

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Board of Directors Meeting
June 17, 2026
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

APPROVED MINUTES

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

<1:00-4:00 PM>

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

WSLH STAFF PRESENT:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Errin Rider | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Al Bateman |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allen Benson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sheila Jager |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jan Klawitter | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tip Vandall |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nancy McLean | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sara Anderson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Strebel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nate Lepak |

GUESTS PRESENT: Not applicable for this meeting.

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PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 1. ROLL CALL

Board Chair Dr. Chris Strang called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.

At 1:03 PM Board Chair Dr. Chris Strang asked for WSLH Executive Assistant Sara Anderson to conduct the roll call of the Board members. All Board members or their designated representatives were present except for those excused.

Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

At 1:07 PM, Board Chair Dr. Chris Strang entertained a motion to approve the December 17, 2025 Board Meeting minutes as submitted. Greg Pils moved for approval and Hasmik Mkrtchyan seconded. A voice vote to approve the minutes for the record was passed.

Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA

At 1:08 PM, WSLH Board Chair Dr. Chris Strang announced that the WELLTap presentation by Marathon County Health Department staff will be rescheduled to the June 2026 Board Meeting due to an illness of one of the presenters. (NOTE: Marathon County Health Department emailed WSLH Executive Assistant Sara Anderson on 3/17/26 to inform WSLH about the need to reschedule due to illness.)

Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

Not applicable for this Board Meeting.

Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS

At 1:09 PM, DNR representative Greg Pils announced that PFAS legislation was passed by both the Assembly and Senate and is expected to be signed by Governor Tony Evers soon. This legislation will allow monies in the \$125 million PFAS trust fund created a few years ago to be made available. As part of this legislation, the WSLH will receive funding via DNR for PFAS testing equipment, supplies, etc. as well as funding for PFAS testing personnel.

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BUSINESS ITEMS:

Item 6. **PFAS UPDATE** Erin Mani, WSLH Environmental Chemistry Laboratory Director, updated the Board on PFAS testing at the WSLH. She provided a brief history on WSLH testing in correlation with the development of WI-33 in 2019 and a transition to EPA 1633A for all non-drinking water matrices in 2025. Current PFAS testing methods include EPA 537.1 for the testing of drinking water and EPA 1633A for the testing of aqueous, solid, biosolid, tissue and leachate materials. A modified version of EPA 1633A is used for the testing of wastewater influent, industrial effluent and organic based materials. The bulk of PFAS testing is in water and tissue, with a cycle of public water testing that's completed every 3 years. Ms. Mani shared that our detection limits are well below the state standards regarding PFAS levels in drinking water, groundwater, and fish tissue. PFAS outreach is very important – mentioning WSLH's annual Environmental Science Day had more than 260 participants statewide.

Item 7. **FINANCIAL REPORT** WSLH IT Director and Interim Finance Director Al Benson presented the Financial Report, including a preliminary FY27 Budget that includes a 5% price increase. Mr. Benson introduced the WSLH's newest Finance Manager, Nate Lepak, who was also at the Board Meeting to provide any additional financial feedback. Both Mr. Benson and Mr. Lepak noted that they created a visual representation of the income statement and FY27 Budget in a consumable fashion that all attendees could better understand, review and ask questions. Mr. Benson added that the finance team will be meeting with the WSLH units on a quarterly basis to identify positive and negative financial trends as the future unfolds. WSLH Director Dr. Rudy Johnson thanked Mr. Benson for stepping in to serve as Interim Chief Financial Officer over the last few months. Because of deadline requirements imposed by UW-Madison, the WSLH needs to submit this preliminary budget by March 23rd 2026. Greg Pils made a motion to "provide preliminary approval of the projected FY27 Budget as presented on March 18, 2026 with final approval in June 2026 with the option to make budget amendments with UW as needed." Hasmik Mkrtchyan seconded this motion, and the motion was passed unanimously at 2:17 PM.

Item 8. **CONTRACTS REPORT** WSLH Accounts Receivable and Contracts Manager Tip Vandall shared the Contracts Report. There is a total of \$3,739, 831 in contracts with 4 new contracts from APHL, UW Health, and WDHS. Additionally, there are 10 contract renewals from APHL, WDHS, VA, and Montana State.

Item 9. **DIRECTORS REPORT** WSLH Director Dr. Rudy Johnson told the Board that he would like to explore forming a technical advisory board to provide information and advice to the WSLH Board

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and staff. This would be a non-binding board with members who have technical expertise and knowledge that can help the WSLH Board and staff see years into the future about emerging issues and technology. He will present a proposal to the Board at the June 17th WSLH Board meeting. Board members expressed enthusiasm for the idea and had questions that can be explored more in-depth when Dr. Johnson presents his proposal in June.

PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT WSLH Communications Manager Jan Klawitter shared select items from the full Public Relations Report included in the March 18, 2026 board agenda packet.

Item 10. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS** Greg Pils made a motion to “Move the nomination of the following for officers of the WSLH Board of Directors: Mark Werner for the position of Chair, Hasmik Mkrtchyan for the position of Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, and Rudy Johnson for the position of Secretary for the year 2026 term.” The motion was seconded by John Larson and was passed unanimously at 2:50 PM.

Adjourning

At 2:52 PM, Board Chair Dr. Chris Strang entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn offered by Greg Pils and seconded by John Larson. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:52 PM.