

Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC) Meeting Summary

July 9, 2019

1. Roll Call and Minutes:

Kasey Raley, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30pm Eastern by teleconference on July 9, 2019. Robin Cook (Chair) needed to add into the meeting 10 minutes later. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 9 members present. Associate Members: Sarah Bortz, Carl Kircher, Laura Higgins, Elisa Snyder, Erin Consuega and Jennifer Best.

The June meeting minutes were distributed by email and Robin reviewed them using Webex. A motion was made by Mike C. to approve the June 11, 2019 minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Cody and unanimously approved.

2. Technical Manager

Quality Systems is trying to make the Standard more inclusive. The following language was reviewed at the last Quality Systems meeting:

Quality Systems

- a) Any technical manager of an accredited environmental laboratory engaged in environmental analysis shall be a person:
 - i. with a bachelor's degree; and
 - ii. with twenty-eight (28) college semester credit hours of chemistry and/or biological science ~~natural sciences excluding astronomy~~; and
 - iii. with two (2) or more years of experience in the environmental analysis of environmental samples. iv. A master's or doctoral degree in one of the above disciplines may be substituted for one (1) year experience.
 - v. 1 year experience working in an environmental laboratory may be substituted for 4 credit hours. Multiple years of substitution should show increasing level of knowledge in environmental analyses (preparation and/or instrumentation).
 - vi. In lieu of any of the above, the laboratory can petition the primary accrediting body, presenting the candidate's qualifications.

Radiochemistry

- a) Any technical manager of an accredited environmental laboratory engaged in radiological analysis shall be a person:
 - i. with a bachelor's degree; and
 - ii. with thirty-two (32) college semester credit hours of chemistry and physics; and
 - iii. with sixteen (16) college semester credit hours of radiochemistry; and

- iv. with two (2) or more years of experience in the radiological analysis of environmental samples.
- v. A master's or doctoral degree in one of the above disciplines may be substituted for one (1) year experience.
- vi. 1 year experience working in an environmental radioanalytical laboratory may be substituted for 4 credit hours. Multiple years of substitution should show increasing level of knowledge in radiochemistry analyses (preparation and/or instrumentation).
- vii. In lieu of any of the above, the laboratory can petition the primary accrediting body, presenting the candidate's qualifications.

Iлона commented about the last item – there were concerns that states wouldn't be comfortable letting some other AB make the decision. Need to petition all the relevant states.

Robin noted that this would probably only be used by smaller labs and they would likely make the request to only one AB.

Robin agreed with the concept to approach all the relevant states as noted in the Radiochemistry version.

DRAFT Language:

Any technical manager of an accredited environmental laboratory engaged in microbiological/biological analysis shall be a person:

- i. with a bachelor's degree; and
- ii. with sixteen (16) college semester credit hours of biological science to include at least one course in general microbiology; and
- iii. with two (2) or more years of experience in the analysis of microbiological environmental samples representative of the analyses for which the lab seeks and maintains accreditation,
- iv. A master's or doctoral degree may be substituted for one (1) year experience.
- v. 1 year experience working in an environmental laboratory may be substituted for 4 credit hours.
 - a. Multiple years of substitution shall show increasing level of knowledge in environmental analyses (preparation, instrumentation and/or technology).
 - b. The 4 credit hour general microbiology course cannot be substituted with experience
- vi. In lieu of any of the above, the laboratory may petition all applicable accrediting bodies, presenting the candidate's qualifications to document competency.

Carl would like to see how QS works through this before he comments. Jessica thinks that Texas may prefer not to have the petition option, but she reminded everyone that she no longer works in the accreditation section. Jennifer Best noted that the states have the authority to make these decisions. Jennifer likes the micro course requirement.

Vote of Confidence to pass it along to QS:

Enoma – For (concerned that vi takes away from what is above)

Cody – For

Michael C – For

Jody – For

Jessica – For (concerned too many people will use it)

Kasey – For

Mary – For (add to vi. with more specifics – what has to be submitted)

Michael B – For

Robin – For

Robin asked for comments from Associate members. No comments. Kasey and Robin will send it to Quality Systems. Robin encouraged people to attend the QS meeting if they will be in Jacksonville.

3. Jacksonville Meeting

The Technical Manager discussion is happening at the QS meeting, so there may be something to talk about or it will just be presented.

Cody will not be there. No Jessica. Robin recommended that everyone be looking at things they think need to change in the Standard so this can be shared in Jacksonville.

5. Action Items

See Attachments B and C for updates to action items.

6. New Business

None.

7. Next Meeting and Close

The next meeting will be face-to-face in Jacksonville, FL on August 5, 2019 (Monday) at 9am Eastern.

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

Robin adjourned the meeting at 2:40pm Eastern. Motion: Mike B Second: Cody
Unanimous.

Attachment A

Participants

Members	Affiliation	Balance	Contact Information
Robin Cook (Chair) (2019) Present	City of Daytona Beach EML	Lab	cookr@codb.us
Michael Carpinona (2022*) Present	NJ DEP	AB	Michael.Carpinona@dep.nj.gov
Ron Coss (2022*) Absent	Orange County Sanitation District	Lab	RCoss@OCSD.COM
Cody Danielson (2022*) Present	Oklahoma	AB	Cody.Danielson@deq.ok.gov
Lew Denny (2021*) Absent	Flowers Chemical Laboratories – North	Lab	lewdenny@comcast.net
Jessica Hoch (2019*) Present	TCEQ	Other	Jessica.Hoch@Tceq.Texas.Gov
Lily Giles (2022*) Absent	Louisiana	AB	Lily.Giles@LA.GOV
Mary Robinson (2022*) Present	Indiana	AB	mrobinson@isdh.IN.gov
Michael Blades (2021*) Present	ERA	Other	mblades@eraqc.com
Jody Frymire (2022*) Present	IDEXX	Other	Jody-Frymire@idexx.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*) Present	NYCDEP	Other	eomoregie@health.nyc.gov
Christabel Monteiro (2021*) Present	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	
74	Send questions for ABs regarding method codes to Robin.	ALL	3/15/18	
76	Provide an update on what has been done with the databases after Jennifer's review and internal EPA meetings.	Jennifer	4/10/18	
78	Forward link to PDFs on DW website with rule, method and analyte information.	Jennifer	3/31/18	
81	<i>Addition: Forward response to SIR 331 to Lynn Bradley.</i>	<i>Robin</i>	<i>11/13/18</i>	
83	Send out resumes for all applicants to the committee.	Robin	12/10/18	Send before 1/8/19.
84	Send out copy of Charter.	Robin/Ilona	12/10/18	
87	Contact Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey about Technical Manager requirements.	Robin	5/14/19	
88	Send SIR 301 response to Lynn Bradley.	Robin	5/14/19	
89	Robin will update the Technical Manager language and send it to the Committee for comment by email. She would like something to present to QS by their 6/10/19 meeting.	Robin All	6/10/19	Still in progress.
90	Prepare Jacksonville Agenda.	Kasey Robin	6/23/19	

