

Laboratory Certification Standards Review Council Meeting Minutes From 11/18/2014

Attendance

Council Members: **In Person:** Kirsti Sorsa (Vice-Chair), Pat Gorski, Paul Junio, Sharon Mertens [via Lync], Kurt Birkett (Secretary), Jennifer Peth [via Lync]
absent: Paul Harris

DNR LabCert Staff: Steve Geis, Rick Mealy, Tom Trainor [via Lync], Brandy Baker-Muhich [via Lync]

Others in Attendance: Tom Hungerford (SF Labs), Craig Martin (WE Energies), Liesa Lehmann-Kerler (DNR Private Water Supply), Ron Arneson (DNR Lab Liaison), RT Krueger (Northern Lake Service) [via Lync]

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am

Minutes from meeting of August 12, 2014

- o **Action:** *A motion (Birkett/Junio) to approve the August 12, 2014 minutes with one minor modification passed.*

Program Performance Status Report for FY 2015 Year-to-Date

- o Audits - Commercial/Public Health: **11** (34); Municipal/Industrial: **26** (89)
- o Reports - Commercial/Public Health: **10** (34); Municipal/Industrial: **24** (89)
 - o Reports Due - Commercial/Public Health: **4**; Municipal/Industrial: **6**
- o Closures - Commercial/Public Health: **10** (34); Municipal/Industrial: **21** (89)
 - o Open Cases - Commercial/Public Health: **21**; Municipal/Industrial: **34**
- o For the fiscal year 2015 to-date, **69.4%** of reports for audits conducted were issued within 30 days
- o Concern was again expressed regarding the longstanding open case for Summit Environmental Technologies. The council asked that deadlines not be allowed to slide again and requested a status update at the January 2015 council meeting.
- o There was a question about whether an internal timeframe for the length of an audit has been established. Junio encouraged the program to spend more time in the lab and limit the amount of time in conference rooms. RT Krueger suggested that audit length be tied to the number of RVUs. Tom Hungerford commented that there would be value in having a template that would indicate to labs what would be reviewed during the audit.
- o Geis asked if anyone had any information to share on what other agencies are doing.
- o Regarding open cases, Junio asked if we are awaiting a response or are we determining whether a response is acceptable (or is something else causing the delay).

Budget Variance Report for FY 2015

- The following information represents the final expenditures for fiscal 2015. Note that data for fringes and supplies was for only 3 months (through September 2014).

	BUDGET	ACTUAL	% of BUDGET
Salary	\$301,882	\$ 88,742	29.4%
Indirect labor	\$ 20,916	\$ 21,379	102%
Fringe	\$150,779	\$ 40,130	26.7%
SALARY+ FRINGE	\$473,577	\$ 150,251	31.7%
Contractor	\$ 44,000	\$ 7,648	17.4%
Travel, Supplies & IT	\$ 44,050	\$ 6,083	13.8%
Indirect supplies	\$ 18,600	\$ 7,104	18.3%
Additional Allocables	\$ 20,175	-----	
SUPPLIES/IT	\$106,825	\$ 20,825	19.5%
FY2015 BUDGET	\$580,402	\$171,087	29.4%
<i>Allocables</i>	<i>\$60,398</i>	<i>\$ 28,484</i>	<i>47.1%</i>

Request for a New PT Provider Approval

- **Action:** *A motion (Junio/Mertens) to approve Advanced Analytical Solutions, LLC as a PT Provider, pending submission of an appropriately formatted electronic data set, passed.*

Other DNR Business

- Variances - No variance requests were received.
- NR 812 changes update - Liesa Lehmann, chief of the Private Water Supply section was available to provide background on the recently promulgated changes to NR 812.
 - * It was the program's intent to not have sample handling requirements in rule.
 - * Water Supply understand that there are a number of technical issues related to certification requirements, sample security, preservation & holding time, audit requirements, and reporting requirements. Liesa is working to come up with answers to address concerns. Some have code requirements; others do not.
 - * The plan is to develop guidance that goes through the public comment process.
 - * One idea on the table is to allow preservation and holding requirements to be bypassed [for NR 812 samples] provided that results are qualified as "not suitable for safe drinking water compliance".
 - * One significant concern is that if qualifying sample results that do not meet SDWA requirements is allowed for samples under NR 812, then the practice will extend to public water samples under NR 809. RT Krueger commented that it is both difficult and dangerous to have two sets of standards. Not only does it set the stage for questioning sample results, but it puts labs that comply with rules for all samples at a competitive disadvantage.
 - * There is concern that while the recent NR 812 changes raise the quality of private well program data, there is the potential risk of decreasing the quality of public water supply [NR 809] data.
 - * Geis indicated that the Private Well program would keep us informed and this group would be re-convened as needed. There was also discussion of potentially re-convening the original NR 812 workgroup to understand the opposition to preservation and holding time requirements.
 - * **Action:** *A motion (Junio/Sorsa) to add NR 812 as a covered program as part of the current NR 149 rule revision process passed.*
- LDES Survey – Ron Arneson briefed members about a survey that will be conducted this winter regarding changes to the lab data entry system.

Council Member Issues

- none.

Next Meeting Date

- **Action:** *The next Council meeting was scheduled for 9:30 AM CDT Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at the DNR Science Operations Center (2801 Progress Road, Madison). An afternoon session, devoted to discussing changes to NR 149, beginning at 1:00 PM, CDT.*

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.