see what the incoming administration may do with this rule.

Key Public Health Notices – Environmental Chemistry Programs Director Camille Danielson presented select Key Public Health Notices from partners since the September 2024 Board meeting. The full list is included in the December 2024 Board agenda packet.

Public Relations Report – Communications Manager Jan Klawitter shared select items from the full Public Relations report included in the December 2024 Board agenda packet.

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Adjourning

At 3:10 PM, Chair Greg Pils entertained a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Dr. Chris Strang. All present passed the motion unanimously, and the WSLH Board Meeting officially came to a close at 3:11 PM.

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PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA

Description of Item:

Board members may suggest changes in the order in which agenda items are discussed

Suggested Board Action:

None

Staff Recommendation and Comments:

Reorganize the agenda if requested by the Board

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PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Description of Item:

Under the board's *Policies and Procedures*, non-members are invited to make presentations

Suggested Board Action:

Follow WSLH *Policies and Procedures*:

Staff Recommendation and Comments:

Follow WSLH *Policies and Procedures*

Per Policies and Procedures of the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors:

§6.12 *Speaking privileges.* When the board is in session, no persons other than laboratory staff designated by the director shall be permitted to address the board except as hereinafter provided:

- (a) A committee report may be presented by a committee member who is not a member of the board.
- (b) A board or committee member in the course of presenting a matter to the board may request staff to assist in such a presentation.
- (c) If a board member directs a technical question for clarification of a specific issue to a person not authorized in this section, the Chair may permit such a person to respond.
- (d) The board may by majority vote or by decision of the Chair allow persons not otherwise authorized in this section to address the board if the situation warrants or the following criteria is followed:
 - (1) Written requests for public appearances on specific current agenda items shall be made to the Board Secretary no later than two working days prior to the meetings. The request shall outline the reasons for the request including the subject matter to be discussed in as much detail as is feasible prior to the meeting of the board. Those requesting an appearance may, at or prior to the board meeting, provide board members copies of any written materials to be presented or a written statement of a position.
 - (2) Individual presentations will be limited to five minutes, unless otherwise authorized by the Chair.
 - (3) To schedule an appearance before the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors, contact the Board Secretary, c/o Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, 465 Henry Mall, Madison, Wisconsin 53706. Telephone (608) 890-0288. The subject or subjects to be discussed must be identified.
 - (4) The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene "Guidelines for Citizen Participation in WSLH Board Meetings" are published on its website: <https://www.slh.wisc.edu/>, and printed copies are available on request. (See Appendix 5) [Section §6.12 approved 5/27/03 board meeting.]

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Appendix 5

Guidelines for Citizen Participation at WSLH Board Meetings

The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene board provides opportunities for citizens to appear before the board to provide information to the board on items listed on the agenda. Such appearances shall be brief and concise. In order to accommodate this participation in the allotted time, the guidelines are as follows:

- A. Items to be brought before the board:
 - 1. The board Secretary and Chair will assign a specific time on the agenda to hear public comment when a request to speak has been received from a member of the public.
 - 2. Individuals or organizations will be limited to a total of five (5) minutes to make a presentation to the board. Following the presentation board members may ask clarifying questions.
 - 3. An organization is limited to one (1) spokesperson on an issue.
 - 4. On complex issues, individuals wishing to appear before the board are encouraged to submit written materials to the Board Secretary in advance of the meeting so the board may be better informed on the subject in question. Such information should be submitted to the board Secretary for distribution to all board members no later than seven (7) working days before the board meeting.
 - 5. No matters that are in current litigation may be brought before the board.
- B. The board encourages individuals to confine their remarks to broad general policy issues rather than the day-to-day operations of the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.
- C. Citizens who have questions for board members should ask these questions prior to the board meeting, during any recess during the board proceedings, or after board adjournment.
- D. Written requests to appear before the WSLH Board of Directors should be submitted no later than two (2) working days prior to a scheduled board meeting.
- E. Submit written requests to:
Secretary, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors

C/O WSLH Director
465 Henry Mall
Madison, WI 53706
Telephone: (608) 890-0288
Email: sara.anderson@slh.wisc.edu

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PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS

Description of the Item:

Board Members' Matters will present board members with the opportunity to ask questions and/or discuss issues related to the Wisconsin Laboratory of Hygiene

Suggested Board Action:

Receive for information

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

Receive for information.

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BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 6. WISCONSIN PFAS BUDGET INITIATIVES

Description of the Item:

Maggie Hutter (DNR Budget Director) and Mimi Johnson (DNR Office of Emerging Contaminants Director) will provide the Board of Directors an overview of the Wisconsin PFAS Budget Initiatives.

Suggested Board Action:

Review and provide input.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

Receive for information.

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BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 7. WSLH FEDERAL FUNDING UPDATE

Description of the Item:

WSLH Chief Financial Officer Kevin Karbowksi will provide the Board of Directors a Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Federal Funding Update.

Suggested Board Action:

Review and provide input.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

Receive for information.

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BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 8. INFECTIOUS DISEASE UPDATE

Description of the Item:

Dr. Allen Bateman, WSLH Communicable Disease Division (CDD) Director, will provide a presentation to the Board on how CDD works with partners to respond to H5N1, measles, and other infectious diseases.

Suggested Board Action:

Review and provide input.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

Receive for information.

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BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 9. FINANCIAL REPORT

Description of the Item:

Kevin Karbowski, WSLH Chief Financial Officer, will provide an update on the Financial Report to the Board.

Suggested Board Action:

Review and provide input.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

Receive for information.

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WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE

Financial Report

Fiscal Year 2025

January 31, 2025

Contents

Financial Statements

Statement of income

Comparative income statement

Comparative balance sheet

Statement of cash flows

Notes to the financial statements

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WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE
Statement of Income
For the period July 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025

	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Variance % of Budget	Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Budget
SUPPORT AND REVENUE					
Clinical	\$11,471,132	\$11,174,039	\$297,094	2.7%	\$19,567,406
Neonatal Surcharge	4,669,989	4,510,000	159,989	3.5%	7,360,000
Driver Improvement Surcharge	1,713,993	1,924,973	(210,980)	-11.0%	3,369,200
Forensic Toxicology	254,886	177,165	77,721	43.9%	286,568
Environmental	6,234,765	6,019,355	215,410	3.6%	10,030,294
Proficiency	2,086,855	2,055,384	31,471	1.5%	4,010,072
Occupational Health	1,271,783	1,183,302	88,480	7.5%	2,025,661
Laboratory Services	27,703,403	27,044,217	659,186	2.4%	46,649,202
Grants Indirect Reimbursement	922,200	855,000	67,200		855,000
WI DHS Employee Contracts	625,362	490,729	134,633	27.4%	841,250
WI DHS WSLH IT Employee Contracts	870,109	760,796	109,313	14.4%	1,304,221
Other	28,150	27,129	1,021	3.8%	27,129
Earnings - Investment Income	94,644	35,000	59,644	170.4%	60,000
Other Revenue	2,540,465	2,168,654	371,811	17.1%	3,087,600
Grants	3,084,958	3,397,490	(312,532)	-9.2%	5,875,906
Program Revenue	33,328,826	32,610,361	718,465	2.2%	55,612,708
State General Program Revenue (GPR)	7,140,199	7,000,000	140,199	2.0%	12,960,000
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	40,469,024	39,610,361	858,664	2.2%	68,572,708
EXPENSES					
Salaries	15,321,892	16,345,518	(1,023,626)	-6.3%	28,421,601
Fringe Benefits	5,906,488	6,111,009	(204,521)	-3.3%	10,455,437
Supplies & Services	13,239,797	13,044,958	194,839	1.5%	22,689,146
Building Rent	1,919,606	1,898,466	21,140	1.1%	3,345,358
Grants Indirect	532,736	612,940	(80,204)	-13.1%	1,051,883
Depreciation	1,500,195	1,501,639	(1,444)	-0.1%	2,597,235
Bad Debt Expense	4,541	1,050	3,491	332.5%	1,800
Interest Expense	8,544	5,125	3,420		10,249
TOTAL EXPENSES	38,433,799	39,520,704	(1,086,905)	-2.8%	68,572,708
NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	\$2,035,226	\$89,657	\$1,945,569	2170.0%	\$0

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1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE
Comparative Income Statement
For the 7 months ended January 31, 2025 and January 31, 2024

	Year to Date Actual	Prior Year Actual	Variance Over/(Under)	Variance % of Prior Year
SUPPORT AND REVENUE				
Clinical	\$11,471,132	\$10,833,542	\$637,591	5.9%
Newborn Screening	4,669,989	4,372,083	297,906	6.8%
Driver Improvement Surcharge	1,713,993	1,481,222	232,771	15.7%
Forensic Toxicology	254,886	196,577	58,309	29.7%
Environmental	6,234,765	5,262,869	971,896	18.5%
Proficiency	2,086,855	2,078,747	8,108	0.4%
Occupational Health	1,271,783	1,107,661	164,122	14.8%
Laboratory Services	27,703,403	25,332,701	2,370,702	9.4%
Grants Indirect Reimbursement	922,200	0	922,200	
WI DHS Employee Contracts	625,362	504,734	120,628	23.9%
WI DHS WSLH IT Employee Contracts	870,109	604,691	265,418	43.9%
Other	28,150	0	28,150	
Earnings - Investment Income	94,644	12,561	82,083	653.5%
Other Revenue	2,540,465	1,121,986	1,418,479	126.4%
Grants	3,084,958	3,554,039	(469,081)	-13.2%
Program Revenue	33,328,826	30,008,726	3,320,100	11.1%
State General Program Revenue (GPR)	7,140,199	7,511,572	(371,373)	-4.9%
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	40,469,024	37,520,298	2,948,726	7.9%
EXPENSES				
Salaries	15,321,892	15,042,887	279,005	1.9%
Fringe Benefits	5,906,488	5,555,095	351,393	6.3%
Supplies & Services	13,239,797	12,351,934	887,863	7.2%
Building Rent	1,919,606	1,897,823	21,783	1.1%
Grants Indirect	532,736	532,660	76	0.0%
Depreciation	1,500,195	1,494,835	5,360	0.4%
Bad Debt Expense	4,541	56	4,484	7956.8%
Interest Expense	8,544	5,125	3,420	66.7%
TOTAL EXPENSES	38,433,799	36,880,413	1,553,385	4.2%
NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)	\$2,035,226	\$639,885	\$1,395,341	218.06%

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WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE
Comparative Balance Sheet
As of January 31, 2025 and June 30, 2024

ASSETS

	January 31, 2025	June 30, 2024
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$5,847,310	\$2,562,967
Net accounts receivables (Note 2)	8,944,217	8,285,897
Other receivables	0	0
Inventories	7,860	12,641
Prepaid expenses	0	0
Total current assets	14,799,387	10,861,505
EQUIPMENT AND BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS		
Equipment	43,254,864	41,749,445
Building improvements	2,357,769	2,357,769
	45,612,633	44,107,213
Less accumulated depreciation	(32,380,323)	(30,880,128)
Total net fixed assets	13,232,309	13,227,085
Total Assets	\$28,031,696	\$24,088,590

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	545,223	621,024
Obligations under capital leases	59,524	59,524
WI DHS neonatal surcharge payable	1,387,300	883,507
Proficiency testing deferred revenue	2,669,113	1,155,474
Newborn screening deferred revenue	1,366,827	1,366,827
Compensated absences (Note 3)	1,093,845	1,093,845
Total current liabilities	7,121,831	5,180,201

LONG TERM DEBT

Obligations under capital leases	247,203	280,953
Compensated Absences (Note 3)	1,960,371	1,960,371
Total long term debt	2,207,574	2,241,324
Total Liabilities	\$9,329,405	\$7,421,525

EQUITY

Net Operating Income (Loss)	2,035,226	(170,616)
Retained earnings	15,380,389	15,551,005
Contributed capital	1,286,676	1,286,676
Total retained earnings	18,702,291	16,667,065
Total Equity	18,702,291	16,667,065
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$28,031,696	\$24,088,590

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WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE
Statement of Cash Flow
For the 7 months ended January 31, 2025 and the 12 months ended June 30, 2024

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net income	\$2,035,226	(\$170,616)
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	1,500,195	2,597,018
Changes in working capital components:		
Decrease/(Increase) in net accounts receivables	(658,319)	(45,894)
Decrease/(Increase) in other receivables	0	922,600
Decrease/(Increase) in inventories	4,781	11,186
Decrease/(Increase) in prepaid expenses	0	0
(Decrease)/Increase in salaries payable	0	0
(Decrease)/Increase in accounts payable	(75,801)	(38,578)
(Decrease)/Increase in accrued expenses	0	0
(Decrease)/Increase in deferred revenue	0	0
(Decrease)/Increase in neonatal surcharge payable	503,792	647,765
(Decrease)/Increase in proficiency testing deferred revenue	1,513,639	(194,008)
(Decrease)/Increase in newborn screen deferred revenue	0	20,895
(Decrease)/Increase in obligation on capital lease	(33,750)	340,477
(Decrease)/Increase in compensated absences	0	133,989
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash provided (used) in operating activities	4,789,762	4,224,835
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of equipment and physical plant improvements	(1,471,493)	(3,064,493)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash provided (used) in investing activities	(1,471,493)	(3,064,493)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Principal payment on Capital Lease	(33,926)	(63,687)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash provided (used) in financing activities	(33,926)	(63,687)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net increase (decrease) in cash	3,284,344	1,096,654
Cash:		
Beginning	2,562,967	1,466,313
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Ending	\$5,847,310	\$2,562,967
	<hr/>	<hr/>

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WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the period July 1, 2024 through January 31, 2025

Note 1 - Nature of Business and Significant Accounting Policies

Nature of Business:

- The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) is a governmental institution which provides medical, industrial and environmental laboratory testing and related services to individuals, private and public agencies, including the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Health Services (DHS). Approximately 80% of the WSLH operating revenues are program revenues, including contracts, grants, and fee-for-service billing. The remainder are general purpose revenues (GPR), which are Wisconsin state general fund dollars.

Budgetary Data:

- Fiscal Year 2024-2025 operating budget amounts were approved by the WSLH Board on June 26, 2024.

Basis of Presentation:

- The financial statements have been prepared on a modified accrual basis.

Basis of Accounting:

- Revenues are recognized at the completion of the revenue generating processes. Fee-for-service revenues are generally recognized in the period services are completed.
- Revenues from GPR, OWI, Grants, and expense reimbursement contracts for salaries, fringe benefits, capital, and supplies are recognized as expended.
- Expenses are recognized and accrued when the liability is incurred.

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Estimates and assumptions:

- The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying footnotes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Assets

- Accounts receivable are reported at net realizable value. Net realizable value is equal to the gross amount of receivables less an estimated allowance for uncollectible amounts.
- Inventory is stated at cost (first in, first-out method).
- Equipment and building improvements are carried at cost. Expenditures for assets in excess of \$5,000 are capitalized. Depreciation is computed by the straight-line method.

Liabilities

- A liability for unearned revenue is recognized for the proficiency testing program and for the newborn screening program.

Note 2 – Net Accounts Receivable

- Accounts receivable and allowance for uncollectible account balances as of June 30, 2024 and January 31, 2025 are as follows:

	<u>January 31, 2025</u>	<u>June 30, 2024</u>
Accounts Receivable Total	\$9,027,054	\$8,368,734
Allowance for bad debt	<u>(82,837)</u>	<u>(82,837)</u>
Net Receivables	\$8,944,217	\$8,285,897

Note 3 – Compensated Absences

- GASB Statement No. 16, "Accounting for Compensated Absences," establishes standards of accounting and reporting for compensated absences by state and local governmental entities for which employees will be paid such as vacation, sick leave, and sabbatical leave. Using the criteria in Statement 16, a liability for compensated absences that is attributable to services

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already rendered and that is not contingent on a specific event that is outside the control of the State and its employees has been accrued. The table below details the liability by benefit category:

	Total	Vacation	Personal Holiday	Legal Holiday	Sabbatical
Current	\$1,093,845	\$938,578	\$29,334	\$25,897	\$100,036
Long Term	1,960,371				1,960,371
	\$3,054,216	\$938,578	\$29,334	\$25,897	\$2,060,407

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BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 10. CONTRACTS REPORT

Description of the Item:

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

Suggested Board Action:

Review and provide input.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

Receive for information.

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BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 11. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Dr. James Schauer, Director, WSLH

- **FDA Rule**
 - Dr. Errin Rider, Director of Clinical Laboratory Services
- **Key Public Health Notices**
 - Camille Danielson, WSLH Environmental Chemistry Program Director
- **Public Relations Report**
 - Jan Klawitter, WSLH Communications Manager

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Selected Public Health and Environmental Notices* 12/4/2024 – 3/5/2025

**Content has been abbreviated*

1. DHS Announces Innovative Medicaid Housing Benefit

Published December 12, 2024

Starting February 1, 2025, Wisconsin will launch a new initiative to provide housing support services to Wisconsin Medicaid members experiencing housing insecurity who are also affected by substance use or mental health conditions. Wisconsin is one of the first states in the country to use housing solutions funded through Medicaid to achieve improved health outcomes for members.

"This new program offers a support system grounded in the stability, dignity, and well-being that secure housing can provide," said Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Secretary-designee Kirsten Johnson. "For people who are struggling with substance use or mental health challenges, having a place they can call home can significantly improve their overall health and quality of life."

2. DNR Investigating Spill Of Enbridge Line 6 Pipeline

Published December 17, 2024

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is investigating a spill of crude oil from a pipeline along Enbridge Energy's Line 6 in the town of Oakland, about four miles east of the village of Cambridge in Jefferson County. On Nov. 11, the DNR received a report from Enbridge of a two-gallon spill of crude oil at Enbridge's Cambridge Station. Enbridge also notified the National Response Center (NRC) and the Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA). In immediate response to this notification, the DNR conducted a site visit the same day the spill was reported, Nov. 11, which continued through Nov. 12.

The DNR followed up again onsite on Dec. 6 to ensure appropriate response actions were being taken by Enbridge. On Nov. 14, Enbridge revised the estimated spill quantity from two gallons to three barrels (126 gallons). On Dec. 13, Enbridge again revised the estimated spill quantity from three barrels to 1,650 barrels (69,300 gallons) based on field investigation, observations and data available at the time. The DNR plans to conduct another site visit within the next week. Under Wisconsin law, entities that cause environmental contamination are responsible for reporting and remediating the contamination.

3. DHS Reports Presumptive Positive Human Case of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Wisconsin

Published December 18, 2024

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has detected the first presumptive positive human case of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), also known as bird flu, in Barron County. The human case follows an infected flock of commercial poultry identified in Barron County. The person had exposure to the infected flock. The case was identified through testing at the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene (WSLH) and is pending confirmation at CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). The H5N1 HPAI virus has continued to circulate in both wild and domestic birds in North America since December 2021. H5N1 HPAI viruses are highly contagious and often fatal to domestic poultry. Caused by influenza type A viruses, the disease varies in severity depending on the strain and species affected. The disease can be spread by contact with infected birds, commingling with wild birds or their droppings, equipment, or clothing worn by anyone working with the animals.

4. Wisconsin Human HPAI Case Confirmed by CDC

Published December 20, 2024

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has received test results from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) from specimens collected from the presumptive positive human case of

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Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) A(H5), also known as bird flu, in Barron County. Results confirm HPAI A(H5), and the case will now be reported as a confirmed human case of HPAI A(H5).

Find additional information in the news release published Wednesday, DHS Reports Presumptive Positive Human Case of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Wisconsin.

5. DNR Celebrates Successful 2024 Elk Hunting Season

Published December 20, 2024

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) celebrates a successful elk hunting season. The state's seventh managed elk hunt opened on Saturday, Oct. 12 and concluded today, Dec. 20.

The 2024 hunt represented a milestone in Wisconsin's elk management. For the first time, hunters had the opportunity to hunt in both the Northern and Central Elk zones. Previous hunts only occurred within the Northern Elk Zone. The eight Wisconsin hunters who participated in this year's hunt were randomly selected from a pool of more than 25,500 applicants. The DNR received 17,761 applications to hunt in the Northern Elk Zone and 7,750 applications for the Central Elk Zone.

6. DHS Encourages Homeowners, Property Owners, and Schools to Test for Radon

Radon exposure is the second leading cause of lung cancer after cigarette smoking

Published January 6, 2025

Radon, a colorless, odorless gas, can seep into homes through their foundation and be deadly at high levels. In Wisconsin, 1 in 10 homes has elevated levels. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer, and approximately 962 Wisconsinites have radon-induced lung cancer. Fortunately, radon is easy to test for and leaks can be fixed. This National Radon Action Month, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is encouraging home and building owners, and schools, to understand their risk and test their buildings for radon. "Knowing about radon and testing radon levels in your home can save lives," said DHS State Health Officer Paula Tran. "In Wisconsin, we have 17 Radon Information Centers around the state where experts are available to answer your questions and offer low-cost test kits. Indoor radon levels tend to increase during the colder months, so now is the perfect time to test your home or building for radon if you haven't before."

7. DNR Confirms CWD In Wild Deer In Chippewa County

Published Jan. 8, 2025

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) confirms the first positive test result for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in a wild deer in Chippewa County. The deer was a hunter-harvested 1-year-old buck and is the first confirmed wild CWD-positive deer detected in Chippewa County. The deer was harvested within 10 miles of the Barron and Dunn County borders.

This detection will cause the following:

- Chippewa County will renew a 3-year baiting and feeding ban already in place.
- Barron County will renew a 2-year baiting and feeding ban already in place.
- Dunn County currently has a 3-year baiting and feeding ban in place for positive detections within the county, so this detection will not impact Dunn County.

CWD is a fatal, infectious nervous system disease of deer, moose, elk and reindeer/caribou. It belongs to the family of diseases known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) or prion diseases. The DNR began monitoring the state's wild white-tailed deer population for CWD in 1999. The first positives were found in 2002.

8. DHS Provides Update on Distribution of Latest Opioid Settlement Funds

Seeks ideas for investing fiscal year 2026 opioid settlement funds

January 9, 2025

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The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) awarded agencies in communities across the state more than \$21 million from the state's latest share of opioid settlement funds from October through December of 2024, the largest amount awarded in a quarterly period since Wisconsin began receiving funds in 2022 from the national litigation against pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmaceutical distributors, and pharmacy chains. Grants awarded support projects designed to prevent non-medical use of opioids, reduce the harms of opioid use, and expand access to treatment and recovery supports for people with an opioid use disorder.

"This funding continues to embrace evidence-based approaches to meet people where they're at," said DHS Director of Substance Use Initiatives Michelle Haese. "We are making intentional investments in supports and services for Wisconsinites, ultimately helping to improve and save the lives of people experiencing substance misuse or substance use disorders."

9. With Respiratory Virus Cases Increasing Across the State, DHS Urges Wisconsinites to Protect Themselves

Published January 8, 2025

It's not too late for flu, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines. With high respiratory illness activity throughout the state, the Department of Health Services (DHS) urges Wisconsinites to get vaccinated against respiratory illnesses as soon as possible, and reminds them it's not too late to get the protection that can help avoid serious illness this season. Flu, COVID-19, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity levels are increasing significantly across Wisconsin and nationwide. Emergency department visits due to respiratory viruses have also increased, especially in infants, young children, and older adults.

10. DNR Wardens, Civilian Staff Honored For Heroic Acts Of Public Service

Awards Recognized Valor, Lifesaving And Meritorious Service

Published Jan. 13, 2025

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today announced that state officials recently lauded 16 DNR conservation wardens and one division staffer for lifesaving and heroic actions.

The wardens honored at the ceremony are:

Valor Awards

- Warden Bob Jumbeck of the Mississippi River Warden Team: In May 2024, he enlisted the assistance of a citizen and their boat to rescue an intoxicated operator in a trapped vessel on the treacherous upriver side of the U.S. Army Corps Lock and Dam 4 on the Mississippi River in Buffalo County.
- Former Warden Alek Henseler: Was handling a UTV traffic violation in Forest County in July 2022 when a second UTV operator physically attacked the warden, nearly taking the warden's life. Forced to use his firearm to save his life, Henseler shot and injured his attacker and then rendered first aid to the attacker, who survived.

Lifesaving Awards

- Warden Jacob Cross of the Antigo Warden Team: Rescued two individuals caught in dangerous situations following two vehicle accidents involving fires and live power lines. The accidents occurred in Langlade County – the first in March 2023 and the second in May 2024.
- Lt. Warden Bryan Lockman and Warden Kyle Ziembo, both of the Wisconsin River Warden Team: In May 2024, they responded quickly to a rural Marathon County home and provided effective CPR and AED treatment to a man who suffered a massive heart attack. The man survived.
- Program Specialist Logan Planer of the Recreational Safety R3 Program: In June 2024, he performed the Heimlich maneuver to break free lodged food in a co-worker's throat at the DNR Darwin Rd. warehouse in Madison.

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- Warden Joe McMahon of the Lower St. Croix County Warden Team: Joined a Pierce County Sheriff's Department deputy to remove a large, heavy structure off a man who was unconscious but breathing. The man survived.
- Warden Al Erickson of the Dodgeville Warden Team: In May 2023, he saved a man's life in rural Iowa County by expertly placing a tourniquet to stop the massive blood loss after the man cut his arm while using yard equipment.
- Warden Tom Heisler of the Park Falls Warden Team: In May 2023, used his extensive knowledge of the Flambeau River's remote areas in Sawyer County to find a man who was near death after flipping his canoe days before. Warden Heisler found the man in very tough shape but alive after struggling for days.
- Warden Benjamin Gruber of the Devil's Lake State Park Warden Team: In October 2023, he teamed with a village of Arena local police officer to save an Iowa County woman's life who was not breathing and had no pulse. Warden Gruber responded to assist in performing CPR and utilizing the police department's AED.
- Warden Nick Al-Moghrabi of the Park Falls Warden Team: Was on patrol in June 2024 when the Bayfield County Sheriff's Office issued a call of CPR in progress at a nearby residence. Warden Al-Moghrabi responded and used his AED on the 47-year-old male patient and coached another person to assist with chest compressions. The man survived.
- Warden Brad Latza of the Wautoma Warden Team and Investigative Warden John Schreiber: During the 2022 gun-deer season, they responded to a call of a gunshot victim in Green Lake County. The wardens applied seals in the wound and performed CPR, which they continued until emergency medical team members arrived. Unfortunately, the victim succumbed to their wounds.

Meritorious Awards

- Jennifer Burrow-Niemeyer, Lt. Andrew Starch and Marine Wardens Adam Strehlow and Travis Sindles: Were on the water in September 2024 when they learned from area agencies of a nearby capsized boat and the operator, sought by agencies for alleged crimes, was in the water and believed armed. The wardens carefully approached the individual, assessed the situation, and pulled him to the warden boat for transport to shore and the agencies.

11. Protect Wisconsin's Waters By Reducing Your Salt Use This Winter

Published Jan. 13, 2025

Although salt keeps Wisconsin roads safe during winter, using more salt than needed comes at a price. In Wisconsin and much of the U.S., chlorides from salt are infiltrating lakes, streams and groundwater. According to Wisconsin Salt Wise, one teaspoon of salt is all it takes to make five gallons of water toxic for freshwater organisms. The DNR measures chloride levels in Wisconsin rivers over time. Recent studies have shown a steep increase in chloride loads. In the early 2000s, the DNR measured about 600,000 tons of chlorides annually. By 2018, that number increased to nearly 800,000 tons per year. Fifty rivers and streams and one lake in Wisconsin have been designated as impaired by high chloride concentrations, primarily from salt used during winter. These increased chloride loads are partly due to road salting, but chlorides also enter Wisconsin waters because of water softeners and fertilizers. Find out if your softener is salt wise with this diagnostic tool.

Salt Tips For Wisconsin Residents

Reducing salt use is critical to decreasing chloride loads. Follow these steps to right-size your salt use:

- Shovel: Clear walkways and other areas before the snow turns to ice. The more snow removed manually, the less salt you will need and the more effective it will be.

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- Scatter: When using salt, scatter it so there is space between the grains. A 12-ounce coffee mug of salt is enough to treat an entire 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares. If you see oversalting, Wisconsin Salt Wise offers some simple steps to help educate others about salt.
- Switch: Salt is much less effective when pavement temperatures drop below 15 degrees. Switch to sand for traction or a different ice melter that works at lower temperatures.

12. DNR Confirms CWD In Wild Deer In Manitowoc County

Published Jan. 14, 2025

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) confirms the first positive test result for chronic wasting disease (CWD) in a wild deer in Manitowoc County.

The deer was a hunter-harvested 1-year-old buck and was harvested south of the Valders area, within 10 miles of the Calumet and Sheboygan county borders. As a result of this new detection, a state-authorized baiting and feeding ban will go into effect for Manitowoc County on Feb. 1, 2025.

13. DHS Launches Campaign Highlighting Health Risks of Menthol Tobacco Products

January 15, 2025

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has launched a digital education and outreach campaign highlighting the dangers of menthol in commercial tobacco products and focused on the impact that targeted marketing of these products has on certain communities.

"Over generations, menthol in tobacco has had a catastrophic health impact on Wisconsinites," said State Health Officer Paula Tran. "Each year 7,900 Wisconsinites die from tobacco use. National studies have shown that if menthol cigarettes were no longer available in Wisconsin, an estimated 17,200 adults in the state would quit smoking." Today, menthol remains widely in use, with menthol sales increasing over the last decade. During this time, menthol tobacco advertisements have been disproportionately promoted to African American and other communities of color. As a result of these advertising methods, menthol is now used by nine in 10 African Americans in Wisconsin who smoke and smoking contributes to the three leading causes of death among this community: heart disease, cancer, and stroke. Additionally, the adult smoking prevalence for African Americans in Wisconsin is much higher, in some cases nearly twice as high, compared to other communities across the state.

14. Take Action To Protect Our Waters From Aquatic Invasive Species This Winter

Jan. 15, 2025

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) asks anglers to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species while fishing this winter. Even in harsh winter conditions, anglers can transport aquatic invasive species and fish diseases from one lake or river to another by emptying water from bait buckets and fish containers. When we add lake or river water to these containers, diseases such as viral hemorrhagic septicemia or critters like tiny spiny water fleas and zebra mussel larvae may be along for the ride. That's why you should drain all lake and river water from bait buckets on site before leaving. Putting used bait back into your container could also increase the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species.

Before and after you drop your line, protect our fishing future by doing your part to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Remember to:

- Inspect all fishing equipment for attached aquatic plants, animals or mud.
- Remove all attached plants or animals.
- Drain all water from buckets and containers.
- Never move live fish away from a waterbody (fish out of water = dead).
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash.

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15. DHS Confirms First Pediatric Influenza-Associated Death in Wisconsin

Published January 16, 2025

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has confirmed the first pediatric [influenza](#)-associated death in our state for the 2024-2025 season. Nationwide, 16 pediatric influenza-associated deaths have been reported. "We are saddened to announce the season's first death of a child from flu in Wisconsin, and our deepest sympathy goes out to this child's family," said State Health Officer Paula Tran. "Respiratory viruses remain a significant health concern, especially in children. If you or your loved ones have not received your flu or COVID-19 vaccine yet this season, it's not too late. Vaccines are safe, effective, and save lives."

16. DNR Announces Primary Results Of Southwest Wisconsin CWD, Deer And Predator Study

Jan. 22, 2025

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today presented the primary results of the Southwest Wisconsin Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), Deer and Predator Study to the Natural Resources Board (NRB). The purpose of this study was to determine how CWD impacts deer populations. This involved estimating deer survival rates and how they were influenced by CWD. Fieldwork for this project took place in northern Iowa, Dane and Grant counties.

Results

Scientists analyzed data from the sample of collared adult white-tailed deer in order to estimate the differences in annual survival (the probability of surviving from one year to the next) between CWD-infected and uninfected deer. Annual survival estimates are listed in the table below.

Annual Survival Probability

	Uninfected	CWD-Infected
Females	83%	41%
Males	69%	17%

These figures indicate that CWD is substantially reducing the annual survival probability of both male and female white-tailed deer. Reduced female survival lowers the growth rate of the population, and when sufficiently suppressed, may result in population decline.

Implications

The key takeaways from these results are:

- CWD substantially reduces deer survival rates and suppresses population growth.
- Where CWD prevalence is high, deer populations are likely declining.
- CWD will eventually impact deer populations elsewhere if it continues to spread and increase in prevalence.

If CWD continues to spread and its prevalence continues to increase, populations will likely face further declines. The exact degree of these declines, however, will depend on local harvest and recruitment rates.

17. As Previewed in 2025 State of the State Address, Gov. Evers Approves DHS Emergency Rule to Strengthen Standards to Prevent Further Hazardous Lead Exposure to Wisconsin Kids

Rule allows more kids to be eligible for services to help reduce lead exposure

February 3, 2025

Gov. Tony Evers, as previewed in his 2025 State of the State address, announced approval of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) emergency rule to strengthen standards to protect more kids from further lead exposure. In Wisconsin, lead poisoning or exposure is defined in state law, which also permits DHS to promulgate rules with a different value based on blood lead level recommendations made by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The emergency rule lowers

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Wisconsin's lead poisoning threshold from 5 to 3.5 micrograms per 100 milliliters to align with the CDC's recommendations. This change allows more kids and their families to be eligible for services to identify sources of lead exposure through an environmental investigation of the child's home, as well as other nursing and medical follow-up actions.

"Investing in the health, well-being, and safety of our kids must continue to be a top priority. We know that too many kids across the state are facing serious, long-term health consequences as a result of lead exposure. There's no excuse for that—we must do better," said Gov. Evers. "As part of our efforts to kick off 2025, the Year of the Kid, this emergency rule is a step in the right direction to help strengthen our state's lead standards, combat childhood lead poisoning, and connect the dots to protect more kids and families."

The governor previewed his plans to invest over \$6 million in the 2025-27 executive budget to support lead poisoning intervention and response efforts. Last year, providers tested over 95,000 children for lead in Wisconsin, more than any other year of the past decade. DHS estimates that in 2025, about 1,400 kids are expected to have a blood lead level between 3.5 and 4.9 micrograms per 100 milliliters.

18. Enhancing College Students' Mental Health: New Fact Sheet from the Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health

February 11, 2025

Young adults are experiencing elevated rates of mental health problems. Today's college students were in, or starting, high school when the pandemic pivoted much of their educational and social lives to online experiences. The majority of today's college students report struggling with substantial levels of stress. Emotional stress is the most frequently cited reason for dropping out of college.

The newly released fact sheet from the Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health (OCMH) provides a number of strategies to bolster college well-being, including school belonging, positive coping skills, mental health screenings, and suicide prevention. OCMH highlights that efforts to foster face-to-face interactions and build social connectedness on campus pay off for student mental health.

19. New Rulemaking Initiated For Six PFAS Substances

Published February 2025

In April 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized federal drinking water standards under the Federal National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for six Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAS): PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS, HFPO-DA (GenX chemicals) and PFBS.

In May 2024, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) sent a letter to the Department of Health Services (DHS) formally requesting that the DHS recommend state groundwater quality enforcement standards for the six PFAS. After conducting a review of the six compounds, the DHS developed recommendations for Cycle 12 groundwater quality standards based on statutory requirements. At the end of January 2025, the DNR received a letter from DHS (revised in February 2025) with recommendations for the six PFAS.

Following this, the DNR initiated the rulemaking process under Board Order DG-02-25 to amend ch. NR 140 and establish groundwater standards for six PFAS, based on the 2025 DHS recommendations. The scope statement has recently been signed by both the DNR Secretary and the Governor. The DNR is currently in the early stage of the rule development and will seek preliminary hearing approval from the Natural Resources Board (NRB). The DNR expects to present the scope statement to the Board for approval in the spring of 2025.

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20. DNR Reports Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza In Wild Merganser Collected From Milwaukee County

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today announced that laboratory tests have identified the H5 highly pathogenic avian influenza virus (HPAI) in a wild merganser collected from Milwaukee County last week. Testing was completed at the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, and the presumptive positive result is consistent with the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus.

The DNR has also received additional reports of sick or dead waterfowl, mostly mergansers, along the Lake Michigan shoreline in Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha counties. In total, these reports have involved less than 50 birds. Since mid-December, the H5 HPAI virus has been detected in six counties – Dane, St. Croix, Wood, Brown, Racine and Milwaukee. The majority of mortality reports have been for swans and Canada geese.

"It is important to remember that avian influenza is still present in Wisconsin, and we are seeing it affect birds in isolated areas around the state," said Jasmine Batten, DNR Wildlife Health Supervisor.

"However, this winter's HPAI detections in wild birds have remained relatively low. The best advice we can give is to remain aware and avoid handling wild birds as much as possible."

According to public health officials, the risk to the general public from avian influenza remains low. Still, people should avoid handling sick or dead wildlife or allowing their pets to come into contact with sick or dead wildlife when possible. If you must touch a dead bird, follow guidance provided on the DNR's Avian Influenza webpage. More information on HPAI and public health can be found on the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' Avian Influenza A Virus webpage.

21. DNR Is Again Accepting Applications For ARPA Well Compensation And Well Abandonment Grant Programs

Published February 2025

Governor Evers recently announced an additional round of federal grant funding of up to \$5 million to support the replacement, reconstruction, treatment or abandonment of contaminated private wells. The expanded grant programs provide more support to private well owners and increase access to clean drinking water, including expanding eligibility to those facing PFAS contamination in their wells. Many previously ineligible individuals will now be eligible to apply, including some small Wisconsin businesses with a non-community well, such as daycare centers, rural restaurants and churches, among others. The DNR began accepting applications for grants under the reinstated program on Feb. 3, 2025. The expanded eligibility criteria include these changes to the contamination requirements:

Eligibility Criteria:

- Any well contaminated with nitrate at concentrations at or above the state's public health standard of 10 parts per million (ppm) is now eligible. Previously, only nitrate-contaminated wells with concentrations above 40 ppm that were used as a water supply for livestock were eligible.
- Any well contaminated with arsenic at concentrations at or above the federal drinking water standard of 10 parts per billion (ppb) is now eligible. Previously, only arsenic-contaminated wells above the threshold of 50 ppb were eligible. The arsenic threshold for arsenic-contaminated wells has been lowered from 50 ppb to 10 ppb to comply with federal drinking water standards.
- Any well with a source of bacterial contamination that presents a human health risk is now eligible for the program. Previously, only wells contaminated with fecal bacteria caused by livestock were eligible.

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- A well with PFAS exceeding the drinking water standard in Ch. NR 809 (70 parts per trillion for PFOA+PFOS) or subject to an advisory from the Department of Health Services due to the levels of PFAS in the well is eligible for well compensation.

In this second round of funding, applicants must provide laboratory results from one water sample that confirms the contamination in their well. For bacteria contamination, two water samples are still required. Samples must be tested at a certified laboratory, and testing needs to have been done within the last two years of the application date to be eligible.

Award Amounts:

- The maximum award amount under the program will be \$16,000.
- The cost share requirement under the program will be \$0.
- The DNR will accept applications and issue awards on a continuous basis until all funding is expended. Application materials will be updated and posted to the Well Compensation Grant Program webpage and the Well Abandonment Grant Program webpage.

22. Wisconsinites Invited To Participate In Wisconsin Conservation Congress Resolution Process

Feb. 17, 2025

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress (WCC) reminds all Wisconsinites that there is still time to participate in its annual spring hearing process by introducing a local resolution.

The WCC is an independent organization of residents that advises the Wisconsin Natural Resources Board and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on how to responsibly manage Wisconsin's natural resources.

Each year residents have an opportunity to submit ideas as resolutions to the WCC.

Wisconsinites can submit proposed resolutions via the online process now through Feb. 24, 2025.

Resolutions must meet the following criteria:

1. The concern must be of statewide impact.
2. The concern must be practical, achievable and reasonable.
3. The concern must be within the mission and vision of the Wisconsin Conservation Congress.

An individual may submit no more than two resolutions per year. Those interested in submitting a resolution are encouraged to reach out to the resolution review committee or their WCC County Chair for guidance in drafting a resolution.

Additional tips on preparing a resolution are available on the WCC and DNR's Spring Hearings webpage.

23. DNR Awards \$6 Million In Grant Funds To Protect Surface Water

Published Feb. 19, 2025

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently awarded more than \$6 million in grant funding for lake organizations, nonprofit organizations and municipal and county governments throughout the state.

This grant program provides cost-sharing for projects that restore and protect surface water. The organizations and governments receiving funding will help to restore and protect our state's surface water resources in 2025 and beyond. This year, the program received 418 applications from eligible applicants requesting nearly \$8 million.

Of the applications received, 371 grants totaling more than \$6 million were awarded. The projects are incredibly diverse, including education and outreach activities, management planning, habitat restoration, runoff management, water quality improvement projects and aquatic invasive species prevention and management. The projects selected for awards leverage a substantial amount of local funding and commit to making important contributions to our natural resource legacy.

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24. A Historic Year For The Wisconsin State Park System

Published February 24, 2025

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) invites the public to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Wisconsin State Park System by learning about its history of outdoor recreation, tourism and stewardship. Over the last 125 years, Wisconsin's state park system has grown in both size and opportunity to meet the needs of Wisconsinites and visitors.

The state's parks, forests, trails and recreation areas are managed to conserve and protect some of Wisconsin's most exceptional natural resources. From the expansive Northwoods to the shores of Lake Michigan to the picturesque Driftless Region and everything in between, the state park system offers opportunities to recreate in virtually every part of the state.

Gov. Evers proclaimed 2025 the "Wisconsin State Park System 125th Anniversary" across the state and invites all Wisconsinites to join the occasion.

25. Preliminary Hearing On Statement Of Scope For Adopting PFAS Groundwater Standards In NR 140

Published March 3, 2025

The Department of Natural Resources will hold a preliminary public hearing on Statement of Scope SS 008-25 (NRB Order Number DG-02-2025), which affects ch. NR 140, related to numeric standards for six per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in groundwater based on the 2025 Wisconsin Department of Health Services recommendations.

The public may testify at the virtual hearing on March 6, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.

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**Report to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board
Representative Public or Environmental Health Incidents of Educational Interest
December 2, 2024 – March 5, 2025**

Approx. Date	Agent or Event Name	Description	Current Status
RECENT EVENTS and FINDINGS			
December 10, 2025	Radiochemistry Lab exercise/evaluation	<p>Inspectors from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the WI Department of Health Services exercised and evaluated the WSLH Radiochemistry Lab. The exercise is a routine requirement.</p> <p>In the event of a radiological emergency/release in Wisconsin, the radiochemistry unit at the WSLH may be called upon to analyze low level samples. In partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Radiation Protection Section - FEMA requires the laboratory to be evaluated every 8 years to show readiness and capabilities for such an incident.</p>	Complete
December 16, 2024	Wastewater Proficiency Testing (PT) Round 2	Wastewater Surveillance Department together with WSLH Proficiency Testing sent out 2 nd round of wastewater PT samples to 36 laboratories across the country. This round of PT was focused on recovery and quantification of respiratory viruses from wastewater including SARS-CoV-2, influenza A & B, RSV and associated controls. Data has been collected and analyzed and the final report is currently in production.	In Progress
December 16, 2024	National Reference Center renewals	In 2024, the WSLH Communicable Disease Division successfully competed for and were re-awarded Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 5-year grants to be National Reference Centers for Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, National Influenza Reference Center, Antimicrobial Lab Network Regional Lab,	Complete

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		Bioinformatics Regional Resource, and Bioinformatics Training Lead.	
January 2025	HPV Self Collect Verification and Revitalization	Staff in the WSLH Cytology Section and the WI Department of Health Services Reproductive Health and Family Planning (RHFP) program are collaborating to increase cervical cancer screening rates throughout Wisconsin. After HPV self-collected samples became FDA approved on the Roche Cobas platform, WSLH Cytology and the RHFP unit began working on a validation and outreach effort to offer this new collection method to County and Tribal Clinics across Wisconsin. The new method no longer requires a Nurse Practitioner on site to collect, so it is suitable for most clinical sites in our state. Validation and implementation are expected to complete before the end of Q2 2025.	Ongoing
January 2025	APHL <i>Lab Matters</i> articles	<p>The Winter issue of the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) <i>Lab Matters</i> magazine features two stories with a WSLH connection.</p> <p>A story co-written by Environmental Chemistry Program Director Camille Danielson focuses on APHL's internship program and how the WSLH's participation in the program has been a big success for both the WSLH and the interns - https://joom.ag/1d7d/p8.</p> <p>WSLH Chemist Mike Populin is a member of the first cohort of APHL's new one-year radiochemistry graduate certificate program developed in partnership with the University of Iowa - https://joom.ag/1d7d/p24</p>	Complete
January 2025	Assessing Impaired Driving Through Comprehensive Forensic Toxicology: A	The WSLH Forensic Toxicology Laboratory was one of five states that submitted de-identified blood samples from suspected impaired drivers as part of this research study looking at the impact of "Stop Testing" policies. https://nasid.org/wp-	Complete

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	Multistate Approach	content/uploads/2024/11/NASIDForensic-Technology-Doc.pdf “Stop Testing” is when a forensic toxicology laboratory will not test a sample from a suspected impaired driver for drugs if the blood alcohol results are over a certain percentage. This is a frequent practice among forensic toxicology labs, including the WSLH, due to funding and capacity constraints. But it also means that states may not be getting a full picture of how much drugs may be contributing to impaired driving. The WSLH is currently involved in a similar project with the WI Bureau of Transportation Safety (BOTS) to determine the consequences of stop-testing (cancellation policies) in our lab.	
January 2025	Nitazene research highlighted in Chancellor Mnookin video	In her January “Three Questions with the Chancellor” video, UW-Madison Chancellor Jennifer Mnookin said UW Assistant Professor Heather Barkholtz’s research to identify nitazene compounds is one of the UW research projects that has captured her attention. Dr. Barkholtz, who has a joint appointment with the UW School of Pharmacy and the WSLH Forensic Toxicology Section, and one of her graduate student researchers Maia Bates are looking at ways to detect nitazene, a class of synthetic opioids that is much stronger than fentanyl. The clip about their research (with photos taken in our tox lab) starts at 0:48 in the video - https://chancellor.wisc.edu/three-questions-with-the-chancellor/january-2025/	Complete
January 2, 2025	MMWR article	WSLH Communicable Disease Division Associate Director Dr. Alana Sterkel was a co-author on: Outbreak of Blastomycosis Among Paper Mill Workers — Michigan, November 2022–May 2023	Complete

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		<p><i>MMWR Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report</i> 2025;73:1157–1162. http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm735152a2</p> <p>WSLH Communicable Disease Division Associate Director Alana Sterkel and the UW-Madison students in her research lab cultured environmental samples as part of this outbreak investigation - the largest documented outbreak of blastomycosis in the United States and the first recognized blastomycosis outbreak in an industrial, largely indoor setting.</p> <p>“While environmental testing is not something we routinely do, Blastomyces is one of my areas of focus so I was happy to help out when I got the call from CDC,” according to Dr. Sterkel. “As this was in the UP of Michigan, the Michigan Health Department Lab did the patient testing for Blastomycosis but they do not perform environmental testing. WSLH CDD is just bringing up our own human Blastomyces testing now thanks to some recent grant funding.”</p>	
January 15, 2025	APHL blog post	<p>APHL Blog: Norovirus Is Spiking: Why the Surge and How to Protect Yourself</p> <p>Kyley Anhalt, senior microbiologist in the WSLH Communicable Disease Division, was interviewed for this APHL blog post about the sharp increase in norovirus infections this winter.</p> <p>https://www.aphlblog.org/norovirus-is-spiking-why-the-surge-and-how-to-protect-yourself/</p>	Complete
January 16, 2025	Microbes in Wastewater Symposium	<p>Wastewater Surveillance scientist Dagmara Antkiewicz was invited by the organizers to give a presentation about the current status of wastewater surveillance for infectious disease, entitled: “<i>Wastewater - Based Disease Surveillance for Public Health Action: Challenges and Opportunities for Increased Utility.</i>”</p>	Complete

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		https://www.wastewateramr2025.com/#map1d41wug	
January 29, 2025	WSLH QSI Awards	<p>More than 50 staffers were honored for their contributions to Quality, Safety and Opportunities for Improvement (QSI) at the WSLH. Awardees received a certificate and a KoalaT, Safe-T or OFI character pin.</p> <p>QSI Awards are given out twice a year.</p>	Complete
February 2025	WSC Hosted at WI Dells	<p>The Wisconsin Society of Cytology, which provides education and information to Cytology and Pathology professionals in the Midwest, held its Spring meeting in the Wisconsin Dells February 28th-March 1st. This was WSLH Cytology Manager Joshua Faulkes' last meeting as President. He served as emergency interim president from 2019 until 2023, and President until 2025. WSLH Cytotechnologist Teri Stewart moved from President-elect to President at the meeting. WSLH Cytotechnologist Elizabeth Haas also sits on the WSC executive board. All Cytology section employees are active WSC members.</p>	Complete
Feb 16-21, 2025	American Academy of Forensic Sciences Annual Meeting	<p>Forensic Toxicology Supervisor Bill Johnson attended the Academy meeting in Baltimore, MD. He is on the NSC-ADID, FSF, and BOD of SOFT.</p>	Complete
February 16, 2025	Robert F. Borkenstein Award	<p>Amy Miles received the Robert F. Borkenstein Award from the National Safety Council's Alcohol, Drugs and Impairment Division.</p> <p>She is the 3rd member of WSLH Forensic Toxicology leadership to receive the award.</p>	Complete
February 17, 2025	AAFS Poster presentation	<p>Graduate student Will Naviaux (working with Dr. Heather Barkholtz in Forensic Toxicology) presented a poster at AAFS at the NIJ Symposium. His poster was titled "Chiral Separation and Quantification of Methamphetamine in Whole Blood".</p>	Complete

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Feb 26, 2025	Marquette University Presentation	Forensic Scientist Traci Reese presented to a Marquette University Forensic Science class on all aspects of Forensic Toxicology.	Complete
February 26, 2025	DRE Class	<p>Lindsey Vosters and Ben Mullins with the WSLH Forensic Toxicology section graduated from Drug Recognition Expert School. They attended in an auditor capacity, completing all the training law enforcement officers went through except the final exam as they cannot become certified since they are not law enforcement.</p> <p>The DRE course uses National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) approved curriculum for the Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program and DRE's are certified by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP).</p> <p>Kimberle Glowacki is WSLH Forensic Toxicology's DRE liaison.</p>	Complete
February 26, 2025	WSLH-DNR Environmental Science Day	<p>More than 200 people on-line and in-person attended WSLH-DNR Science Day at the WSLH's AG Drive facility.</p> <p>The event featured 20 speakers from the WSLH, DNR, DHS and UW-Extension sharing the latest science on emerging contaminants, biological indicators, nutrient monitoring, citizen science, drinking water testing initiatives, enforcement cases and more.</p>	Complete
March 5, 2025	APHL <i>Lab Matters</i> magazine	<p>The WSLH is featured in 2 stories in the Spring issue of APHL's <i>Lab Matters</i> magazine –</p> <p>Empowering Public Health Laboratories: The Benefits of Automation in Molecular Diagnostic Testing - https://ioom.ag/3HMd/p11</p> <p>Laboratory-Developed Tests: An Uncertain Path - https://ioom.ag/3HMd/p12</p>	Complete

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Item 12. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2025

Description of the Item:

Dr. Chris Strang (a Non-Government Member) will become Board Chair at the March 2025 meeting. The Government Board members will need to select a Vice Chair who will then become Chair in 2026.

§2.07 "Government Board Members" are defined as: the Secretary of Health Services, the Secretary of Natural Resources and the Secretary of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, or their designees, the medical examiner or coroner representative and the local health department representative.

§2.08 "Non-Government Board Members" are defined as a physician representing clinical laboratories, a member representing private environmental testing laboratories, and a member representing occupational health laboratories and two additional members.

§5.05 Intent.

(a) It is declared to be the intent of the Board that the position of Chairperson be rotated annually among the voting members of the Board and that each successive Vice Chairperson is also, in effect, the Chairperson-elect.

(b) It is the declared intent of the Board that the positions of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson be elected, in alternate years, from the "government" and the "non-government" members of the board as defined in 2.07 and 2.08 such that in any given year one position is held by a government member and the other is held by a non-government member.

(c) The Secretary shall prepare a ballot for the offices of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary in accord with these policies and procedures.

(d) The Director shall advise the board members of the historical rotation of the offices of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary prior to the annual meeting.

Suggested Board Action:

Draft Motion: To be considered March 19, 2025

Move the nomination of the following for officers of the WSLH Board of Directors: Chris Strang for the position of Chair, _____ for the position of Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, and James Schauer for the position of Secretary for the year 2025 term.

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Item 13. WSLH DIRECTOR HIRING PROCESS

Description of the Item:

Dr. Jon Audhya (UW SMPH Professor and Senior Associate Dean for Basic Research, Biotechnology, and Graduate Studies) and Dr. Benjamin Schultz-Burkel (UW SMPH Director of Faculty and Executive Recruitment) will be providing the board with an overview of the hiring process for the next Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Director.

Suggested Board Action:

Review and provide input.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

Receive for information.