

ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 11, 2008

MINUTES

Members Present

Matthew Rexing
Cynthia Bain
Nancy Turner*
Laura McCasland
Randy Gottler
Robert Teece (Nancy Powell)
Elizabeth Proffitt
Rick Amalfi
Anne Nichols
Mary Tyer
Michael Dew

Members Absent

Christina Krosnicki
Robert Vertefeulle
Elizabeth Wueschner
Linda Johnson
Lee Hecht

Guests Present

Melinda Jacobson
Evelyn Dawson
Karen Walters
Jim Williams
Leanne Neukirk
Christina Hoppes
Tracy Dutton
Kim Caggiano
Terri Garcia*

SLS Staff

Prabha Acharya
Steve Baker
Joe Harmon
Frank Martinez
Kathryn Wangsness
Barbara Escobar
Galan Larson

ADEQ Staff

Julie Hoskin
Marnie Greenbie
Justin Bern

*** By phone**

**Mel Biringer
**Abram Munoz
**Jim Boerst

Removed the “**” names
from the Member list.
They have not been
attending the meetings.

CALL TO ORDER

Cindy Bain called the meeting to order at 10:11 AM; she welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced themselves.

INTRODUCTION

Steve Baker welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming; due to budget cuts in the state, the agencies are looking into efficiencies to save money; with the help of an engineering firm, it was determined that the 40% of energy was being lost from the hoods; the state lab is now saving 40% in the energy costs.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cindy Bain announced there are two minutes, June 05, 2008 and September 18, 2008, to be reviewed; in the last meeting there was no quorum present. There was one correction in the September 18th minutes: Under training, under Subcommittee Reports, 1st paragraph, 2nd line was changed to...He added that the WW workshop will include discussion on how to build better.....

ADEQ UPDATE:

8260 Air Method (draft method)

Julie Hoskin gave an update: the vapor method is almost ready for approval and certification, except for a couple of issues that need to be resolved; this method is in addition to TO15 method, used for different purposes; method uses 8260 water calibration curve, the committee would like to add a tertiary vapor standard to validate the water curve; the problem is the cost of the vapor standard; an alternative is being attempted at individual labs to prepare in-house tertiary standard, the results haven't yet been compared; additional compounds were requested by ADEQ to be added to the current 8260 list, the committee decided not to add them at present; later on additional compounds can be added after performing the method validation.

Drinking water qualifiers:

Julie Hoskin reported that the Drinking Water Qualifiers has been withdrawn, the general Data Qualifiers will be used for drinking water reporting as well; the same condition as before still holds that if there is any question regarding the quality of the drinking water data, it should not be reported at all; a handout was given out from the ADEQ DW Program. There was some discussion if the DW qualifiers should be transferred to DWAR forms and it was concluded that the DWAR forms need to be qualified as well.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Training:

Joe Harmon: Wastewater workshop being planned for January or February of next year; the next planning date will be notified to all the interested parties; this is to train the WW treatment operators, there will be a lab portion as well.

Rules:

Steve gave an update: the last time the rules were revised was in 12/2006, at which time there was a fee increase based on the 3 years' projection; it usually doesn't work because whenever there is a fee increase, the labs consolidate their licensed methods to cut the additional costs; last year the indirect cost was 32% for the program but this year it is being raised to 60%, which translates into a 42% fee increase; some vacancy savings and the revolving fund money helps, but the program budget will be wiped out by the end of this year with this new 60% indirect cost which is in effect this fiscal year; for the rules to get passed by the end of this year, the rules revision should begin right away; a sign up sheet was circulated to form a rules subcommittee.

Steve put forth a couple of alternatives for the group to consider regarding the fee increase; 1) put most of the burden on the out-of-state labs, however, the rule writer has advised against being discriminatory; 2) consider travel time within the in-state labs as well; one hour travel time is built into the fee structure already; comparing City of Scottsdale to Tucson Water, which are pretty comparable in size, it costs \$49.66 to audit City of Scottsdale where as, it costs \$251.34 for Tucson Water; this difference in price is not recovered from in-state labs; 3) since this ELAC Committee is an advisory group to ADHS, it is appropriate to send recommendations to ADHS Director.

Rules subcommittee meeting was set for 1/8/2009 at 10:00 AM.

There was some more discussion on the program budget; for the methods that are not approved in Arizona, compel the consultants to seek out-of-state labs for services; the ease of the Director Approval of methods that are used for compliance testing; bottled water compliance that has added a number of new labs and the incorporation of a number of new promulgated methods in to the new rules.

TNI:

Barbara gave an update on the TNI/NEMC conference: no one from ADHS will be attending the next TNI conference; Barbara will be involved in the preparation of agenda for the standard and method interpretation presentation, there is a huge disparity among the states in this area; the Office of Solid Waste is addressing the problems caused by the different versions of the methods adopted by the individual states; the incorporation of DW Certification Manual in to the NELAC Standards; the next meeting is in San Antonio in August. Steve added that Barbara is not the Chair anymore due to the time restraint but she is still involved in the subcommittee activities.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE & ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting was scheduled for March 19, 2009.