

**Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)
Meeting Summary**

February 27, 2018

1. Roll Call and Minutes:

Robin Cook, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30pm Eastern on February 27, 2018 by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 6 members present. Associate Members: Barb Sullivan and Jennifer Best.

The November and December 2017 minutes were distributed by email for approval. A motion was made by Patsy by email on January 17, 2017 to approve the November 28, 2017 and December 12, 2017 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Kasey by email on January 17, 2017.

Vote:

Elizabeth – For (Email 1/17/18)

Patsy – For (Email 1/17/18)

Deb – For (Email 1/17/18)

Jessica – For (1/19/18)

Karla – For (1/22/18)

(Addition: There were not enough votes to finish up the approval by email and there were only 6 members on the call today, so the minutes will be re-voted on during the March 2018 meeting.)

2. Method Codes

Robin thinks the Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee and Micro Expert Committee can work together on this issue.

States are supposed to accredit by how the regulations are written, but the regulations are not consistent and clear. For example, Surface Water Treatment Rule has a number of issues. Jennifer does not know how to begin to deal with this issue. There are so many options and these need to be reflected in the method codes. There are specifics that can be different between different versions of standard methods. There are also methods where just the QC has changed and the rest of the method is the same.

DW still approves multiple versions of the same method. NJ only accepts most current version. EPA asked for input on this topic, but people said they think labs should be able to use different versions.

Deb noted that every AB should know what the current method is before they go out to audit. Deb plans to continue to raise this issue.

There is an erratum put out by Standard Method. It is only on their website and its not mailed out. Labs will miss this.

Robin asked if the two groups (Microbiology Expert Committee and Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee) should work together on this. SDWIS – database that the states have to dump their monitoring data into. It has just been redone. They may have made new method codes when it was updated. Jennifer has not reviewed the method codes, but this might be a starting point.

Jennifer thinks the ABs should be polled to see what they want to work with.

Robin suggested a lunch meeting in New Orleans to talk about this issue with more people might make sense.

Deb asked if it is worth making a table of all the methods that are approved and what the differences are? Robin was concerned about difficulty in doing this. Deb plans to go ahead and work on this, but could not have this done by August.

It was decided to put a group of questions together to send the ABs to understand the issue and the possibilities for solutions. A working lunch will be planned in New Orleans to begin discussing this. Ilona will talk to Jerry to set this up. (Jennifer is not sure she will be in attendance in New Orleans.)

The committee will continue to make plans for the New Orleans conference during the March committee meeting.

Robin asked that everyone send her recommended AB questions that she will forward to Aaren (Chair, NELAP AC).

3. Committee Leadership

Patsy and Robin will be rotating off next year. Kasey is willing to step in as vice-chair this year.

Deb will be rotating off next year and wants to continue to be an associate member.

A motion made by Deb to have Robin continue as Chair and add Kasey as Vice-Chair of the Microbiology Expert Committee for 2018. Jessica seconded the motion. Robin, Patsy, Deb, Kasey, Jessica - For. There were no Against or Abstain votes. The vote will be finished by email.

(Addition:

Vote:

Gary – For (by email 3/12/18)

Christabel – For (by email 3/12/18)

Vanessa – For (by email 3/12/18)

Dwayene – For (by email 3/12/18)

The motion passed.)

4. Action Items

A summary of action items can be found in Attachment B. The action items were reviewed and updated in the table.

5. New Business

Jennifer had some questions about how the version of the Standard a lab is accredited to is noted on their certificate. Deb noted that it is part of New Jersey's certificate.

6. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be held by teleconference on March 13, 2018 at 1:30pm Eastern.
(Addition: The committee meeting was changed to March 20, 2018 by email.)

A summary of action items and backburner/reminder items can be found in Attachment B and C.

Robin adjourned the meeting at 2:33 pm Eastern.

**Attachment A
Participants
Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)**

Members	Affiliation	Balance	Contact Information
Robin Cook (Chair) (2019) Present	City of Daytona Beach EML	Lab	cookr@codb.us
Patsy Root (2019) Present	IDEXX Laboratories, Inc	Other	patsy-root@idexx.com
Lew Denny (2021*) Absent	Flowers Chemical Laboratories – North	Lab	lewdenny@comcast.net
Jessica Hoch (2019*) Present	TCEQ	AB	Jessica.hoch@tceq.texas.gov
Deb Waller (2019) Present	NJ DEP	AB	debra.waller@dep.nj.gov
Dwayne Burkholder (2019) Absent	Pennsylvania DEP	AB	dburkholde@pa.gov
Michael Blades (2021*) Absent	ERA	Other	mblades@eraqc.com
Brad Stawick (2019*) Absent	Microbac Laboratories	Lab	brad.stawick@microbac.com
Kasey Raley (Vice-chair) (2020*) Present	Eurofins Eaton Analytical, Inc.	Lab	KaseyRaley@eurofinsUS.com
Vanessa Soto Contreras (2020*) Present	Florida DOH	AB	Vanessa.SotoContreras@flhealth.gov
Gary Yakub (2020) Absent	Environmental Standards, Inc.	Other	gyakub@envstd.com
Enoma Omoregie (2021*) Absent	NYCDEP	Other	eomoregie@dep.nyc.gov
Christabel Monteiro (2021*) Absent	ESC	Lab	cmonteiro@esclabsciences.com
Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator) Present	The NELAC Institute	n/a	Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org

Attachment B

Action Items – MEC

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
1	Review Method Codes and send comments to Robin for Dan Hickman.	Deb	TBD	
19	Provide EPA interpretation on temperature readings to Ilona. She will have it posted on the website.	Robin	1/31/14	
73	Attend NELAP AC Meeting in Albuquerque to discuss combining method codes. (Wed 10:30-12)	Robin	1/24/18	Complete
74	Send questions for ABs regarding method codes to Robin.	ALL	3/15/18	
75	Discuss space for a luncheon meeting in New Orleans with Jerry.	Ilona	3/15/18	

