

Budget Variance Report

- The following information was reported to the Council for the fiscal year through November 2012:

	<u>Spent \$</u>	<u>Budgeted \$</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
FY 2013 BUDGET	\$ 239,258	\$ 566,071	42.3%
Salary/Fringe	\$ 201,043	\$ 498,271	40.3%
Supplies & IT	\$ 38,215	\$ 67,800	56.4%

Allocables through November 2012: \$32,909 (13.7% of total expenses, 28.1% of salary line.

Program Performance Status Report for FY 2013 Year-to-Date

- Audits - Commercial/Public Health: **20** (32); Municipal/Industrial: **49** (92)
- Reports - Commercial/Public Health: **19** (32); Municipal/Industrial: **48** (92)
 - Reports Due - Commercial/Public Health: **4**; Municipal/Industrial: **3**
- Closures - Commercial/Public Health: **10** (32); Municipal/Industrial: **46** (92)
 - Open Cases - Commercial/Public Health: **20**; Municipal/Industrial: **45**
- For the fiscal year 2013 to-date, **70.0%** of reports for audits conducted were issued within 30 days
- Paul Harris inquired about the number of commercial lab audit reports (69%) with report turnaround over 30 days. Camille Turcotte explained that it was very difficult to get reports out for these larger labs within 30 days; she instructs auditors to get them out within 60 days.
- Paul Harris indicated that Minnesota gets good quality reports out in 30 days. Paul Junio felt that globally NELAC was closer to 60 days.
 - **Action:** *Try to obtain data from NELAC on report turnaround.*

Other DNR Business

- Variances - No variance requests were received.
- GEMS system – Jack Connelly (Landfill Monitoring) requested input on proposed changes to GEMS that would allow users the option to report results in units of their choice (currently GEMS has specific requirements, by parameter, on whether to report in units of ug/L or mg/L)

There was concern from the commercial lab community that labs have become accustomed to the GEMS reporting requirements and subsequently making a change now might force labs to make a change to their LIMS systems that they do not need.
- Reciprocity – Ms. Turcotte informed the Council that the LabCert program is reviewing all reciprocity agreements. This was something that did not happen at the time of the 2008 code change. Dave Ekern is reviewing reciprocal states' programs to see if they are lacking in any major areas. The feeling at this point is that we will dissolve at least a couple of the existing agreements. Plan is to identify agreements to void by March 1, 2013.
- PT Provider (PTP) concern update – As a result of A2LA's audit of the PT Provider, some additional changes are being required to tighten the Providers' policies. Overall this was a good outcome.
- Lab of the Year – After nominations were solicited, a blind panel (Camille and another Science Services Manager), with no identifying information, reviewed the nominations. The program is only presenting a single award and this year's recipient is the City of Watertown's Wastewater lab.
- Technology Meetings – In March, program auditors will be having a session on ICP/MS.
- NR 809 – A note was published to NR 809(.76) on January 31, 2013. This allows us to accept methods approved by the EPA but not yet published in NR 809.
- Radiologicals in drinking water – EPA still has not resolved this issue.
- NR 219 – Currently working on the requisite economic impact assessment (EIA).
- NR 149 update – Received Governor approval to move forward, but we still need to get Natural Resources Board (NRB) approval.

Council Member Issues

- Training – Paul Harris asked if the program was considering more training efforts, which opened up what became a lengthy discussion on the topic. General consensus was that the need for addition training in ICP was needed.
- **Action:** *The LabCert program will look into the cost and possibility of soliciting assistance from the State Lab of Hygiene.*
- Solids PTs – Kirsti Sorsa asked why the State Lab offers PT samples for total dissolved (TDS) and total suspended solids (TSS), but not for total solids (TS). Pat Gorski indicated that we would check with the PT folks.
- SW-846 & the Clean Water Act (CWA) – Sharon Mertens has a conversation with Lem Walker (EPA). The EPA updating and optimizing methods 624 and 625 at the national level. There has been some discussion about the EPA using SW-846 for CWA testing. Paul Junio will check to see if he can learn more.
- Phosphorus LOD issues – Randy Thater asked if there was any update on issues related to lower phosphorus LOD requirements. Camille Turcotte responded that the Watershed program is pushing for even lower LODs for analyses performed as part of an Adaptive Management plan. New permits require that the LOD must be at or below the LOQ.

Next Meeting Date

- **Action:** *The next Council meeting was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 2013 at the DNR Science Operations Center (2801 Progress Road, Madison).*

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am, CST