

Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Expert Committee Meeting Summary

July 17, 2019

1. Welcome and Announcements

In Rami's absence, Pete welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1, below. Minutes from June 19 were approved.

2. Updates

PTPEC

The Analyte Request Application (ARA) was submitted to PTPEC on July 2. There is no feedback or response, yet.

SETAC in Toronto

Stephen met with Trudy Watson-Leung (Canadian Association for Laboratory Accreditation, CALA, and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks) and other members of the planning group in June, and they agreed upon a framework for the workshop. A tentative agenda is currently being circulated among the planning group, which also includes Sarah and Teresa. They plan to have concise presentations rather than exhaustive explanations of the issues to be addressed. Since neither Teresa nor Trudy are available on the Saturday after SETAC, the date is set for the Friday before, November 1, likely 10 am to 2 pm.

Since WET committee members have presented accreditation issues at the past few SETAC meetings in the US, there will be more focus on the CALA process and its training/assessor requirements, plus the differences between Canada and the US. The workshop will also address processes for successful test outcomes and reduced organism use, with a lab tour by Trudy after the workshop ends. The hope is that this workshop will bring more WET people to SETAC.

As the incoming President of the SETAC World Council, Teresa explained that she hopes to move the US program forward, make WET testing clearer to SETAC members, and bring an international approach which would include working towards harmonizing methods across North America and perhaps even with Europe.

Some discussion about desirability of focusing on lab training and assessment requirements arose, with specific questions about Canada's training requirements, since that information might help inform this committee's revision of the WET module.

ELAB Interactions

For now, ELAB's charter is expired and there were some "administrative issues" with getting an updated charter approved. Also, the Forum on Environmental Measurements has been disbanded – this was the group to which ELAB reported. ELAB will not meet at conference in Jacksonville, sadly, but Lynn has arranged for Rami to meet and speak with Lemuel Walker, the EPA Ex-officio member of TNI's Board (Office of Science and Technology in the Office of Water), in hopes of sustaining some connection with the Agency.

3. Possible Training in WET Statistical Software

Nicole had inquired by email about whether there were any training resources available for CETIS and/or ToxCalc, and possibly EPA's spreadsheet-based stats program on their website and Pete led a discussion about whether this is something the committee would like to create. Since the actual analysis and interpretation using these programs can be highly complex, one member recommended that the training be restricted to "how to use" the software.

Participants noted that Michael Ives, the CETIS developer, doesn't exactly respond generously to individual questions about his product, but perhaps if someone knows him, we could open a discussion about preparing and conducting a webinar about using that product. This is a low priority project, and one that would need to avoid promotion of any particular product, but might be more effective than one-on-one Q&A, which is all that's available now.

Nicole agreed to draft a strawman document that can be refined by the committee to create a basis for a TNI Request for Proposal for such a training course. Suggestions were that the syllabus include the advantages and disadvantages of the different software products, also, and that perhaps a modular course would be more effective than a long all-in-one webinar.

Lynn noted that WET Assessor Training by Marlene Moore is scheduled for November 4, 5, 7 & 8. Likely, all committee members got the announcement email, but the registration can be found at <https://nelac-institute.org/content/eds-home.php> once it's posted to the website.

4. Revising V1M7

Members were asked, after the June meeting, to please review section 1.6.5 in light of their lab or the lab that they use for their testing. Only two people send comments and those were not widely distributed until after this meeting. The big issues for discussion proved to be:

- Where does "the method" begin and end, for the DOC? Should things like glassware washing be part of the IDOC, since it is addressed in the method manual, or do that and similar issues only need documentation that training was done?
- What do "weekend only" staff need for IDOC? Do they need to know more than just the tasks that they will be assigned to perform on weekends?
- It quickly became clear that in saying "the lab shall identify method-specific components", there is a tension between being sufficiently specific (in the standard language) to explain WET differences from chemistry without being overly prescriptive.
- What language would keep the lab DOC (5 SRTs) from being automatically applied to individual analyst IDOCs (nearly all members believe that 5 SRTs is excessive)?
- Where is the ideal balance between mandating specifics of an IDOC and the lab's quality system documentation?

At the June meeting, Amy had committed to discussing "enforceable language" about IDOCs with other NELAP ABs, particularly those on this committee, but she was not present for this meeting.

Pete asked everyone to take another look at the draft revision of Module 7 sent with the meeting announcement, and share comments.

Holdover from June meeting: We still need to address whether and what other test types to include, including non-WET tests. Clearly, sediment testing needs to be included, but are there others? Will a separate section need to be created for other test types? And lastly, are there other issues that the committee needs to address in this module?

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at conference in Jacksonville, 1:30-3 pm Eastern on Monday, August 5. We will try using a cell phone with speaker on as teleconference option. A separate message will be sent, but the number will be the usual 218-339-7800, passcode 155258#.

The regularly scheduled August meeting, at 1 pm Eastern on Wednesday, August 21, 2019, may be held, depending on whether the cell phone actually works for teleconferencing at conference. If needed, an agenda and documents will be sent before the meeting.

And there will be a teleconference meeting on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, at 1 pm Eastern.

Attachment 1

Committee Membership

Member	Affiliation	Email	Category	Term Expiration	Present
Ginger Briggs	Bio-Analytical Laboratories	bal@bioanalyticallabs.com	Lab	Dec. 2020 (2)	Yes
Chris Burbage	Hampton Roads Sanitation District	cburbage@hrsd.com	Lab	Dec. 2020 (2)	No
Kari Fleming	WI DNR	kari.fleming@wisconsin.gov	AB	Dec. 2020 (2)	Yes
Amy Hackman	Penn. Dept. Environ. Protection	ahackman@pa.gov	AB	Dec. 2020 (2)	No
Sarah Hughes	Shell Oil Co.	s.hughes@shell.com	Other	Dec. 2021 (1)	Yes
Pete De Lisle (Vice Chair)	Coastal Bioanalysts Inc.	pfd@coastalbio.com	Lab	Dec. 2020 (2)	Yes
VelRey Lozano	USEPA Region 8	Lozano.VelRey@epa.gov	Other (Affiliate)	Dec 2020 (1)	No
Rami Naddy (Chair)	TRE Env. Strat. LLC	naddyrb.tre@gmail.com	Lab	Dec. 2020 (2)	No
Teresa Norberg-King	USEPA	norberg-king.teresa@epa.gov	Other (Affiliate)	Dec. 2020 (2)	Yes
John Overbey	American Interplex Corp.	joverbey@americaninterplex.com	Lab	Dec 2020 (1)	No
Chris Pasch	Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.	cpasch@apaienv.com	Other	Dec. 2020 (2)	Yes
Michael Pfeil	Texas Comm. Environ. Quality	Michael.pfeil@tceq.texas.gov	AB	Dec. 2020 (2)	Yes
Michele Potter	New Jersey Dept. of Environ Protect.	Michele.Potter@dep.nj.gov	AB	Dec. 2020 (2)	No
Steven Rewa	Environmental Resources Management	steven.rewa@erm.com	Lab	Dec. 2020 (2)	Yes
Beth Thompson	Shealy Consulting	bthompson@shealyconsulting.net	Lab	Dec 2020 (1)	Yes
Elizabeth West	LA DEQ LELAP	elizabeth.west@la.gov	AB	Dec. 2020 (2)	No

Associate Members					
Silvia Bogdan	EPA R6	Bogdan.silvia@epa.gov	Other (Assoc.)		No
Steve Boggs	CA ELAP	steve.boggs@waterboards.ca.gov	Other (Assoc.)		No
Thekkekalathil "Chandra" Chandrasekhar	FL DEP	Thekkekalathil.Chandrasekhar@dep.state.fl.us	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Michael Chanov	EA Eng., Sci. &Tech.	mchanov@eaest.com	Lab (Assoc.)	--	Yes
Stephen Clark	Pacific EcoRisk	slclark@pacificecorisk.com	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Erin Consuegra	ERA LAB	econsuegra@eralab.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Kevin Dischler	Element Materials Technology	Kevin.dischler@element.com	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Monica Eues	CK Associates	Monica.eues@c-ka.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Nicole Fortin	Honolulu City Lab	nfortin@honolulu.gov	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Christina Henderson	Bio-Aquatic Testing, Inc.	chenderson@bio-aquatic.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
David Johnston	Valero Refining Co - Benecia	david.johnston@valero.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Natalie Love	GEI Consultants	nlove@geiconsultants.com	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Linda Nemeth	Northwestern Aquatic Sciences	lnemeth@tds.net	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Mark O'Neil	Environmental Enterprises USA, Inc.	moneil@eeusa.com	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Katie Payne	Nautilus Environmental	katie@ nautilusenvironmental.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Christina Pottios	Los Angeles Cty Sanitation Districts	cpottios@lacsdsd.org	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Greg Savitske	US EPA OECA	Savitske.gregory@epa.gov	Other (Assoc.)		No
Justin Scott	Cove Sciences	justin@covesciences.com	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Jordan Thorngren	Eurofins (Horsham, PA)	jordanthorngren@eurofinsUS.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
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Bruce Weckworth	HRSD	Bruce.weckworth@hrsd.com	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Tom Widera	ERA	twidera@eraqc.com	Other (Assoc.)		Yes
Lynn Bradley	TNI Program Administrator	Lynn.Bradley@nelac-institute.org			Yes