

**SUMMARY OF THE  
TNI LABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING EXPERT COMMITTEE  
MEETING**

**AUGUST 23, 2013**

The Committee met by teleconference on Friday, August 23, 2013, at 11:00 am EST. Chair Shawn Kassner led the meeting.

**1 – Roll call**

Fred Anderson, Advanced Analytical Solutions (Other)	Present
Stephen Arpie, Absolute Standards (Other)	Present
Kareen Baker, Veolia Water N. American (Other)	Absent
Yumi Creason, PA DEP (AB)	Absent
Rachel Ellis, NJ DEP (AB)	Absent
Scott Hoatson, Oregon DEQ (AB)	Present
Shawn Kassner, Phenova (Chair; Other)	Present
Roger Kenton, Eastman Chemical Co. (Lab)	Absent
Stacie Metzler, Hampton Roads San. Distr. (Lab)	Absent
Mitzi Miller, Dade Moeller Assocs. (Other)	Present
Judy Morgan, Env. Science Corp. (Lab)	Present
Virgene Mulligan, Amrad (Lab)	Absent
Joe Pardue, P2S (Other)	Present
Jim Todaro, Alpha Analytical (Lab)	Absent
Lisa Touet, MA DEP (AB)	Present
Ken Jackson, Program Administrator	Absent

Associate Committee Members present: Bob O'Brien, Sigma-Aldrich; Susan Butts, SCDEC; Brian Stringer, ERA.

**2 – Previous Minutes**

Shawn asked if there were any changes to the August 5 minutes, and there were none stated. It was moved by Joe and seconded by Judy to adopt the minutes. Shawn said he would send them out for e-mail vote.

**3 – Committee Membership**

Scott indicated he was prepared to serve a second term, and Shawn said he would send an e-mail to the TNI Board, copied to Bob Wyeth, asking for Scott, Judy and Mitzi's second term to be approved.

On behalf of the committee Shawn thanked Mitzi for her excellent job in chairing the committee for the past 3 years.

Shawn will update the charter to reflect recent changes.

Nominations were requested for Vice-Chair, and Mitzi nominated Joe Pardue who indicated his willingness to serve. Mitzi suggested having an e-mail vote on his appointment.

#### **4 – Subcommittees for Volume 3**

A subcommittee for verification and homogeneity (Kelly Black, Shawn, Stacie, Judy Morgan, and at least one representative from each PT provider) had already met a few times.

Shawn would ask Virgene if she would be prepared to lead a radiochemistry subcommittee. Brian Miller had also agreed to serve, and Brian Stringer would talk to him further. Mitzi suggested asking a data user or DOE person to join. Joe said he would look into that. An AB would also be desirable. Mitzi suggested Richard Sheibley who is no longer an AB but can still provide the AB perspective, and Shawn said he would approach him.

A microbiology subcommittee was also needed, and a protozoan expert would be needed (for *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*). Shawn suggested the University of Wisconsin hygiene laboratory as a resource to help craft this part of the standard, and said he would reach out to them. There was general agreement that *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* should have its own subcommittee rather than be thrown in with microbiology. Judy volunteered someone from her laboratory to join the University of Wisconsin people on the protozoan subcommittee. Deb Waller from NJ was suggested as an AB representative. Judy said she would ask someone from her microbiology laboratory to join the microbiology subcommittee, and Mike Blades was also suggested. Lisa said she would ask her microbiology person to join and provide the AB perspective. Shawn said he would also ask EPA if they wanted to be involved with *Cryptosporidium* PT development.

Shawn volunteered to ask Stacie if she would chair a WET subcommittee.

Mitzi suggested an SIR subcommittee. She said some SIRs are still outstanding. Mitzi volunteered to contact Lynn Bradley to find the status of the SIRs. Scott and Fred said they would help.

Each subcommittee will need to address 4 areas: assigned values; homogeneity/verification/stability; study duration; and evaluation.

#### **5 – Look into Requiring Providers to Capture Prep Methods for Future Development of the FoPT Tables**

Shawn said there was a lot of talk on this at the San Antonio Meeting. If this is to be done, this standard would need to include the requirement. Steve expressed reservation

in having another column on the laboratories' PT reports. He said the information is already available in the methods, and he did not see the value in collecting information that is common knowledge. Mitzi said EPA has wanted this information for a long time. It will be needed if TNI is ever to move to an evaluation by prep method. Steve questioned what will be done if all the information is correlated and shows one prep method is clearly inferior. He was concerned that the list of prep/determinative method combinations would become very big. Shawn reminded Steve that the PTP Executive Committee wants the data to be collected, and that will need a requirement to be added to Volume 3. Shawn said he would ask Stacie, who is on the PTP Executive Committee, to confirm they want this done. He also said he would contact Lem Walker to see if EPAOW wants it done for adding SPE to method 625, and to the EPA solid waste people. It was suggested to also contact Greg Carroll. Steve said the NY program has been collecting this information and Shawn said he would contact Nicole Cairns to ask them if they would share it. Scott indicated laboratories also need this because different recoveries are causing them problems with PTs. Judy said it is possible to fail a PT using microwave digestion because recovery may be too high compared with other prep methods. Her laboratory already reports prep methods to those clients who request the information, so it would not present a problem to provide the data on PT samples. She added that EPA will not take any action without data. Bob and Fred agreed it would not be difficult for them as PT providers to collect the data. Shawn added it should be considered if this should be added to the reporting requirements for laboratories.

## **6 – Next Steps**

The committee would start working through Volume 3 during the next conference call on September 6.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm EDT.