

Laboratory Certification Standards Review Council Meeting Minutes From 8/11/2011

Attendance

Council Members: Dave Kliber (Chair), Randy Thater, Kirsti Sorsa, Judy Tholen [via conferencing]
Absent: Sue Hill, Chris Groh

DNR Staff: Camille Turcotte, Rick Mealy

Others in Attendance: Tom Priebe (Northern Lake Service), Dawn Kearns (TestAmerica Watertown), Paul Harris (Davy Labs), Craig Martin (WE Energies), Pat Gorski (SLH, *attending for Sue Hill*)

Others via conferencing: Dave Ekern (DNR), Tom Hungerford (S-F Analytical), Sharon Mertens (Milwaukee MSD)

Minutes from May 10, 2011 Meeting

- o **Action:** *A motion (Thater/Sorsa) to approve the minutes with no corrections/changes was approved.*
- o General consensus was that the new format for the minutes provides a good concise summary.

Program Performance Status Report for End of the Year FY2011 and FY 2012 Year-to-Date

- o The following information was reported to the Council for the fiscal year ending June 30,2011:
 - Audits - Commercial/Public Health: **21** (35); Municipal/Industrial: **94** (97)
 - Reports - Commercial/Public Health: **33** (35); Municipal/Industrial: **96** (97)
 - Closures - Commercial/Public Health: **30** (35); Municipal/Industrial: **92** (97)
- o The following information was reported to the Council for the fiscal year beginning July 1,2011:
 - Audits - Commercial/Public Health: **0** (34); Municipal/Industrial: **4** (94)
 - Reports - Commercial/Public Health: **4** (34); Municipal/Industrial: **3** (94)
 - o Reports Due - Commercial/Public Health: 0; Municipal/Industrial: 4
 - Closures - Commercial/Public Health: **2** (34); Municipal/Industrial: **2** (94)
 - o Open Cases- Commercial/Public Health: 16; Municipal/Industrial: 53
- o For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, 79.1% of reports for audits conducted were issued within 30 days. For fiscal 2010, the compliance rate was 55%. Since January 1, 2011, 85% of reports for audits conducted have been issued within 30 days.

Auditor Consistency

- o Checklist generation has been slowed due to staffing issues. The program continues to develop them as workload permits.
- o On July 19-20th, the LabCert program was audited by EPA Region V (Pat Churilla) for compliance with drinking water program requirements. A report is expected by the end of August, but the only concerns expressed during the de-brief were:
 - We need a statement of potential conflict of interest for auditors for labs they will audit.
 - Program training records are incomplete (some staff could not locate their Certification Office certificates issued by EPA Region V).
 - The program needs to develop a plan to address accreditation for drinking water radiologicals.

Budget Variance Report

- o The following information was reported to the Council for the close of fiscal 2011:

	<u>Actual \$</u>	<u>Budgeted \$</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
FY 2011 BUDGET	\$ 519,830	\$ 590,857	88.0%
<i>Salary/Fringe</i>	\$ 458,134	\$ 516,557	88.7%
<i>Supplies&Services</i>	\$ 47,896	\$ 59,000	81.2%
<i>IT Subtotal</i>	\$ 13,800	\$ 15,300	90.2%

- o The state will lapse \$52,000 of LabCert program funds in each of fiscal 2012 and fiscal 2013. A letter to the Governor's office from the Council was submitted but we have not received any response. The lapse of \$104,000 over two years is very likely.

Other DNR Business

- Variances - No variance requests were received.
- Program Vacancies - Tom Trainor was selected for one of two Advanced Chemist when the positions were opened for internal transfer in the spring. In opting to fill his vacant Senior Chemist position as an Advanced, the program was required to once again open the position initially for internal transfer. One candidate has emerged, so an interview will be conducted soon. Depending on the outcome, we will announce 1 or 2 Advanced Chemist positions externally.

A more pressing situation is the need to replace Mary Wagner (Operator Certification) who accepted an internal transfer.

- Service Recognition - Camille Turcotte formally acknowledged Steve Jossart' service on the Council for two 3-year terms. A certificate of appreciation is being prepared for DNR Secretary Cathy Stepp's signature.
- Council Vacancies - In that she no longer is involved in wastewater treatment, Council member Judy Tholen will be moved into the vacant Agricultural Interest seat. The program will then work to fill vacancies for Industrial, Hazardous Waste, and Small WWTP seats.
- New Accreditations – Based on changes to NR 809, a list of new drinking water accreditations that will be offered after September 1 was announced.
- Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Capability – In the wake of SF Labs withdrawing its WET accreditation, there have been some issues with lab capability. One lab (Environmental Consulting & Testing) has geared up for additional workload and another lab is considering applying for accreditation. The LabCert program believes that the three labs currently accredited for WET testing should be able to handle the workload. The State Lab of Hygiene is a possibility, but will only accept samples if a permittee cannot locate an accredited lab with capacity for their samples.
- Phosphorus LOD Survey – The program released preliminary results from a survey conducted in March. Based on data provided, only 44% of labs would be able to meet an anticipated Total Phosphorus LOD requirement of 0.03 ppm. Adding to the concern was the fact that only 42% of labs submitting data provided valid, defensible LOD data. 16% of labs submitted an invalid LOD which did not meet one or more of the criteria established by the EPA. 42% of labs provided an LOD that was questionable when reviewed against blank data. Full data will be presented at the fall WWOA conference. As soon as the program receives any tangible information from Watershed, it will be shared with labs.
- Ammonia Test 'N Tube – The program has been reviewing the colorimetric procedure for ammonia. Hach's "Test 'N Tube " (TNT) method has been approved by the EPA as an equivalent method. However, ch. NR 219 would require samples to be distilled, unless a lab has data on file to demonstrate that distillation is not required. George Bowman coordinated with the Hach Company to perform a study evaluating the need for distillation on a more global basis. Once we have a final assessment, any decision will be communicated to all laboratories.

Council Member Issues

- None.

Next Meeting Date

- **Action:** *The next Council meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2011 at the DNR Science Operations Center (2801 Progress Road, Madison).*

The business meeting was adjourned at 12:30 CDT

An afternoon technical session on Gross Alpha determination was presented by Dr. Mike Arndt of the State Laboratory of Hygiene.