

## **Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Expert Committee Meeting Summary**

**February 17, 2016 1 pm Eastern**

### **1. Welcome, Roll Call, Approval of Minutes and Announcements**

Rami Naddy welcomed everyone to the meeting. Minutes of the December 16, 2015, meeting plus the January 20 and January 26, 2016, meetings were approved. Since the January 20 minutes were approved with changes, the final version will be circulated. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1, below.

### **2. Election of Officers**

No additional nominations were received since the January 20 meeting, where Rami was nominated to continue as Chair and Pete was nominated to become Vice Chair. A vote was taken on each office. Rami's election was unanimous with Rami abstaining, and Pete's election was unanimous.

### **3. Committee Goals and Priorities**

The goals and priorities of the WET committee, as most recently discussed at the November 2015 meeting, were proposed for formal acceptance. Steve moved and Ginger seconded that they be adopted as presented, and approval was unanimous. These goals and priorities, as adopted, are included in Attachment 2 of these minutes.

### **4. Annual Update of Committee Charter**

The Consensus Standards Development Executive Committee (CSDEC) has called for updates of the expert committee charters to be submitted by March, 2016. Lynn provided a draft version of an updated charter, and participants provided comments and edits so that the document could be approved by email vote. Ginger moved and Steve seconded that an email vote be taken on the revised committee charter as circulated by email after the meeting, with the vote to close no later than Friday, February 26.

The final version of the charter, as circulated for approval, is included in Attachment 3 of these minutes, and the outcome of the vote will be recorded in the March minutes. Upon approval, this document will be provided to CSDEC's Chair and Program Administrator.

### **5. Updates**

At Lynn's request, participants explained how our recommendations to Brian Krausz, EPA's DMRQA Coordinator, were reflected in the most recent DMRQA instructions, so that all PT samples are to report the IC25 endpoint and may report other endpoints as well. Plus they now reverence the "west coast manuals" and no longer refer to "forty fathoms," and several species names were revised. Lynn noted that 1) the TNI Board was aware and pleased that EPA received and utilized our recommendations and 2) the version of our recommendations posted on the TNI website will be updated to include the TNI logo with a date and source for the document.

The issue of standardized instructions for performing PT samples, and how those instructions should be formalized and transmitted to labs, remains to be addressed. Rami asked Tom Widera (associate member representing a PT provider ERA) about this topic, and requested his assistance in helping our committee work this out with the PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC.)

Rami also mentioned that PTPEC has requested a WET representative to participate in its meetings, and John Overbey's name was recommended. NOTE: John is a new associate member since conference in Tulsa, and has agreed to participate in the PTPEC meetings to represent WET.

At conference, Rami, Pete and Steve were present with about five in the audience, but the conversation after Rami's presentation engaged all participants and there is clear excitement that a WET committee now exists. Steve was present at the closing plenary session to present the outcome of the WET session to the TNI Board.

Participants discussed some more about planning for the WET presentations during the Assessment Forum at conference in Orange County, CA, in August. Ginger will do much of the presenting, while the content will represent the full committee's thoughts, and Marilyn and Katie (of Nautilus in relatively close San Diego) will provide moral support if not more. Elizabeth will provide, as a starting point, the material that she presented to the NELAP AC's Assessor call (see the minutes of November 4, 2013, at <http://nelac-institute.org/committee/nelap>), and Teresa offered assistance with materials while Rami expressed his hope that this WET Assessment Forum can become "WET 101" for assessors. Barbara Escobar reviewed her process for formalizing the structure of the Assessment Forums, and noted that TNI expects many California labs to be present for the full meeting, as CA is rebuilding its accreditation body (AB) program and may again apply to be a NELAP AB. We will follow development of the presentation at each month's meeting and will convene additional meetings as needed to support the developers of this important session. Ginger and Elizabeth committed to providing a basic outline for the presentation, for discussion at the March WET meeting.

Teresa was invited to present any further updates on the future of fish and new methods, but she replied that there was nothing new at present. She will continue to keep the committee updated as information becomes available.

Rami noted that he has been working on a glossary of WET terms, as used in the WET module of the TNI Standard (V1M7). He will provide the most recent version to be distributed with these minutes, and asked that comments or corrections be provided no later than the March 16, 2016, committee meeting. Tom noted that he is coordinating the consolidation of a Volume 1 glossary for the 2016 standard, so that it will be helpful to copy him on all comments.

Ginger moved and Elizabeth seconded that the meeting be adjourned. There were no objections.

## **6. Next Meeting**

The WET Expert Committee will meet again on Wednesday, March 16, 2016, at 1 pm Eastern. Teleconference information and an agenda will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

## Attachment 1

## Committee Membership

Member	Affiliation	Email	Phone	Category	Term Expiration	Present
Rami Naddy (Chair)	TRE Env. Strat. LLC	<a href="mailto:naddyrb.tre@gmail.com">naddyrb.tre@gmail.com</a>	970-416-0916	Lab	Feb. 2018	Yes
Ginger Briggs	Bio-Analytical Laboratories	<a href="mailto:bioanalytical@wildblue.net">bioanalytical@wildblue.net</a>	318-745-2772	Lab	Feb. 2018	Yes
Pete De Lisle	Coastal Bioanalysts Inc.	<a href="mailto:pfd@coastalbio.com">pfd@coastalbio.com</a>	804-694-8285	Lab	Feb. 2018	Yes
Steven Rewa	Environmental Resources Management	<a href="mailto:steven.rewa@erm.com">steven.rewa@erm.com</a>	616-738-7324	Lab	Feb. 2018	Yes
Chris Burbage	Hampton Roads Sanitation District	<a href="mailto:cburbage@hrsd.com">cburbage@hrsd.com</a>	757-355-5013	Lab	Feb. 2018	No
Chris Pasch	Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.	<a href="mailto:cpasch@apaienv.com">cpasch@apaienv.com</a>	512-687-2162	Other	Feb. 2018	Yes
Teresa Norberg-King	USEPA	<a href="mailto:norberg-king.teresa@epa.gov">norberg-king.teresa@epa.gov</a>	218-529-5163	Other	Feb. 2018	No
Elizabeth West	LA DEQ LELAP	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.west@la.gov">elizabeth.west@la.gov</a>	318-676-7457	AB	Feb. 2018	Yes
Amy Hackman	Penn. Dept. Environ. Protection	<a href="mailto:ahackman@pa.gov">ahackman@pa.gov</a>	717-346-8209	AB	Feb. 2018	No
Michele Potter	New Jersey Dept of Environ Protect.	<a href="mailto:Michele.Potter@dep.nj.gov">Michele.Potter@dep.nj.gov</a>	609 984-3870	AB	Feb. 2018	No
Michael Pfeil	Texas Comm. Environ. Quality	<a href="mailto:Michael.pfeil@tceq.texas.gov">Michael.pfeil@tceq.texas.gov</a>	512-239-4592	AB	Feb. 2018	Yes
Kari Fleming	WI DNR	<a href="mailto:kari.fleming@wisconsin.gov">kari.fleming@wisconsin.gov</a>	608-267-7663	AB	Dec. 2017	Yes
<b>Associate Members</b>						
Kevin Dischler	Element Materials Technology	<a href="mailto:Kevin.dischler@element.com">Kevin.dischler@element.com</a>	337-443-4010	Lab (Assoc.)	---	Yes
Monica Eues	CK Associates	<a href="mailto:Monica.eues@c-ka.com">Monica.eues@c-ka.com</a>	225-923-6946	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Barbara Escobar	Pima County RWRD, CRAO Laboratory	<a href="mailto:Barbara.escobar@pima.gov">Barbara.escobar@pima.gov</a>		Lab (Assoc.)	---	Yes

Melinda Hooper	Englewood Water District, Florida	<a href="mailto:hoopermelinda@gmail.com">hoopermelinda@gmail.com</a>		Lab (Assoc.)		No
Robert Kelley	ETT Environmental Inc	<a href="mailto:bobkelley@ettenvironmental.com">bobkelley@ettenvironmental.com</a>	864-877-6942	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Brian Krausz	USEPA	<a href="mailto:krausz.brian@epa.gov">krausz.brian@epa.gov</a>	202-564-3069	Other (EPA)	--	No
Jennifer Loudon	Raritan Township Municipal Utilities Authority	<a href="mailto:JLoudon@rtmua.com">JLoudon@rtmua.com</a>	908-787-7453 x 19	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Vel Rey Lozano	USEPA Region 8	<a href="mailto:Lozano.VelRey@epa.gov">Lozano.VelRey@epa.gov</a>	303-312-6128	Other (EPA)	--	No
Robert Martino	QC Laboratories	<a href="mailto:rmartino@qclaboratories.com">rmartino@qclaboratories.com</a>	267-699-0103	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Jamie Mitchell	Hampton Roads Sanitation District	<a href="mailto:jmitchell@hrsdc.com">jmitchell@hrsdc.com</a>	757-460-4220	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Linda Nemeth	Northwestern Aquatic Sciences	<a href="mailto:lnemeth@tds.net">lnemeth@tds.net</a>	541-265-7225	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Mark O'Neil	Environmental Enterprises USA, Inc.	<a href="mailto:moneil@eeusa.com">moneil@eeusa.com</a>	800-966-2788	Lab (Assoc.)	---	Yes
Marilyn O'Neill	Nautilus Environmental	<a href="mailto:Marilyn@nautilusenvironmental.com">Marilyn@nautilusenvironmental.com</a>	858-587-7333	Lab (Assoc.)		No
John Overbey	American Interplex Corp.	<a href="mailto:joverbey@americaninterplex.com">joverbey@americaninterplex.com</a>	501-224-5060, ext. 209	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Joe Pardue	Pro2Serve	<a href="mailto:Parduegjr@oro.doe.gov">Parduegjr@oro.doe.gov</a>	423-404-4117	Other	---	Yes
Peter M Paulos	Atkins Environmental Toxicology Lab	<a href="mailto:Peter.Paulos@atkinsglobal.com">Peter.Paulos@atkinsglobal.com</a>	713-292-9023	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Katie Payne	Nautilus Environmental	katie@nautilusenvironmental.com	858-587-7333 ext. 212	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Beth Thompson	Shealy Consulting	bthompson@shealyconsulting.net	803-808-3113	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Tom Widera	ERA	twidera@eraqc.com	303-463-3536	Other		Yes
Program Administrator						
Lynn Bradley	TNI	<a href="mailto:Lynn.Bradley@nelac-institute.org">Lynn.Bradley@nelac-institute.org</a>	540-885-5736			Yes

Attachment 2

	<b>WET Expert Committee Goals and Priorities (from November 2015 Committee Minutes)</b>	<b>Short/Long Term &amp; Priority</b>	<b>Suggested Timeline</b>	
<b>PT Goals</b> <b>Two broad categories—standardizing test conditions and standardizing test endpoints</b>				
PT1	Standardize test conditions			
	Standardize test conditions required for PT/DMRQA WET studies. Current practice of conducting multiple tests using different NPDES permit test conditions creates ambiguity in assessing any participating laboratory's performance with a WET method.			
	Review the PT/DMRQA data to determine whether DMW should be combined with MHSF data.	Short term		
	Clearly define the data objectives and purposes for WET PT/DMRQA studies for all stakeholders involved.	High priority		
PT2	Standardize test endpoints			
	Choose one statistical method to calculate the test endpoint, such as IC25 or LC50 point estimate, for Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) PT/DMRQA studies and eliminate the use of hypothesis test endpoints such as NOEC, NOAEC, LOEC and LOAEC in order to increase the size of the database and improve statistical results.	Short term		

	Improve the statistical power and evaluation of WET data sets and results in PT/DMRQA studies.	Long term		
	Complete the work started by the WETT PT subcommittee by improving the testing and reporting requirements of the PT/DMRQA study.			
<b>Education and Outreach</b>				
EO1	To offer expert assistance to TNI on WETT testing methods, quality control and data interpretation.			
EO2	To offer expert assistance to TNI, auditors and laboratories on interpretation of the Standard as it pertains to WETT.			
EO3	Educate assessors on IC25 vs. NOEC for PT/DMRQA endpoints.	Short term	Summer 2016	
EO4	Work with PT providers and assessors to consolidate, clarify, and improve the guidance on acceptable and unacceptable corrective actions for laboratories when a PT/DMRQA study result is outside of the acceptance limits.	Long term		
<b>Revising the Standard</b>				
RS1	Improve the way initial demonstration of capability is handled specifically for WET testing.	Long term		
RS2	Review the complete WET module of Volume 1 for additional improvements to the standard.			

## Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Expert Committee (WET)

2016 Charter (revised 2-17-2016)

### Mission

It is the mission of this committee to update and maintain the whole effluent toxicity testing Standard (TNI Volume 1, Module 7) based upon public comment, to provide technical assistance on issues related to whole effluent toxicity, to develop tools to aid implementation, and to facilitate the implementation of the Standard.

### Strategic Goals and Objectives

1. Review and revise the Standard based on input from all stakeholder groups.
2. Ensure that the Standard will produce data of known and documented quality.
3. Provide technical assistance such as responding to Standard Interpretation Requests (SIRs).
4. Provide technical assistance in developing tools to facilitate the implementation of the Standard.
5. Ensure continuity with other TNI Volumes.
6. Utilize existing and future TNI infrastructure and resources to accomplish mission.
7. Standardize test conditions and test endpoints for DMRQA WETT PT Study.

### Success Measures

- Improving the Standard by:
  - Clarifying and Updating of the Standard
  - Addressing inconsistencies across EPA method manuals
  - Improving and clarifying quality assurance requirements
  - Clarifying reporting requirements of laboratory performance, such as test sensitivity, test acceptability criteria (TAC), and reference control results
  - Developing a checklist for requirements for each approved method
  - Developing a checklist for reporting requirements
  - Uniformity of Proficiency Testing requirements in concert with the PTPEC
- Prompt responses to SIRs
- Provide WET session in the Assessment Forum at conference

### Key Milestones for 2016

- Approve and Implement priority list of committee goals
- Develop schedule of goals for completion
- Initiate revision of V1M7 as soon as permissible – 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2016
- Provide WET session in the Assessment Forum at conference, summer 2016
- Other committee functions, as needed

## Considerations

Committee members are volunteers; limited funding. Committee must maintain a balanced representation from among accreditation bodies, accredited laboratories and “others” (including, among others, EPA, Department of Defense, and third party accreditation bodies).

## Available Resources

- Volunteer committee members
- TNI Infrastructure
- Environmental technical community
- Teleconference services
- Administrative support
- Technical editor support

## Additional Resources Required

- Travel funding

## Anticipated Meeting Schedule

- Monthly Committee Teleconferences 1 pm Eastern on third Wednesdays -- Full and Associate Members
- Additional committee and subcommittee teleconferences as needed

## Committee Membership

Member	Affiliation	Email	Phone	Category	Term Expiration
Rami Naddy (Chair)	TRE Env. Strat. LLC	<a href="mailto:naddyrb.tre@gmail.com">naddyrb.tre@gmail.com</a>	970-416-0916	Lab	Feb. 2018
Ginger Briggs	Bio-Analytical Laboratories	<a href="mailto:bioanalytical@wildblue.net">bioanalytical@wildblue.net</a>	318-745-2772	Lab	Feb. 2018
Pete De Lisle (Vice Chair)	Coastal Bioanalysts Inc.	<a href="mailto:pfd@coastalbio.com">pfd@coastalbio.com</a>	804-694-8285	Lab	Feb. 2018
Steven Rewa	Environmental Resources Management	<a href="mailto:steven.rewa@erm.com">steven.rewa@erm.com</a>	616-738-7324	Lab	Feb. 2018
Chris Burbage	Hampton Roads Sanitation District	<a href="mailto:cburbage@hrsdc.com">cburbage@hrsdc.com</a>	757-355-5013	Lab	Feb. 2018
Chris Pasch	Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.	<a href="mailto:cpasch@apaienv.com">cpasch@apaienv.com</a>	512-687-2162	Other	Feb. 2018
Teresa Norberg-King	USEPA	<a href="mailto:norberg-king.teresa@epa.gov">norberg-king.teresa@epa.gov</a>	218-529-5163	Other	Feb. 2018
Elizabeth West	LA DEQ LELAP	<a href="mailto:elizabeth.west@la.gov">elizabeth.west@la.gov</a>	318-676-7457	AB	Feb. 2018



Amy Hackman	Penn. Dept. Environ. Protection	<a href="mailto:ahackman@pa.gov">ahackman@pa.gov</a>	717-346-8209	AB	Feb. 2018
Michele Potter	New Jersey Dept of Environ Protection	<a href="mailto:Michele.Potter@dep.nj.gov">Michele.Potter@dep.nj.gov</a>	609 984-3870	AB	Feb. 2018
Michael Pfeil	Texas Comm. Environ. Quality	<a href="mailto:Michael.pfeil@tceq.texas.gov">Michael.pfeil@tceq.texas.gov</a>	512-239-4592	AB	Feb. 2018
Kari Fleming	WI DNR	<a href="mailto:Kari.Fleming@wisconsin.gov">Kari.Fleming@wisconsin.gov</a>	608-267-7663	AB	Dec. 2017

**Balance**

- Laboratory - 5
- Other – 2
- Accreditation Body - 5

**Subcommittees**

To be determined

**Program Administrator**

Lynn Bradley