

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
December 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**DATE:** December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**TO:**

Dean Robert N. Golden, MD, UW-SMPH – Dr. Jon Audhya, Designated Representative  
Kirsten Johnson, Secretary-designee, DHS – Dr. Mark Werner, Designated Representative  
Steven Little, Deputy Secretary, DNR – Greg Pils, Designated Representative  
Randy Romanski, Secretary, DATCP – Gilbert (Gil) Kelley, Designated Representative  
Greg Pils, Chair  
Dr. Christopher Strang, Vice Chair  
Dr. Jon Audhya, Member  
Jessica Blahnik, Member  
Dr. Robert Corliss, Member  
Gina Green-Harris, Member  
Gilbert (Gil) Kelley, Member  
John Larson, Member  
Hasmik Mkrtchyan, Member  
Becky Rowland, Member  
Dr. Mark Werner, Member  
Zana Sijan, DNR Alternate  
Anna Benton, DHS Alternate  
Paula Tran, DHS Alternate  
Dr. Sheryl Bedno, DHS Alternate  
Andrea Poehling, UW-Madison Alternate

**FROM:** Dr. James Schauer, Secretary  
Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

**RE:** Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors Meeting  
Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
In-Person/Online Meeting  
December 18, 2024, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**CC:** Dr. Errin Rider  
Allen Benson  
Kevin Karbowski  
Jan Klawitter  
Nancy McLean  
Steve Strebel  
Camille Danielson  
Tip Vandall  
Dr. Al Bateman  
Jim Sterk  
Mark Conklin

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
December 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING NOTICE**

for

**Wednesday, December 18, 2024**

**1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**MEETING LOCATION**

**2601 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718**

**Notice is hereby given** that the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors will convene in person and via teleconference at **1:00 pm on Wednesday, December 18, 2024.**

**Notice is further given** that matters concerning Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene issues, program responsibilities, or operations specified in the Wisconsin Statutes, which arise after publication of this notice may be added to the agenda and publicly noticed no less than two hours before the scheduled board meeting if the board Chair determines the matter is urgent.

**Notice is further given** that this meeting may be conducted partly or entirely by teleconference or videoconference.

**Notice is further given** that questions related to this notice, requests for special accommodations, or requests for a public appearance are addressed by the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Administrative Offices by phone at (608) 890-0288 or in writing to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, 2601 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:** See agenda.

Respectfully submitted,



James J. Schauer, PhD, P.E., M.B.A.  
Secretary, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors  
Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
2601 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718

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December 18, 2024  
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**AGENDA**

**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

- Item 1. ROLL CALL**
- Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
- Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA**
- Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES**
- Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS**

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

- Item 6. UW SYSTEM ADMINISTRATIVE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAM (ATP)**
  - Grace Kilpatrick**  
Senior Project Manager for UW-Madison Office of Strategic Consulting
  - Kurt McMillen**  
Operational Readiness Strategy Lead for UW-Madison AIP
  - Sabrina Messer**  
Administrative Initiatives Lead for UW-Madison AIP
  - Adam Paulick**  
Assoc. Vice Chancellor for Enterprise Applications for UW-Madison WEST
  - David Honma**  
Assistant Vice Chancellor of Business Services and UW-Madison Controller
  - Steven Hopper**  
Senior Assoc. Vice President for Learning and IT Services  
Chief Information Officer for Universities of Wisconsin
- Item 7. WSLH STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE: DATA MODERNIZATION**
  - Al Benson**
- Item 8. LABORATORY IMPROVEMENT DIVISION (LID) PRESENTATION**
  - Mike Argall**
- Item 9. FINANCIAL REPORT**
  - Kevin Karbowski**
- Item 10. CONTRACTS REPORT**
  - Tip Vandall**
- Item 11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
  - FDA/LDT Update – Dr. Errin Rider**
  - Key Public Health Notices – Camille Danielson**
  - Public Relations Report – Jan Klawitter**

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**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

**Item 1. ROLL CALL**

**Description of Item:**

Roll call of attendance at Board Meeting led by Board Chair

**Suggested Board Action:**

Submit roll call

**Staff Recommendation and Comments:**

Board Secretary will record the roll call

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**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

**Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Description of Item:**

The draft minutes of the September 18, 2024, board meeting are submitted for approval

**Suggested Board Action:**

Motion: Approve the draft minutes of the September 18, 2024, board meeting as submitted

**Staff Recommendation and Comments:**

Approve draft minutes

*Once approved, minutes become part of the public record and are posted on the WSLH website:*

<http://www.slh.wisc.edu/about/board/board-meetings-agendas-and-minutes/>.

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APPROVED MINUTES

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

<1:00 PM – 4:00 PM>

MEMBERS PRESENT:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chair Greg Pils (DNR)             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gil Kelley                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice Chair Dr. Christopher Strang | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hasmik Mkrtchyan                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Secretary Dr. James Schauer       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zana Sijan (WDNR alternate)      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Robert Corliss                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Becca Fahney (WDNR alternate)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jon Audhya (SMPH)                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Paula Tran (DHS alternate)                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Mark Werner (DHS)             | <input type="checkbox"/> Anna Benton (DHS alternate)                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jessica Blahnik                              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Sheryl Bedno (DHS alternate) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gina Green-Harris                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Andrea Poehling (SMPH alternate) |

WSLH STAFF PRESENT:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Errin Rider | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Camille Danielson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allen Benson    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tip Vandall       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Karbowski | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Sterk         |
| <input checked="" 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    |   |

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GUESTS PRESENT: N/A

PROCEDURAL ITEMS

**Item 1. ROLL CALL**

Chair Greg Pils called the meeting to order at 12:59 PM.

At 1:00 PM Chair Greg Pils 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

Andrea Poehling is attending in place of Dr. Jon Audhya.

**Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

At 1:03 PM, Chair Greg Pils entertained a motion to approve the June 26, 2024 minutes as submitted. Chair Greg Pils moved for approval and Dr. Chris Strang seconded. A voice vote to approve the minutes for the record was passed and accepted.

**Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA**

None

**Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

None

**Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS**

WSLH Director Dr. Jamie Schauer said the WSLH is working with Gov. Evers' office on the appointment of new members to fill the private environmental laboratories and the local health department positions on the Board.

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**BUSINESS ITEMS:**

**Item 6. RNC/DNC Preparedness Activities – Meshel Lange, Dr. Alana Sterkel and Dr. Martin Shafer** Meshel Lange and Dr. Alana Sterkel discussed the WSLH’s preparedness and response activities in regard to the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee and the Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Notably, the Laboratory Response Network, coordinated by the CDC, funds testing for chemical (LRN-C) and biological (LRN-B) response at public health laboratories, including the WSLH. Ms. Lange and Dr. Sterkel gave a history of the WSLH’s LRN-B and LRN-C activities. Ms. Lange said that the WSLH’s Chemical Emergency Response Unit trains upwards of 500 first responders around the state annually as part of their LRN-C activities and has been asked by CDC to mentor other LRN-C labs on outreach and training to the first responder communities in their states. Ms. Lange and Dr. Sterkel explained that the WSLH participated in the 2024 DNC and RNC as a response partner, with planning committees starting up to 18 months before the event itself. Other planning partners included the FBI, Secret Service, EPA, US Postal Inspection Service, military assets, HazMat, local law enforcement, DNR, DHS, local and state public health, National Guard Civil Support Team, and WEM. In the months leading up to the convention, the WSLH provided lab tours, presentations and network building opportunities for planning partners. Dr. Sterkel noted that there was a lot of turnover at partner agencies due to COVID-19 and that efforts have been made to rebuild some of these communication networks through one-on-one meetings, email exchanges, and in-person lab meetings. Ms. Lange shared some of the impactful 24/7 emergency response and unknown substance testing capabilities at the WSLH, and Dr. Sterkel discussed tabletop exercises with the LRN-B, LRN-C, UW-Madison Responsible Official and Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory. Dr. Martin Shafer provided an overview of the WSLH’s wastewater surveillance activities surrounding the RNC. The WSLH - in collaboration with the WI Department of Health Services, UW-Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Health Department Laboratory - comprise the Wisconsin Wastewater Surveillance Program, one of six programs nationally recognized by CDC as National Wastewater Surveillance Centers of Excellence (NWSS/CoE). As a NWSS/CoE, the Wisconsin program is charged with helping define the mission of wastewater pathogen monitoring nationally. Large event surveillance is a priority use-case under evaluation by the WI CoE and the RNC wastewater monitoring activities were implemented in addition to the routine wastewater monitoring at 45 wastewater treatment facilities throughout the state. Monitoring was at community level in Milwaukee for a few weeks prior, during, and after the RNC. Fourteen pathogens (including respiratory viruses, enteric viruses and bacteria, and viruses causing vaccine-preventable diseases) were monitored during the RNC Study. RNC monitoring testing and reporting was conducted daily by the WSLH over the 4-week study. The laboratory turned-around the pathogen assays within 24-hours of sample receipt during the convention week. The team developed pathogen specific notification and action plans (i.e. who will be informed and how notifications will work).



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**Item 7. Preparedness and Response for Emerging Infectious Diseases Du Jour – Dr. Al**

**Bateman** Dr. Al Bateman introduced himself as the Director of the WSLH Communicable Disease Division (CDD). He informed the Board that there are always new diseases and/or outbreaks happening worldwide – from the spread of the Oropouche virus endemic to the Amazon to the Dengue fever surging in Latin America and the West Nile virus found in Minnesota and Wisconsin. He outlined the WSLH’s general preparedness and response actions, including continuous situational awareness, communication to clinical laboratory and public health partners as well as the general public, planning for responses in-lab, and ensuring national involvement via relevant scientific committees and organizations. Dr. Bateman explained that the concept of continued situational awareness involves fine-tuning CDD’s responses based on current situations that have the ability to change rapidly (e.g. COVID-19) or slowly (i.e. Mpox). Dr. Bateman said that communication – both internally to CDD staff and WSLH leadership and externally – is a crucial component of CDD’s preparedness and response. External communication is routed through WI Clinical Laboratory Network (WCLN) messages and to individual WI clinical labs that reach out to CDD. CDD also works with DHS to coordinate cross-agency messaging as needed. Planning and responses in the lab include validating and onboarding a new test or onboarding a higher throughput test. Training and/or hiring additional staff is a top priority – alongside forwarding positive cases of rare diseases to CDC for further testing. Dr. Bateman also discussed H5N1 Avian Influenza. CDD has been staying up to date on the evolving situation and keeps in contact with the WCLN and internally as the situation evolves. Testing specimens from people with respiratory symptoms and known exposure to H5N1 alongside performing surveillance for H5N1 in cats sent in for rabies testing has been conducted. Dr. Bateman provided an overview of the Mpox spreading in Central Africa. With an Mpox re-emergence in just a two year span of time, CDD is staying up to date on the evolving situation and communicating to WCLN and internally at WSLH. Similarly, Dengue Fever in Latin America as well as the West Nile Virus is being tracked amidst evolution in these cases. The testing of specimens and sending positives to CDC for confirmation and serotyping is occurring on a regular basis. In terms of Oropouche virus, CDD is staying up to date on the evolving situation and has worked out new DHS testing approval workflows to ship to CDC for testing when this time arises. At present, CDD is not conducting any testing for this virus due to a lack of cases.

**Item 8. Financial Report – Kevin Karbowski**

WSLH Chief Financial Officer Kevin Karbowski presented the financial report for FY24. Last year the WSLH budgeted to lose around \$493,157, however only ended up losing \$170,616. The revenue for this period amounted to \$67,928,900. Expenses were \$68,099,516 compared to the

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expected \$64,190,366. The large positive variance can be attributed to CDD's clinical activity alongside over budgeting by Cytology. Grants for this period are \$700,000 more than anticipated due to the DHS employees who get their payroll from UW-Madison, thereby increasing our salaries in the process. In terms of supplies, WSLH labs are purchasing more supplies due to an increased amount of testing, as well as a 6% to 8% inflation rate for supply costs.

**Item 9. Contracts Report – Tip Vandall**

WSLH Financial Manager Tip Vandall presented the summary of contracts executed since September 2024. She shared that there is a new biennial contract signed at the end of the fiscal year amounting to \$80,000, coupled with a new contract of \$10,000 and 18 renewals worth \$5,836,372.65. This leaves our contracts report with a grand total of \$5,926,372.64.

**Item 10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- **FDA LDT Final Rule WSLH Strategy – Dr. Errin Rider**

WSLH Associate Director for Clinical Lab Services Dr. Errin Rider explained that the FDA LDT Rule involves a 4 year phase-in plan; with year one requesting the final rule be published, stage one requiring medical device reporting (MDR), stage two involving registrations/listing, phase three quality system requirements for records, and stage four and five premarket approval application submission. It is imperative to note that 'currently marketed' LDT tests are required to meet stage one, stage two, and only records requirements for stage three. Any tests implemented on May 6, 2024 or after must meet requirements for phases including all quality system requirements in stage three. Dr. Rider said that new LDTs beyond this point can move forward and can be implemented under her approval – with the caveat being that any new LDTs be discontinued before May 6, 2026. A premarket approval submission number will need to be provided when listing new LDTs. Dr. Rider added that we will continue operating with current testing unless we need to perform some sort of modification. Any new LDTs under emergency response testing fall under FDA Section 564 for immediate public health response. Dr. Rider stated that we hope any unmet needs testing will be driven by the CDC – however this is not something known or clarified at this time. With classic Cytogenetics and Cytology testing falling under the 1976 type LDT and FDA approved testing – we can proceed with this testing accordingly. However, we cannot initiate automation and have to stick with our current testing. She said the WSLH is hoping that our partnership with UW Health and SMPH would position the lab to continue

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developing testing technologies and provide up-to-date testing and consultation services. However, this is still in discussion and hasn't been confirmed.

- **UW Position Cap Update – Nancy McLean**

WSLH Human Resources Director Nancy McLean provided background on the UW-Madison Position Cap dating back to December 2023 when the UW System Board of Regents approved an agreement between the Universities of Wisconsin and state legislative leadership to move forward priorities of UW campuses. This agreement included a provision that required the Universities of Wisconsin to institute a system-wide cap on hiring a range of positions for three years beginning January 1, 2024 with some exemptions. Some of the SJD exemptions include – but are not limited to – positions that fall under Professors/Assistant Professors, Data Scientists, Instrumentation Technologists, and Research Analysts. She informed the board that Deans and division heads (including WSLH Director Dr. Jamie Schauer) will ultimately be responsible for managing their unit's individual caps and that FTE numbers cannot rise above individual caps. Submissions to recruit new employees will be denied if said department has reached their individual cap. Ms. McLean stated that only 150 out of 350 WSLH positions are under this cap, with most WSLH positions being exempt as they are funded 100% by grants and contracts. WSLH HR continues to work with hiring managers to meet the UW position cap requirements and fill our positions with the best qualified candidates. Hiring managers must now fill out a justification form if we want to advance a current position.

- **Key Public Health Notices – Camille Danielson**

WSLH Environmental Chemistry Program Director Camille Danielson provided an overview of a variety of key topics and public health notices dating from June 11<sup>th</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup> of 2024. On June 21<sup>st</sup>, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) announced that one of its partners, Disability Rights Wisconsin, had a security breach exposing the protected health information of 19,150 Wisconsin Medicaid members. The DHS and DRW continue their investigation into this incident and addressing any complications from this data security incident. On July 9<sup>th</sup>, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) published its 2023 Annual Drinking Water Report; estimating that more than 99% of the public water systems in Wisconsin met all water quality standards for contaminants. This impressive achievement was made possible by public water system owners and operators, the DNR and many partners alongside additional funding. Most of this additional funding went towards lead service line replacement and addressing emerging contaminants. By the end of 2023, more than 1,860 Wisconsin public water systems obtained PFAS monitoring test results according to the DNR's established drinking water standard for two PFAS chemicals. On July 11<sup>th</sup>, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources announced three new regional Secretary's Directors, effective July 14<sup>th</sup>. On July 18<sup>th</sup>, DNR announced they are assisting with the investigation

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of a manure spill that occurred in eastern Outagamie and western Brown County, which resulted in a fish kill in Dutchman Creek. While a definitive source has not yet been identified, it is concluded that there is no known threat to surrounding drinking water wells. However, it is recommended that people and pets avoid the surface waters of Dutchman Creek. On July 26<sup>th</sup>, DNR confirmed the detection of emerald ash borer (EAB) in Burnett County, which means the pest has now been confirmed in all 72 Wisconsin counties. EAB is expected to eventually kill more than 99% of Wisconsin's white, black and green ash – and concerned landowners should contact a forestry professional and consult the state's EAB Information Resource webpage to discover management options. Ms. Danielson shared that DHS' UpliftWI is going strong after its one year launch. UpliftWI is known as a warmline, a non-emergency program designed to defuse difficult situations before they become a crisis through conversations and connections between people with similar life experiences. The peer support for mental health and substance use received over 16,000 calls in the first year alone. On August 5<sup>th</sup>, DNR announced a new grant program that will provide municipal community public water systems with the funds to conduct community outreach efforts in support of ongoing or upcoming lead service line replacement projects. On August 15<sup>th</sup>, DHS announced the Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line has expanded its text-based Live Vape Free program to include young adults ages 18-26. The program supports young Wisconsinites on the path to ending their use of nicotine and vape products and will provide people over age 18 with two weeks of free nicotine replacement therapy if medically eligible. On August 20<sup>th</sup>, DNR announced the release of the Wisconsin Water Explorer, a web-based tool that can help Wisconsin residents address concerns about the quality of water in their local lakes or rivers. On August 29<sup>th</sup>, DHS confirmed two Wisconsinites have died and another was hospitalized because of West Nile Virus illness. Additionally, WNV has been detected this year in mosquitoes, animals, and healthy blood donors whose blood screened positive for WNV.

- **Public Relations Report – Jan Klawitter**

WSLH Communications Manager Jan Klawitter provided highlights from the Public Relations Report. Dr. David Gay, Katie Blaydes, Dr. Jamie Schauer and Dr. Martin Shafer co-authored a journal article titled *Widespread Impacts to Precipitation of the East Palestine Ohio Train Accident*, which was published in *Environmental Research Letters*. This paper had hundreds of news stories written about it. WSLH Director of Forensic Toxicology Kayla Neuman was approved as a new member of the National Safety Council – Alcohol Drugs and Impairment Division in 2024. She attended the Consensus Meeting to discuss updating the recommendations for drugs in the Tier I and Tier II categories for DUID. In 2023, the WSLH embarked on a new program hosting 17 undergraduate summer interns as part of the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) Public Health Laboratory Internship Program. This summer the WSLH has 18 interns – and one of last year's interns was hired for a full-time job at the WSLH. The

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Wisconsin Wastewater Surveillance Program (WSLH, DHS UW-Milwaukee, and the Milwaukee Health Dept. laboratory) in collaboration with the Water Environment Federation (WEF) organized and ran a two-day conference on the UW-Madison campus that was well attended and well received. The tour covered case studies of effective wastewater surveillance, wastewater data communication, and ethical/equity considerations for wastewater surveillance. The WSLH Communicable Disease Division (CDD) again successfully competed for a 5-year Regional Laboratory grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to perform testing to identify and control the spread of antimicrobial resistant organisms in 6 Midwest states. Additionally, CDD successfully competed for a 5-year Bioinformatics Regional Resource (BRR) grant from the CDC to support 6 Midwest states in bioinformatics analyses of infectious diseases as well as successfully competed for a 5-year Bioinformatics Training Lead grant. Noel Stanton, Brandon Shelton and Meshel Lange with the WSLH Chemical Emergency Response unit are co-authors with UWSMPH and DHS collaborators on *Determinants of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PHFAS) exposure among Wisconsin Residents* published in *Environmental Research*. UW Assistant Professor Heather Barkholtz co-hosted a symposium along with Dr. Emanuele Alves of Virginia Commonwealth University titled *Advances in Forensic Toxicology* at the American Chemical Society (ACS) fall meeting. They hosted speakers from around the country and offered the first session focused on forensic toxicology to occur within the ACS. It was well attended and they were asked to consider hosting another symposium next year.

- **National Biomonitoring Project – Meshel Lange**

WSLH Chemical Emergency Response Manager Meshel Lange discussed the three-year CDC National Biomonitoring Cooperative Agreement received by Wisconsin. Wisconsin is one of only six states to receive the competitive grant. This cooperative agreement focuses on exposure assessments for at-risk populations and is a collaborative effort between DHS, SHOW, and WSLH.

### **Adjourning**

At 2:57 PM, Chair Greg Pils entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was offered and seconded by Dr. Chris Strang, and all who were present approved. Chair Greg Pils adjourned the meeting at 2:58 PM.

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**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

**Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA**

**Description of Item:**

Board members may suggest changes in the order in which agenda items are discussed

**Suggested Board Action:**

None

**Staff Recommendation and Comments:**

Reorganize the agenda if requested by the Board

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**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

**Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

**Description of Item:**

Under the board's *Policies and Procedures*, non-members are invited to make presentations

**Suggested Board Action:**

Follow *WSLH Policies and Procedures*:

**Staff Recommendation and Comments:**

Follow *WSLH Policies and Procedures*

*Per Policies and Procedures of the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors:*

§6.12 *Speaking privileges.* When the board is in session, no persons other than laboratory staff designated by the director shall be permitted to address the board except as hereinafter provided:

- (a) A committee report may be presented by a committee member who is not a member of the board.
- (b) A board or committee member in the course of presenting a matter to the board may request staff to assist in such a presentation.
- (c) If a board member directs a technical question for clarification of a specific issue to a person not authorized in this section, the Chair may permit such a person to respond.
- (d) The board may by majority vote or by decision of the Chair allow persons not otherwise authorized in this section to address the board if the situation warrants or the following criteria is followed:
  - (1) Written requests for public appearances on specific current agenda items shall be made to the Board Secretary no later than two working days prior to the meetings. The request shall outline the reasons for the request including the subject matter to be discussed in as much detail as is feasible prior to the meeting of the board. Those requesting an appearance may, at or prior to the board meeting, provide board members copies of any written materials to be presented or a written statement of a position.
  - (2) Individual presentations will be limited to five minutes, unless otherwise authorized by the Chair.
  - (3) To schedule an appearance before the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors, contact the Board Secretary, c/o Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, 465 Henry Mall, Madison, Wisconsin 53706. Telephone (608) 890-0288. The subject or subjects to be discussed must be identified.
  - (4) The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene "Guidelines for Citizen Participation in WSLH Board Meetings" are published on its website: <https://www.slh.wisc.edu/> and printed copies are available on request. (See Appendix 5) [Section §6.12 approved 5/27/03 board meeting.]

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**Appendix 5**

**Guidelines for Citizen Participation at WSLH Board Meetings**

The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene board provides opportunities for citizens to appear before the board to provide information to the board on items listed on the agenda. Such appearances shall be brief and concise. In order to accommodate this participation in the allotted time, the guidelines are as follows:

- A. Items to be brought before the board:
  - 1. The board Secretary and Chair will assign a specific time on the agenda to hear public comment when a request to speak has been received from a member of the public.
  - 2. Individuals or organizations will be limited to a total of five (5) minutes to make a presentation to the board. Following the presentation board members may ask clarifying questions.
  - 3. An organization is limited to one (1) spokesperson on an issue.
  - 4. On complex issues, individuals wishing to appear before the board are encouraged to submit written materials to the Board Secretary in advance of the meeting so the board may be better informed on the subject in question. Such information should be submitted to the board Secretary for distribution to all board members no later than seven (7) working days before the board meeting.
  - 5. No matters that are in current litigation may be brought before the board.
- B. The board encourages individuals to confine their remarks to broad general policy issues rather than the day-to-day operations of the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene.
- C. Citizens who have questions for board members should ask these questions prior to the board meeting, during any recess during the board proceedings, or after board adjournment.
- D. Written requests to appear before the WSLH Board of Directors should be submitted no later than two (2) working days prior to a scheduled board meeting.
- E. Submit written requests to:  
Secretary, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors

C/O WSLH Director  
465 Henry Mall  
Madison, WI 53706  
Telephone: (608) 890-0288  
Email: [sara.anderson@slh.wisc.edu](mailto:sara.anderson@slh.wisc.edu)



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**PROCEDURAL ITEMS**

**Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS**

**Description of the Item:**

Board Members' Matters will present board members with the opportunity to ask questions and/or discuss issues related to the Wisconsin Laboratory of Hygiene

**Suggested Board Action:**

Receive for information

**Staff Recommendations and Comments:**

Receive for information.

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**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Item 6. ATP DISCUSSION**

**Description of the Item:**

UW System Administrative Transformation Program (ATP) representatives Grace Kilpatrick, Kurt McMillen, Sabrina Messer, Adam Paulick, Steven Hopper and David Honma will provide an ATP update regarding enhancements for WSLH and risks associated with the 07/01/2025 Go-Live.

**Suggested Board Action:**

Review and provide input.

**Staff Recommendations and Comments:**

Receive for information.

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
December 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Item 7. DATA MODERNIZATION UPDATE**

**Description of the Item:**

Al Benson will provide a Data Modernization strategic plan update.

**Suggested Board Action:**

Review and provide input.

**Staff Recommendations and Comments:**

Receive for information.

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
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**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Item 8. LABORATORY IMPROVEMENT DIVISION (LID) PRESENTATION**

**Description of the Item:**

Laboratory Improvement Division/WSLH Proficiency Testing Director Mike Argall will provide a Scope of Services – Laboratory Improvement Division (LID) Presentation.

**Suggested Board Action:**

Review and provide input.

**Staff Recommendations and Comments:**

Receive for information.

Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
December 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Item 9. FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Description of the Item:**

Kevin Karbowski, WSLH Chief Financial Officer, will provide an update on the Financial Report to the Board.

**Suggested Board Action:**

Review and provide input.

**Staff Recommendations and Comments:**

Receive for information.

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**WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE**

**Financial Report**

**Fiscal Year 2025**

**October 31, 2024**

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**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
December 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE  
Statement of Income  
For the period July 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024**

	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Variance % of Budget	Fiscal Year 2025 Annual Budget
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>					
Clinical	\$6,702,506	\$6,698,444	\$4,062	0.1%	\$19,567,406
Neonatal Surcharge	2,809,905	2,680,000	129,905	4.8%	7,360,000
Driver Improvement Surcharge	991,518	1,165,708	(174,190)	-14.9%	3,369,200
Forensic Toxicology	171,479	95,523	75,956	79.5%	286,568
Environmental	3,249,012	3,411,358	(162,347)	-4.8%	10,030,294
Proficiency	1,518,994	1,399,049	119,945	8.6%	4,010,072
Occupational Health	709,491	645,887	63,604	9.8%	2,025,661
Laboratory Services	16,152,904	16,095,969	56,936	0.4%	46,649,202
Grants Indirect Reimbursement	0	0	0		855,000
WI DHS Employee Contracts	201,216	280,417	(79,200)	-28.2%	841,250
WI DHS WSLH IT Employee Contracts	387,761	434,740	(46,979)	-10.8%	1,304,221
Other	25,920	25,595	325	1.3%	27,129
Earnings - Investment Income	54,312	20,000	34,312	171.6%	60,000
Other Revenue	669,210	760,752	(91,542)	-12.0%	3,087,600
Grants	1,689,540	1,994,985	(305,445)	-15.3%	5,875,906
Program Revenue	18,511,654	18,851,705	(340,051)	-1.8%	55,612,708
State General Program Revenue (GPR)	4,161,116	3,960,000	201,116	5.1%	12,960,000
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>22,672,770</b>	<b>22,811,705</b>	<b>(138,935)</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>	<b>68,572,708</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Salaries	8,678,048	9,610,099	(932,052)	-9.7%	28,421,601
Fringe Benefits	3,311,458	3,583,462	(272,004)	-7.6%	10,455,437
Supplies & Services	7,368,136	7,194,474	173,662	2.4%	22,689,146
Building Rent	1,105,688	1,087,462	18,227	1.7%	3,345,358
Grants Indirect	332,178	351,516	(19,338)	-5.5%	1,051,883
Depreciation	857,254	857,254	0	0.0%	2,597,235
Bad Debt Expense	2,448	600	1,848	308.0%	1,800
Interest Expense	8,544	5,125	3,420		10,249
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>21,663,754</b>	<b>22,689,991</b>	<b>(1,026,238)</b>	<b>-4.5%</b>	<b>68,572,708</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$1,009,017</b>	<b>\$121,714</b>	<b>\$887,303</b>	<b>729.0%</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
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**WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE**  
**Comparative Income Statement**  
**For the 4 months ended October 31, 2024 and October 31, 2023**

	Year to Date Actual	Prior Year Actual	Variance Over/(Under)	Variance % of Prior Year
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>				
Clinical	\$6,702,506	\$6,045,854	\$656,652	10.9%
Newborn Screening	2,809,905	2,479,925	329,979	13.3%
Driver Improvement Surcharge	991,518	898,655	92,863	10.3%
Forensic Toxicology	171,479	63,710	107,769	169.2%
Environmental	3,249,012	3,128,953	120,059	3.8%
Proficiency	1,518,994	1,610,790	(91,796)	-5.7%
Occupational Health	709,491	608,888	100,603	16.5%
Laboratory Services	16,152,904	14,836,776	1,316,128	8.9%
Grants Indirect Reimbursement	0	0	0	
WI DHS Employee Contracts	201,216	285,000	(83,784)	-29.4%
WI DHS WSLH IT Employee Contracts	387,761	288,948	98,813	34.2%
Other	25,920	0	25,920	
Earnings - Investment Income	54,312	6,486	47,827	737.4%
Other Revenue	669,210	580,434	88,777	15.3%
Grants	1,689,540	1,902,422	(212,882)	-11.2%
Program Revenue	18,511,654	17,319,632	1,192,023	6.9%
State General Program Revenue (GPR)	4,161,116	4,379,433	(218,317)	-5.0%
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>22,672,770</b>	<b>21,699,064</b>	<b>973,706</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Salaries	8,678,048	8,661,105	16,943	0.2%
Fringe Benefits	3,311,458	3,533,188	(221,729)	-6.3%
Supplies & Services	7,368,136	7,320,324	47,811	0.7%
Building Rent	1,105,688	1,089,106	16,583	1.5%
Grants Indirect	332,178	322,761	9,417	2.9%
Depreciation	857,254	854,191	3,063	0.4%
Bad Debt Expense	2,448	49	2,399	4863.1%
Interest Expense	8,544	5,125	3,420	66.7%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>21,663,754</b>	<b>21,785,849</b>	<b>(122,095)</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME (LOSS)</b>	<b>\$1,009,017</b>	<b>(\$86,784)</b>	<b>\$1,095,801</b>	<b>-1262.67%</b>



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**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**December 18, 2024**  
**1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE**  
**Comparative Balance Sheet**  
**As of October 31, 2024 and June 30, 2024**

**ASSETS**

	<b>October 31, 2024</b>	<b>June 30, 2024</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash	\$3,302,697	\$2,562,967
Net accounts receivables (Note 2)	8,997,195	8,285,897
Other receivables	0	0
Inventories	11,445	12,641
Prepaid expenses	0	0
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>12,311,338</b>	<b>10,861,505</b>
<b>EQUIPMENT AND BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS</b>		
Equipment	42,460,171	41,749,445
Building improvements	2,357,769	2,357,769
	44,817,940	44,107,213
Less accumulated depreciation	(31,737,382)	(30,880,128)
<b>Total net fixed assets</b>	<b>13,080,558</b>	<b>13,227,085</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$25,391,896</b>	<b>\$24,088,590</b>

**LIABILITIES AND EQUITY**

**CURRENT LIABILITIES**

Accounts payable	901,624	621,024
Obligations under capital leases	59,524	59,524
WI DHS neonatal surcharge payable	1,058,536	883,507
Proficiency testing deferred revenue	1,027,884	1,155,474
Newborn screening deferred revenue	1,366,827	1,366,827
Compensated absences (Note 3)	1,093,845	1,093,845
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>5,508,239</b>	<b>5,180,201</b>

**LONG TERM DEBT**

Obligations under capital leases	247,203	280,953
Compensated Absences (Note 3)	1,960,371	1,960,371
<b>Total long term debt</b>	<b>2,207,574</b>	<b>2,241,324</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$7,715,814</b>	<b>\$7,421,525</b>

**EQUITY**

Net Operating Income (Loss)	1,009,017	(170,616)
Retained earnings	15,380,389	15,551,005
Contributed capital	1,286,676	1,286,676
<b>Total retained earnings</b>	<b>17,676,082</b>	<b>16,667,065</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>17,676,082</b>	<b>16,667,065</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$25,391,896</b>	<b>\$24,088,590</b>

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
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**WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE  
Statement of Cash Flow  
For the 4 months ended October 31, 2024 and the 12 months ended June 30, 2024**

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Prior Year</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Net income	\$1,009,017	(\$170,616)
Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation	857,254	2,597,018
Changes in working capital components:		
Decrease/(Increase) in net accounts receivables	(711,298)	(45,894)
Decrease/(Increase) in other receivables	0	922,600
Decrease/(Increase) in inventories	1,196	11,186
Decrease/(Increase) in prepaid expenses	0	0
(Decrease)/Increase in salaries payable	0	0
(Decrease)/Increase in accounts payable	280,600	(38,578)
(Decrease)Increase in accrued expenses	0	0
(Decrease)Increase in deferred revenue	0	0
(Decrease)/Increase in neonatal surcharge payable	175,028	647,765
(Decrease)Increase in proficiency testing deferred revenue	(127,590)	(194,008)
(Decrease)/Increase in newborn screen deferred revenue	0	20,895
(Decrease)/Increase in obligation on capital lease	(33,750)	340,477
(Decrease)/Increase in compensated absences	0	133,989
	<u>1,450,457</u>	<u>4,224,835</u>
Net cash provided (used) in operating activities		
	1,450,457	4,224,835
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of equipment and physical plant improvements	<u>(676,801)</u>	<u>(3,064,493)</u>
Net cash provided (used) in investing activities	<u>(676,801)</u>	<u>(3,064,493)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Principal payment on Capital Lease	<u>(33,926)</u>	<u>(63,687)</u>
Net cash provided (used) in financing activities	<u>(33,926)</u>	<u>(63,687)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash	739,731	1,096,654
<b>Cash:</b>		
Beginning	<u>2,562,967</u>	<u>1,466,313</u>
Ending	<u>\$3,302,697</u>	<u>\$2,562,967</u>

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**WISCONSIN STATE LABORATORY OF HYGIENE**

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

**For the period July 1, 2024 through October 31, 2024**

**Note 1 - Nature of Business and Significant Accounting Policies**

**Nature of Business:**

- The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) is a governmental institution which provides medical, industrial and environmental laboratory testing and related services to individuals, private and public agencies, including the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Health Services (DHS). Approximately 80% of the WSLH operating revenues are program revenues, including contracts, grants, and fee-for-service billing. The remainder are general purpose revenues (GPR), which are Wisconsin state general fund dollars.

**Budgetary Data:**

- Fiscal Year 2024-2025 operating budget amounts were approved by the WSLH Board on June 26, 2024.

**Basis of Presentation:**

- The financial statements have been prepared on a modified accrual basis.

**Basis of Accounting:**

- Revenues are recognized at the completion of the revenue generating processes. Fee-for-service revenues are generally recognized in the period services are completed.
- Revenues from GPR, OWI, Grants, and expense reimbursement contracts for salaries, fringe benefits, capital, and supplies are recognized as expended.
- Expenses are recognized and accrued when the liability is incurred.

**Estimates and assumptions:**

- The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying footnotes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Assets**

- Accounts receivable are reported at net realizable value. Net realizable value is equal to the gross amount of receivables less an estimated allowance for uncollectible amounts.
- Inventory is stated at cost (first in, first-out method).
- Equipment and building improvements are carried at cost. Expenditures for assets in excess of \$5,000 are capitalized. Depreciation is computed by the straight-line method.

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Liabilities

- A liability for unearned revenue is recognized for the proficiency testing program and for the newborn screening program.

**Note 2 – Net Accounts Receivable**

- Accounts receivable and allowance for uncollectible account balances as of June 30, 2024 and October 31, 2024 are as follows:

	<u>October 31, 2024</u>	<u>June 30, 2024</u>
Accounts Receivable Total	\$9,080,032	\$8,368,734
Allowance for bad debt	<u>(82,837)</u>	<u>(82,837)</u>
Net Receivables	\$8,997,195	\$8,285,897

**Note 3 – Compensated Absences**

- GASB Statement No. 16, "Accounting for Compensated Absences," establishes standards of accounting and reporting for compensated absences by state and local governmental entities for which employees will be paid such as vacation, sick leave, and sabbatical leave. Using the criteria in Statement 16, a liability for compensated absences that is attributable to services already rendered and that is not contingent on a specific event that is outside the control of the State and its employees has been accrued. The table below details the liability by benefit category:

	Total	Vacation	Personal Holiday	Legal Holiday	Sabbatical
Current	\$1,093,845	\$938,578	\$29,334	\$25,897	\$100,036
Long Term	1,960,371				1,960,371
	<u>\$3,054,216</u>	<u>\$938,578</u>	<u>\$29,334</u>	<u>\$25,897</u>	<u>\$2,060,407</u>

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**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Item 10. CONTRACTS REPORT**

**Description of the Item:**

Tip Vandall, WSLH Accounts Receivable Financial Manager, will provide a brief update on Contracts to the Board.

**Suggested Board Action:**

Review and provide input.

**Staff Recommendations and Comments:**

Receive for information.

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**BUSINESS ITEMS**

**Item 11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Dr. James Schauer, Director, WSLH

- **FDA/LDT Update**
  - Dr. Errin Rider, Director of Clinical Laboratory Services
- **Key Public Health Notices**
  - Camille Danielson, Environmental Chemistry Director
- **Public Relations Report**
  - Jan Klawitter, WSLH Communications Manager

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**Selected Public Health and Environmental Notices\* 9/6/24 – 12/3/24**

*\*Content has been abbreviated*

**1. DNR Publishes Final Environmental Impact Statement For Proposed Enbridge Line 5 Relocation – Published 9/6/24**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today published its final Environmental Impact Statement for Enbridge, Inc.'s proposal to replace a segment of its Line 5 liquid petroleum pipeline in Ashland and Iron counties. Operational since 1953, Line 5 is part of an extensive network of petroleum transport pipelines owned and operated by Enbridge Energy, LLC. The existing line runs for 645 miles from Superior, Wisconsin, to Sarnia, Ontario, including a 12-mile segment that passes through the Bad River Reservation of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Enbridge is proposing to replace 20 miles of existing pipeline, including the 12-mile segment within the reservation, with 41 miles of new pipeline routed entirely outside the reservation's border. Wisconsin law requires all state agencies to prepare a detailed statement, called an environmental impact statement, or EIS, for major actions that significantly affect the quality of the human environment. An EIS is an objective, detailed and comprehensive analysis of the anticipated environmental and socio-economic impacts of a proposed project and its alternatives.

Per s. NR 150.30(1), Wis. Admin. Code, the purpose of an EIS is to inform decision-makers and the public of the anticipated effects on the quality of the human environment of a proposed action or project and alternatives to the proposed action or project. An EIS shall consider the proposed action or project, alternatives and anticipated environmental effects in a dispassionate manner, and may not advocate a particular position about a proposed action or project.

**2. DHS Identifies Salmonella Infections Linked to Eggs Sold in Wisconsin Published 9/6/24**

Forty-two people in Wisconsin have become sick, product now recalled, and consumers advised to check for products in their homes

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), along with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), local health departments, and federal partners, are working to investigate a multistate outbreak of [Salmonella](#) infections linked to eggs from a Wisconsin farm. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 65 people in nine states have become infected with the outbreak strain of Salmonella. This includes 42 people who live in Wisconsin.

The eggs were distributed in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan through retail stores and food service distributors, and have now been recalled. The recall includes all egg types such as

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conventional cage-free, organic, and non-GMO, carton sizes, and expiration dates in containers labeled with “Milo’s Poultry Farms” or “Tony’s Fresh Market.”

Anyone who purchased the recalled eggs is advised to not eat them or cook with them and to throw them away. Restaurants should not sell or serve recalled eggs. Check your home for this product. If you ate any of the recalled eggs and are experiencing symptoms of Salmonella infection, contact a health care provider right away. Let them know you may have been in contact with Salmonella. Signs and symptoms of Salmonella infection include diarrhea, abdominal pain, fever, and vomiting that lasts for several days.

**3. DHS Monitoring Significant Increase in Pertussis (Whooping Cough), Urges Vaccination to Prevent Severe Symptoms Published 9/19/24**

Pertussis cases currently more than ten times higher than last year in Wisconsin, high nationwide. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is reporting a significant increase in cases of pertussis, also known as whooping cough, across Wisconsin. Data in the state, and nationally, show case counts are now similar to pre-pandemic levels. To prevent the spread and protect against severe symptoms or hospitalization, DHS urges Wisconsinites to make sure they and their children are up to date on their pertussis vaccine and to take other steps to stay healthy.

As of September 13, 2024, DHS has received reports of 625 confirmed cases of pertussis, compared to 51 cases reported in 2023. Since January 1, 2024, two-thirds of Wisconsin counties have reported at least one case. While people can get pertussis at any age, Wisconsinites aged 11 to 18 currently make up nearly half of all cases reported so far this year. "While it's not uncommon for Wisconsin to see more cases of whooping cough compared to other years, this year there has already been more than 10 times as many cases as were reported in all of 2023," said Stephanie Schauer, DHS Wisconsin Immunization Program Manager. "Whooping cough can be very serious, especially for infants. The best way to protect yourself and others is to stay up to date on your vaccines."

**4. Lake Kegonsa State Park Gets New Bike Trail Connection Published 9/23/24**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is celebrating the grand opening of Dane County’s Lower Yahara River Trail – Phase 2, which adds a new paved bike trail at Lake Kegonsa State Park and a trail connection to Fish Camp County Park. Phase 2 of the Lower Yahara River Trail is a 1.6-mile asphalt-paved trail with 4,200 feet of boardwalk through wetlands and a 90-foot bridge over Door Creek. The trail begins just south of McFarland at Fish Camp County Park and extends east along the northern shore of Lake Kegonsa into Lake Kegonsa State Park.



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**5. DHS Urges Wisconsinites To Protect Themselves from Mosquito Bites Published 9/27/24**

Precautions recommended after two horses in the state infected with Eastern equine encephalitis. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) urges people to continue to take steps to prevent mosquito bites after two horses in the state tested positive for Eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEE). The Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) announced a case in Marathon County yesterday, and then confirmed another case in Clark County. This is evidence mosquitoes are present in the state that can spread EEE to animals and people. EEE is a rare but serious disease. One human case of EEE was reported in Wisconsin earlier this year, but they most likely acquired their infection during travel to another state. EEE virus spreads to humans, horses, and other animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes acquire EEE by feeding on infected birds. The virus is not spread person to person, directly between animals, or between animals and humans.

**6. DNR Celebrates SDWA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Published 10/1/24**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) joins the nation in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act, landmark legislation protecting public health and safeguarding our nation’s drinking water. Since its passage in 1974, the Act has ensured that communities nationwide have access to clean, safe drinking water. On a state level, the DNR has worked tirelessly to implement and enforce the act, resulting in:

- Consistent [compliance rates above 99% for community water systems](#), demonstrating Wisconsin’s commitment to providing safe drinking water.
- Reduction of contaminants like nitrate, radium, cryptosporidium and over 90 other contaminants in drinking water that often affect vulnerable populations.
- Protection of groundwater resources through robust well-construction standards, ensuring the long-term sustainability of Wisconsin's aquifers.
- Staying ahead of the curve in safeguarding public health by collaborating with local governments and water utilities to address emerging contaminants like per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).
- Investment in water infrastructure, including funding for water system upgrades and lead service line replacements, to ensure the continued safety and reliability of our drinking water.

“Wisconsin has a proud history of prioritizing clean drinking water, and the Safe Drinking Water Act has been instrumental in our efforts,” said DNR Deputy Secretary Steven Little. “As we celebrate this anniversary, we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring every Wisconsinite has access to safe drinking water.” Wisconsin has emerged as a national leader in protecting its water resources with proactive measures that set a high standard for other states to follow. The DNR will continue to work with stakeholders to address evolving challenges and protect Wisconsin’s precious water resources for future generations. The Safe Drinking Water Act

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makes water data public. Visit the [DNR's drinking water webpage](#) for local data and to learn how to get your private well tested.

**7. DNR Asks Hunters Near Town Of Stella To Donate Deer Tissue Samples For PFAS Testing  
Published 10/3/24**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) needs help from deer hunters to better understand if local perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are accumulating in white-tailed deer near the Town of Stella in Oneida County. The DNR needs deer tissue samples from hunters who harvest a deer during any of the 2024 deer hunting seasons (archery, gun or muzzleloader) within a 3-mile radius of the Town of Stella. Interested hunters will need to submit 100 grams (about the size of an adult thumb) of both muscle and liver tissue, along with harvest location details such as GPS, nearest street address or nearest intersection. Samples should be wrapped in aluminum foil and placed in a zip-close bag, then dropped off at the CWD kiosk in Rhinelander.

All samples will be processed in the order in which they were received by the State Laboratory of Hygiene in Madison. Hunters will receive a final report outlining the results of their deer's tissue samples within 2-4 months after submission. Overall findings from testing efforts will be shared with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to determine whether any consumption advisories are warranted.

**8. Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health Shares Fact Sheet about the Importance of School Nurses Published 10/8/24**

Year after year, Americans rate nursing as the most trusted and ethical profession in the country. In schools, nurses are entrusted with providing health care to their school community and serving as a critical support system for students and staff alike. They are equipped to handle everything from allergic reactions, broken bones, and concussions to medical emergencies. More than ever, they are handling youth mental health as well.

Though they are trusted health care professionals, school nurses face increasing pressures. On average, a Wisconsin school nurse is tasked with supporting nearly 1,500 students. Some serve as the only school nurse for an entire district. In rural areas, school nurses may have to travel hours between schools to deliver services. "Supporting school nurses so they can support our children is important for every community," says Hall. "When our kids are healthy, families and schools can thrive. Leveraging the connection school nurses have with students, along with their expertise, is a strategic way to address youth mental health in Wisconsin."

**9. DNR Confirms Cases Of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease In Chippewa, Jackson And Waukesha Counties Published 10/8/24**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today confirmed that tissue samples collected from one deer in Chippewa County, two deer in Jackson County and one deer in Waukesha County have tested positive for the virus that causes epizootic hemorrhagic disease

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(EHD). The disease was detected after landowners reported healthy-looking, dead deer near ponds on their properties. The DNR is investigating similar reports in additional counties.

The virus that causes EHD is spread between deer by midges, which are small flies also known as biting gnats or no-see-ums. The virus does not infect humans, even if a person handles infected deer, eats venison from infected deer or is bitten by infected midges. Clinical signs of EHD in deer often include excessive salivation, foaming around the nose and mouth and appearing weak or approachable by humans. Carcasses found in or near water sources may also be a sign, as infected deer will often lay in water to cool down or drink. Anyone who observes a deer that appears to be displaying clinical signs of EHD or is found dead in or near water is encouraged to contact the DNR quickly. To report a sick or dead deer, email [DNRWildlifeSwitchboard@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRWildlifeSwitchboard@wisconsin.gov) or call 608-267-0866. You must leave a message for wildlife management staff to return your call. Reports of sick or dead deer are important to gaining a better understanding of the disease.

If reporting a suspected case, please provide details about the number of deer, the body condition of the deer/carcass(es), the exact location (including the county) and your contact information. Cases where EHD is suspected may be investigated, and fresh samples will need to be collected within a day or two of death in order to detect the virus. The DNR will only test deer for EHD if the report is in a new county or a separate location from where the disease is already confirmed. EHD is not transmitted through carcasses or the environment after decomposition. Thus, the DNR will not collect or remove deer that are suspected to have died from EHD. The DNR also advises against handling any found deer carcasses because other harmful pathogens could be present.

### **About Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease**

EHD is common across the southern and western United States, occasionally showing up in the Midwest. It can be fatal to deer, especially in populations that have limited previous exposure to the virus, such as in Wisconsin. The disease is typically short-lived, as the flies that transmit the disease die with the first hard frost. When deer die of EHD, it typically happens within seven days of infection. EHD has previously been identified in Wisconsin, generally with minimal localized impacts on deer. The first outbreak was identified in 2012 when approximately 380 deer in Dane and Columbia counties were suspected of dying from the disease. The most recent outbreak was identified in 2021, but less than 20 deer were reported in each of La Crosse and Juneau counties. Until the two confirmed cases this year, EHD had not been detected in Wisconsin deer since 2021.

### **10. Historic Elk Hunting Season Begins Oct. 12 Published 10/12/24**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) celebrates the start of the 2024 elk hunting season on Saturday, Oct. 12. This is Wisconsin's seventh elk hunting season since the reintroduction of elk, but it also represents a milestone with the first season hunters have the opportunity to hunt in both the Northern and Central Elk Zones. Previous hunts only occurred

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within the Northern Elk Zone. "Wisconsin's central elk herd has reached an exciting milestone," said Christiana Kizewski, DNR Central Elk Zone biologist. "The herd's population is now at a level that allows for a limited hunt. This underscores the successful management of Wisconsin's healthy and growing elk herd."

The DNR approved an eight-bull harvest quota for the Northern Elk Zone and a four-bull quota for the inaugural season in the Central Elk Zone. Per treaty rights, the Ojibwe tribes have declared four bulls of the eight-bull harvest quota for the Northern Elk Zone. The eight hunters participating in the state-administered hunt were randomly selected from a pool of more than 25,000 applicants. The DNR received 17,761 applications to hunt in the Northern Elk Zone and 7,750 applications for the Central Elk Zone. The random drawing ensures that each applicant has an equal chance of selection within the respective management zones. Applicants were required to identify their management zone of choice during the elk hunting application process. Hunters Can Apply For The 2025 Elk Hunting Season Starting in March 2025. The DNR's elk management is driven by the revenue received as a result of hunter application fees, which contributes directly to the future of the state's elk population. For each \$10 application fee, \$7 goes directly toward elk management, habitat restoration and research.

The 2025 elk hunt application period for Wisconsin residents is expected to open with the new license year on March 1 and run through May 31, 2025. The 2025 elk hunting season will open on Saturday, Oct. 18. Hunters must select which unit they would like to hunt during the application process.

#### **11. DNR Issues Special Fire Order Due To Ongoing Drought Published 10/14/24**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today announced that due to prolonged drought conditions and potential for elevated fire danger throughout the fall, the agency is reinstating DNR burning permits by issuing a Special Fire Order in 13 Wisconsin counties. Current wildfire concerns are primarily due to the lack of precipitation across the entire state. Wisconsin has received record low rain in recent weeks, resulting in varying levels of moderate to severe drought. Wildfires that occur under these conditions can burn for great lengths of time and smolder underground for days and can be challenging to suppress. The recent rain has not improved the overall drought. Ongoing dry conditions, coupled with the potential for increased fire danger in the fall due to dead leaves, pine needles and other dry vegetation on the ground, make debris burning especially risky. Debris burning continues to be the leading cause of wildfires in Wisconsin.

#### **12. New CDC Report Shows Wisconsin Families Behind Other States in Protecting Children from Vaccine-Preventable Diseases Published 10/17/24**

A new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows Wisconsin children are behind other states in getting vaccines, leaving children and communities vulnerable to outbreaks. Using data from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), the CDC compared the vaccination rates of kindergarteners for the 2023-2024 school year to

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data from other states and found Wisconsin children are behind on important childhood vaccines including polio, pertussis, diphtheria and tetanus (DTaP), and measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR). Most notably, the report shows only 84.8% of Wisconsin kindergarteners were up to date on their MMR vaccine, while nationally 92.7% of children have received the MMR vaccine. As a result of that decline, diseases like measles and pertussis have increased across the U.S. in recent years.

**13. DHS Encourages Wisconsinites to Take Action to Prevent Childhood Lead Poisoning**  
**Published 10/21/24**

October 20-26 marks National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. During National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week (October 20-26), the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is encouraging all Wisconsinites take steps to prevent and detect childhood lead exposure by getting the facts, helping children get tested for lead exposure, and checking homes for lead hazards.

"We want to make sure all children can grow up health and lead-free," said Paula Tran, State Health Officer and Division of Public Health Administrator. "Our state has made sustained progress in reducing childhood lead poisoning; however, too many children across our state continue to be exposed to lead. This week serves as a reminder to families to be aware of lead hazards, and to make sure all Wisconsin children are tested." Earlier this year, DHS issued updated lead testing recommendations, calling for all children to be tested for exposure to lead at ages 1 and 2. Children between 3 and 5 years-old who have not been previously tested should also undergo screening for lead poisoning. Wisconsin communities with high rates of lead exposure due to the age of housing or other lead hazards may have additional testing recommendations

**14. DNR, WisDOT Partner To Add 420 Acres Of Restored Habitat To Turtle Valley Wildlife Area**  
**Published 10/24/24**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), today announced the restoration of Jacobson Wetland Mitigation Bank, 420 acres of wetland habitat in the town of Richmond. The site has been added to [Turtle Valley Wildlife Area](#) for public use.

Each year, WisDOT constructs hundreds of highway and bridge projects across the state. These projects strive to provide a safe and efficient transportation system, while also minimizing the impact to the surrounding environment. The DNR collaborates with WisDOT and multiple conservation partners to protect, enhance or restore valuable wetland habitats. WisDOT and the DNR have the nation's only interagency cooperative agreement for reviewing environmental impacts on WisDOT facilitated projects. WisDOT has over 250 wetland restoration sites totaling close to 8,000 acres across watersheds in Wisconsin to support and offset transportation impacts to wetlands.

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WisDOT fully restored Jacobson Wetland Mitigation Bank and transferred ownership of the property to the DNR in July. The site was originally drained for agricultural purposes and is now restored to wet meadow and shallow marsh. “The goal of our program is to identify lands that have the ability to be restored to wetland status and provide an ecological lift to the watershed,” said Tim McElmeel, WisDOT environmental services supervisor. “WisDOT is happy to transfer the land to the DNR, who will be great long-term stewards of the land.”

**15. Invasive Carp Detected In The Lower Chippewa And Lower Black Rivers Published  
10/28/24**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced today that silver carp, an invasive species, have been detected in portions of the lower Chippewa River and lower Black River in western Wisconsin. In May 2024, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) collected 134 water samples from the lower Chippewa River to test for invasive carp environmental DNA (eDNA). At that time, no eDNA was found for invasive carp. In July, the DNR began receiving reports from anglers of jumping fish suspected to be invasive carp at the Dells Dam on the lower Chippewa River in Eau Claire. The Dells Dam in Eau Claire prevents further upstream passage of invasive carp in the Chippewa River System.

On Aug. 1, DNR staff went to the dam and observed jumping fish but were unable to verify the species of fish. On Aug. 27, the DNR downloaded data from an acoustic receiver tasked with listening for transmitters embedded in fish in the lower Chippewa River, 6 miles downstream of the Dells Dam. Data showed that a single silver carp, originally tagged and captured on the Mississippi River near Davenport, Iowa, was detected on July 21, Aug. 4 and Aug. 26, confirming that silver carp had migrated into the lower Chippewa River at that time. On Sept. 26, DNR staff downloaded data from an acoustic receiver on the lower Black River near Melrose which showed that one silver carp passed that location on May 25 and June 5. This fish was originally captured and tagged in Pool 5A of the Mississippi River.

It is believed that the carp may have migrated in June and early July due to the high water levels observed on the Mississippi River, which would have allowed fish to move upstream into adjacent tributaries. Tributaries to the lower Chippewa River, such as the Red Cedar River up to the Lake Menomin Dam and the Eau Claire River up to the Lake Altoona Dam, may be other potential locations where invasive carp might be observed since these waterbodies do not have barriers that would prevent upstream fish movement from the adjacent lower Chippewa River. The dam in Black River Falls is a barrier to upstream fish migration, and no observations or other detections of invasive carp have been reported in the lower Black River at this time.

The USFWS is currently in the process of resampling the Chippewa River, and members of the public should notify local aquatic invasive species staff or fisheries biologists if any suspected invasive carp are observed or captured in the lower Chippewa and Black rivers or their tributaries. If You Catch An Invasive Carp. Prevention remains the best way to help protect Wisconsin’s waters. Under chapter NR 40, Wis. Admin. Code, bighead, silver, grass and black carp are prohibited species in Wisconsin, meaning they cannot be transported, possessed,

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transferred or introduced without a permit. However, a permit is not required for a person to possess and transport a deceased prohibited species to a DNR office for the purpose of identification. Anglers and others who capture any potential invasive carp are asked to euthanize the fish, put them on ice and contact a local aquatic invasive species staff, fisheries biologist or warden to confirm identification. Although no technology currently exists to eradicate invasive carp, the DNR is working collaboratively with other state and federal agencies on the research and development of invasive carp prevention and control technologies.

**16. DNR Honors Darlington Resident Steve Hubner As State Natural Areas Volunteer Of The Year Published 11/13/24**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today announced Darlington resident Steve Hubner as the State Natural Areas Volunteer of the Year for 2024 for his nearly 40 years of volunteer work at many properties around the state, including Muralt Bluff Prairie State Natural Area. With a degree in natural resources from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Hubner brought his skills to a group of like-minded individuals in Green County as one of the founding members of the Prairie Bluff Chapter of The Prairie Enthusiasts during the late 1980s. Partnerships with groups like The Prairie Enthusiasts, who co-own Muralt Bluff Prairie with the DNR, are critical to care for the over 406,000 acres of state natural areas across Wisconsin.

**Volunteer At Your Local State Natural Area**

Wisconsin's state natural areas are designated to conserve the best of our state's prairies, forests, wetlands and other habitats. These unique places support 90% of rare plant species and 75% of rare wildlife species. Nearly all properties are open to the public to enjoy while bird watching, hiking, hunting and fishing. The Wisconsin DNR is actively recruiting volunteers to help care for these unique places. No experience is necessary, and training and equipment are provided on-site. To get involved and receive notifications about upcoming workdays, sign up for email invites on the DNR's State Natural Areas Volunteer Program webpage. Additional volunteer opportunities are available directly through The Prairie Enthusiasts' Volunteer webpage.

**17. DHS Urges Wisconsinites to Protect Themselves Against Respiratory Viruses This Holiday Season Published 11/13/24**

Now is the time to get flu, COVID-19, and RSV vaccines. Holidays are a busy time for travel, gathering with family and friends, and getting sick. Vaccines are safe, effective, and the best way to stay healthy. Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) data show only 22% of Wisconsinites have received a flu shot this season, and just 11% have received an updated COVID-19 vaccine. With flu, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), and COVID-19 cases starting to rise, now is the time to get a vaccine.

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"Any time is a good time to get vaccinated, but if you haven't yet, at least two weeks ahead of holiday gatherings is really the best time to get vaccinated," said DHS Immunization Program Manager Dr. Stephanie Schauer. "It takes a couple of weeks after getting a vaccine for your body to build protection against these viruses, which can protect you from getting really sick and can help prevent you from spreading illness to others."

**18. DHS Launches New System to Help Communities Track and Respond to Overdose Published 11/14/24**

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) has launched an innovative new online tool for people working in overdose spike response, substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery. The Wisconsin Suspected Overdose Alerts for Rapid Response (WiSOARR) system will provide near real-time data on when and where suspected overdoses may have occurred to inform immediate actions to address drug overdoses. "WiSOARR gives our substance use partners a faster and clearer understanding of when and where suspected overdoses are occurring in their communities," said Michelle Haese, DHS director of substance use initiatives. "This system is a step forward in our ongoing work to better understand and respond to the ever-evolving drug overdose epidemic with the right strategies at the right time."

**19. DHS Encourages Wisconsinites to 'Be Antibiotic Aware' This Respiratory Virus Season Published 11/18/24**

Using antibiotics when they're not necessary can do more harm than good. Respiratory virus season is underway in Wisconsin, and it's common this time of year for people to seek antibiotics when sick. When used correctly, antibiotics can help you feel better and save lives. However, when taken unnecessarily, they can cause harmful side effects and contribute to antibiotic resistance. To recognize and raise awareness of safe antibiotic use, Gov. Tony Evers proclaimed this week, November 18-24, as Wisconsin Antibiotic Awareness Week, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is calling attention to the dos and don'ts of taking antibiotics.

"When you are sick, it's tempting to want to try anything to feel better," says State Health Officer and Division of Public Health Administrator Paula Tran. "But it's essential to know that antibiotics do not treat the viral illnesses common this time of year, such as cold, flu, or COVID-19, and taking them can potentially cause side effects."

Antibiotics are only effective for treating certain infections caused by bacteria and when taken correctly, can prevent and treat serious infections and save lives. However, antibiotics don't treat infections caused by viruses (viral infections).



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**20. DNR Announces Permitting Decisions For Proposed Enbridge Line 5 Relocation Published 11/14/24**

After careful consideration of applicable state laws, all input received and the administrative record, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today announced its decision to issue an individual wetland and waterway permit with conditions and convey coverage under the department's Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) General Permit for Construction Site Storm Water for Enbridge, Inc.'s proposal to replace a segment of its Line 5 liquid petroleum pipeline in Ashland and Iron counties. The DNR's review of these permits follows prescribed standards in Ch. 30 and ss. 281.36 and 283.33, Wis. Stats., and associated administrative codes, which specify the criteria the DNR is authorized to consider.

The wetland and waterway permit authorizes Enbridge to conduct specific construction-related activities that impact navigable waterways and wetlands as specifically described in the permit application, associated plans and permit conditions. The permit contains more than 200 conditions to ensure compliance with the state's wetlands and waterways standards. Permit coverage under the WPDES Construction Site Storm Water General Permit authorizes Enbridge to conduct land-disturbing construction activities in accordance with the application for coverage and associated plans, including specific plans for erosion control and water quality protection.

Approvals from both the DNR and U.S. Army Corps are needed before the project can proceed. Additional DNR permits or approvals for discharge of hydrostatic test water, dewatering of groundwater, burning of slash and incidental take of listed species may also be required.

Enbridge has also applied for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit to discharge dredged or fill material to waters of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which is required before the project can proceed. The DNR has issued a water quality certification with conditions that serves as a determination that the project as proposed will meet State of Wisconsin water quality standards. The U.S. Army Corps will consider Wisconsin's water quality certification as part of their permitting process.

Operational since 1953, Line 5 is part of an extensive network of petroleum transport pipelines owned and operated by Enbridge Energy, LLC. The existing line runs for 645 miles from Superior, Wisconsin, to Sarnia, Ontario, including a 12-mile segment that passes through the Bad River Reservation of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Enbridge is proposing to replace 20 miles of existing pipeline, including the 12-mile segment within the reservation, with 41 miles of new pipeline routed entirely outside the reservation's border.

**21. Help Fight Food Insecurity In Wisconsin, Participate In The DNR's Deer Donation Program Published 11/21/24**

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages hunters to donate Wisconsin-harvested deer through the DNR's Deer Donation Program. The program supports

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Wisconsin residents in need by helping stock food pantry shelves with ground venison made from donated deer.

“There are many individuals that face food insecurity, and the Deer Donation Program is a wonderful opportunity for hunters to help those in need,” said Marcus Ruffedt, DNR Wildlife Program specialist. “According to data from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, more than 900,000 Wisconsin residents received food assistance in 2023. There remains a high demand for the venison this program provides, and we hope hunters continue to donate deer and make a difference in their communities.”

Since the program began in 2000, hunters have donated over 98,000 deer, totaling nearly 4 million pounds of venison, to help Wisconsinites in need.

Avoid Lead In Venison - Deer harvested with lead bullets have been shown to have tiny lead particles or fragments remaining in a portion of the processed meat. Some of the lead fragments may be too small to see during processing. Although research has not linked lead in venison to human health effects, hunters are encouraged to use non-lead ammunition. Visit the DNR’s Safely Eating Venison webpage for more information and steps to reduce potential exposure.

**22. Salmonella Infections Linked to Cucumbers Sold in Wisconsin DHS Published 11/29/24**

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), along with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), local health departments, and federal partners, is working to investigate a multistate outbreak of Salmonella infections linked to cucumbers. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 68 people in 19 states have become infected with the outbreak strain of Salmonella. This includes three people who live in Wisconsin.

According to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the cucumbers were sold by SunFed Produce, LLC (SunFed) and shipped to 26 states, including Wisconsin, between October 12 and November 26. The cucumbers have now been recalled. Individual cucumbers may have a sticker that says “SunFed Mexico.” More information about the recall and how to identify the recalled cucumbers is available on the FDA website.

**23. Wisconsin Wayfinder Celebrates One Year of Supporting Families with Special Health Care Needs Published 12/3/24**

More than 2,200 families and nearly 670 providers and professionals helped. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) celebrates the one-year anniversary of Wisconsin Wayfinder: Children's Resource Network, a service connecting families of children with delays, disabilities, special health care needs, or mental health conditions to the resources and support they need to thrive. Since its launch in November 2023, Wisconsin Wayfinder has supported the families of more than 2,200 children and nearly 670 providers and professionals across the state, helping them navigate complex health care and access crucial services.

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"Families across Wisconsin tell us how important it is to have someone there for them when they need it most," said Wisconsin Medicaid Director Bill Hanna. "Through Wisconsin Wayfinder, we are providing that support, and we have seen firsthand the difference it has made in the lives of those we serve."

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Representative Public or Environmental Health Incidents of Educational Interest  
September 4 – December 2, 2024**

Approx. Date	Agent or Event Name	Description	Current Status
<b>RECENT EVENTS and FINDINGS</b>			
September 16-18, 2024	CDC's Overdose to Action in States (OD2A-S) Meeting	The CDC and APHL hosted a meeting for jurisdictions awarded OD2A-S grants to perform biosurveillance on non-fatal overdoses. It was held in Chicago IL and attended by Caitlin Murphy of Wisconsin's DHS and Dr. Heather Barkholtz who collaboratively presented on "Correlation Analysis of Non-Fatal Overdose Biosurveillance Data in Wisconsin".	Complete
September 30, 2024	WORT-FM interview about wastewater surveillance	WSLH Environmental Scientist Dr. Dagmara Antkiewicz spoke with WORT's Morning Buzz about the WSLH's wastewater surveillance work - <a href="https://www.wortfm.org/monbuzz240930-2-waste-water/">https://www.wortfm.org/monbuzz240930-2-waste-water/</a>	Complete
October 2024	Grant: National Influenza Reference Center (NIRC)	The WSLH Communicable Disease Division successfully re-competed for a 5-year grant through APHL, to serve as one of three NIRC sites nationally. The WSLH CDD has been a NIRC site since the beginning of the program almost 15 years ago.	Complete
October 2024	Lead testing outreach by Local Health Departments	The WSLH Environmental Health Division is assisting several Local Health Departments with lead testing outreach efforts in their communities. WSLH involvement includes not only testing in the metals lab, but also test kit building and shipping, specimen receiving and data entry. From Oct. 1 – Dec. 2, 2024, the WSLH has sent 1,274 lead/copper test kits to local health departments. In this same period in 2023, we sent out less than 100 test kits.	Ongoing

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October 3, 2024	Rock County Overdose Fatality Review	WSLH Forensic Toxicologists Lindsey Vosters and Courtney Peterson attended the Rock County Overdose Fatality Review Meeting. They attend as toxicology liaisons to the Coroners and Medical Examiners for the State.	Complete
October 9, 2024	Forensic Toxicology Program granted new accreditation	The Forensic Toxicology Program was granted ANAB (ISO 17025, AR3125, ABFT) accreditation for Forensic Testing Laboratories.	Complete
October 9, 2024	Columbia County Overdose Fatality Review	WSLH Forensic Toxicologist Courtney Peterson attended the Rock County Overdose Fatality Review Meeting. She attends as toxicology liaison to the Coroners and Medical Examiners for the State.	Complete
October 16, 2024	WSLH Employee Recognition Awards	<p>The 2024 WSLH Employee Recognition Awards had a record-high 29 nominees and 19 nominators. Awards were given in 5 categories: Staff Distinguished Service, Research Paper, Collaboration, Education and Outreach, and Service to the Community.</p> <p>The Golden Bucky's were awarded to –</p> <p><b>Staff Distinguished Service Award</b> (co-winners) - Tim Monson and Kelsey Florek (both CDD)</p> <p><b>Research Paper</b> (co-winners) - NADP Team and Wastewater Surveillance Team (both EHD)</p> <p><b>Collaboration</b> - Kristen Hannon (EHD PFAS)</p> <p><b>Education and Outreach</b> - Jim Hermanson (Office of Information Systems)</p> <p><b>Service to the Community</b> – Kathleen Dax-Klister (EHD)</p>	Complete
October 16-17, 2024	DRE-TOX study	Amy Miles and Dr. Heather Barkholtz attended DRE Field Certification training and ran a parallel study seeking to correlate toxicology test results from various biological fluids (blood, urine, oral fluid) to observations made by DREs during field tests on volunteers. This study is approved by UW's IRB and	Ongoing

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		data collection will continue at the next DRE Field Certification training in spring 2025.	
October 17, 2024	Alliance Signing	WisCon signed an Alliance Agreement with OSHA and the WCMA (Wisconsin Cheesemaker’s Association), which consists of 650 Wisconsin companies, to support dairy employee health and safety efforts.	Ongoing
October 18, 2024	<i>WI State Journal</i> article about cystic fibrosis	The WSLH’s Newborn Screening program for cystic fibrosis is mentioned in this story about how “...a breakthrough drug approved five years ago has transformed many (cystic fibrosis) patients’ lives, boosting the expected lifespan from 46 years in 2019 to 61 years today.”  <b>Cystic fibrosis patients breathing easier thanks to new drugs</b>  <a href="https://madison.com/news/local/business/health-care/trikafta-cystic-fibrosis-drug/article_34e34250-8a3e-11ef-9e39-0f671a5564b5.html">https://madison.com/news/local/business/health-care/trikafta-cystic-fibrosis-drug/article_34e34250-8a3e-11ef-9e39-0f671a5564b5.html</a>	Complete
October 22, 2024	National APHL webinar: respiratory virus surveillance	WSLH Communicable Disease Division Director Dr. Allen Bateman coordinated and presented about Wisconsin’s respiratory virus surveillance to a national audience in this APHL webinar.	Complete
October 27- Nov 1	Society of Forensic Toxicology Annual Meeting	Members of the Forensic Toxicology Program attended the SOFT meeting in St. Louis. Kayla Neuman and Bill Johnson are members of and attended the National Safety Council – Alcohol Drugs and Impairment Division meeting. Kayla presented in a workshop on certification as well as moderated a scientific session. She is also a member of the Drugs & Driving Committee and attended the meeting.  Dr. Heather Barkholtz presented on “Non-fatal overdose bio-surveillance: A cross-sectional pilot study in Wisconsin”. Maia Bates – Chemistry PhD candidate, Will Naviaux – Pharmaceutical Sciences PhD student, and Steffi Omadio – Molecular & Environmental Toxicology MS students also attended the conference.	Complete

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Oct 31 – Nov 1	OWI Prosecutor’s Conference Presentation	Forensic Toxicologist Kimberle Glowacki presented on two topics: Smith v AZ and Alcohol Calculations (ASB 122) to a group of OWI Prosecutors at their annual conference in Elkhart Lake.	complete
November 2024	THC and Meth impaired driving studies	<p>Dr. Heather Barkholtz, who holds a joint appointment with the WSLH Forensic Toxicology Section and the UW School of Pharmacy, has two ongoing research studies looking at the effect of drugs – specifically cannabis and meth - on driving ability. Both studies have received recent media attention.</p> <p><b><u>WI Public Radio: Wisconsin scientists study driving and THC impairment</u></b></p> <p><a href="https://www.wpr.org/news/uw-madison-research-driving-thc-impairment-delta-8-9">https://www.wpr.org/news/uw-madison-research-driving-thc-impairment-delta-8-9</a></p> <p><b><u>WISC-TV: "We need to get better at understanding how cannabis itself impairs people": UW Madison researchers study effects of driving while high</u></b></p> <p><a href="https://www.channel3000.com/news/we-need-to-get-better-at-understanding-how-cannabis-itself-impairs-people-uw-madison-researchers/article_e3a5249a-a44f-11ef-a93b-1baf272be453.html">https://www.channel3000.com/news/we-need-to-get-better-at-understanding-how-cannabis-itself-impairs-people-uw-madison-researchers/article_e3a5249a-a44f-11ef-a93b-1baf272be453.html</a></p> <p><b><u>WMTV - New UW-Madison study tests how a federally legal form of THC could impact drivers</u></b></p> <p><a href="https://www.wmtv15news.com/2024/11/26/new-uw-madison-study-tests-how-federally-legal-form-thc-could-impact-drivers/">https://www.wmtv15news.com/2024/11/26/new-uw-madison-study-tests-how-federally-legal-form-thc-could-impact-drivers/</a></p> <p><b><u>WI State Journal: UW-Madison study will inject people with meth to answer a decades-old question</u></b></p> <p><a href="https://madison.com/news/local/education/university/uw-madison-meth-injection-study/article_400049b0-ab29-11ef-8ba6-af46c0465815.html">https://madison.com/news/local/education/university/uw-madison-meth-injection-study/article_400049b0-ab29-11ef-8ba6-af46c0465815.html</a></p> <p><b><u>WI Public Radio: UW researchers hope to identify how the body processes different types of meth</u></b></p>	Ongoing

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		<a href="https://www.wpr.org/news/uw-researchers-hope-identify-how-body-processes-different-types-meth">https://www.wpr.org/news/uw-researchers-hope-identify-how-body-processes-different-types-meth</a>	
November 4, 2024	NADP Scientific Symposium + 2023 Data Summary	<p>The National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) held its annual Fall Meeting and Scientific Symposium in Duluth on Nov. 4-8. The theme was “Protecting the Health of Communities and Ecosystems in a Changing Climate” - <a href="https://nadp.slh.wisc.edu/nadp2024/">https://nadp.slh.wisc.edu/nadp2024/</a></p> <p>NADP also published its 2023 Data Summary online - <a href="https://heyzine.com/flip-book/2a22d33889.html">https://heyzine.com/flip-book/2a22d33889.html</a></p> <p>The annual data summary includes a series of maps that is a principal product of the NADP. It summarizes the results of network operation for the most recent complete calendar year in graphical form.</p>	Complete
Nov 5-7, 2024	Intoximeter Training	The three newest WSLH Forensic Toxicology Forensic Scientists attended Intoximeter training with the Chemical Test Section. They gathered data on the correlation between blood alcohol concentration and breath alcohol concentration as part of the training.	Complete
November 8, 2024	Drug Recognition Expert Recertification	DRE Liaison and Forensic Toxicologist Kimberle Glowacki presented at a recertification class for WI DRE's.	Complete
November 11, 2024	Article: Forensically Relevant Drug Screening Using LC–HRMS	LCGC International spoke to UW Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Dr. Heather Barkholtz (left) and her graduate student Maia Bates (right) about their recent evaluation of a broad screening technique for high-priority drugs of abuse in whole blood. The interview was published in <i>Chromatography Online</i> - <a href="https://www.chromatographyonline.com/view/forensically-relevant-drug-screening-using-lc-hrms">https://www.chromatographyonline.com/view/forensically-relevant-drug-screening-using-lc-hrms</a>	Complete
November 12, 2024	Wisconsin Mycobacteriology Laboratory Network Annual Meeting	The WSLH Communicable Disease Division hosted an all-day meeting for laboratorians and public health personnel who work to diagnose, treat and control the transmission of Tuberculosis statewide. The	Complete



**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene  
Board of Directors Meeting  
December 18, 2024  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

		meeting was attended by approximately 60 people and featured speakers from around the state.	
November 12-15, 2024	EPA Region 5 Laboratory Audit	The Environmental Health Division Departments - Inorganics, Organics, Microbiology, Data Management and Sample Receiving - were evaluated by five auditors from the EPA Region 5 Lab Accreditation Program for Drinking Water Testing. The official report will be sent early next year but the findings were minimal and the EPA praised our lab staff for their efforts and expertise.	Ongoing
November 20, 2024	Sauk County Overdose Fatality Review	WSLH Forensic Toxicologist Courtney Peterson attended the Rock County Overdose Fatality Review Meeting. She attends as toxicology liaison to the Coroners and Medical Examiners for the State.	Complete