

ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 19, 2009

MINUTES

Members Present

Matthew Rexing
Cynthia Bain
Jim Williams
Laura McCasland
Robert Vertefeuille
Linda Johnson
Michael Dew
Rick Amalfi
Anne Nichols
Mary Tyer

Members Absent

Christina Krosnicki
Robert Teece
Elizabeth Wueschner
Elizabeth Proffitt
Lee Hecht
Nancy Turner
Randy Gottler
Evelyn Dawson

Guests Present

Melinda Jacobson
Vic Nielsen
Karen Walters
Yu Min Shi
Leanne Neukirk
Trina Spangle
Peggy Cota
Kim Caggiano
Garry Brussels
Kim Eberenz
Anupa Jain
Todd Poyfair

SLS Staff

Prabha Acharya
Steve Baker
Dave McKay
Frank Martinez
Gary Shipley
Barbara Escobar

ADEQ Staff

Julie Hoskin
Marnie Greenbie

CALL TO ORDER

Cindy Bain called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM; she welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves.

INTRODUCTION

Steve Baker welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming; the budget cuts are huge; many staff have been laid off and everyone is on 10% furlough; up to this time the Fees budget was immune to budget cuts; but this time General Fund has taken some funds out of Fees; Director of Agricultural lab (Ag lab) was told to move with Health Lab to save money; there are many complications involved with that move; Ag Lab tests percentage levels of pesticide formulations while Health Lab tests ppb levels; Ag Lab's Plant Pathology program will interfere with micro.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from December 11, 2008 meeting was approved as written.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Cindy Bain was nominated and elected as a chairperson for one more term.

ADEQ UPDATE:

New Water Quality standards for Tributyltin, Mirex, Permethrin and Hydrogen Sulfide:

Julie Hoskin reported that three pesticides and hydrogen sulfide have been added to the WQS due to their toxicity but they are problematic for testing.

Marnie Greenbie of ADEQ added that sulfide will be the indicator parameter and when it exceeds the standard, the testing for hydrogen sulfide will have to be done. Since the sulfide test is dependent on pH and temperature, are they taken at the time of sampling or at the time of testing, since the samples are taken at the time of discharge?

There was some discussion on the standard for total sulfide at 2.0 ug/L, which was difficult to achieve. The draft Surface Water Rule had removed the calculation to plug in temperature and pH to get the final results for hydrogen sulfide from total sulfide; it was also brought up, for the other parameters which were hardness and pH dependent, to have the calculations in the rule as well, which makes it easier on the labs; Marnie will look into it.

Barbara Escobar asked if the three pesticides and hydrogen sulfide (has no EPA approved method) need to be director approved and SM method for total sulfide with the calculation to convert the sulfide to hydrogen sulfide would be acceptable to ADEQ as a testing method? Julie's response was after ADEQ gets feed back on what the labs can offer, they would decide if there is a need for new methods to be approved; SolidWaste methods can also be used for wastewater testing with a qualifier.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Training:

Joe Harmon was not present, Matt Rexing gave an update; Wastewater workshop is being planned for May 20 and 21 and will cover BOD, IDEXX, DMRQA, Common Lab Findings and others. The annual Water Association conference will be held on 5/6, 5/7 and 5/8 and Lab Practices committee will meet on the 5/6; a one day workshop on Introduction to Basic Chemistry and Micro to operators will be discussed.

Matt was also concerned about Joe having been transferred away from training and the effect it will have on future workshops.

Rules:

Steve reported that the programs that are not mandated like Training and Technical Resources will be affected by next years' budget cuts; Joe has been offered another position in advance which he might accept. The indirect has been dropped from 52% to 32% by the current Interim Director of ADHS.

Steve updated on the program's budget; about \$120,000 were taken away from the Revolving Fund (which used to smooth out the cash flow through out the year); vacancy savings were taken away; governor has stopped all the rule processes until the new agency heads are appointed; it will be December or later before fees can be raised; Steve gave a similar example in the New Born Screening Program, where the money was taken out and has left the program in a bad shape. The licensure program is hurting very bad; the revolving fund is almost empty; if no more money is taken from the program, maybe there will be a 25-30% fee raise. Next March Imelda might be brought back into the program.

TNI:

Barbara gave an update on the TNI/NEMC conference: the next meeting is scheduled for August 10th to 14th in San Antonio; there will be a one day discussion on Method Modifications, which is a repeat from the January conference; at the January conference there was representation from SolidWaste staff only; so there wasn't any opposition; this time there will be WW representation from Lem Walker, so there will be more discussions; all their proceedings are posted on their website; Barbara is still active with Technical Subcommittee; SOP template developed by them is very useful for small/new labs.

DISCUSSION:

DMRQA:

Kathryn Wangness was not present, there was a handout on the timelines for DMRQA Study 29 from her; Marnie Greenbie is the ADEQ coordinator and Kathryn is representing ADHS; Patrick Yellin is the EPA coordinator for DMRQA; Permittees will have less paperwork also.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE & ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting was scheduled for June 18, 2009; the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.