

**Laboratory Certification Standards Review Council Meeting Minutes From 11/10/2015**

**Attendance**

Council Members: **In Person:** Paul Harris (Chair), Miel Barman, Kevin Freber, Paul Junio, Kurt Birkett (Secretary), Sharon Mertens,  
**via Skype:** Jennifer Peth  
DNR Staff: Steve Geis, Rick Mealy  
Others in Attendance: Craig Martin (WE Energies)

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 am

**Minutes from meeting of August 11, 2015**

- o **Action:** *A motion (Mertens/Junio) to approve the August 11, 2015 minutes as presented was unanimously approved.*

**Program Performance Status Report for FY 2016 Year-to-Date**

- Audits - Commercial/Public Health: **11** (34); Municipal/Industrial: **24**(89)
- Reports - Commercial/Public Health: **10** (34); Municipal/Industrial: **23** (89)
  - o Reports Due - Commercial/Public Health: **4**; Municipal/Industrial: **3**
- Closures - Commercial/Public Health: **11** (34); Municipal/Industrial: **18** (89)
  - o Open Cases - Commercial/Public Health: **23**; Municipal/Industrial: **25**
- For the fiscal year 2015 to-date, **72.7%** of reports for audits conducted were issued within 30 days

**Budget Variance Report for FY 2016**

- o The following information represents the best estimate of spending to-date. The Department switched financial systems in October, and it was not possible to generate an accurate, detailed report of spending using the new system. It is anticipated that the information would be available in January. Finance was able to provide the following best estimate of the LabCert account status.

<b>FY16 BEGINNING CASH BAL</b>	<b>\$ 609,267</b>
<b>FY16 REVENUE COLLECTED</b>	<b>\$ 83,524</b>
<b>FY16 EXPENDITURES (YTD)</b>	<b>\$(263,082)</b>
<b>FY15 LAPSE</b>	<b>\$ --- 0 ---</b>
<b>Estimated CASH BALANCE (11/1/15)</b>	<b>\$ 429,709</b>

<b>— FY 2016 Budgeted expenses (assumes 2x current spending)</b>	<b>\$ (526,164)</b>
<b>= projected balance at close of FY 16??</b>	<b>~ \$(96,455)</b>

Current allocables = \$ 50,597 (budgeted \$62,312)  
Projects to \$151,791

**Other DNR Business**

- o Variances - No variance requests were received.
- o NR 812 Status – There appears to be a “slide” in Bacteria holding times which some attribute to NR 812 rules that allow 48 hours.

- Radiochemistry/Asbestos – Steve Geis continues to work on reviewing audit (TNI and DOD) reports from all labs and ultimately will develop a PDF file of “approved” labs for the website.
- Ammonia...or ammonium? – An issue that rears its head from time to time is ammonia reporting for biosolids for land application. DNR forms indicate that ammonium is to be reported, but it should be ammonia as NH<sub>3</sub>. We will work with Basin Engineers and the BioSolids Coordinator to resolve the issue.
- NR 149 Status – It was agreed to hold an all-day 149 workgroup session on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Some discussion ensued regarding lifting the RVU caps and whether that changed the scope of the rule change, but ultimately it was agreed to proceed with lifting the RVU caps that largely serve only as cost relief for commercial labs. It was also agreed that Paul Kent should be contacted to ensure that the Municipal Environmental Group (MEG) is presented with an accurate picture of the scope of the proposed rule change.
- Contractor Transition Planning – Steve Geis indicated that it was unlikely that the program would obtain approval to hire an FTE, therefore we should look towards the LTE route. In addition, while hiring someone for July 1 would be optimal, we will likely have to delay that hire due to the Legislative reduction made to our Spending Authority.

#### **Council Issues**

- SDWA Holding time for nitrate in preserved samples – Paul Junio raised concern that NR 809 (14 days) contradicts the holding time in the federal register (28 days). He is looking for clarity with respect to the true holding time the agency mandates. We will need to discuss with Steve Elmore.
- LOD Guidance – Miel Barman indicated that there are discrepancies between the LabCert program, TNI, and the EPA. Paul Junio added some additional complexity with respect to the EPA language relative to TNI’s guidance.

#### **Next Meeting Date**

- **Action:** *The next Council meeting was scheduled for 9:30 AM CST Tuesday, January 5, 2016 at the DNR Science Operations Center (2801 Progress Road, Madison). An NR 149 workgroup session was scheduled from 1:00 to 3:30 PM at the same site.*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 AM.