



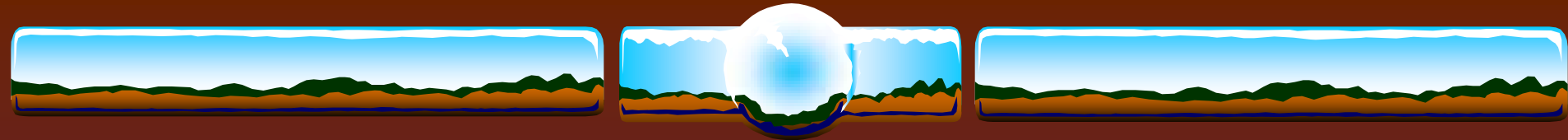
# History of WELA

- ❖ Movement initiated in 1978 to advance laboratory certification
- ❖ Incorporated in 1984

## Purpose & Objectives of WEILA

The organization shall promote:

- The advancement of skills and knowledge to the arts and sciences of environmental monitoring and laboratory analysis.
- Reliable and defensible laboratory data through the proper use of quality assurance programs and accepted good laboratory practices.
- The enhancement of laboratory technology through application of laboratory arts and sciences.
- The dissemination of information and interpretation of WDNR and USEPA regulations.
- The active participation in the regulation and certification of laboratories by the State of Wisconsin.
- The use of private laboratories as the primary source of environmental testing.
- An active voice towards the welfare of the environmental laboratory industry in Wisconsin.



## WELA Code of Ethics

- Provide results that are accurate and defensible.
- Present services in a confidential, honest and forthright manner.
- Emphasize to employees the necessity of operating in an ethical manner in all situations.
- Operate facilities in an environmentally safe manner to insure the safety and health of employees and the public.
- Obey all pertinent federal, state, and local regulations.
- Cooperate and participate with government agencies and other organizations to develop responsible laws, regulations, technologies and standards.



# Membership

- ❖ Open to “any private laboratory engaging in environmental monitoring or testing for profit.”  
And certified by WDNR/WDATCP
- ❖ No vendors
- ❖ Honorary membership
- ❖ Into the 40s; currently 19



# Structure

- ❖ President, VP, Secretary & Treasurer
- ❖ Three additional directors
- ❖ Officers & directors constitute board
- ❖ Two year terms
- ❖ Annual dues – current \$125
- ❖ Quarterly meetings



# Current issues ... and some not-so current

- ❖ Certification program
- ❖ Communication – internal
- ❖ Communication – agencies
- ❖ Technology – not so much
- ❖ Competition



# Pitfalls

- ❖ Small fish – big issues w/ big players
- ❖ Heterogeneous group – one size does not fit all