

Laboratory Certification Standards Review Council Meeting Minutes From 5/7/2013

Attendance

Council Members: **In Person:** Randy Thater (Chair), Kirsti Sorsa (Vice-Chair), Pat Gorski, Paul Harris, Paul Junio
via LIVEMeeting: Jennifer Peth, Kurt Birkett (Secretary)

DNR Staff: Camille Turcotte, Rick Mealy

Others in Attendance: Sharon Mertens, (Milwaukee MSD)

Others via LIVEMeeting: Tom Hungerford (S-F Analytical)

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 am

Minutes from meetings of February 5, 2013 and March 14, 2013

- o **Action:** A motion (Harris/Junio) to approve the February 5, 2013 and March 14, 2013 minutes with changes discussed during this meeting was unanimously approved.

Program Performance Status Report for FY 2013 Year-to-Date

- Audits - Commercial/Public Health: **28** (32); Municipal/Industrial: **66** (92)
- Reports - Commercial/Public Health: **27** (32); Municipal/Industrial: **64** (92)
 - o Reports Due - Commercial/Public Health: **4**; Municipal/Industrial: **4**
- Closures - Commercial/Public Health: **29** (32); Municipal/Industrial: **74** (92)
 - o Open Cases - Commercial/Public Health: **17**; Municipal/Industrial: **34**
- For the fiscal year 2013 to-date, **72.2%** of reports for audits conducted were issued within 30 days
- o Paul Harris was appreciative of the backlog management plan provided.

Budget Variance Report

- o The following information was reported to the Council for the fiscal year through March 2013:

	<u>Spent \$</u>	<u>Budgeted \$</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
FY 2013 BUDGET	\$ 408,548	\$ 566,071	72.1%
Salary/Fringe	\$ 347,882	\$ 498,271	69.8%
Supplies & IT	\$ 60,667	\$ 67,800	89.5%

Projected expenditures would be approximately 75% of budgeted amounts.

Allocables through March 2013: \$66,470 (16.3% of total expenses, 27.0% of salary line.

Other DNR Business

- o Variances - No variance requests were received.
- o NR 219 – No further progress has been made due to the number of applications being received.
 - Sharon Mertens asked if the EPA had issued a deadline. Turcotte responded that they simply want this addressed as soon as possible.
- o NR 149 update – Has been green-sheeted for the May NRB meeting. We anticipate receiving NRB approval of this “Scope Statement” stage, which will allow us to begin formally working on the rule.
- o Reciprocity – Ms. Turcotte informed the Council that she will be following up in June with affected labs that have not responded to the program announcement of reciprocity agreement termination. There has been some confusion in Michigan. Our program had only drinking water reciprocity, but we have been told by a number of labs that Michigan also accepts our certification for analysis of wastewaters. We are not anticipating any fallout.
- o Potential technology addition – Rick Mealy discussed the increase in labs performing new technology for determination of available cyanide and that it does not fit within any of the current technologies listed in NR 149. The new technology uses flow injection followed by the use of a gas permeable membrane and then

amperometric detection. Currently accreditation is only offered for colorimetry and titration. The program recommends addition of a new technology to be able to offer this accreditation.

- **Action:** *A motion (Harris/Junio) to add a new technology, Flow Injection-Gas Diffusion-Amperometry, with an associated four (4) RVU cost, was unanimously approved.*
- Council member terms – Kurt Birkett's first term is set to expire July 1, 2013. He expressed interest in staying on for a second term.
 - **Action:** *A motion (Junio/Harris) to extend Kurt Birkett for a second term as the Small Wastewater representative was unanimously approved.*
- Drinking water accreditation additions – A plan was described to roll out all the new drinking water accreditations that will be available through the newly developed ability to maintain a list of additional certifications not appearing in ch. NR 809, Wis. Adm. Code on our website. The plan will include an updated drinking water class-method-analyte application form attachment that will be made available to coordinate with the new fiscal 2014 fee structure which begins July 1, 2013.
- Radiologicals in drinking water – Sharon Mertens asked about the status of this issue. Unfortunately, there is no news to report. We have about a year until the current EPA approvals expire. Paul Junio offered to do what he could to highlight this concern at the EPA level..
- NRB budget approval and Lab of the Year – Camille Turcotte reported that the 2014 program budget was approved without issue and the Lab of the Year award presentation (Watertown WWTP) went smoothly as well.
- Applications – Turcotte wanted to highlight the unprecedented number of applications the program has received, including four from large labs new to the program. While this will help defray program costs for all labs, we won't see that impact until next year's budget. She reminded council members that all the requisite, unanticipated audits are making it increasingly difficult to continue our progress to reducing the audit backlog.
- 1,4-Dioxane in Madison wells – A recent news article announced the detection of 1,4-Dioxane in several Madison drinking water wells. This has resulted in several inquiries about testing capability.
- ICP training venture (with State Lab of Hygiene) – Pat Gorski spoke with DeWayne Kennedy-Parker. Rough costs would be about \$100/attendee plus \$50 per sample to provide a challenge PT sample. Tentative plans are for an early spring 2014 session. Paul Harris asked if a more detailed plan could be brought forward for the August 2013 Council meeting and whether any funding support would be sought. Harris also indicated that he would check on availability of the training room at the Comport Suites in Madison.

Council Member Issues

- NELAC data – Following up on the minutes from February, Paul Harris asked if we had obtained information on NELAC audit report turnaround time. Paul Junio is *working to obtain it.* [TTJJ]
- Solids PTs – Kirsti Sorsa re-inquired why the State Lab does not offer PT samples for total solids (TS). LabCert program staff subsequently indicated that the likely reason is that no PT is required for total residue.
- GEMS changes – Paul Junio spoke with Jack Connelly, who did not understand the full ramifications of the proposed changes to GEMS reporting. Camille agreed to check in with Jack.
- Training – Randy Thater announced that after such a good session last year, WWOA's North Central region is bringing Toni Glymph back for an Advanced Microbiology seminar in Birnamwood (North Central Labs) on August 12 and again at UW-Stevens Point on August 13.

Next Meeting Date

- **Action:** *The next Council meeting was tentatively scheduled for 10:00 AM Wednesday, August 21, 2013 at the DNR Science Operations Center (2801 Progress Road, Madison).*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 am, CDT