

## ***WALHDAB Lab Section Meeting - Minutes***

UW-Oshkosh, Reeve Memorial Union, Room 306

748 Algoma Boulevard - Oshkosh, WI

January 11, 2010

10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

### **Public Health Laboratories Present**

- Eau Claire City-County Health Department – Courtenay Johnson & Josh Lewan
- Public Health Madison-Dane County – Kirsti Sorsa
- City of Racine Health Department – Julie Kinzelman
- Kenosha County Division of Health – Marcia Kelley
- Fond du Lac County – Gloria Smedema
- Brown County – John Paul
- Rock County – Rick Wietersen
- Outagamie County – Hsing-Yi Hsieh

### **Partners Present**

- Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (SLH) – Jan Klawitter
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – Ron Arneson

### **Others Present**

- University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh, Greg Kleinheinz

### **Agenda Topics/Discussion Items:**

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Laboratory Updates
  - a. Courtenay Johnson reported on the new hire, Josh Lewan, for the Eau Claire laboratory
  - b. Gloria Smedema reported on Fond du Lac's nitrate testing for private wells has increased due to a private water testing promotional program (efforts to increase private well water annual testing).
  - c. John reported that the Brown County lab made it through the county budget process. The lab also may be moving to a new building. Plans are still in discussion phase.
  - d. Jan Klawitter reported that there were some retirements in the environmental health division of the State Lab of Hygiene in 2009. A couple more are expected in the near future.
  - e. Ron Arneson reported on the new well and pump work e-files will soon be online or by File drop (similar to Public Systems File Drop). Updates will be provided as Ron receives them.
  - f. Julie Kinzelman reported on working with numerous grants for their laboratory, some in cooperation with UW-Oshkosh. Julie has also been named an adjunct scientist at the UW-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences and is working with faculty at UW-Parkside on developing environmental microbiology courses.
  - g. Kirsti Sorsa reported on a retirement from their laboratory and the process for filling the vacancy.

- h. Marcia Kelley reported that their laboratory conducts extensive forensic laboratory activities and this requires their lab technicians to spend a lot of time in court under cross-examination.
  - i. Rick reported that the Rock County lab manager is retiring and they will be hiring a replacement.
  - j. Hsing-Yi Hsieh reported that the Outagamie County lab no longer conducts well testing for WIC clients. Those tests are done by the State Lab of Hygiene fee-exempt. She said other private well water samples are decreasing so the lab may do a promotion.
2. Dr. Greg Kleinheinz, a professor and associate dean of letters and sciences at UW-Oshkosh and a registered sanitarian, discussed their environmental health laboratory and provided examples of laboratory services and projects. These include working with local health departments on molecular source tracking of water contamination, mold/indoor air issues (testing done at State Lab of Hygiene), well water testing and environmental contamination. UW-Oshkosh is going to turn an underutilized building on Lake Winnebago into an Aquatic Research Lab, including a biosolids lab. This new facility will serve as a portal for community partnerships. Local health departments that work with the UW-Oshkosh lab will have keys to the building so they can drop off samples.

UW-Oshkosh has also been working with their Environmental and Laboratory programs to help bring Environmental Health to the Northern regions of the State of Wisconsin. They have offered laboratory services to local health departments in the following counties: Door, Vilas, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Douglas, Iron, Winnebago, Ashland and Bayfield. They have established satellite labs in Ashland, Eagle River, Sturgeon Bay and Manitowoc to complement their core lab on the UW-Oshkosh campus. They also contract with Northern Lake Service, a private lab in Crandon. Dr. Kleinheinz is seeking grant funding to put Q-PCR technology into the regional labs so coastal communities in Wisconsin will be no further than 1 hour from rapid tests.

They also contract with a courier service to aid in same day delivery, which helps get lab results quicker, and increases the service to the public or agency they are working with. Their program and laboratory focuses primarily on offering partnerships and outreach opportunities as well as conducting research. They are always looking for programs and services that they could help provide or support as well as new/emerging issues.

They utilize students for many of their projects. This allows them to keep costs down and provides the students with real-world experience. All the activities are grant-funded. The lab services are integrative in that in addition to working with local health departments, lab staff also interact with city engineering departments, local politicians/policymakers, beach remediation efforts, etc.

UW-Oshkosh's proposal to offer an Environmental Health major will be voted on by the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents in a few weeks. Dr. Kleinheinz has put out feelers to other UW system schools to see if there can be collaborations. He believes there are a lot of opportunities for students to get internships and local health departments and labs to get interns.

3. Tour of UW-Oshkosh laboratory facilities and equipment (e.g. PCR, RT-PCR, GS-MS, MALDI)

4. Strategic Planning
  - a. Vision, Mission, and Strategic Goals – The group reviewed the draft strategic plan containing all edits and changes made at the October 2009 meeting. The group identified a few more changes and agreed that with the changes made, the plan should be finalized by March 15, 2010 (minus objectives). This revised plan will be distributed through the LabNetwork's listserv.
  - b. Strategic Goals and Objectives – With the strategic goals identified, the group started identifying and reviewing possible objectives for each strategic goal. The group will continue to work on preparing and writing objectives in 2010.
  
2. APHL Grant/Finance Report-
  - a. APHL Funding and Travel Budgets is available through April 30, 2010.
  - b. Current Balance (including 1/11/10 expenses) - \$2,044
  - c. The group wishes to hold one more face-to-face meeting using this funding source.
  
3. Next Face-to-Face meeting-
  - a. Meeting will be hosted by Eau Claire Laboratory at the Eau Claire County Courthouse
  - b. The next meeting date will be April 23, 2010 (post-meeting decision)
  - c. Mileage will be reimbursed from the APHL Grant
  - d. Hotel accommodations for those commuting greater than 3 hours will be paid at the State Rate from the APHL Grant (post-meeting discussion)
  
4. Future Agenda topics/items:
  - a. APHL Grant/Finance report and Future Funding Sources
  - b. Discussion regarding Letterhead/Logo for the LabNetwork
  - c. *Draft* Strategic Plan objectives
  - d. Website postings/content
  - e. Training ideas
  - f. Lab capabilities/experts 'list' that you can give to your local media regarding certain topics
  - g. Reciprocity options between local labs

A Big Thank You to Greg Kleinheinz and UW-Oshkosh for providing the facilities, morning treats & coffee!

Recorder: Courtenay Johnson, Chair

Dated: January 13, 2010