

ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 06, 2012

MINUTES

Members Present

Matthew Rexing
Nancy Turner
Kurt Novy
Elizabeth Proffitt
Cynthia Garcia
Laura McCasland
Garry N. Brussels
Mary Tyer
Rick Amalfi
Brian Sitko
Randy Gottler
Trina Spangle

Members Absent

Michael Dew
Evelyn Dawson
Jim Williams
Elizabeth Baker
Barbara Escobar

Guests Present

Anupa Jain
Christina Hoppes
Gail Adams
Kim Caggiano
Brittaney Dempster
Kerri Keller
Kurt Ill
Emily Vanasky
Robert Vertefeuille
Jennifer Callas
*Terri Garcia
*Dawn Weyer
*Leanne Nieukirk

SLS Staff

Prabha Acharya
Kathryn Wangsness
Gary Shipley
Steve Baker
Galan Larson
Isaac Robert

ADEQ Staff

Julie Hoskin

* by phone

CALL TO ORDER

WELCOME/INTRODUCTION

Matt Rexing called the meeting to order. The attendees were made aware that the new audio system in the conference room would pick up even the whispers and the phone system was even more sensitive. Everyone introduced themselves including the attendees from Tucson via the phone.

Steve Baker welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming; He announced that Matt has agreed to chair the meeting until his term is completed; unfortunately Linda Johnson is no longer part of the committee; there will be no co-chairperson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from September 05, 2012 meeting was approved as written.

ADEQ UPDATE

Julie Hoskin gave an update; there is an increased interest in soil vapor study at ADEQ; there will be an increase in the vapor samples sent to commercial labs; the tests requested will depend on the site, the data is used to characterize the sites. Julie added that her previous position will be filled; in the mean time she will still answer questions but she has no time to undertake any big QA related projects.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

ALA Update:

Annual PT Requirements for Solid Waste and TCLP (A.A.C. R9-14-609)

Garry voiced his concern about the new requirement to run a TCLP PT sample, in a recent audit letter it was a finding; in the past there was no requirement to run a different PT study for each extraction method; PT samples are very expensive and a TCLP sample costs around \$500; is this a new direction ADHS is taking?

Steve responded that it was not the intention of ADHS to increase the PT sample load; in 2006 rules the requirement to run non-DW PT samples was also added because the haz-waste PT samples were readily available because of the NELAC requirement; he did not put too much importance to PT studies to determine the competency of the labs; there will be no requirement to run PT sample one each matrix. Garry was satisfied with the response; he added that Prabha was suggesting that lab could prepare in-house QC samples; QA program could prepare one to test the proficiency of the analysts.

Explanation of why the Application Requires Notary

Garry questioned the reasoning for the requirement to notarize the application form, where did it come from, the process takes too long; Steve responded that it was not in the statutes but it is in the rules; it is probably a requirement from the attorneys to be consistent with all the other licensure programs within the state; before the next rule revision, he will discuss this with the attorneys. Steve discussed the electronic application and 3% fee

for credit card payments; he will have to add that 3% to the lab's fees. It has been a big process to get consistent assistance internally to finish the online application.

Kathryn gave an update on the electronic application: it is close to being finished, is in the final stages; unfortunately the IT person who was working on this project is on a vacation and the process will not restart until the end of January.

ALA Scholarship Program

Garry Brussels added that ALA constantly promotes environmental education and recently awarded \$500 scholarship to SAEMS, Southern Arizona Environmental Management Society; it is usually awarded to undergraduate or graduate student with GPA better than 2.5.

MALA Update:

Approved Methods and QC for WW and DW Field Methods:

Steve: since this is the first round of inspections on DW field methods, he is looking at the basic requirements of the methods; in 2-3 years down the road, the full QC requirements in the reference methods will be enforced. EPA does not differentiate QC whether the test was performed in the field or in the fixed lab; the full QC is expected to be included. For chlorine the online method to be used is EPA 334; it has lots of QC requirement; currently EPA is reviewing if Arizona's primacy requirements are being met or not.

Steve also added that the treatment plant inspections are not paid by fees and therefore ELAC is not the forum to be used for discussing field methods' issues; the information on this can be dissipated either through the Information Update (for treatment plants), a scheduled meeting or it can be addressed at a MALA meeting.

Steve added that all the requirements in the reference methods must be followed. The initial agreement with ADEQ was that ADHS would do the initial round of inspections and ADEQ would accompany ADHS and take over the subsequent inspections but he didn't think that was going to happen.

Rick Amalfi posed a question why can't fees be applied for inspecting field methods? Steve responded that the statutes say that the exempt methods must be performed as per the reference method; if the exempt field testing was being performed according to the reference methods in the 15 minute time frame, then the exemption applies, they don't need to get licensed, so the fees is then not applicable.

QC requirements on on-line meters were discussed; that would come into play in round 2 or so, it hasn't been worked out yet. Steve added that the online meters are not approved by EPA but are accepted because the techniques and the reagents are same as the reference methods; QC are not included with the HACH methods, one has to refer to the reference methods for QC. Steve mentioned problems that are noticed in the field turbidity tests; they are not able to see the 2 NTU standards. Verification is required to be done at 0.5 or 1.0 NTU initially and monthly thereafter (1720E quarterly) and per 180.1 it should be within 10%.

Matt added that on-line meters have been used for years and meters are checked versus fixed lab methods for accuracy. The QCs like method blank, spikes have never been included. There was a discussion on the shift of TNI emphasis towards field sampling and procedures.

Julie wondered if one can have an exemption for QC for field methods during the next rule making. Kurt Novy volunteered to request director approval for 334.0 chlorine field method.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Training:

Matt Rexing gave an update: the 3 days Surface Water/Ground Water sampling workshop was completed on November 6, 7, and 8th; there were 45 registrants, Melinda Longworth was the main speaker; she has tentatively agreed to be the speaker for the 2013 fall workshop as well. The planning for 2013 is underway, if anyone has any ideas to contact Matt; Basic workshops are always well received. There was a discussion on clean sampling (mercury).

DMRQA:

Kathryn Wangsness gave an update: she hasn't heard about the schedule yet; she thinks it is about in the same time frame as last year-March through July; the majors will receive the packets from EPA and the minors will receive them from ADEQ about a month later.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE & ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting was scheduled for March 21, 2013; the meeting was adjourned.

NEW BUSINESS:

Garry brought up the next chairperson election was past due; it was decided to put this on the next meeting agenda.