



Wisconsin Public Health LabNetwork

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WALHDAB Lab Section Meeting

Minutes

Racine City Hall, Room 209 – Racine, WI

October 5, 2009

9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Public Health Laboratories Present

- Eau Claire City-County Health Department – Courtenay Johnson
- Waukesha County Dept. of Parks and Land Use Environmental Health Division – Michael Radomski
- Public Health Madison-Dane County – Kirsti Sorsa
- City of Racine Health Department – Julie Kinzelman
- Kenosha County Division of Health – Marcia Kelley
- City of Milwaukee Health Department – Steve Gradus

Partners Present

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

Agenda Topics/Discussion Items:

1. Welcome, Introductions, Tour Racine Health Laboratory Facilities
2. Laboratory Updates-
  - a. Courtenay Johnson reported on staff vacancy, staff qualifications (education and experience), grant writing abilities, knowledge of new technologies (e.g. rapid PCR, Biotechnology, Molecular Biology).
  - b. Ron Arneson reported on updates from DNR:
    - i. 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.
    - ii. Public drinking water systems will have two additional fields (1) EPA source ID and (2) Monitoring Site ID. Updates will be provided as Ron receives them.
    - iii. Discovery of Cobalt in drinking water and human health implications. Should we be routinely testing for it?
  - c. Steve Gradus reported that the Milwaukee lab is certified and busy testing H1N1 influenza cultures. They completed around 4,000 tests in the spring '09 and are averaging about 20/day now with approximately 7% positive. He further reported that they are working with Quantitative PCR (QPCR) to validate the method and hopefully work with it for 2010 beach sampling.
  - d. Julie Kinzelman reported on working with QPCR and also the possibility of changing the beach testing standards from *E.coli* to *Enterococcus*.

- e. Kirsti Sorsa reported on their efforts to increase private well water testing by using a telephone call-out system (successful), challenges with Blue-green algae and our role to protect the public's health, and storm water outfall testing related to swimming pool releases.
  - f. Marcia Kelley reported that they are now doing lead testing in their laboratory for WIC clients. Kirsti and Courtenay both commented that their WIC staff do the testing. Kirsti further discussed that their lab trains the WIC staff on the equipment and sets up Proficiency Testing with SLH for WIC clients.
3. *Draft Strategic Plan Review & Revisions-*
    - a. The group reviewed a *Draft Strategic Plan* that was developed by Courtenay Johnson and Jim Steinhoff (LaCrosse – not present). Revisions were made to the Vision, Mission and Goals
    - b. A *Draft* with revisions to be distributed when completed and finalized at a future meeting.
  4. UW-Oshkosh-
    - a. UW-Oshkosh was unable to present at this meeting. The Invitation to UW-Oshkosh lab to present at the next meeting was again extended and accepted.
  5. APHL Grant/Finance Report-
    - a. APHL Funding and Travel Budgets is available through April 30, 2010.
    - b. Current Balance (not including 10/05/09 expenses) - \$3,263
    - c. The group wishes to hold two more face-to-face meetings using this funding source.
  6. Next Face-to-Face meeting-
    - a. Preliminary ideas were to hold a meeting in January and late March or early April.
    - b. Greg Kleinheinz from the UW-Oshkosh has volunteered his lab for this next meeting.
    - c. The date and location will be determined after discussion and confirmation with lab partners.
  7. Future Agenda topics/items:
    - a. Lab updates
    - b. APHL Grant/Finance report and Future Funding Sources
    - c. Discussion regarding Letterhead/Logo for the LabNetwork
    - d. Finalize Strategic Plan (Vision, Mission, and Goals [minus objectives])
    - e. Website postings/content
    - f. Training ideas
    - g. Lab capabilities/experts 'list' that you can give to your local media regarding certain topics
    - h. Reciprocity options between local labs

A Big Thank You to Julie Kinzelman and the City of Racine for providing the facilities, morning treats & coffee!

Recorder: Courtenay Johnson, Chair

Dated: October 13, 2009

**Post-Meeting Updates:**

1. Ron Arneson sent out an email with updates regarding items mentioned in #2.e. above.
2. Report to WALHDAB Board of Directors (copy attached). Courtenay presented on 10/09/09 to the Board updates on lab activities, progress and meetings.
3. Next Meeting Date and Place will be January 11, 2010 at UW-Oshkosh (details to follow).