

Laboratory Certification Standards Review Council Meeting Minutes From 8/2/2016

Attendance

Council Members: **In Person:** Paul Harris (Chair), Sharon Mertens (Vice Chair), Kevin Freber (Secretary), Tom Kutz, Paul Junio, Miel Barman
Absent: Jennifer Peth
DNR Staff: Steve Geis, Rick Mealy,
John Condron, Dave Ekern, Tom Trainor, Brandy Baker-Muhich (*all via Skype*)
Others in Attendance: N/A

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am

Minutes from meeting of May 3, 2016

- o **Action:** A motion (Mertens/ Freber) to approve the May 3, 2016 minutes, with a minor correction, was unanimously approved.

Program Performance Closeout FY 2016

- Audits - Commercial/Public Health: **36** (35); Municipal/Industrial: **81** (86)
- Reports - Commercial/Public Health: **37** (35); Municipal/Industrial: **82** (86)
 - o **Reports Due - Commercial/Public Health: 5; Municipal/Industrial: 4**
- Closures - Commercial/Public Health: **41** (35); Municipal/Industrial: **77** (86)
 - o **Open Cases - Commercial/Public Health: 23; Municipal/Industrial: 22**
- For the fiscal year 2016, **72.6%** of reports for audits conducted were issued within 30 days
- 90-117% on Audits/Reports/Closure goals
- Responded to 7 new lab applications
- Made progress with respect to changes to auditing “waste” labs.
- o There was again 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 There was a discussion regarding the number of small municipal WWTP labs that continue to withdraw from the program and what we can do to encourage municipalities to continue their accreditations. Kevin Freber noted that it is important for municipal administrators to understand that effective wastewater treatment requires process control testing, which still requires a lab for timely information. We will continue to seek an opportunity to present something to the League of Municipalities.
- o From the Large Scope Labs audit priority List, Paul Junio asked about Summit Environmental, noting that the lab appears to have withdrawn its accreditations for drinking water testing. Tom Trainer added that the lab withdrew certifications for ICP testing as well. This led to a discussion of parameters for which only a small number of labs are accredited (e.g. PCBs in drinking water). The program will work towards developing a list of parameters for which only less than 5 labs are accredited.

Budget Variance Report for FY 2016

- o We received some information, which shows \$690,800 in revenues with \$883,200 in expenditures for a net loss of \$192,400. These numbers do not appear to agree with either projected revenues or historical expenditures.
- o Unfortunately, due to software changes, we were not able to obtain a more accurate accounting of fiscal 2016 revenues and expenditures. We hope to have one for the next meeting.

Other DNR Business

- o Variations - No variance requests were received.
- o Staffing Update – George Bowman will be staying on at least through June 2017, so no LTE hire is necessary. Dave Ekern will be leaving the program in mid-January 2017 to pursue a new career. Steve Geis learned from Human Resources (HR) that there is a process which enables a program such as ours

to start the hiring process and possibly hire a replacement before the incumbent leaves. Sharon Mertens and Paul Junio will post something at the meeting they will be attending next week.

- NR 149 Status –Tom Trainor indicated that he would be working on the rule change in the next week and hopes to schedule a meeting with the Council in September/October.
- ICP Training at Assessor's Forum – Mealy and Geis reported back on the ICP session presented during the May Assessor's Forum. The full day session had to be edited down to about 45 minutes and there were some technical difficulties in members being able to view slides, but all in all it went well. We had some follow-up contacts from several attendees.

Steve Geis added that it would be great to be able to present the session at the NELAC meeting in Houston in January 2017 or in August 2017 in Washington DC.

- NR 219 Proposed Rule will switch emphasis from Fecal Coliforms to E. coli. –A Scoping Statement has been generated, which has received Governor approval. A link to the documents will sent to Council Members.
- Total PCBs: Quantitation & LOD – The program presented this issue which the LabCert program struggles with. Most labs report results in terms of individual Aroclors, yet regulations are based on Total PCBs. There are also many conventions for establishing how the LOD for total PCBs is determined. The program continues to explore options to generate more consistency in PCB determinations.
- Waste Testing – Rick Mealy updated the Council that the program has worked with the Waste program and is fine-tuning a list of parameters that are critical for “waste” labs and which tests should require accreditation based on their Waste Analysis Plans (WAP).
- LOD of a Calculated Parameter –A lab has asked how to determine the LOD of a parameter which is strictly derived from the results of a calculation from two or more other parameters. Paul Junio suggested that these may need to be case specific. Alternatively, we could adopt the approach used by Florida, in which “calculated” parameters are exempt from requiring an LOD.
- Solid Matrix LODs –LabCert has generally been requiring labs to perform a separate LOD determination for the solid matrix, but there are many ways to do that, and the question has arisen as to whether or not these values have merit. NR 149.48(2) discusses the LOD requirement in terms of “test” rather than “matrix + test”. LabCert will continue to have discussion on this topic.
- F.O.G vs. H.E.M. –Mealy reported that there were a lot of issues with labs analyzing an inappropriate sample (or reporting an inappropriate method) for Oil& Grease (HEM). Adding to that is a lack of clarity with respect to what DNR programs are looking for. HEM is a method for determining the sum of petroleum related hydrocarbons and animal/vegetable related fats and grease. There is a need for better guidance regarding DNR program needs. LabCert plans to initiate discussions with the Watershed program.

Other DNR Business

- Paul Harris requested that the archive of past Council minutes on the website be updated.

Next Meeting Date

- **Action:** *The next Council meeting was scheduled for 10:00 AM CDT Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at the DNR Science Operations Center (2801 Progress Road, Madison).*

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 PM.