

Laboratory Certification & Registration Standards Review Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

Attendance – 28 participants

- **9 Council members (6):** Tad Schwartzhoff (industrial rep), Jon Anderson (commercial rep), Craig Obry (*Vice Chair* – small WWTP rep), Na Zhang (WSLH rep), Brooke Klingbeil (demonstrated interest rep), Jennifer Buchholz (solid & hazardous waste disposal rep)
 - *Absent - Christine LesCamela (Chair – large WWTP rep), Alex Zenner (livestock farmer rep), Matt Schmeichel (public water utility rep)*
- **7 DNR staff (4):** Zana Sijan (manager), Tom Trainor (chemist), Autumn Farrell (auditor), Brenda Anderson (auditor)
 - *Absent – Patty Doerflinger (auditor), Rebecca Fahney (WSLH liaison), Matthew Stowe (auditor)*
- **Guests (18):** Paul Junio (Pace), Camille Danielson (WSLH), Erin Mani (WSLH), Mary Powers (Madison MSD), Amanda Kordus (Badger), Kristen Hannon (WSLH), Jessica McCammon (Madison MSD), Steve Hefter (NLS), RT Kruger (NLS), Juli Bowling (WEAL), Mike Tienor (NLS), Alfredo Sotomayor (Milwaukee MSD), Julie Klimek (Davy), Andrew Dennerlein (Racine WWTP), Kyle Burke (WSLH), Meredith Polar (AgSource), Shawn Keesey (Dane-Iowa), Kris Rigotti (Grande Cheese)
- **Agenda repair**
 - No changes
- **January 21, 2025, minutes**
 - No changes
- Tom let the group know the reason for Christine's recent absences. She hopes to be back for the next meeting.
- **Lab Cert program auditing status report**
 - FY 2025 partial, July 2024 – March 2025: **Large Scope**
 - ✓ Audited = 100%, Reports Issued = 96%, Closed = 85%, Revised Application Audits = 8.
 - ✓ Backlog of labs = 8, down 1 from last meeting.
 - ✓ Reports issued within 60 days = 96%.
 - ✓ Audits not closed over 1 year from report date = 0.
 - ✓ Active labs = 113, down 4 from last meeting.
 - ✓ New labs applied to program since last meeting = 1.
 - ✓ Labs dropped from program since the last meeting = 5.
 - FY 2025 partial, July 2024 – March 2025: **Small Scope**
 - ✓ Audited = 91%, Reports Issued = 93%, Closed = 109%, Revised Application Audits = 6.
 - ✓ Backlog of labs = 23, up 5 from last meeting.
 - ✓ Reports issued within 30 days = 98%.
 - ✓ Audits not closed over 1 year from report date = 0.
 - ✓ Active labs = 207, same as last meeting.
 - ✓ New labs applied to program since last meeting = 0.
 - ✓ Labs dropped from program since the last meeting = 0.

○ Other business

- NRB - FY 2026 Lab Cert budget approval
 - ✓ The budget was unanimously approved by the NRB on April 9th, 2025.
 - ✓ Total cost/RVU is \$85.00.
 - ✓ This cost/RVU constitutes a \$4.50 increase from the previous year and a 5.6% increase.
 - ✓ Effective date is 7/1/25 - 6/30/26.
- NRB - 2024 Lab of the Year Award
 - ✓ The award was presented to Hudson Wastewater Utilities by the NRB and the DNR Secretary on April 9th, 2025.
 - ✓ Four staff from Hudson made the trip to Madison for the presentation.
 - ✓ After the presentation Hudson Wastewater Utilities staff met with Lab Cert staff, Op Cert staff, and management where good ideas were discussed for future program improvements.



- Lab Certification Staff update
 - ✓ Autumn Farrell is leaving the program for a job with a power company.
 - ✓ Due to a shortage of HR staff, it is unknown as to when HR staff will be assigned to this vacancy.
 - ✓ RT and Paul offered to write a letter on our behalf if we thought it could help expedite the process.
 - ✓ Zana indicated that it would be helpful if council could do the same.
- 2025 Council member's update
 - ✓ Tad and Craig's 2nd terms conclude on June 30th, 2025. This is their last meeting as members. Thank you for your service!
 - ✓ Kris Rigotti is the new representative for the Industrial Laboratory position.
 - ✓ Kris has worked for Grande Cheese Company in Brownsville for over 35 years. Kris runs the laboratory and is a plant operator.
 - ✓ Shawn Keesey is the new representative for Small Municipal WWTPs.
 - ✓ Shawn has worked for Dane-Iowa WWTF for over 11 years. Shawn runs the laboratory and is a plant operator.
 - ✓ Kris and Shawn will start their terms on July 1, 2025, with their first meeting as members being September 23, 2025.
- EPA SDWA CO chemistry course
 - ✓ The course has been delayed by the EPA.
 - ✓ The EPA will be hosting the course on July 21st – 24th instead of March 24-27, 2025.
 - ✓ Brenda and Matt are still planning to attend.
 - ✓ It is highly doubtful that our new auditor will be hired in time to attend this course.

- PFAS PT requirements in drinking water
 - ✓ Currently 6 PFAS must be spiked at a minimum.
 - ✓ Two of those 6 PFAS must be PFOA and PFOS and both must pass.
 - ✓ 80% of all spiked PFAS must pass.
 - ✓ EPA Federal rule, 40 CFR Part 141.901, is effective now and it requires that the Hazard Index (HI) PFAS - PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, and HFPO-DA be spiked and pass in drinking water (water supply) PTs.
 - ✓ In addition, the Federal rule specifies $\pm 30\%$ as the acceptance limits for these 6 PFAS.
 - ✓ This applies to EPA 537.1 and EPA 533 certifications.
 - ✓ These same requirements are included in the revised version of NR 809 currently being worked on.
 - ✓ Tom reviewed 2025 PFAS PT results from Phenova and ERA and it looks like they are already covering these Federal requirements - as we might have expected them to be up to date with them.
 - ✓ As a result, effective for all PFAS DW PT results received in 2025 and moving forward, all 6 HI PFAS must be spiked and pass. In addition, 80% of the total PFAS spiked must pass.
- PFAS PT requirements in non-drinking water
 - ✓ Currently 6 PFAS must be spiked at a minimum.
 - ✓ Two of those 6 PFAS must be PFOA and PFOS and both must pass.
 - ✓ 80% of all spiked PFAS must pass.
 - ✓ These requirements won't change at this time because Phenova is not spiking all 6 HI PFAS in every PT.
- PT Providers Update
 - ✓ Just a reminder that Sigma-Aldrich (RTC/Millipore) is out of the PT business effective this year.
 - ✓ We have been notified that the NYDOH PT service will be discontinued at the end of this year.
 - ✓ The vast majority of PTs received are from ERA and Phenova, followed by WSLH.
 - ✓ NSI lab solutions and Absolute make up the rest.
- 2025-2026 Accreditation Renewal
 - ✓ Tom emailed out his annual "contacts update request" in February.
 - ✓ Forty-seven percent of the responses needed some update in our database.
 - ✓ Critical data are the main contact, billing contact, and email addresses.
 - ✓ Eighty-eight labs did not respond. So, Tom reached out to them individually to get the updates.
 - ✓ The Annual Environmental Invoices for the Department (not just Lab Cert) will be emailed out to the billing contact on the morning of May 12, 2025.
 - ✓ If an email is not received within a week, please reach out to Tom.
- 2025 Technical bulletin
 - ✓ Tom indicated that a technical bulletin from the Lab Cert program is coming but is still delayed.
 - ✓ Hope to get it out before the next meeting.

○ Council member issues

- None.

○ Guest issues

- None.

○ Next meeting will be held September 23, 2025, at 9 am.