

Iowa – ERLN

Environmental Laboratory Response Network



**University of Iowa
BioVentures Center
June 28, 2011**

Iowa Certified Labs



Program	Number of Laboratories
Drinking Water	53
Waste Water	164
Solid Waste	29
Underground Storage Tanks	16

Iowa ERLN Summit – 06/28/11



Goals

1. Identify ways in which the environmental laboratory community can work together to achieve common goals and enable a rapid response to emergency situations and disasters
2. Identify the challenges we face in creating an environmental laboratory network
3. Identify priorities and develop an implementation plan to move forward

Iowa ERLN Summit – 06/28/11



- Invitations sent to 48 potential participants
 - Local municipal laboratories
 - County Health Departments
 - Commercial laboratories
 - State and regional governmental agencies
 - Nonprofit association
 - State Hygienic Laboratory
- 20 people were able to participate
 - Represented each of the sectors identified above

Vision/Mission



- It is the mission of Linn County government to provide all residents the most efficient and responsive public **services**, while maintaining sound fiscal management to **enhance the quality of life** in Linn County.
- Keystone Laboratories, Inc. is a full service environmental testing laboratory committed to providing the **highest quality services** at competitive prices. We fully believe that the work we do is helping **protect the public and the environment**.

Vision/Mission



- TestAmerica will be the industry **leader** for **environmental testing** and data deliverables.
- Every City of Ames Water and Pollution Control Department employee commits to continually earning the trust and confidence of our community by demonstrating dependability, professionalism and **leadership** in our mission to **protect public health and the environment**.

Vision/Mission



- We believe a successful business is dependent on a **healthy environment**. We strive for continuous improvement that will allow QCA analytical to be competitive and profitable in our respective markets through:
 - Providing accurate and defensible results in a timely manner
 - Providing green friendly products and solutions
 - **Providing services** designed to meet the ever-changing needs of our clients

Vision/Mission



- Iowa Department of Public Health
 - VISION - **Healthy Iowans living in healthy communities**
 - MISSION - **Promoting and protecting the health of Iowans**
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources
 - To conserve and enhance our natural resources in cooperation with individuals and organizations to **improve the quality of life** for Iowans and ensure a legacy for future generations.

Vision/Mission



- Iowa City Water Treatment - Our mission to provide clean safe water is clear, our commitment to great **customer service** is clearly understood and delivered, and our product is clean, clear and **safe**.
- The Hygienic Laboratory is a nationally recognized **leader** in the provision of timely, relevant and effective science-based information to prevent disease and to **protect the health and the environment** of Iowa and Iowans.

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- **Themes**

1. Communication – mode and frequency*
2. Avoid duplication of other orgs & initiatives
3. Build Relationships*
4. Training*
5. Advisory group
6. Improve ease of use for EPA compendium
7. Central Focus around Emergency Response
 1. Develop a way to communicate & engage
 2. Develop leadership structure
 3. Promote participation
 - education around need “what’s in it for me”
 - explain current emergency response structure and how labs are engaged

*Identified as most important for Design Team

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- Design Team Actions
 - a. Members:
 1. Amy Terry - SHL
 2. Randall Wanke - QC Analytical Services, LLC
 3. Jeffrey King – Keystone Laboratories, Inc.
 4. Shelli Grapp - IDNR
 - b. Set time to meet
 - c. Create basic “business plan”/ mission (that brings value)
 - d. Proposed advisory Group... Leadership structure
 - e. Initial feedback to 7/31/11
 - f. Final info by 8/15/11
 - g. Lab symposium 9/12 promote

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- **Next Steps/Actions**

1. Communication & engagement

- a) Create Iowa Google Group: -Amy Terry, 7/1/11, Sign up people in the room

2. Create advisory Group to start meeting week after 8/15

- a) Populated by lab reps:

- I. County/Municipal
- II. Private (i.e. Monsanto)
- III. SHL
- IV. Commercial

- b) Members identified and committed by 09/01/11

- c) First meeting scheduled by 10/01/11

Design Team



- The Core Design Group was tasked with doing the following:
 1. Develop a narrow focused mission statement
 2. Devise a leadership structure for the advisory group
 3. Outline a framework /objectives for the advisory group

I-ERLN Design Team



- **Focused Mission**

- Creation of the Iowa Environmental Laboratory Network (I-ERLN) will be under the leadership and direction of the Laboratory Advisory Board (I-ERLN LAB) and are tasked with the mission to coordinate commercial, state, and local environmental laboratories to prepare for and mobilize resources in response to an environmental emergency in Iowa.

I-ERLN Design Team



- **Leadership**

- The LAB shall have 8 members with an effort to provide geographical representation for all of Iowa. The membership will be comprised as follows:

- Two representatives from the State Hygienic Laboratory
 - Two representatives from commercial laboratories
 - Two representatives from local laboratories
 - Two at-large representatives
 - One non-voting/ex-officio member from IDPH
 - One non-voting/ex-officio member from IDNR

I-ERLN Design Team



- **Objectives**

- The core design group has outlined the following objectives for the LAB:

1. Assess what is needed to respond to emergency events, determine what the network is capable of providing (supplies, facilities, work force, expertise etc.), identify deficiencies/gaps
2. Determine resource sharing mechanism

I-ERLN Design Team



- Objectives (continued)
 3. Develop framework for lab coordination, e.g. piggy back on WARN or national ERLN, develop new system?
 - a. Establish contact network/communication system
 - b. Include during and after business hours contact information
 - c. Contact information should have lab contact, DNR contact, ICS contact, Public Health Contact
 - d. Avoid duplication of other established networks
 - e. Determine network representation criteria (who can be part of the I-ERLN-certified labs, labs located in Iowa, labs doing business in Iowa, organizations who can provide assistance during emergency?)

I-ERLN Design Team



- Objectives (continued)
 4. Develop concrete sustainable plan to promote lab participation
 5. Practice the use of I-ERLN through the use of exercises and mock scenarios
 6. Establish a timeline to complete objectives

I-ERLN Google Group



- Amy Terry established i-ERLN Google Group
 - I-ERLN@googlegroups.com
- Basics of using a Google group
 - <http://groups.google.com/support/bin/topic.py?hl=en&topic=9244>
- If interested in subscribing, send an email to:
 - i-erln+subscribe@googlegroups.com
- **Sign up sheet at 09/12/11 SHL Laboratory symposium to enroll interested participants in the I-ERLN Google group**

Available Opportunities



- EPA – Environmental Response Laboratory Network (ERLN)
 - <http://www.epa.gov/oemerln1/>
 - Application deadline – July 29, 2011
- EPA Water Laboratory Alliance (WLA)
 - <http://www.epa.gov/oemerln1/water.html>
- EPA Laboratory Compendium
 - <https://cfext.epa.gov/cetl/lblogin.cfm?action=None&CFID=26169&CFTOKEN=21334278>
- Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT)
 - <https://cdx.epa.gov/SSL/CDX/login.asp>

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