

ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 16, 2010

MINUTES

Members Present

Laura McCasland
Matthew Rexing
*Nancy Turner
Robert Vertefeuille
Cynthia Garcia
*Michael Dew
Elizabeth Proffitt
Christina Krosnicki
(Kurt Novy)
Linda Johnson
Mary Tyer
Rick Amalfi
Randy Gottler

Members Absent

Lee Hecht
Anne Nichols
Jim Williams
Evelyn Dawson
Elizabeth Baker

Guests Present

Melinda Seibel
Trina Spangle
Anupa Jain
*Nancy Powell
David Verati
Cassandra Dafelle
*Dawn Weyer
Christina Hoppes
*Shawneen Michaud
Gail Adams
*Leanne Nieukirk
Garry Brussels
Dipti Shah

SLS Staff

*Prabha Acharya
Steve Baker
Ali Mayfield
Kathryn Wangness
Imelda Guevara

ADEQ Staff

Julie Hoskin
Jeanene Hanley

* **By Phone**

CALL TO ORDER

WELCOME/INTRODUCTION

Cindy Garcia called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM; she welcomed everyone. Cindy stated that this was her last meeting as a chairperson and a new chairperson will be elected at this meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.

Steve Baker welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming; busy agenda; awaiting budget cuts, department will be fine; 60 million dollar cut, Behavior Health will get the biggest brunt; Lab has received 1 million grant which can be utilized towards instrument purchases and personnel. Barbara's position has been re-advertized with a more competitive salary; December 28th is the closing date.

NOMINATION AND VOTING OF A NEW CHAIRPERSON

Linda Johnson as chairperson and Matt Rexing as co-chair were nominated by Nancy Turner and were elected for their respective positions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from September 30, 2010 meeting were approved with 3 amendments; On page 2, under Wastewater Training and Inspections, the last line should read as ...there are very few requirements; on page 3, under Training...AWPCA should be changed to Arizona Water Association on both the lines 2 and 3; and on line 3, December should be changed to May.

ADEQ UPDATE

Additional Fuel Compounds:

Jeanene Hanley gave an update; Soil Rule had so many compounds it was difficult to keep track of what was currently being regulated; a regulatory change has brought on petroleum releases in place of soil rule, which consists of PAHs, volatiles and petroleum hydrocarbons; C10-C32 is not regulated anymore; petroleum releases consist of a number of additional compounds which are regulated but the labs are not consistently reporting all those regulated compounds; a subcommittee meeting with the commercial labs and ADHS was held in October to agree on a standardized list with additional compounds that would be routinely reported by the labs. In November meeting it was decided that 8 volatile compounds could feasibly be added to the 8260 list and labs would test those compounds on their system to see if they would work. Prabha has asked the labs in the Information Update to email Jeanene the compounds they routinely report for 8260 analysis besides the 8260AZ list. Jeanene would compile that list as well as the results from the 8 additional compounds and will be discussed at the next subcommittee meeting early next year. There are more compounds under risk assessment than the SRL list; they are being posted on ADEQ website so labs are aware what to report. Risk assessment compounds are the future SRL compounds.

Beth Proffitt reported that the ALA meeting was held on Tuesday and 11 labs were represented; the labs have decided to buy their own standards and some of the labs have already completed their studies.

Julie Hoskin informed that the lab services contract was getting ready to expire and to watch for the announcement early next year.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

2010 Enforcement actions:

Steve showed a PowerPoint presentation;

This year was unique because the labs with repeat deficiencies and record violations were not levied civil penalties like previous years;

An in-state municipal lab which had not corrected the initial deficiencies during the follow up visit was denied the initial license.

A hearing which was scheduled for May for a NELAC certified private lab in Florida was cancelled by the lab; most of the areas of the lab were in good condition; 2 analysts were falsifying 3 organic methods and Steve went into details on 8141, 8260 and 8151 falsifications: multiple manual integrations, co-elution, failing %RSDs, and forcing other calibration points through the mid-point which was at the QC concentration (linear curve). Initial license was denied and the lab requested a hearing which they withdrew later when they were shown the falsifications done by their analysts.

A lab that had the same deficiencies on their 3rd inspection was levied civil penalty.

Small municipal labs have repeat deficiencies due to lack of dedication and too much work for the analysts due to the economy.

Inspections are scheduled for every 2 years now, during initial audits some data audit is also done along with Mint Miner scan.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Inspections with QA/QC Requirements:

Steve reported that ADEQ and ADHS realized in January that there was a big problem with compliance of exempt methods in the WW treatment plants; He would like to see a good faith effort in rectifying the problems in the plants; ADHS has updated the website with the required information- training presentations, check sheets, bench sheets, MDL spread sheets and also QA/QC requirements. WW operators need help from the labs as well; it is projected to be a 2 1/2 years project. Minimal QC, SOP, and MDL (only required on Ultra Low Level Chlorine); example would be 100 ppb low standard, spike with 100 ppb and the MDL is at 17 ppb. The plants range appears to be 17-35 ppb. MDL must be done in the plant. Some expenses are coming from fees, and General Fund is supporting this project as well as the licensure program because the fees coming in are not enough.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Rules:

Steve reported rules revision will not happen soon; just finished the 5 year review of the rules, nothing significant.

TNI/NEMC:

No one attended from ADHS; gets updates from bimonthly State Assessor's meetings; Kathryn said that she is the Chair for Association of Public Health Laboratory Accreditation Subcommittee and they will pay for her to attend the upcoming TNI meeting as a representative of Public Health Laboratories.

Training:

Matt Rexing reported that they were looking for speakers for the 3-day sampling workshop; Julie said that there may be a couple available from ADEQ.

UPDATES:

DMRQA 31:

Kathryn reported there were no official dates for 2011; January-July WP Study results count; EPA will send out packets to major plants only, ADEQ will mail out to minor facilities.

ALA Activities:

Beth profit gave an update; they have held 2 meetings so far; officers were chosen; there is a fee for membership; will closely work with ADHS and regulated community; keep up with common findings; Beth added that end of January would be the closing date to complete 8260 data and 2/15 to get input from the labs.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE & ADJOURNMENT:

The next meeting was scheduled for March 31, 2011; the meeting was adjourned at 11.56 AM.