

Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing Expert Committee Meeting Summary

August 9, 2016 1 pm Garden Grove, CA

1. Welcome and Introductions

In Rami's absence, Ginger welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1, below.

2. Update on Committee Activities and Plans

Ginger invited Katie Payne to discuss the presentation she provided to the ELAB meeting on Monday afternoon at conference, about the committee's white paper from last year, and the varied ways in which PT results end up being non-comparable. This was the same powerpoint that Rami presented by teleconference in the spring, shortly after conference in Tulsa, but because of the new members on ELAB and the likely broader audience in the open session, we were invited to revisit the issue with ELAB and being "local," Katie was available to provide the presentation in person.

Then Ginger summarized the committee's activities and future plans since Tulsa. See the outline of the presentation in Attachment 3, below.

3. Assessment Forum

The Assessment Forum presentation from Tuesday morning was wonderfully received, with the room literally full and people standing in the hallway trying to listen in! Conference organizers were still talking about its success at the closing Board meeting where reports from committees are given to summarize the activities of the week!

The planners had thought that perhaps the presentation would run over time, and that they would need the time in the afternoon to finish up, but the presentation actually wrapped up on time, so the remainder of the committee meeting was used to discuss follow-on topics raised by the audience. Ginger again offered to share electronic copies of the handouts provided, since there were far fewer handouts (40 copies) available than attendees.

Ginger, Katie and Beth were the presenters for the morning's Forum, and occupied the head table in the committee session. Additional issues raised for discussion are summarized below.

Q1 -- Most results in a WET lab are hand-written and must be transcribed into electronic form in order to be processed by available software (whether commercial or EPA-provided.) Has there been any progress towards automating the initial recording?

A1 – there is no software available, not like a LIMS for chemistry. WET is truly labor-intensive, with the physical transfer of both organisms and test materials plus the need for human visual observations of the organisms as the test proceeds. Beth noted that she has been working with a developer to avoid manual data transfer by doing the initial recording on a tablet computer – this would simplify the process and avoid the need for cross-checking the transcriptions, also.

Q2 – do the "should" versus "must" items actually get differentiated in audit reports?

A2 – sometimes the assessors will confuse the two terms in their reports, but the findings may be challenged when that occurs.

Q3 – In monitoring technician errors, how much is too much?

A3 – Errors need to be tracked by analyst during the training and initial testing period as well as periodically during employment, but each lab must determine what is acceptable for its employees. The standard says what must be done, but does not prescribe how to do it.

Item 4 was a discussion of Demonstrations of Competency and the use of work cells, and various ways that laboratories accommodate those practices.

4. Next Meeting

The WET Expert Committee will meet again on Wednesday, September 21, 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	naddyrb.tre@gmail.com	970-416-0916	Lab	Feb. 2018	No
Ginger Briggs	Bio-Analytical Laboratories	bioanalytical@wildblue.net	318-745-2772	Lab	Feb. 2018	Yes
Pete De Lisle (Vice Chair)	Coastal Bioanalysts Inc.	pfd@coastalbio.com	804-694-8285	Lab	Feb. 2018	No
Steven Rewa	Environmental Resources Management	steven.rewa@erm.com	616-738-7324	Lab	Feb. 2018	No
Chris Burbage	Hampton Roads Sanitation District	cburbage@hrsdc.com	757-355-5013	Lab	Feb. 2018	No
Chris Pasch	Alan Plummer Associates, Inc.	cpasch@apainv.com	512-687-2162	Other	Feb. 2018	No
Teresa Norberg-King	USEPA	norberg-king.teresa@epa.gov	218-529-5163	Other	Feb. 2018	No
Elizabeth West	LA DEQ LELAP	elizabeth.west@la.gov	318-676-7457	AB	Feb. 2018	No
Amy Hackman	Penn. Dept. Environ. Protection	ahackman@pa.gov	717-346-8209	AB	Feb. 2018	No
Michele Potter	New Jersey Dept of Environ Protect.	Michele.Potter@dep.nj.gov	609 984-3870	AB	Feb. 2018	No
Michael Pfeil	Texas Comm. Environ. Quality	Michael.pfeil@tceq.texas.gov	512-239-4592	AB	Feb. 2018	No
Kari Fleming	WI DNR	kari.fleming@wisconsin.gov	608-267-7663	AB	Dec. 2017	No
Associate Members						
Kevin Dischler	Element Materials Technology	Kevin.dischler@element.com	337-443-4010	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Monica Eues	CK Associates	Monica.eues@c-ka.com	225-923-6946	Lab (Assoc.)		No

Barbara Escobar	Pima County RWRD, CRAO Laboratory	Barbara.escobar@pima.gov	520-724-6052	Lab (Assoc.)	---	Yes
Robert Kelley	ETT Environmental Inc	bobkelley@ettenvironmental.com	864-877-6942	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Brian Krausz	USEPA	krausz.brian@epa.gov	202-564-3069	Other (EPA)	--	No
Jennifer Loudon	Raritan Township Municipal Utilities Authority	JLoudon@rtmua.com	908-787-7453 x 19	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Vel Rey Lozano	USEPA Region 8	Lozano.VelRey@epa.gov	303-312-6128	Other (EPA)	--	No
Robert Martino	QC Laboratories	rmartino@qclaboratories.com	267-699-0103	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Jamie Mitchell	Hampton Roads Sanitation District	jmitchell@hrsd.com	757-460-4220	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Linda Nemeth	Northwestern Aquatic Sciences	lnemeth@tds.net	541-265-7225	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Mark O'Neil	Environmental Enterprises USA, Inc.	moneil@eeusa.com	800-966-2788	Lab (Assoc.)	---	No
Marilyn O'Neill	Nautilus Environmental	Marilyn@nautilusenvironmental.com	858-587-7333	Lab (Assoc.)		No
John Overbey	American Interplex Corp.	joverbey@americaninterplex.com	501-224-5060, ext. 209	Lab (Assoc.)		No
Joe Pardue	Pro2Serve	Parduegjjr@oro.doe.gov	423-404-4117	Other	---	No
Peter M Paulos	Atkins Environmental Toxicology Lab	Peter.Paulos@atkinsglobal.com	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	803-582-7996	Lab (Assoc.)		Yes
Tom Widera	ERA	twidera@eraqc.com	303-463-3536	Other		No
Program Administrator						
Lynn Bradley	TNI	Lynn.Bradley@nelac-institute.org	540-885-5736			Yes

Attachment 2

Action Items

	Action/Activity	Responsible Person(s)	Anticipated Completion	Comments
1	WET session for Assessment Forum — determine content and presentation format for one 60-minute & one 90-minute block	Ginger/Elizabeth w/ Rami, Teresa & Katie/Marilyn to work w/ Barbara & LASEC	August 2016 conference in Orange County, CA	Final powerpoint review underway, last-minute comments by COB 7/21/16.
3	Review V1M7 for needed revisions	Steve – DOC John – chemistry issues Beth, Linda, others	Ongoing	Formal revision cannot yet begin, likely until fall.
4	Develop checklist for WET assessors, possibly for use with Assessment Forum	Rami, Pete, Lynn	By July 20 committee meeting, Modify Virginia WET-specific checklist to become generic	Last minute comments by July 27
6	Review and provide comments on draft powerpoint presentation	All members	No later than July 15 for 7/20 meeting and final version	Last minute comments by F
7	Review draft response to questions, as provided by Rami, and submit comments	All members	No later than July 15 for 7/20 meeting and final version	Active until September meeting
8	Submit audit findings for discussion at WET Assessment Forum	All members	No later than July 15 for 7/20 meeting and final version	Last minute submissions until Friday July 22
9	Prepare draft presentation for WET committee session at conference	Lynn to prepare draft, Rami to finalize; Ginger will deliver at conference	By July 20 meeting	Completed, approved by Rami and Ginger.
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Attachment 3 –

Outline of PowerPoint Presentation for Committee Session

WET Expert Committee
Environmental Measurement Symposium
Orange County, CA
August 9, 2016

Agenda

- 1:00 Welcome and Introductions
 - 1:05 Committee Goals
 - 1:10 Accomplishments
 - 1:20 Plans
 - 1:30 Questions and Answers
- Remainder of Session: Continue Discussion from Assessment Forum, as desired

Committee Members

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rami Naddy, Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Steve Rewa | <input type="checkbox"/> Jamie Mitchell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pete De Lisle, Vice Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth West | <input type="checkbox"/> Linda Nemeth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ginger Briggs | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Members | <input type="checkbox"/> Mark O'Neil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Burbage | <input type="checkbox"/> Kevin Dischler | <input type="checkbox"/> Marilyn O'Neil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kari Fleming | <input type="checkbox"/> Barbara Escobar | <input type="checkbox"/> John Overbey |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amy Hackman | <input type="checkbox"/> Monica Eues | <input type="checkbox"/> Joe Pardue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teresa Norberg-King | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Kelley | <input type="checkbox"/> Peter Paulos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chris Pasch | <input type="checkbox"/> Brian Krausz | <input type="checkbox"/> Katie Payne |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michael Pfeil | <input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Loudon | <input type="checkbox"/> Beth Thompson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Michele Potter | <input type="checkbox"/> Vel Rey Lozano | <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Widera |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Martino | |

Committee Goals

Revising the Standard

- Improve the way initial DOC is handled for WET
- Review V1M7 for additional improvements

Proficiency Testing

- Standardize test conditions
- Standardize test endpoints

Committee Goals, cont'd

Education and Outreach

(Technical Assistance)

- On test methods, QC and data interpretation
- To TNI, auditors and labs through SIRS
- Educate Assessors about test endpoints
- Work with PT providers and assessors to improve guidance about corrective actions

Accomplishments

Established Goals and Objectives

Developed White Paper on Purpose of WET DMR-QA (PT) Studies

Recommended to LASEC to retain 2009 version of WET Module (V1M7)

- accepted by LASEC and NELAP AC

Planned and Delivered Assessment Forum at this Conference

Accomplishments, cont'd

Prepared WET definitions for the CSDEC's Glossary of TNI Terminology

Established Liaison with PTPEC

Plans to Serve as Resource for the TNI's WET Community

- connecting questions with those who can answer them

Next Steps

- Once the 2016 Standard is approved as an ANSI Standard, the WET Expert Committee will announce the beginning of its full review and likely revision of the WET Module (V1M7) of the TNI Standard
- The committee and its members stand ready to offer additional technical assistance to the TNI community as needs are recognized

Questions?

For more information, contact:

Rami Naddy, TRE Environmental Services <naddyrb.tre@gmail.com>

Or

Lynn Bradley, Program Administrator

<lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org>