

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

DATE: June 17, 2026

TO: Dean Nita Ahuja, 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
Dr. Mark Werner, Chair
Hasmik Mkrtchyan, Vice Chair
Dr. Jon Audhya, Member
Jessica Blahnik, Member
Dr. Robert Corliss, Member
Gina Green-Harris, Member
Gilbert (Gil) Kelley, Member
John Larson, Member
Greg Pils, Member
Becky Rowland, Member
Dr. Christopher Strang, Chair
Zana Sijan, DNR Alternate
Rebecca Fahney, DNR Alternate
Anna Benton, DHS Alternate
Paula Tran, DHS Alternate

FROM: Dr. Rudolph Johnson, 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
June 17, 2026, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

CC: Dr. Errin Rider Nate Lepak
Steve Strebel Dr. Al Bateman
Allen Benson Sheila Jager
Martina Allen
Jan Klawitter
Nancy McLean

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

WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING NOTICE**

for

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

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, June 17, 2026.**

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,



Rudolph C. Johnson, PhD
Secretary, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors

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

Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
465 Henry Mall, Madison, WI 53706

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. **FINANCIAL REPORT AND FY 27 BUDGET**
 Al Benson – WSLH IT Director
 Martina Allen – WSLH Finance Director

- Item 7: **MARATHON COUNTY: MAXIMIZING THE WELLTAP PROGRAM PRESENTATION**
 Kate Florek – Marathon County Environmental Health and Safety Director
 Sara Balge – Marathon County Environmental Health Sanitarian
 Rachel Klemp-North – Marathon County Public Health Supervisor

- Item 8. **CONTRACTS REPORT**
 Al Benson – WSLH IT Director

- Item 9. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
 Public Relations Report – **Jan Klawitter** – WSLH Communications Manager

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1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

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 March 18, 2026 and May 11, 2026, board meeting are submitted for approval

Suggested Board Action:

Motion: Approve the draft minutes of the March 18, 2026 and May 11, 2026, 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/>.

**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.

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

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.

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
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APPROVED MINUTES

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Informational Budget Updates Meeting

Monday, May 11, 2026

9:00 – 10:00 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair Dr. Mark Werner (DHS) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gil Kelley |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair Hasmik Mkrtchyan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Christopher Strang |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secretary Dr. Rudy Johnson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zana Sijan (WDNR alternate) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Robert Corliss | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Becca Fahney (WDNR alternate) |
| <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gina Green-Harris | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rebecca Rowland | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> John Larson | |

WSLH STAFF PRESENT:

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

GUESTS PRESENT: None

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PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 1. ROLL CALL

Chair Dr. Mark Werner called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

At 9:05 AM Chair Dr. Mark Werner 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 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

None

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Item 6. FINANCE UPDATES

WSLH Director Dr. Rudy Johnson gave an overview of the purpose of the meeting - an informational update on financial information from the March 18, 2026 Board meeting in preparation for the Board to vote on the FY 27 budget at the June 17, 2026 meeting.

WSLH IT Director and Interim Finance Director Al Benson gave an overview of FY 26 financials through the end of the 3rd quarter. Mr. Benson said we expect FY 26 to be close to break even and he said Workday is now our financial record. He explained Workday was implemented in summer 2026 and the WSLH financial team has spent significant time since then trying to harmonize Workday with our legacy financial systems and it has been challenging. The WSLH has also had changes in financial leadership over the last several months.

Mr. Benson provided an overview for the current FY 27 budget projections compared to the March 2026 report. He explained that after the March Board meeting WSLH finance staff discovered funding and expenses were going to be different. He said the WSLH expects to be able to cover the deficit with reserves, but won't know until the end of FY 26 how much reserves will be left over.

Adjourning

At 9:55 AM, Chair Dr. Mark Werner entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn offered by Dr. Chris Strang and 2nd by John Larson. Motion passed unanimously. The chair adjourned the meeting at 9:56 AM

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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. FINANCIAL REPORT AND APPROVAL OF FY 27 BUDGET

Description of the Item:

Al Benson, the WSLH IT Director, and Martina Allen, the WSLH Finance Director, will provide an update on the Financial Report and present the FY 27 budget for approval.

Suggested Board Action:

Review and provide input.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

Receive for information.

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University of Wisconsin-Madison Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene Projected FY27 Budget		
		FY27
Updated 4/23/26		
	Revenues	\$ 54,294,547
	State Appropriation	\$ 13,964,608
	Proposed Price Increase	\$ 950,000
	Total Revenue	\$ 69,209,155
	Expenses	
	Salaries	\$ 30,344,973
	Fringe Benefits	10,972,302
	Total Compensation Expense	\$ 41,317,275
	Supplies & Services	\$ 30,885,650
	Total Expenses	\$ 72,202,925
	Excess of Revenue over Expenses	\$ (2,993,770)

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University of Wisconsin-Madison Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene All Funds Income Statement (July 1, 2025 - May 30, 2026) Fiscal Year 2026)		
		FY26
		YTD
	Revenues	\$ 70,773,685.94
	Expenses	
	Salaries	\$ 26,827,654
	Fringe Benefits	9,547,821
	Total Compensation Expense	\$ 36,375,475
	Supplies & Services	\$ 22,285,539
	Internal Services	728,173
	Capital	1,355,866
	Total Expenses	\$ 60,745,052
	Excess of Revenue over Expenses	\$ 10,028,634
Source: Workday		

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Item 7. MARATHON COUNTY: MAXIMIZING THE WELLTAP PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Description of the Item:

Kate Florek, Sara Balge and Rachel Klemp-North from the Marathon County Health Department will be providing a presentation on the Fee-Exempt Private Well testing for residents to the Board of Directors.

Suggested Board Action:

Review and provide input.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

Receive for information.

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BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 8. CONTRACTS REPORT

Description of the Item:

Al Benson, the WSLH IT Director will provide a brief update on the Contract Report for June of 2026.

Suggested Board Action:

Review and provide input.

Staff Recommendations and Comments:

Receive for information.

Name	Agency	Type of contract	Total Budget	Start Date	End Date	Duration	Months
APHL CDD Norovirus (IC-5924)	APHL	new	56,534.00	3/2/2026	6/30/2026	3	Months
APHL CDD SARS CoV-2 (IC-5990)	APHL	new	52,500.00	3/13/2026	12/31/2026	9	Months
LAMP 27	CDC	renewal	55,020.00	3/16/2026	3/15/2027	12	Months
STI 2027	WDHS	renewal	15,600.00	3/1/2026	2/28/2027	12	Months
HEPC Ghost Testing	WDHS	renewal	50,360.00	12/1/2025	4/30/2026	12	Months
PHI Laboratory Data Exchange FY27	WDHS	renewal	889,603.00	12/1/2025	11/30/2026	8	Months
WI Public Sector	WDHS	renewal	105,000.00	3/1/2026	7/31/2026	12	Months
		Total New	109,034.00				
		Total Renewal	1,115,583.00				
		Total	1,224,617.00				

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BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Rudolph Johnson, Director, WSLH

- **Public Relations Report**
 - Jan Klawitter, WSLH Communications Manager

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**Report to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board
Representative Public or Environmental Health Incidents of Educational Interest
March 6 – June 3, 2026**

Approx. Date	Agent or Event Name	Description	Current Status
OUTBREAKS AND INCIDENTS			
May 2026	Andes Hantavirus	An outbreak of Andes Hantavirus aboard a cruise ship was major international news in May. The WSLH Communicable Disease Division (CDD) closely tracked the outbreak and response for situational awareness, and communicated to clinical laboratory partners about the outbreak and how to test a specimen from a suspect case. At this point the WSLH CDD is not planning to onboard a test for Andes Hantavirus due to very low specimen volume, but if the situation changes CDD is capable of quickly validating and implementing a test.	Ongoing
May 2026	Ebola outbreak in DRC	A large outbreak of Ebola Bundibugyo virus was announced in May in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. No cases in the U.S. have been reported yet. The WSLH CDD can test for Ebola if needed.	Ongoing
RECENT EVENTS and FINDINGS			
March 4, 2026	Meshel Lange Named Hazmatter of the Year	<p>WSLH Chemical Emergency Response (CER) Laboratory Director Meshel Lange received the HazMatter of the Year Award at the Wisconsin Association of Hazardous Materials Responders (WAHMR) conference in early March.</p> <p>The HazMatter of the Year award acknowledges a person's service and/or dedication to the improvement of the hazardous materials response community. Ms. Lange was one of 10 nominees for this year's award and her primary nomination was submitted by WSLH CER's FBI response partners.</p>	Complete

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March 11, 2026	Nate Simon Receives National TB Laboratorian Award	<p>Dr. Nate Simon, lead microbiologist in the WSLH Communicable Disease Division Mycobacteriology section, received the 2025 Ed Desmond TB Laboratorian Award from the National Tuberculosis Coalition of America (NTCA). Dr. Simon received his award at the National Conference on Laboratory Aspects of Tuberculosis in Atlanta on March 11th.</p> <p>The Ed Desmond TB Laboratorian Award honors exemplary service, dedication, or leadership by a tuberculosis laboratory professional. Dr. Simon is the third WSLH scientist to receive the award. He was nominated for the award by Wisconsin Department of Health Services Tuberculosis Program colleagues for both his scientific and education/outreach excellence.</p>	Complete
March 2026	Roadside oral fluid drug testing law	<p>The WSLH Forensic Toxicology section conducted pilot studies in 2014-2016 with the Dane County and Manitowoc County Sheriff's Offices on the use of roadside oral fluid drug testing devices. In March 2026, WI Governor Tony Evers signed legislation into law allowing law enforcement officers in Wisconsin to conduct roadside saliva testing for marijuana and other illegal substances. Information about the pilot studies were included in news stories about the new law.</p> <p>WI Public Radio: Will a new law allowing roadside drug tests help fight impaired driving in Wisconsin?</p> <p>Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel: Wisconsin police can now test saliva if they suspect drugged driving</p>	Complete
March 18, 2026	<i>Frontiers in Public Health</i> journal article	<p>Dr. Martin Shafer, Dr. Dagmara S. Antkiewicz, Dr. Adélaïde Roguet and Devin Everett with the WSLH Wastewater Surveillance Program were co-authors on -</p> <p><u>Wastewater-based epidemiology to enhance public health preparedness and response during large-scale events: experiences from the 2024 Republican and Democratic National Conventions – Milwaukee, WI and Chicago, IL</u></p> <p><i>Frontiers in Public Health</i>, 18 March 2026, Sec. Infectious Diseases: Epidemiology and Prevention, Volume 14 - 2026 https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2026.1800385</p>	Complete

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<p>March 31 – April 10, 2026</p>	<p>Drug Recognition Expert School</p>	<p>Forensic Toxicologists Abby Houliston and Julianne Dryer attended the DRE school in Milwaukee as auditors. DRE’s are top law enforcement officers specially trained to detect impairment by specific drug categories. Kimberle Glowacki also presented on Toxicology for the school.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>April 2026</p>	<p>APHL 2025 Annual Report</p>	<p>The top three stories in the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) 2025 annual report have a WSLH connection –</p> <p>APHL Internship Pool Offers Summer Relief to Wisconsin</p> <p>Laboratory Scientists Help Revive Nationwide Radiochemistry Workforce (Mike Populin in WSLH’s Radiochemistry Lab completed the program and Bailey Simmons-Brown is currently enrolled.)</p> <p>CaliciNet Outbreak Support Centers Provide a Laboratory Safety Net (WSLH Communicable Disease Division is 1 of 4 outbreak support centers in the country)</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>April 2026</p>	<p><i>Journal of Medical Virology</i> article</p>	<p>Dr. Al Bateman and Kyley Anhalt with the WSLH Communicable Disease Division collaborated with WI Department of Health Services and CDC colleagues and were co-authors on –</p> <p>Diversity of Rhinovirus and Enterovirus infections among pediatric hospitalizations in Wisconsin, 2022.</p> <p><i>Journal of Medical Virology</i>, 2026 Apr; 98(4):e70879. doi: 10.1002/jmv.70879.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>April 7, 2026</p>	<p>WI Clinical Laboratory Network Technical Conference</p>	<p>The annual WI Clinical Laboratory Network (WCLN) Spring Technical Conference was held in the Wisconsin Dells on April 7th. Approximately 80 clinical laboratorians and public health professionals from across the state assembled to discuss sepsis.</p> <p>Through audience-focused panel discussions, breakout sessions, and keynote speakers the conference addressed sepsis-associated topics that ranged from clinical challenges, to blood culture workflow, to pharmacy perspectives, and emerging technology.</p>	<p>Complete</p>

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		The WCLN is coordinated by the WSLH Communicable Disease Division and is comprised of 130+ clinical and hospital laboratories around Wisconsin to ensure a timely and effective response to clinical laboratory and public health needs. The WCLN purpose encompasses emergency preparedness, disease surveillance, laboratory diagnostics, training and education, and communications.	
April 7, 2026	National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)	NADP officially launched its per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) in precipitation monitoring network in April. Weekly data from approximately 17 sites will be free and publicly available on the website.	Complete
April 10, 2026	<i>Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel</i> article - Hemp and THC – OWI Rules to Know in Wisconsin	The WSLH Forensic Toxicology Section is featured in this <i>Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel</i> story – Is driving with hemp or THC legal in Wisconsin? OWI rules to know	Complete
April 21-23, 2026	ANAB Accreditation Assessment – Forensic Toxicology	Forensic Toxicology completed their accreditation assessment with only one minor Non-conformity under ISO 17025 and zero non-conformities for ABFT.	Complete
May 1, 2026	<i>Open Forum Infectious Diseases</i> journal article	WSLH Communicable Disease Division Associate Director Dr. Alana Sterkel was a co-author on – 16S rRNA Bacterial Identification in Evaluation of Orthopedic Infections and its Limited Role in Antimicrobial Stewardship <i>Open Forum Infectious Diseases</i> , Volume 13, Issue 5, May 2026, ofag262, https://doi.org/10.1093/ofid/ofag262 The article is the product of collaboration between Dr. Sterkel and several colleagues at UW Hospital and contributes to the field by describing the impact, utility, and strategies around 16S sequencing in clinical microbiology diagnostics.	Complete
May 1, 2026	Forward Pediatric Alliance Research Forum; 2026 European	Dr. Xiangqiang (XQ) Shao, director of WSLH Cytogenetics and Molecular Genetics, gave a talk entitled “Monogenic and Polygenic Testing in a US	Complete

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	Atherosclerosis Society (EAS) Annual Conference	<p>Cohort of Pediatric Patients with Clinically Diagnosed Familial Hypercholesterolemia”.</p> <p>This study was also presented as a “Science at a Glance (SaaG)” Presentation at the 2026 European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS) Annual Conference in May 2026.</p>	
May 3-7, 2026	APHL Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD	<p>Several WSLH scientists presented session talks and posters at the 2026 Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) annual conference – see list below.</p> <p>Also, Dr. Heather Barkholtz, with the WSLH Forensic Toxicology Section and the UW School of Pharmacy, was a member of the conference Poster Planning Committee. And Dr. Alana Sterkel, Associate Director of the WSLH Communicable Disease Division, showcased her expertise by winning the “Weird Science” knowledge competition.</p> <p><u>Presentations</u></p> <p>Exposure Files: Solving Biosafety Mysteries! - Erin Bowles, (emeritus) Communicable Disease Division</p> <p>Navigating CIDT False Positives: A Tale of Two Laboratories – Dr. Allen Bateman, Communicable Disease Division</p> <p>Weird Science: Solving Public Health Puzzles - Meshel Lange, Chemical Emergency Response</p> <p>Drugs, Data, Demographics: Combating Nonfatal Overdoses with a National Overdose Biosurveillance System - Amy Miles, Forensic Toxicology</p> <p>You’ve Got A Friend in Me! The Impact of Outreach to First Responders - Meshel Lange, Chemical Emergency Response</p> <p><u>Posters</u></p>	Complete

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		<p>Updated Malaria PCR to Expand Species Identification - Trishie Conlan and Dr. Alana Sterkel, Communicable Disease Division</p> <p>Using Wastewater Surveillance to Monitor Diseases During Large Gatherings in Wisconsin - Erica Henning, Regan Wied, Devin Everett, Evelyn Doolittle, Griffin Knuth, Laura Simonson, Oliver Long, Shreya Shrestha, Martha Kuka, Leah Fannin, Dr. Adélaïde Roguet, Dr. Martin Shafer, Environmental Health Division</p> <p>Wisconsin Wastewater Monitoring Program: Comparison of Norovirus Levels in Wastewater to Clinical Surveillance Data - Shreya Shrestha, Devin G Everett, Dr. Adélaïde Roguet, Dr. Dagmara Antkiewicz, Dr. Jocelyn Hemming, Dr. Martin Shafer, Environmental Health Division and Dr. Allen Bateman and Sherry Buechner, Communicable Disease Division</p> <p>Optimization of a Digital PCR Assay for Monitoring Borrelia burgdorferi from Wastewater for Public Health Surveillance of Lyme Disease - Leah Fannin, Evelyn Doolittle, Dr. Dagmara Antkiewicz, Environmental Health Division</p> <p>Optimizing Nucleic Acid Concentration and Extraction from Wastewater to Preserve Quality for Sequencing Applications - Kaitlyn Schaaf, Martha Kuka, Griffin Knuth, Dr. Adélaïde Roguet, Dr. Auguste Dutcher, Dr. Dagmara Antkiewicz, Environmental Health Division.</p>	
May 14, 2026	Outrider Science Media Forum	NADP Coordinator Dr. Sarah Benish was part of the panel “Legacies Revisited: Updates on Historic Environmental Successes” at the Outrider Science Media Forum.	Complete
May 17-20, 2026	49th American Cytogenomics Conference	Dr. Leah Frater-Rubsam and Eric Johnson from WSLH Cytogenetics and Molecular Genetics attended the 49th American Cytogenomics Conference in San Diego, California. Dr. Frater-Rubsam also presented her work as a poster for “Evaluating the Illumina Genome Diversity Array with Cytogenetics platform for detecting copy number variants in Central Nervous System tumors”.	Complete

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May 19, 2026	UW-Madison Global Health Institute webinar “Cannabis and One Health: Connecting People, Planet, and Policy”	Dr. Heather Barkholtz with WSLH Forensic Toxicology and the UW School of Pharmacy was part of an expert panel for this virtual event exploring the interdisciplinary applications of cannabis across medicine, agriculture, sustainability, and policy	Complete
May 19-21, 2026	WPHA-WALHDAB Annual Conference	<p>WSLH Director Dr. Rudy Johnson, Communications Manager Jan Klawitter, Environmental Health Division Customer Service and Data Management Supervisor Kathleen Dax-Klister and Wastewater Surveillance Microbiologist Evelyn Doolittle attended the Wisconsin Public Health Association-Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Board annual conference.</p> <p>Ms. Doolittle presented a poster “Sequencing Pathogens from Wastewater for Public Health Action in Wisconsin” and Ms. Klawitter and Ms. Dax-Klister staffed a WSLH exhibit table at the conference.</p>	Complete
May 21, 2026	WXPR radio story on wildfire smoke in Wisconsin’s Northwoods	<p>NADP Coordinator Dr. Saran Benish was interviewed by WXPR public radio for a story on the impact of wildfire smoke on Wisconsin’s Northwoods -</p> <p>As wildfire seasons worsen, the Northwoods is likely to see more frequent smoky summers</p>	Complete
May 21, 2026	Wisconsin Wastewater Monitoring Program website launch	<p>The Wisconsin Wastewater Monitoring Program website went live on May 21st. It is administered by WSLH’s wastewater team & includes pages on program overview, history, wastewater dashboards, as well as multiple resource pages, including laboratory, utility, proficiency testing and public health resources https://wastewatermonitoring.wisc.edu/</p>	Complete
May 22, 2026	3 rd Wastewater Professionals Appreciation Day	<p>Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers proclaimed May 22, 2026 as Wastewater Professionals Appreciation Day throughout the State of Wisconsin. This 3rd annual celebration of Wastewater Professionals in Wisconsin was initiated by the Wisconsin Wastewater Monitoring Program (WWMP) to specifically acknowledge the partnership of Wisconsin’s wastewater utilities, state</p>	Complete

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		<p>and local public health professionals and the state laboratory to protect the public health of Wisconsinites through wastewater monitoring. Members of the WWMP visited a total of 10 wastewater treatment facilities handing out Than-You cards, impact reports, copies of the governor’s proclamation and sweet treats.</p> <p>Channel 3000 coverage; https://www.channel3000.com/news/ever-recognizes-wisconsin-wastewater-professionals/article_c1493412-f3aa-49be-b0d1-9ff16031f009.html</p>	
May 26 th	APHL ID Committee	Dr. Alana Sterkel, Associate Director of the Communicable Disease Division, was selected as Vice Chair of the National Infectious Disease Committee, highlighting WSLH’s leadership and influence in shaping national infectious disease efforts.	Ongoing
May 29, 2026	WCLN Virology Conference	The WSLH Communicable Disease Division hosted a full-day in-person meeting at the Fluno Center on the UW-Madison campus. Attended by more than 80 people, presenters were from WSLH, WI Department of Health Services, Marshfield Clinic Research Foundation, and UW. The meeting was a very good mix of clinical laboratorians, public health (local and state), and researchers. Attendee feedback was overwhelmingly positive.	Complete
June 2026	<i>American Journal of Infection Control</i> article	<p>Dr. Abigail Shockey, Alicia Mooney, Dr. Allen Bateman and Dr. Nathan Simon were co-authors on -</p> <p><u>Use of whole genome sequencing in a bronchoscopy-related pseudo-outbreak of <i>Mycobacterium mucoogenicum</i> linked to ice machines</u></p> <p><i>American Journal of Infection Control</i>, Volume 54, Issue 6, June 2026, Pages 691-696, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2026.01.004</p>	Complete