

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Board of Directors Meeting
September 9, 2026
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm**

APPROVED MINUTES

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

<1:00-4:00 PM>

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- | | |
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| ☒ Chair, Dr. Mark Werner (DHS) | ☒ John Larson |
| ☒ Vice Chair, Hasmik Mkrtchyan | ☒ Greg Pils (DNR) |
| ☒ Secretary, Dr. Rudy Johnson | ☒ Dr. Christopher Strang |
| ☒ Dr. Jon Audhya (SMPH) | ☒ Zana Sijan (WDNR alternate) |
| ☒ Jessica Blahník | ☒ Becca Fahney (WDNR alternate) |
| ☒ Dr. Robert Corliss | ☐ Paula Tran (DHS alternate) |
| ☒ Gina Green-Harris | ☐ Anna Benton (DHS alternate) |
| ☒ Gil Kelley (DATCP) | |
| ☐ Rebecca Rowland | |

WSLH STAFF PRESENT:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☒ Dr. Errin Rider | ☒ Sheila Jager |
| ☒ Steve Strebel | ☒ Nate Lepak |
| ☒ Sara Anderson | ☒ Erin Mani |
| ☒ Allen Benson | ☒ Marty Collins |
| ☒ Martina Allen | ☒ Dr. Jocelyn Hemming |
| ☒ Jan Klawitter | |
| ☒ Nancy McLean | |
| ☐ Dr. Al Bateman | |

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GUESTS PRESENT: Kate Florek, Sara Balge and Rachel Klemp North from Marathon County Health Department. Leah Schuppener attended on behalf of Board Member Jessica Blahnik at beginning of meeting.

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

Item 1. ROLL CALL

Chair Dr. Mark Werner called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM.

At, 1:03 PM Chair Werner asked 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 1:06 PM, Chair Werner entertained a motion to approve the March 18, 2026 and May 11, 2026 minutes as submitted. Dr. Chris Strang moved for approval and Hasmik Mkrtchyan seconded. A voice vote to approve the minutes for the record was passed unanimously at 1:07 PM.

Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA

None

Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

None

Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS

None

BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 6. FINANCIAL REPORT AND FY27 BUDGET

Martina Allen was introduced as the new WSLH Director of Finance, having joined the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene on June 1, 2026. WSLH IT Director Allen Benson presented the financial statement through May 31, 2026, noting that the "All Funds Income Statement" showed an excess of revenue over expenses totaling approximately \$10,028,634. He explained that as this is the first year-end close using the Workday system, some items were still being processed through the end of June. WSLH Finance Manager Nate Lepak confirmed

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that the laboratory expects to close out Fiscal Year 2026 with a small surplus. Al Benson then presented the *Projected FY27 Budget*, which includes a total projected revenue of \$69,209,155 (factoring in a proposed price increase of \$950,000) and total expenses of \$72,202,925. While this indicates a projected deficit of \$2,993,770, Mr. Benson reiterated that the WSLH has sufficient reserves to cover this gap. At 1:15 PM, WSLH Board of Directors Chair Dr. Mark Werner requested a motion to approve the budget. Hasmik Mkrtchyan moved for approval, seconded by Dr. Chris Strang; the motion passed unanimously at 1:16 PM.

Item 7. MARATHON COUNTY: MAXIMIZING THE WELLTAP PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Kate Florek, Sara Balge, and Rachel Klemp-North presented on Marathon County's implementation of the WellTap program for fee-exempt private well water testing. As the largest county by land mass in Wisconsin, Marathon County focused its efforts on reaching rural residents who rely on private wells. The presentation included a demonstration of the Monday.com software utilized by the health department to develop the implementation plan and track progress.

Key points of the presentation included:

- **Strategic Outreach:** The county modified materials from the DHS and WSLH to tailor them to local audiences and partnered with numerous community organizations for public engagement.
- **Operational Challenges:** The team addressed hurdles such as software adoption, correcting improper sampling techniques that required re-shipping kits, and the logistical difficulty of reaching remote rural populations.
- **Sustainability:** Long-term goals involve continued monitoring of program data and costs, which are primarily driven by the significant staff time required for administration and external communications.

Item 8. CONTRACTS REPORT WSLH IT Director Al Benson provided a brief update on the Contracts Report for June 2026, referring the Board members to the detailed information provided in their meeting packets for specific contract figures and renewals.

Item 9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT WSLH Communications Manager Jan Klawitter presented the Public Relations Report, highlighting significant lab activities and achievements from March through June 2026; all of which can be located in the WSLH Board Meeting Packet.

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ADJOURNMENT At 2:07 PM, WSLH Board of Directors Chair Dr. Mark Werner entertained a motion to adjourn. Hasmik Mkrtchyan offered the motion, which was seconded by Dr. Chris Strang. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:08 PM.