

APPROVED MINUTES

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

<1:00 pm – 4:00 pm>

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chairman Dr. Robert Corliss, | <input type="checkbox"/> Gina Green-Harris                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secretary Dr. James Schauer, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gil Kelley,                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Greg Pils (WDNR);            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeffery Kindrai,            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jon Audhya (SMPH);       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zana Sijan (WDNR alternate) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Mark Werner (DHS),       | <input type="checkbox"/> Paula Tran (DHS alternate)             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Christopher Strang,      | <input type="checkbox"/> Anna Benton (DHS alternate)            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Buchholz                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Sheryl Bedno (DHS alternate)       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jessica Blahnik              | <input type="checkbox"/> Andrea Poehling (SMPH alternate)       |

WSLH STAFF PRESENT:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Errin Rider              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Sterk |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allen Benson      |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Karbowski   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jan Klawitter                |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nancy McLean      |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Strebel     |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Al Bateman    |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Conklin      |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Camille Danielson |   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tip Vandall       |   |

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GUESTS PRESENT: Megan Flowers (in place of Jan Klawitter), DNR Director of Air Management Program Gail Good and DNR Air Quality Planning and Standards Section Chief Briana Dank

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

**Item 1. ROLL CALL**

Chair Dr. Robert Corliss called the meeting to order at 12:58 PM.

At, 12:58 PM Dr. Robert Corliss initiated and conducted the roll call of the Board members. All Board members or their designated representatives were present except for those excused. INDICATED ABOVE

**Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

At 1:00 PM, Dr. Robert Corliss entertained a motion to approve the December 20, 2023 minutes as submitted. Jeffery Kindrai moved for approval and Dr. Christopher Strang seconded. A voice vote to approve the minutes for the record was passed and accepted as amended.

**Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA**

No requests made.

**Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

No formal public appearances were present at this meeting.

**Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS**

Board members discussed the measles vaccine.

**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**Item 6. ATMOSPHERIC PARTICULATE MATTER (PM) NAAQS – GAIL GOOD**

Gail Good introduced herself as the Director of the Wisconsin DNR's Air Management Program. Ms. Good began by informing the Board that EPA sets standards that the Air Management Program implements based on the latest science with public health at the forefront. Ms. Good provided a definition of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and the six criteria pollutants. She explained that Particulate Matter is one of the criteria pollutants and explained that PM10 and PM2.5 are the regulated sizes of particulate matter. She then provided a history

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of the standards of particulate matter as well as the various PM monitoring technologies. She previewed annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> measurements via a trends report that can show how air pollution in the state has changed over time and stated that since the 2000s Wisconsin has seen a good decline in PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations. The concept of nonattainment areas – referring to regions that did not meet a NAAQS - was discussed. There were no nonattainment areas for the 1997 standard, one area for the 2006 standard, which did include Milwaukee, Racine, and Waukesha counties. For the 2024 standard, EPA made the annual standard more stringent at 9 micrograms per cubic meter. Ms. Good shared the preliminary 2023 PM<sub>2.5</sub> Annual Values across the state, with the reminder that 2023 was heavily impacted by wildfire smoke. Based upon that data Potosi, Waukesha, Madison, and two regions in Milwaukee are all measuring levels above the new annual standard. Ms. Good wrapped up the presentation by sharing the next steps which include the designation process that accompanies a revised NAAQS where the EPA determines the areas of the country that are in ‘attainment’ and ‘nonattainment.’ Recommendations first need to be made by the Governor to the EPA which are due on February 7, 2025. The EPA will propose designations and then finalize them by February 6, 2026. Questions and answers with the Board pertained to vehicle emissions standards (of which new standards had been passed) and PM<sub>2.5</sub> in relation to agriculture.

**Item 7. STRATEGIC PLAN – Dr. JAMES SCHAUER**

WSLH Director Dr. Jamie Schauer discussed the latest draft WSLH Strategic Plan. A general timeline for the Strategic Plan was shared with the proposal being presented at the current board meeting, engagement and feedback from staff in March/April, a rough draft presentation in May and a final discussion at the June Board meeting. With WSLH programs being driven by Wisconsin State Statute, Dr. Schauer informed the board that the strategic plan is not intended to revise the overarching mission and programs of the WSLH but rather to improve how the WSLH implements its programs and efforts to achieve our mission. Dr. Schauer explained the strategic plan’s seven initiatives; Data and Informatics Modernization, Scientific Investment, Advance the Public Health Missions of SMPH and UW Madison, Clinical Biomonitoring, Outreach, Culture and Belonging, and Space.

Dr. Schauer discussed Space issues with the Board, explaining that lack of space leaves little room for expansion of WSLH programs or projects. Space accommodation will be made through renovation of the Hill Farms building, re-evaluation of current space use in all buildings, planning for an additional Agriculture Drive wing, and new spaces for labs currently located at Henry Mall. DOA has been allocated \$4 million for renovation of the Hill Farms building that would free up some space at Henry Mall. The rent will be \$375,000 a year, of which half is provided by the state. Dr. Schauer called for the Board to make a motion on this proposal. Jeff

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Kindrai initiated the first motion of approval, and Dr. Chris Strang seconded. A voice vote lead by Dr. Robert Corliss to approve the Hill Farms proposal was passed and accepted as amended.

**Item 8. FINANCIAL REPORT – KEVIN KARBOWSKI**

WSLH Chief Financial Officer Kevin Karbowski introduced the Financial Report through an initial look and discussion on the Statement of Income for the period of July 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024. WSLH bottom line for the first seven months was \$639,885, compared to a budgeted loss of \$333,924. Most of this variance was related to receiving additional funding for newborn screening in the State of Wisconsin Budget. Mr. Karbowski provided a preliminary look at next year's budget ending on June 30, 2025. He explained that if the WSLH were to spend the assumed \$1.8 million in capital expenses, it would break even on cash. Mr. Karbowski wrapped up his portion of the discussion by advising the Board that the accountants do not budget for grants that they are unaware of; even though there is general knowledge of grant arrival in the future. WSLH Procurement Manager Mark Conklin discussed the next slide pertaining to the WSLH share of rent increasing from 50 to 60 percent. He shared with the Board that there was an agreement that DOA would share 50/50 on the rent. As additional facilities and spaces (such as 2nd AG Drive wing and Hill Farms) were added, our total dollar amount stayed at the range that was originally established by the DOA. Because of this, WSLH is paying about 60% of the rent, rather than the agreed 50%. It is due to these additions that WSLH is picking up a larger portion of the rent, and therefore more money is needed. To wrap up the Financial Report discussion, Mr. Karbowski shared the following requested board motion: The WSLH Board of Directors approves a WSLH Biennial Budget Request for a recurring increase in the General Purpose Revenue (GPR) to cover additional WSLH Rent expense. After a brief discussion regarding the rent structure of DOA being square footage and the rent/utilities being included, a motion was initiated. Chair Dr. Robert Corliss entertained a motion to approve the biennial budget as requested. Jeffery Kindrai moved for first approval and Dr. Mark Werner seconded. A voice vote to approve the biennial budget was passed and accepted.

**Item 9. CONTRACTS REPORT – TIP VANDALL**

WSLH Accounts Receivable Manager Tip Vandall presented the Contracts Report that has been executed since the December 2023 Board meeting. Ms. Vandall informed the Board that the WSLH has signed a total of two new contracts and a total of four renewal contracts since December 2023. The new contracts include the APHL – MT Drug Testing and the Laboratory Data Exchange. The renewal contracts include TB 2024, RHFP GPR 24, STI 2024, and WINN24. Ms. Vandall stated that the WSLH has several ongoing contracts in the works.

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**Item 10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Key Public Health Notices – Camille Danielson**

WSLH Environmental Chemistry Program Director Camille Danielson discussed key public health and environmental notices for the period of January 1, 2024 through February 21, 2024, including a discussion of radon in homes, DNR's potential changes to E-Cycle in Wisconsin, Wisconsin's 12-month continuous health insurance coverage for children, DHS' recommendation for children ages 1 through 5 to receive a blood lead test if they have not received one already, DNR's new Water and Wastewater Sector Incident Response Guide, DHS' new online tool to encourage citizens of Wisconsin to report food or water sickness when symptoms occur, DNR's acknowledgement of the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service's proposal to focus on a national wolf recovery plan, DNR and DHS issuing an updated safe fish consumptions guideline via the 2024-2026 Choose Wisely booklet, DNR's approximately \$6 million grant program to help restore and protect the state's surface water resources, and DNR's new Walleye project that will be tagging an estimated 5,000 walleyes in order to gather crowd sourced information.

**Public Relations Report – Megan Flowers**

WSLH PT Communications Specialist Megan Flowers presented the public relations report in place of Jan Klawitter and initiated the report with the outbreaks and incidents. Most notably Ms. Flowers informed the Board that Wisconsin cases of reportable multidrug-resistant organisms increased in 2023 including in public health regions where there was previously little to no MDRO activity detected. Because of this, health care providers and facilities need to ensure prevention and control efforts through infection prevention practices. Additional items covered in the report included: the WSLH Forensic Toxicology department collaborating with the Center for Forensic Science Research and Education in Pennsylvania to test samples where drug testing was canceled due to high blood alcohol concentration; the Wisconsin Wastewater Surveillance Program being awarded an additional \$ 6.2 million from the CDC's National Wastewater Surveillance System program; the winter issue of the Association of Public Health Laboratories *Lab Matters* magazine including multiple articles about WSLH activities; peer-reviewed journal articles authored by WSLH scientists; the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine appointing WSLH Newborn Screening Laboratory Director and UW Professor of Pediatrics Dr. Mei Baker to its ad hoc Committee on Newborn Screening: Current Landscape and Future Directions; WSLH scientists and the WSLH Communicable Disease Division being featured in a series of videos about CDC's national Antimicrobial Resistance

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Laboratory Network; WSLH Chemical Emergency Response staff members Meshel Lange, Karyn Blake and Brandon Shelton presenting at the National Biomonitoring Meeting on the PFAS Show study; the University of Wisconsin Department of Pediatrics, in conjunction with the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, UW Health, and Prevention Genetics, producing a video highlighting the unique features of the Laboratory Genetics and Genomics Fellowship program in Wisconsin.

**Update on WSLH School of Cytotechnology – Dr. James Schauer**

WSLH Director Dr. Jamie Schauer provided an update on the Cytotechnology Certificate program. The UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, which provided the academic home for the program, has cut back on its lower enrollment programs and has decided to close the Cytotechnology Certificate program at the conclusion of this program year. Discussions will proceed with the School of Medicine and Public Health on the future of the program.

**LIMS Update – DR. ERRIN RIDER, STEVE STREBEL, AL BENSON**

WSLH Associate Director for Clinical Testing Dr. Errin Rider, WSLH Interim Associate Director for Non-Clinical Testing Steve Strebel, and WSLH Chief Information Officer Al Benson shared a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) update. LIMS software is crucial to lab operations including processing orders, interacting with instruments, and generating report results. The commercial software systems include Beaker from Epic Systems, WindoPath from Psyche, and Horizon from CliniSys. The custom software systems include NADP software components and EMMIT LIMS.

**Item 11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The annual Election of Officers was held. A motion was made to nominate the following for officers of the WSLH Board of Directors: Greg Pils for the position of Chair, Dr. Chris Strang for the position of Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, and Dr. Jamie Schauer for the position of Secretary for the 2024 term. Jeffery Kindrai moved for approval and Bob Corliss seconded the motion. A voice vote to approve the election of officers for the 2024 term was passed and the motion carried.

**Adjourning**