

Remote Attendance (19)

Council Members: Paul Junio (Chair), Jennifer Buchholz, Kevin Freber, Tad Schwartzhoff, Erin Mani for Angie Albrecht, Craig Obry, Carol Mielke
DNR Staff: Steve Geis, Tom Trainor, Zana Sijan, Brandy Baker-Muhich, Patty Doerflinger, Janelle Nehs
Others: Josh LeMoine (Mad MSD), Sharon Mertens (Milw MSD), Alfredo Sotomayor (Milw MSD), Brenda Anderson (WSLH), Jennifer Christmann (Vista Analytical), Steve Hefter (Northern Lake Service)

Agenda repair and approval of last meeting minutes

- There were no agenda repairs.
- Changes to the minutes from the January 2021 meeting:
 - Change sulfate to thiosulfate under 812 issues
 - Add “how the program interprets it” under the Council Member Issues section where “the SDWA Supplement indicates as much” language is located

Outstanding issues from last meeting

- NR 812 issues were brought up by council at the last meeting. Tom met with NR 812 staff and resolution to the issues discussed were emailed to council and GovDelivery subscribers on 1.30.21 and 2.1.21, respectively.
- Paul asked if there was a way to “force send” GovDelivery emails so that they would be received immediately regardless of the subscriber preference settings. Tom said he would look into that and report back.

Program metrics report

Large-scale lab metrics: July 2020 – Mar 2021 (FY 2021 partial)

- Completed: Audited = 86%, Reports issued = 79%, Closed = 54%.
- Reports issued within 60 days = 73%.
- Audits not closed over 1 year from report date = 0. Audits not closed over 6 months from report date = 0.
- 3-year cycle audits overdue at time of meeting = 15 labs.
- 3 new labs applied to program since last meeting.
- No labs dropped from program since last meeting.

Small-scale labs: July 2020 – Mar 2021 (FY 2021 partial)

- Completed: Audited = 71%, Reports issued = 64%, Closed = 64%.
- Reports issued within 30 days = 89%.
- Audits not closed over 1 year from report date = 0. Audits not closed over 6 months from report date = 0.
- 3-year cycle audits overdue at time of meeting = 51 labs.
- No new labs applied to program since last meeting.
- No labs dropped from program since last meeting.

Other business items

- **2021 Lab of the year:** Plymouth Utilities WWTP was the recipient. Steve will contact WWOA to see if we can have a time slot to present this award to Plymouth at the WWOA Annual Conference on the awards night.
- **FY 2022 budget:** NRB approved our budget on 4.14.21.
- **Private DW electronic data transfer:** Zana indicated that we are working on a txt file option to upload private DW results to the DNR, similar to how the public DW data is transferred. Using this process could reduce entry time and errors. Tutorials will be provided. Testing now. Labs will be notified when ready. This will likely require labs IT staff time to implement.
- **Laboratory Accreditation Program database rewrite:** Two-year project is complete. The program has a 160-hour maintenance contract covered in our FY 2022 budget.
- **NR 149 update training:** Presentations completed on 3.19.21 and 4.8.21. Future presentations on 5.20.21, 7.21.21, and 10.5.21. Website includes PowerPoints and FAQ's.
- **Kevin's replacement:** No suggestions so far. Kevin sent an email to MEG asking for interest. Best thought was to reach out to someone in charge of both water and wastewater.
- **EPA Region 5 updates:** CO course completed 3.22-3.26. Janelle first time and Brandy and Tom were refreshers. Reoccurring theme was to follow methods as written.
- **WI PFAS updates:** 7 DW certified labs. 4 aqueous and solid certified labs. 5 labs in the process of obtaining certification. On 3.1.21 an update was distributed to all PFAS labs and stakeholders regarding a default change in the target list from 36

to 33 PFAS, authority for certification, analysis requirements/expectations and non-drinking water QC. Paul asked about the DW target list of 33 compounds vs the 537.1 method 18 and indicated it didn't make sense to him. Paul also had questions on the 3.1.21 guidance and didn't feel like he received answers to the questions he asked. Paul said that the guidance doesn't make sense from the perspective of the homeowner. Tom suggested Paul circle back with Jason Lowery and to continue asking questions until he is satisfied, they were answered. Sharon mentioned that in CA 92 PFAS are being looked at for air and wastewater. Paul asked who labs can tell homeowners to contact to get answers to their PFAS questions. Tom said he would provide that information and report back.

- **TCE:** DNR may be looking for lower LODs and LOQs in the future. Cycle 10 GW standard recommendations are ES = 0.5 ug/L and PAL = 0.05 ug/L. Will likely need to use SIM analysis to meet these limits.
- **2021-2022 accreditation year renewal:** Invoices will be emailed on 5.26.21. PTs due 8.31.21. Renewal documents will be emailed.
- **Program updates:**
 - *Hex Cr in WW/GW* - Samples must be filtered immediately after collection. If not, results must be qualified. Paul said that methods are written for total. Tom said he didn't necessarily agree with that. Tom said he asked permit writers to include the description "dissolved" in permits going forward, but the response hasn't been clear that it would happen. Tom said he would try again to push that.
 - *PO₄ in WW/GW* - Samples must be filtered immediately after collection. If not, results must be qualified.
 - *PO₄ in DW* – Samples must not be filtered even though lab slips say dissolved. Lab slips have been updated along with the website. This pertains to PO₄ testing for the lead and copper rule. Paul said it may still be a problem because some people have already printed their lab slips.
 - *NO₃ + NO₂* – Thermal preservation is not required, just H₂SO₄ for drinking water. WW/GW require cooling in addition to H₂SO₄.
 - *Nutrient testing of sludges/biosolids* – Certification is not required. The practice of diluting the sample by measuring a mass of sample and diluting it with water and then taking a subsample aliquot for analysis is not acceptable. The water quality program recommends the following methods be used for testing nutrients "methods of manure analysis" TKN-3.2, NH₄ – 4, P, K-5 and 6, WEP-Penn State Method.
 - *Bromoform breakdown check standard* – If the desorption temperature used is above 245 degrees Celsius, a daily check standard containing surrogates, internal standards, and 20 ug/L of bromoform must be analyzed prior to analysis of the daily check standard. If levels of chloromethane or bromomethane exceed 0.5 ug/L, then the trap must be replaced, and the system recalibrated. Request was made to check the DW methods for this.
 - *Reporting wastewater results* – concentrations measured below the LOD are not to be reported on the eDMR. Report as <LOD.
 - *Reference methods* – laboratories shall maintain copies of or access to the methods of analysis used for samples.
 - *ICP interference check standards* – an ICS must be analyzed with each analytical run for all elements identified as interferent. When reporting results to the LOD, the concentration of each non-spiked target element in the ICS shall be less than 10/3 their corresponding LOD.
 - *Reporting 1631E results* – MS/MSD, OPR and field blank results must be acceptable, or sample results may not be reported.
 - *Lab accreditation website* – a list of pages was presented. Program updates that pertain to auditing will be provided in an excel table on the website. Paul suggested we don't ever remove the information in that excel table.

Council member issues

- Kevin indicated that WET testing is becoming challenging because "next day delivery" is not typically available with any certainty from any transportation service. Kevin had to use staff delivery. Jennifer said that more than just WET testing samples are affected by this. Sharon suggested checking with FedEx to the TN lab. Brandy said she would inform Kari of this.
- Paul asked if any variances were issued lately and to add this topic to our annual summary? Tom said no and will do.
- Paul said our program is supposed to provide a list of approved PT providers and a list of required PTs. Tom said this is on the website but does need a few updates (pfas and new code). Tom will add to next meeting.
- Carol said she liked LabNotes. Tom said we don't know that we have the resources to continue that and the hope is that the program updates excel table would replace that.

Checkout and next remote meeting date

- Next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2021 at 9 AM remotely via Zoom.