

ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 20, 2013

MINUTES

Members Present

Matthew Rexing
*Nancy Turner
*Kurt Novy
Laura McCasland
Garry N. Brussels
Rick Amalfi
Brian Sitko
Barbara Escobar
Randy Gottler
Elizabeth Baker
Trina Spangle
Elizabeth Proffitt

Members Absent

Jim Williams
Cynthia Garcia
Mary Tyer
Evelyn Dawson
Michael Dew

Guests Present

Anupa Jain
Brittaney Dempster
Kerri Keller
Robert Vertefeuille
Melissa Spencer
*Terri Garcia
*Dawn Weyer
*Brian Gilbert
*Leanne Nieukirk
*Lisa Adams
Kim Caggiano
Jennifer Calles
Neil Valdepenas

SLS Staff

Prabha Acharya
Steve Baker
Galan Larson
Frank Martinez
Imelda Guevara

ADEQ Staff

Becky Soter

*by phone

CALL TO ORDER

WELCOME/INTRODUCTION

Matt Rexing called the meeting to order. Everyone introduced themselves including the attendees from Tucson and Flagstaff via the phone.

Steve Baker welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming; welcomed Becky Soter of ADEQ.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from March 21, 2013 meeting was approved as written.

ADEQ UPDATE

Becky Soter introduced herself; she has replaced Julie Hoskin, is in charge of QA /QC at ADEQ; her phone number is 602 771 4480 and her email is soter.becky@azdeq.gov; she can be contacted if there are any questions and she would try to respond as quickly as possible. Steve added that previously Becky was the Director of Chandler/Gilbert Severn Trent labs for four years. Becky added that she had brought a memo on TO15 Method, tedlar bags were okay to sample if used according to the manufacturer's instructions, held at ambient temperature, not chilled or heated, analyzed with required QA/QC within 72 hours; there was no need to flag the data.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

None.

ALA Update:

Method 1664 and Horizon equipments; Method Modifications allowed:

Garry voiced his concern regarding a recent audit finding for the method 1664A, Oil and Grease method; it includes a sodium sulfate filtration step to remove water from the extracts; the labs feel that the method allows some modifications in the method if QA/QC in the method are met and the elimination of sodium sulfate step fall under that category; in fact the recoveries decrease when the sodium sulfate step is included. The labs are aware of the revised method, 1664B, which specifically allows certain modifications, skipping of sodium sulfate step being one of them; the labs feel that they can continue to use 1664A without switching over to 1664B and make the necessary modifications.

Steve responded that he would like to see a memo from Region IX stating that this modification is allowed; as an alternative, with minimal difficulty the labs should be able to switch over to the B version; when the rules are revised, the A version will get dropped anyway; he didn't think that Region IX was in favor of this modification. It would be better for the labs to switch over to 1664B as far as legally concerned if the data ever gets challenged in court.

Discussion followed-Legend Technical said that they had already taken care of the deficiency by switching over to 1664B, but they strongly feel that 1664A allows the modifications as well.

A question was posed what does it signify if a method is performance based, doesn't it mean that the modifications can be made if all the method QA/QC are met?

Steve responded that PBMs allows only certain modifications, doesn't allow everything, Prabha gets emails from EPA stating that all the time.

Prabha added the when the method allows modifications, it usually means the techniques like liquid/liquid versus SPE and different concentration techniques can be used, it does not allow skipping of any steps in the method; we need a memo from EPA stating that is okay. There was a lot of confusion while communicating with EPA (Lem Walker), maybe he was referring to the B version in the emails, since it is the currently approved method. EPA has always insisted that for the method defined parameters, like oil and grease method, no changes are allowed but the leading paragraph in the 1664A states that it is a performance based method, doesn't make sense at all.

Garry asked ADHS to clarify in the Information Update, as to the significance of solvent phase separation paper that can be used in place of sodium sulfate (1664B, section 1.7.1.12).

MALA Update:

There was nothing to report.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Training:

Matt Rexing gave an update: Field sampling workshop date needs to be set. Only the first 45 people can register since there is a limit to the class which includes a field demo; it will be sometime in the Fall.

DMRQA:

Steve: The majors never got their letters. Deadline is in a few weeks. Please direct any questions to Marty.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE & ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting was scheduled for September 19, 2013; the meeting was adjourned.

NEW BUSINESS:

Barbara Escobar: TNI will be on 8/5-8/9; should be interesting. Would like to see the Top 10 deficiencies.

Beth Proffitt: ADHS website is outdated, has incorrect parameters and labs that no longer exist shows up.

Steve spoke on DWTP inspections.