

ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 08, 2012

MINUTES (draft)

Members Present

Matthew Rexing
*Nancy Turner
Robert Vertefeuille
Linda Johnson
*Kurt Novy
Elizabeth Proffitt
Mary Tyer
Randy Gottler
Cynthia Garcia
Jim Williams
Laura McCasland

Members Absent

Anne Nichols
Rick Amalfi
Michael Dew
Barbara Escobar
Evelyn Dawson
Elizabeth Baker

Guests Present

Melinda Seibel
Trina Spangle
Cassandra DaSalla
Brian Sitko
Brad Cahoon
Kim Caggiano
Sharon Murray
Casey Loflin
Jeanene Hanley
Garry Brussels
Gail Adams
*Terri Garcia
*Mike McGovern
*Nancy Powell
*Leanne Nieukirk
*Dawn Weyer

SLS Staff

Prabha Acharya
Kathryn Wangsness
Gary Shipley
Steve Baker
Isaac Robert
Frank Martinez

ADEQ Staff

Julie Hoskin

* by phone

CALL TO ORDER

WELCOME/INTRODUCTION

Linda Johnson called the meeting to order and introduced herself as the Chairperson. Everyone introduced themselves including the attendees from Tucson and Flagstaff via the phone.

Steve Baker welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming; he counted the members present to make sure a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from December 08, 2011 meeting were approved as written.

ADEQ UPDATE

Julie Hoskin announced that she has taken up a different position within ADEQ in the Voluntary Remediation Program; she is no longer in the QA Section; once she is replaced, she will not be the contact for lab issues; until her replacement is found, she will continue to be the contact and will attend the ELAC meetings as possible.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

ALA Update:

1. Qualifier Update Final List:

Garry: The data qualifier subcommittee had met a few times and the list has not yet been finalized because a couple of qualifiers that needed to be revised are based on the revised Methods Update Rule which is due to be promulgated sometime in March; originally it was due to be finalized in January, Garry will send an email to Lem Walker to get the status on that.

Steve: The qualifiers are ADEQ's list and does not involve ADHS, doesn't require Director Approval; ADHS rules specify the data to be qualified but doesn't require them to be from any standardized list.

2. Breakdown on the Non-Refundable Application Fee (i.e., Level 1, II and III-\$2,238 most importantly):

Steve: The required budget to run the program is \$760,000 and the fees are bringing in just enough revenue to run the program; Due to efficiency changes, the number of FTEs to run the program have decreased over the years; Governor has put a moratorium on the rules and the environmental program is not a priority for the rule making because it is self-sufficient; the application fee along with other revenues go into the pot which is used to run the program; Steve said that he was open to other ideas of billing, all that matters to him was the final revenue required for the program; the labs were part of the original rule writing and the fee structure hasn't been changed since then; when the rules were revised subsequently, a percentage increase had been applied to the original fee structure; if changes are desired by ALA, as a committee, the governor can be approached for revising the rules; there is a cushion of \$300,000, as always, to pay for the expenses on the leaner months.

Garry voiced his concern; Arizona labs are taxpaying citizens and must be given preference over the out of state labs; Steve responded that he was open to other ideas; his only concern was the final revenue.

Garry wanted to know the status of the online application, which if implemented would save some money from the program expenses; Kathryn responded that she was the person responsible for working on the online application and she is general funded; the IT department has put the online application at the bottom of their list and it does not appear to be completed in the near future. Garry asked if an outside contractor can be hired. Steve responded one could look into it and that the original program was written by a private contractor. Nancy Turner commented that the revenue department has posted all the forms on the web and that licensure should do the same; doesn't appear to be a complicated job.

3. New Rules:

Steve commented that he had nothing more to add.

MALA Update:

Kim Caggiano: ADEQ was in the process of revising the Stage 2 DBP Rule reporting forms and had asked for feedback; it was discussed in detail during the meeting; several participants had issues with proposed form and many suggestions were made. Important items were:

- ADEQ will be making suggested changes where possible and sending out revised form ASAP. Comment period will be granted then forms will be finalized by March 31st.
- It is highly recommended that systems sign up for notifications through certified operator program at <http://www.azdeq.gov/subscribe.html>
- Private labs (subcontractors) will be instructed on forms (once finalized), but it is the drinking water system's responsibility to make sure forms are completed correctly.

Steve suggested that since MALA will be a standard item on the ELAC agenda, Kim should include the items in the agenda that she was going to bring up at the meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Training:

Matt Rexing gave an update: he said the lab licensure fee was miniscule compared to his lab's budget and that he spends more money on argon tanks! 3-day Sampling workshop is scheduled for November 6, 7 and 8 of this year. Wastewater seminar is scheduled for May 16, 2012 at the State Health Lab. Steve Baker will be speaking on the field testing methods; this is a workshop for the water treatment operators.

DMRQA:

Kathryn gave an update: The DMRQA study 32 ends July 6, 2012 this year. As per the last few years, majors will be receiving a letter from EPA and minors will be receiving a letter from ADEQ. The letters from ADEQ have not been sent out yet. In addition, as with previous years, any WP study is acceptable starting from January 2012 through the close of the study in July. No training has been planned at this time, but Kathryn has received a few inquiries regarding training on DMRQA. There is a DMRQA presentation on the website at <http://www.azdhs.gov/lab/license/wastewaterTreatment.htm#3>.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE & ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting was scheduled for June 07, 2012; the meeting was adjourned.