

## Laboratory Certification Standards Review Council Meeting Minutes From 5/3/2016

### Attendance

Council Members: **In Person:** Paul Harris (Chair), Kurt Birkett (Secretary), Paul Junio, Sharon Mertens, Kevin Freber, Miel Barman  
**via Skype:** Jennifer Peth  
DNR Staff: Steve Geis, Rick Mealy, John Condron, Tom Trainor, Brandy Baker-Muhich (Skype)  
Others in Attendance: Julie Klimek and Jennifer Buchholz (Davy Labs)

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 am

### Minutes from meeting of January 5, 2016

- o **Action:** A motion (Mertens/ Freber) to approve the January 5, 2016 minutes with one minor correction was unanimously approved.

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

- Audits - Commercial/Public Health: **31** (35); Municipal/Industrial: **64**(86)
- Reports - Commercial/Public Health: **29** (35); Municipal/Industrial: **63** (86)
  - o Reports Due - Commercial/Public Health: **7**; Municipal/Industrial: **3**
- Closures - Commercial/Public Health: **31** (35); Municipal/Industrial: **52** (86)
  - o Open Cases - Commercial/Public Health: **25**; Municipal/Industrial: **30**
- For the fiscal year 2016 to-date, **75.0%** of reports for audits conducted were issued within 30 days
- o There was interest in having the LabCert web lists be "live" such that real-time lab information on active accreditations was available. We've talked about this for many years, the Department lacks the resources to enable such functionality while retaining system security.
- o A status update of the Summit Environmental audit was requested. Tom Trainor reported that ICP deficiencies not cited previously are the only items remaining that require corrective action. Following much discussion, the consensus was that it was time for the lab to either withdraw from its ICP accreditations or face enforcement action.
- o Tom Trainor asked how we could get NELAP "on board" with Wisconsin's approach to ICP analysis. Sharon Mertens pointed out that such a thing is not a NELAP issue. Paul Junio added that our ICP approach would be a great issue for an Assessors Forum.
- o Kevin Freber added some comments that subsequently ignited a great discussion of ICP training and bringing it to a larger, national audience. The decision was made to pursue offering a presentation as part of the next Assessor's Forum and then consider contacting NELAP about a time slot at either the August 2016, or, more realistically, the January 2017 NELAC meeting.

### Budget Variance Report for FY 2016

- o The following information represents the best estimate of spending to-date. Finance was able to provide the following best estimate of the LabCert account status. There appear to be some errors; most notably, it appears to include expenses for both Operator Certification and Lab Certifications. We hope to have this resolved by the August Council meeting. There is also no allocables accounting.

<b>FY16 BEGINNING CASH BAL</b>	<b>\$ 609,267</b>
<b>FY16 REVENUE COLLECTED</b>	<b>\$ 97,032</b>
<b>FY16 EXPENDITURES (YTD)</b>	<b>\$(574,679)</b>
<b>FY15 LAPSE</b>	<b>\$ --- 0 ---</b>
<b>Estimated CASH BALANCE (2/29/16)</b>	<b>\$ 131,620</b>
<b>— FY remaining 2016 projected expenses</b>	
<b>A. Using 1/3 of expenditures to date</b>	<b>\$ (191,560)</b>
<b>B. Using 1/3 of budgeted expenses</b>	<b>\$ (158,937)</b>
<b>= projected balance at close of FY 16??</b>	<b>~ \$(25-60K)</b>

## Other DNR Business

- Variances - No variance requests were received.
- Council Vacancies – This meeting served as Kurt Birkett's last after two 3-yr terms as the small wastewater Representative. The group thanked Kurt for his service and Steve Geis presented him with a certificate. We will need to seek a replacement by July 1. Kevin Freber indicated that he would send out information via the WWOA Board of Directors.
- LOD-LOQ Challenge – The LabCert program attorney reviewed our language and has determined that, *“the intent of NR 149.48(2)(f) was that there must be some sort of mathematical relationship between the LOD and the LOQ and the DNR should have authority to require such a relationship.”* Paul Junio cautioned that it is useful to remember that the source of the existing language is from the 2003 NELAC standard, in which the LOQ is interpreted to be the lowest concentration which can be reliably reported.
- NR 149 Status – Paul Harris wanted know when there would be closure. Tom Trainor indicated that a final copy for review by the Council would be available this calendar year, targeting August. The plan remains to go to the Natural Resources Board to request to put the rule out for public comment in late 2016 or early 2017.
- Waste Testing – Rick Mealy informed the Council that the program is actively reviewing test parameters and auditing approaches for waste treatment, storage, and disposal (TSD) labs performing waste characterization. There has long been a disconnect in terms of what certifications we offer and what requirements should be incorporated. Not all such testing need be subject to the rigors of NR 149 quality control protocols.
- PCB – The Council was also informed about work the LabCert Program is doing to standardize PCB identification and quantitation. We all talk about identifying PCBs by their “pattern”, but what does that actually mean? Further, most labs lack detail in their SOP to document how pattern recognition is performed.

## Next Meeting Date

- **Action:** *The next Council meeting was scheduled for 10:00 AM CDT Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at the DNR Science Operations Center (2801 Progress Road, Madison).*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.