

ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 05, 2012

MINUTES

Members Present

Matthew Rexing
*Nancy Turner
Robert Vertefeuille
*Kurt Novy
Elizabeth Proffitt
Barbara Escobar
Cynthia Garcia
Laura McCasland
Garry N. Brussels
Randy Gottler
Rick Amalfi

Members Absent

Michael Dew
Evelyn Dawson
Mary Tyer
Jim Williams
Elizabeth Baker

Guests Present

Trina Spangle
Anupa Jain
Brian Sitko
Christina Hoppes
Gail Adams
Barbara Sprungl
Kim Caggiano
Brad Cahoon
Diana Frydrick
*Terri Garcia
*Dawn Weyer
Kerri Keller
Jennifer Callas

SLS Staff

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

ADEQ Staff

* by phone

CALL TO ORDER

WELCOME/INTRODUCTION

Matt Rexing called the meeting to order and introduced himself as the Co-chairperson and also representing Arizona Water Association. Everyone introduced themselves including the attendees from Tucson and Flagstaff 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 March 08 and June 07, 2012 meetings had not been approved because there was no quorum present at those two meetings; at this meeting a quorum was present and the two minutes were approved as written.

ADEQ UPDATE

Julie Hoskin was not present.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

ALA Update:

Garry said that they had an ALA meeting the previous week and a couple of topics were discussed; one of them was the ADEQ forms update which ADEQ periodically sends to their clients; commercial labs are at a disadvantage because they get the information after their clients receive it. Could ADHS send out the updates to the commercial labs using the same system as the Information updates?

Garry: The other topic was the ELAC membership; the vacancy clause is not being enforced at all; there are several members who are not regular like Anne Nichols and another person. There are several ALA members who are keen to be voting members. Can this be looked into?

Steve responded that Anne Nichols has been dropped from the list and Garry has been added to replace Linda; some calls will be made to the members to discuss their irregular attendance. Member's attendance will be monitored closely; if anyone likes to become an active member, they are welcome. It is the inactive members that cause problems like not having a quorum present. Normally 15-20 members are maintained.

Garry informed that ALA, Arizona environmental Laboratory Association, is actively recruiting for members; ALA was started in 1978 by Kathy Lacey and Nancy Turner and it is a good association to be part of; by-laws state that the lab has to be commercial, located in Arizona with the analysts doing environmental testing residents of Arizona; the by-laws are up for vote soon and there might be some changes made.

MALA Update:

Data Qualifiers, Revision 4.0:

It was approved by the committee members. Steve explained that it is not ADHS's qualifiers, it is DEQ's; ADHS rules require that the reports have to be flagged if there are any outliers; before implementing these qualifiers, ADEQ has to issue a memo accepting these qualifiers.

Methods Update Rule:

Christina Hoppes brought up the 12 QA/QC requirements in the new MUR and the webcast she attended; Steve commented that EPA is expecting this QA/QC to be part of the field methods as well and ADHS will implement these slowly one at a time.

Prabha Acharya clarified the QA/QC requirements; she made it clear that this was the requirement for chemical methods and not for micro; she communicated with EPA's Maria Gomez Taylor on two issues – first one was what sort of time frame the states have to implement the 21st edition of Standard Methods and secondly to clarify the 12 QA/QC requirements that are in the MUR. In the email from Maria Gomez, which was given out as a handout, it was explained that these QA/QC are required for the methods that have no QC at all like the 1970s alkalinity method 310.2, then the applicable QC from these 12 will be incorporated to the method. EPA methods that have been published for the past 20 years have the entire applicable QC and the SM methods that are published from 20th edition onwards have the entire required QC as well, if the requirements from 1000 and 2000 methods are included as part of the methods; applicable denotes, that for e.g., MDLs are not applicable for pH testing. About the implementation of 21st edition of SM, it was to be decided by the individual states.

Steve explained the differences between APP, AzPDES and drinking water programs' QA/QC requirements; it is the DW program that is very rigid and that all the requirements have to be met; in order to maintain primacy in Arizona, both ADHS and ADEQ are involved; in 2006 EPA made sure both the agencies had rules that complemented each other and made a number of changes to ADHS regulations. EPA makes the call on QA/QC for the DW.

It was clarified that E. coli testing now has a total of 8 hours before the test can begin and this change was in the MUR.

Field filtering of O-phosphate within 15 minutes is another change published in MUR.

Training:

Matt Rexing gave an update: the 3 days Surface Water/Ground Water sampling workshop is scheduled for November 6, 7, and 8th of 2012; there is a limit of 45 registrants, the registration can be done on AZwater.org and credit cards are taken. Melinda Longworth is the main speaker; there will be field demos on the afternoons of 7 and 8th.

The planning for 2013 is underway, if anyone has any ideas to contact Matt; Basic Chemistry and Micro, lab testing – micro and wet chemistry are being considered along with QA for field methods.

DMRQA:

Kathryn Wangsness gave an update: the results for DMRQA are coming in; there is no problem with the licensed labs but the small utilities are still having problems, their participation has increased now; if anyone has recommendations for improvement to let ADHS/ADEQ know; ADEQ is supposed to have taken the lead, but hasn't happened yet; hopefully ADEQ will inform all the facilities well in advance for future studies.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE & ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting was scheduled for December 06, 2012; the meeting was adjourned.

New Business minutes are on the next page.

NEW BUSINESS

Field methods audits:

Steve Baker: it has been interesting to travel and meet various people; he has probably visited about 400 WW plants over the past 2 years, has made revisits; he is looking for a good faith effort to improve; there has been no enforcements; he has noted good improvements in majority of the plants except maybe about 20, which have problems; a lot of training has been given. There are many more operators in the DW side and he has received all the needed information from John Calkins of ADEQ; DW inspections will also be similar to WW, one is looking for a good faith effort to improve.

Top 10 repeat findings for field methods audits;

Barbara Escobar requested if a list of top 10 repeat findings could be made available; Steve responded he has not found any repeat deficiencies in WW audits, he will consider putting one together. Field Updates are sent to the operators; the DW website is up now, need to add more information.

Garry asked if ADEQ is getting trained on what Steve is doing with respect to field method inspections; Steve responded not much progress there.

Steve: Maricopa and Pima have primacy for DW; ADHS is still responsible for the methods.

Matt REXING brought up the Arizona Republic article on Johnson Ranch regarding a lab getting the sample contaminated.