

BIOSAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

**The Watertown BioSafety Committee has scheduled a REMOTE ZOOM meeting on
Thursday March 3, 2022 at 7:00 pm**

PRESENT: Heather McManus, Chair, Bradford M. Parsons Committee Member, Dr, Deborah McEwan, Ryan Nicholson, David Meagher, Larry Ramdin, Director of Health, Maureen Foley, Staff

Consultant: Mia Tova Lieberman

In attendance: Elizabeth Gilbert, Corey Martin, Betsy Gilman Duane, Elizabeth Graham, Ann Marie Zavacki, Taren Ong, Eli Kraus,

CALL TO ORDER: Heather McManus called the meeting to order 7:02 pm

Minutes

Minutes approvals for January 6, 2021

(Ramdin, McEwan)

Roll Call

Public Comment

No Public Comment

Permits:

Myro Therapeutics - 155 Arlington Street

Taren Ong, Scientist gave a short presentation of the company's activities.

Mr. Parsons reviewed the IBC minutes and questioned the company's partner relationship. The partner company is based in China so all materials are shipped. Dr. McEwan stated the IBC minutes gave a full list of cell lines, lentivirus and others but were not listed in the application. Mr. Meagher questioned if high risk work was conducted after hours. Is there a key access override for first responders? He stated the fire prevention number is 617-972-6510. Each tenant is required to have a HazMat team in place.

A motion was made to recommend approval of the application to the Board of Health without conditions:

(Ramdin, Parsons)

Roll Call (5,0)

Landmark Bio, PBLLC – 300 North Beacon Street

Eli Kraus, BioSafety Officer gave a short presentation of the company's activities. Dr. McEwan stated she is aware the lab is not in operation as of yet, but there needs to be more information related to the work being proposed. Mr. Parsons stated this lab is large scale and manufacturing facility. Dr. McManus stated large scale is allowed in Watertown. Mr. Parsons questioned the scale of testing, manufacturing and commercializing in Watertown. Dr. Krauss responded with 200 liters. Mr. Parsons questioned the smaller chemical waste and chemical hygiene location on the second floor and a larger space on the first place. Mr. Ramdin questioned the community member. The IBC minutes were general and did not give specifics of the work. The lab is still in the construction phase, Landmark must submit updated IBC minutes prior to the start of business. The health department will review the updated minutes and if the minutes need clarification, the WBSC committee will review also. Mr. Meagher questioned the flammable storage permit. Dr. McManus stated this is a thorough application. She stated that the facility once constructed should have sight visit.

A motion was made to recommend approval of the application to the Board of Health with conditions:

Submitting an updated IBC minutes two weeks prior to the start of business.

(Ramdin, Parsons)

Roll Call (5,0)

New Business: Procedures for Permit Amendments.

Per Dr. McManus, she drafted procedural regulation when a lab moves within the building or between building locations. She shared the draft with attendees. Mr. Ramdin stated the permits are for the location.

1. An increase from BSL-1/BSL-2 to BSL-3 requires a full permit application, fee, and review by the WBSC. Before permit issuance, a third-party inspector must inspect and approve the new BSL-3 suite.

The discussion stated BSL1 increases to a BSL2 but remains a low-risk facility should submit an amendment. Example would be a BSL1 sequencing material and then would upgrade to a BSL2 to sequencing mammalian cells. The discussion stated BSL1 increases to a BSL2 but becomes a high risk facility should submit a permit application. Infectious materials make it rDNA work. BSL1 increases to a BSL2 with minor scope changes should submit an amendment with a fee. Health does not have an amendment fee but we could charge the cost of a consultant. This regulation change to obtain an amendment fee would have to go to the Board of Health for approval.

2. Use of a new Select Agent

- a. The use of a new select agent requires a full permit application and fee and review by the WBSC.
- b. If a company has already been approved for use of a Select Agent, and wish to introduce a new select agent..... (TBD)

Dr. McManus stated a biologic organism or toxin agents can cause negative harm and can be weaponized ie Antrax, Francisella . A select agent that is biologic would come before the WBSC and requires a permit. If a lab has permit for a select agent and wants to introduce a second agent, then an amendment is required. Mr. Parsons stated where is the safety net for labs without rDNA. Dr. McManus stated select agents all fall under the WBSC. Dr. McEwan requested whenever a select agent is going to be used, the company should come in front of the WBSC for public health reasons.

3. Change in address

1. Relocation of a company within the same building requires IBC review and submission of the resulting minutes to the Health Department.
2. Exception: Relocation of a BSL-3 containment suite within the same building requires a full permit application, fee, and review by the WBSC. Before permit issuance, a third-party inspector must inspect and approve the new BSL-3 suite.
3. Relocation of a company to a new street address in Watertown requires a new permit, complete with a fee, application materials, and an IBC meeting specific to the new location.
4. If the scope of company's work remains the same, the company's application will be reviewed by the Health Department. The Health Department will pay particular attention to the new site's security, waste management, and floor plans when determining if the application requires full review by the WBSC. If not, the application will be ??? granted by the Health Dept. or go before the BOH to be granted???
5. The Health Department Research Consultant will review applications that have a change in address and a significant change in the scope of work (i.e., new agents and protocols). A review of the IBC minutes and the accompanying protocols will

determine if the new scope of work requires full review by the WBSC. If not, the application will be ??? granted by the Health Dept. or go before the BOH to be granted???

6. Companies moving to a new address and proposing an increase in the Permits BSL and/or the use of a new Select Agent will require full review by the WBSC.
7. Relocation of BSL-3 permit to a new street address within Watertown requires coordination with and full review by the WBSC. Before permit issuance, a third-party inspector must inspect and approve the new BSL-3 suite.

Discussion based relocation within the same building or a floor in the same building. The health department will review the IBC minutes to determine if the safety, plan layout and if there is change in operations should require a review of the Health Department. Once there is a change in operations or the scope of work changes, then the lab comes to the WBSC. If the relocation requires a new floor plan and the same protocols, new IBC minutes are required for the new sight and new application. Dr. McEwan stated in order to be efficient, Health Department can review then inform WBSC. Dr. Lieberman stated the Biosafety member of the lab should come before WBSC. She does not feel comfortable with all aspects of the application. Mr. Ramdin disagrees. Dr. McManus states all amendments should come before the WBSC. Dr. McEwan stated she agrees with Dr. McManus. Mr. Ramdin stated all changes of address requires a full application and fee. Corey Martin, Safety Partners stated there are three labs moving from Dexter Avenue to Arlington Street in April 2022. Dr. McManus stated how does each campus handle these changes makes a difference. Mr. Ramdin stated these changes of address need to be reviewed for equipment and expanding operations.

Dr. McManus explained the concept of an incubator space as a lab that rents space in a facility that provides EAP, chemical hygiene and other services and equipment. The companies are vetted before starting work. Incubator space is not a lab when the landlord is hands off. Mr. Parsons does not think a new application is required when a company moves from an incubator space to another incubator space. Mr. Nicolson wants to review the floor plans and egresses. Mr. Ramdin stated health department will review to insure the labs conduct the same work and protocols.

Presentation to Board of Health and City Council:

Mr. Parsons wants to change some of the wording in the presentation. Dr. McEwan inquired when will WBSC present the presentation.

The annual chair election will be tabled until April's meeting. Mr. Ramdin will provide role and responsibility of the chairperson.

(Parsons, Ramdin)

Roll Call (5,0)

Discuss annual restructuring of the WBSC

The Annual Chair Election will be tabled until April's meeting.

Members may want additional information related to the roles, responsibilities of chairperson of WSBC.

(Parsons, Ramdin)

Roll Call

Adjourn:

9:00 PM

(Ramdin, McManus)

Respectfully submitted: Larry Ramdin, Director of Public Health