

Remote Attendance

Council Members: Kevin Freber (Chair), Craig Obry, Jennifer Buchholz, Paul Junio, Tad Schwartzhoff, Sharon Mertens, Angie Albrecht
DNR Staff: Steve Geis, Tom Trainor, Brandy Baker-Muhich, Zana Sijan, Autumn Farrell
Others: Alfredo Sotomayor (Milw. MSD), Carol Mielke (Mad. MSD)

The meeting was called to order at 9 AM.

Check-In, Agenda Repair, Review/Approval of last meeting minutes

- Kevin asked if there were any agenda repair items and there were none.
- Kevin asked if there were any changes to the minutes from the January 14, 2020 meeting and there were none.
- Sharon moved to pass the minutes as is and Paul seconded.

Business Items

Large-scale lab metrics: July 2019 – March 2020

- Completed versus goals: Audited = 94%, Reports issued = 100%, Closed = 100%.
- Reports issued within 60 days = 81%.
- Audits not closed over 1 year from report date = 2, over 6 months from report date = 1.
- 3-year cycle audits overdue = 5.
- 1 new PFAS lab applied to program since last meeting – not audited.
- 1 new non-PFAS lab applied to program since last meeting – audited.
- 1 lab dropped from program since last meeting.

Small-scale labs: July 2019 – March 2020

- Completed versus goals: Audited = 71%, Reports issued = 91%, Closed = 102%.
- Reports issued within 30 days = 70%.
- Audits not closed over 6 months from report date = 2.
- 3-year cycle audits overdue = 13.
- 1 new WWTF lab applied to program since last meeting – not audited.
- 1 lab dropped from program since last meeting.

On-site 3-year cycle audits are behind due to stay at home orders (Covid-19) and not having a replacement auditor for John Condron who retired in January.

Paul suggested we take a “wait and see approach” before we decide on establishing a “catch-up plan” versus a “keep working from behind plan.” Paul said we should also consider possibly “adjusting all due dates” after the pandemic is over.

Kevin asked if there was a drop-dead date where we start revoking lab accreditations if the lab doesn’t respond to audit reports in a timely manner. Tom said that there are no official timelines for this but as the responses get long, we let labs know that Steve and the Council want to know why.

Paul asked if a lab drops certifications that had deficiencies, after an audit, do they need to resolve those audit findings before they can reapply for those certifications again? Tom said that those findings would be evaluated with the new application and if they were still unresolved, yes, they would have to be resolved before a new certification would be granted.

Council Member Items

- Proposed NR 149: The Senate proposed bill SB 700 to clarify statute language so that it is in accordance with the fee language in NR 149. The Assembly took up the Senate version of SB 700 and concurred with the Senate passage of the bill on a voice vote. On March 3, 2020 SB 700 became 2019 Wisconsin Act 169. Because of this statutory change, there was no longer a need for us to make a germane modification to the proposed NR 149 rule. As a result, we resubmitted the proposed rule with no modifications on March 9, 2020 and the proposed rule is in the Senate and Assembly standing committees for approval.

Paul and Sharon asked if we could provide a link on our website to the new rule as it was proposed. Tom said he would take care of that.

- Proposed NR 812: The rule has a target effective date of June 1, 2020. Tom will be providing a summary of the NR 812 changes that affect laboratories to DW certified laboratory's, DATCP, and the Private Drinking Water program so that it can be used as a resource and reviewed during webinar training meetings.

Sharon asked if NR 812 will be reopening soon to add PFAS in DW? Tom said he would check with the program.

- PFAS certification: Applications received from SGS – Orlando and Pace-West Columbia. No labs are Wisconsin certified for PFAS yet. Nine labs have submitted applications. Six labs have been audited. Non-drinking water reports have not been issued to any labs yet. We are waiting for labs to resolve their drinking water findings before drinking water certifications can be granted.

Paul suggested that we consider holding off granting PFAS certifications until the pandemic was over. Tom said he would check with the programs to see what the need for certifications are.

Sharon asked Tom to explain the DNR website that lists preferred labs for PFAS testing. Tom explained that any lab can be used but the DNR does recommend that a lab that has applied to the program be used because at least they have utilized the WI PFAS guidance document in that process.

- GovDelivery: The department is and has been utilizing a new email message delivery platform. Lab certification hopes to begin using it soon. The platform allows emails to be sent individually instead of by groups, so they are less likely to be stopped by spam filters.

Paul asked to be included in this once we deploy it . Kevin said before I send my first email to the GovDelivery recipients that WWOA and WRWA should send out an email warning folks that the email they are about to receive from GovDelivery isn't a spam email. Kevin said to send my request to Chris at WRWA and Kevin at WWOA.

- TRC/TRH: The Water Quality program asked Lab Cert to update their guidance documents on these issues. As we began this process it became apparent that we didn't know how in-depth to go since we were unsure of what facilities are doing regarding this testing. As a result, we plan on submitting a fact-finding survey to those facilities that are chlorinating. The results will help guide us as to the training areas we need to prioritize.

Kevin and Paul mentioned that in their opinion it would be much more important to send the TRC/TRH surveys to our drinking water plants. Tom said he would discuss this with Adam and Dino in DG.

- Auditor hiring: Fourteen applicants were interviewed for John Condrón's position. No decision has been made at this time.
- Lab of the Year Award: Ashland WWTP has been selected as this year's winner.
- Covid-19: All lab cert travel has been postponed until further notice. All staff are working from home. Steve has temporarily been reassigned to the emergency incident response center helping laboratories come up to speed with Covid-19 testing.
- This was Sharon's last meeting and we thanked her for all of her great service and input she has provided to the Council and program over the years. Tom indicated that Carol will be taking Sharon's vacated position on the Council.
- Next meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2020 at 9 AM at WSLH.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM.