

ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 11, 2014

MINUTES

Members Present

Matthew Rexing
Evelyn Dawson
Garry Brussels
*Kurt Novy
Brian Sitko
Laura McCasland
Christina Hoppes
Mary Tyer
Robert Vertefeuille
Cynthia Garcia
Barbara Escobar
*Michael Dew

Members Absent

Rick Amalfi
Elizabeth Baker
Randy Gottler
Elizabeth Proffitt
Jim Williams

Guests Present

Amy Cerwinske
Kerri Keller
Terri Garcia
Andrew Eaton
Jennifer Calles
Gail Adams
Kim Caggiano
Emily Vanaskey
Tara Ford
Brad Cahoon
Chris Connar
Gary Shipley
Anupa Jain
Mike McGovern
Susan Butler
*Leanne Nieu Kirk

SLS Staff

Prabha Acharya
Steve Baker
Isaac Robert
David McKay
Kathryn Wangsness
Galan Larson
Frank Martinez

ADEQ Staff

Marnie Greenbie
Lowell Carty

* by phone

CALL TO ORDER

WELCOME/INTRODUCTION

Matt Rexing called the meeting to order.

Steve Baker welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. Steve announced that there was a shift in the committee membership; Nancy Turner who was the original founder of ELAC and the Co-founder of ALA had retired and submitted the resignation letter to ELAC; he showed appreciation for all the contribution made by Nancy. Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from June 12, 2014 were approved with a couple of comments; Christina Hoppess pointed out that under the MALA minutes, acceptable limits for 624 spikes can be found at Table 5, and not Table 6 (as it was told at the meeting and as written in the minutes). Evelyn Dawson commented that the ELAC letterhead has her old employer's name and she would send Prabha the details about her new employer.

ADEQ UPDATE

ADEQ Organizational Changes Related to AZPDES Permits:

Marnie Greenbie gave an update: the Surface Water Permits Unit (individual AZPDES permits and general permits for wastewater discharges) is now combined with the Aquifer Protection Program in the Water Permits Section (formerly the Groundwater Section) which is managed by Jerry Smit. The Stormwater and General Permits Unit, under the supervision of Chris Henninger, stayed with the Surface Water Section which is managed by Debra Daniel. Marnie said that she is no longer the unit Manager and she is with the Technical Support Unit; she may not be the contact person for questions for too long.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

Member Loyalty oath and Training/Recap of By-Laws (ELAC):

Steve summarized the ELAC By-Laws as follows: The Director of ADHS nominates the individuals as the members of the ELAC Committee and the membership is not tied into their affiliations, like their employers or the organizations they belong to. So the membership stays with the individual even when they move into another employment/organization. When a member is no longer with a laboratory, the lab cannot request that member to be replaced with another employee of that lab; there are 4 ways that a member can be removed from the Committee – 1) when the member resigns; 2) absent from 3 consecutive meetings, not being enforced currently; 3) after a term of 4 years (it can be extended for one more term) and 4) the director can remove the member if the member does not represent the ADHS properly. It was pointed out that by-laws can be found on the ADHS website; try to keep a balance between the 4 categories the members represent and to follow the by-laws in future. Beginning of next year, all the members will be re-nominated, will begin their 4 year terms and the by-laws will be monitored from then on.

Standard Methods; What is new?

Andrew Eaton gave an update: he has been volunteering for Standard Methods Committee for the last 30 years; Lots of changes have taken place over the years; in the 80s and early 90s, even in 2000, if the SM methods were revised to add the much needed QC, EPA would reject it even if the changes made were trivial; it would no longer be an approved method; in the DW side also the rule making was only periodic thus getting approval for new methods were cumbersome; in the early 2000, EPA wastewater and drinking water programs came up with the methods approval process which made the acceptance of revised methods easier, more QC could be added to the methods without being rejected; SM committee decided to drastically improve the QC, opted to add them to 020 sections rather than to each of the individual methods themselves to keep the methods shorter; it also kept the original methods intact; instead of printing hard copy editions which would have been every 3 to 4 years the task force decided to upload the newer methods to the web as they got approved which would make them accessible to the subscribers immediately; the electronic versions were identified by the year the method was approved by SM task force; some states have encountered problems with this new concept; if the date of approval is the same on both the hard copy and the online version, then they are essentially the same method; Finally the TOC method 5310 got revised; is much easier to follow now; clarified certain items added more QC, it was originally written in the 80s; written a pharmaceutical and personal care products method, working on micro and radchem methods; updating the preservation and holding time table; added a table to 4020 which details the QAQC requirements for the individual methods. 23rd edition is scheduled to come out in 2017. SM 22nd edition has all the on-line methods that were approved until 2011. Currently the task force is working on cyanide holding time and false positive issues.

Steve presented the difficulties encountered in approving online methods in Arizona; the rule makers insist on references for methods, only the hard copy version of SM will be accepted and not the on-line methods; even the 40 CFR version must be identified in the rules; Arizona is under moratorium for any new rules and the federal EPA are not willing to send a letter to the Governor stating that Arizona needs to revise their rules otherwise they would be in contempt of federal regs; Steve explained the director approval process where in the new methods get approved due to project need or if the QC is better. He stated that the hard copy editions would work better for Arizona.

Evelyn Dawson commented that on the projects she works on which have EPA oversight, they are required to provide documentation on the SM methods used; if previously approved SM methods have been used which are no longer on line because the newer versions have been approved it will be difficult to provide documentation to EPA that the approved SM methods were used for the project; what Steve is proposing would work better in this case.

Prabha commented that Lem Walker had sent her a concise table with the approved online methods and the corresponding approved methods in the different editions; Andy responded that the table was on the SM website also; Barbara Escobar added that if the editions were out of print, labs could buy the on-line methods.

Arizona PT Protocol- Final draft

The document which had been circulated through ALA and MALA was approved by ELAC committee with one comment that the “annually” will be changed to a “12 month period”

ALA UPDATE:

None

MALA Update:

None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Rules:

Steve: no rules revision in the near future.

Training:

Matt Rexing gave an update: Field sampling workshop has been finalized for November 17, 18 and 19th at the Pima County facility; Joe Harmon will not be able to assist in the training; the topics covered would be SW/GW sampling, field methods, drinking water, APP, AzPDES; 45 maximum allowed; registration on the AZ Water Association website and the fee is \$200.

DMRQA:

Marnie gave an update: ADEQ took over this program's administration a couple of years ago from ADHS; EPA sends out the mailers to Majors; Minors had to do only the field tests – pH and TRC; ADEQ sent out the mailers to the Minors for a couple of years and this past year it couldn't be done due to the staff and resources shortage; ADEQ also tried to put together a partial waiver where in both the Majors and Minors had to do only the field tests because the Majors were already participating in the PT Studies due to the Lab Licensure requirements; ADEQ would have to do all the administrative work; it wouldn't have worked out any way; didn't hear back from EPA either: now it is back to EPA sending the mailers to both the majors and Minors.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE & ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting was scheduled for December 04, 2014; the meeting was adjourned.

NEW BUSINESS:

None