

**SUMMARY OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
Monthly Teleconference Meeting: 866-299-3188/9195415544#
May 18, 2016; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. EDT**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB or Board) teleconference was held on May 18, 2016. The agenda for this meeting is provided as Attachment A, a list of the participants is provided as Attachment B, and action items from the teleconference are included as Attachment C. The official certification of the minutes by the Chair or Vice-Chair is included as Attachment D.

ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Dr. Dallas Wait, Chair of ELAB, and Ms. Lu-Ann Kleibacker, representing Ms. Lara Phelps, Designated Federal Official (DFO) of ELAB, welcomed participants to the teleconference. Ms. Kristen LeBaron called the roll of the Board members and guests.

OPENING REMARKS AND UPDATES FROM THE DFO

Ms. Kleibacker read highlights from the recent Forum on Environmental Measurements (FEM) meeting, which had been provided by Ms. Phelps. The FEM had discussed tools, such as the MONitor website, and opportunities, such as the upcoming National Environmental Monitoring Conference (NEMC). The FEM's project ideas are focused on NEMC's theme of "Technology Innovation, Citizen Science: What's Next?" Also, the FEM's website has been updated recently.

The FEM has received ELAB's letters regarding methods harmonization and the Interagency Data Quality Task Force (IDQTF)/data quality objective (DQO) process. The members were impressed with the amount of information and consideration included in the letter on methods harmonization. The FEM is drafting a response letter regarding methods harmonization actions and will share ELAB's letter more broadly within the Agency. The FEM has scheduled a followup discussion for its August meeting. The FEM is gathering more information from Agency staff who have participated in the IDQTF before drafting a response letter about the IDQTF/DQO process. The director of EPA's quality staff and Ms. Phelps will take the lead in the effort to gather more information.

APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES

Dr. Wait asked for comments regarding the Board's April meeting minutes; there were none. Dr. Mahesh Pujari moved to accept the April minutes; Mr. Mike Flournoy seconded the motion. ELAB unanimously approved the April minutes with no discussion and no changes.

UPDATES ON CURRENT TOPICS

IDQTF/ DQO Process

This task has been tabled until ELAB receives a response from the FEM.

Methods Harmonization

This task has been tabled until ELAB receives a response from the FEM.

In-Line and On-Line Monitoring

Mr. Flournoy reported that the Task Group still is evaluating the information it had presented previously to the Board. Dr. Alan Lindquist (OW) has provided additional information and may be invited to work with the Task Group. Ms. Patsy Root explained that she had recently attended the 10th National Water Quality Monitoring Conference in Tampa, Florida, which had focused on surface ambient water. The EPA sessions she attended devoted to sensors were similar to the webinar that the Agency hosted on the topic in April. The Agency is examining four different types of field-deployable sensors or in-line monitoring devices to monitor arsenic, nitrates and phosphates, cyanobacteria, and *Escherichia coli* and enterococci. EPA would like external entities to develop sensors and in-line monitoring, but the Agency's current requirements may not be feasible. Ms. Root reported that Dr. Lindquist and his group are very interested in connecting with the Task Group, and she had reminded him that sensor validation is as important as development.

Selected Ion Monitoring (SIM)

Dr. Mike Delaney explained that the Task Group had met via teleconference with three experts from McCoy & McCoy Laboratories, Inc. The group discussed the minimum criteria necessary for a quality SIM method. Dr. Delaney recently sent the Task Group a draft criteria document for review and comment. The group will discuss the document electronically during the next few weeks, and then Dr. Delaney will collate the comments, draft a cover letter for the document, and schedule another teleconference for the Task Group to discuss the document and cover letter. The goal is to send the Board the document and cover letter within the next few months so that ELAB can discuss and approve them to send to EPA.

Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Testing

ELAB had been provided a WET testing white paper and asked whether the Board could provide a letter of support for the white paper. The first step was to determine whether ELAB has the proper expertise to respond properly to this request; with the assistance of external experts, the Board is able to respond.

Dr. Wait reported that the Task Group met for the first time on May 4, 2016. Dr. Kitty Kong invited an ecotoxicology expert from Chevron (Dr. Brandi Echolls) to participate in the effort, and her participation on the teleconference was very helpful. During that call, the Task Group began to discuss the 5-page white paper and will continue to discuss it during a teleconference on Monday, May 23. The group also has decided to seek additional expertise, particularly those involved in proficiency test samples; Mr. Tom Widera (ERA) and Dr. Tim Ward (prior owner of a nationally prominent laboratory) have been invited to participate in the next teleconference.

As the Task Group considers the white paper, it will determine whether to pursue one of three scenarios: (1) The white paper is appropriate as is. (2) The white paper's approach is fine, but ELAB has suggestions for improvement. (3) The Board does not agree with the white paper and

will not support it. Dr. Wait thought that the second scenario was the one most likely to be pursued.

Dr. Delaney reported that he had contacted EnviroSystems, Inc., the laboratory in New Hampshire that he has used for toxicity testing. A representative from the laboratory had provided feedback on the white paper, which Dr. Delaney shared with the Task Group during its teleconference.

NEW TOPICS/ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

No new items were introduced for consideration. Ms. Patty Carvajal reminded the members that the face-to-face meeting is quickly approaching; it will be held on Monday, August 8, 2016, in Orange County, California. Board members unable to attend NEMC in its entirety do not need to register for the conference; they will need to inform Ms. Phelps that they will be attending only the ELAB session.

WRAP-UP/SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

Ms. LeBaron reviewed the action items identified during the meeting, which are included as Attachment C.

CLOSING REMARKS/ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Henry Leibovitz moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Flournoy seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 1:36 p.m.

Attachment A

**AGENDA
ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY BOARD
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May 18, 2016; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. EDT**

Roll Call/Introduction of Guests	Wait/Phelps
Opening Remarks and Updates From the DFO	Phelps
Approval of Prior Minutes	Wait
Updates on Current Topics	All
Interagency Data Quality Task Force/Data Quality Objectives Process: Leibovitz	
Methods Harmonization: Wait	
In-Line and On-Line Monitoring: Flournoy	
Selected Ion Monitoring: Delaney	
Whole Effluent Toxicity Testing: Carvajal	
New Topics/Issues for Consideration	Wait
Wrap-Up/Summary of Action Items	Wait/LeBaron
Closing Remarks/Adjournment	Phelps/Wait

Attachment B**PARTICIPANTS LIST****Board Members**

Attendance (Y/N)	Name	Affiliation
Y	Dr. A. Dallas Wait (Chair)	Gradient Representing: Consumer Products Industry
Y	Dr. Henry Leibovitz (Vice-Chair)	Rhode Island State Health Laboratories Representing: Association of Public Health Laboratories
N	Ms. Lara Phelps (DFO)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Representing: EPA
Y	Ms. Lu-Ann Kleibacker (Alternate DFO)	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Representing: EPA
Y	Ms. Patricia (Patty) Carvajal	San Antonio River Authority Representing: Watershed/Restoration
Y	Dr. Michael (Mike) Delaney	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Representing: Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
Y	Mr. Michael Flournoy	Eurofins Environment Testing USA Representing: American Council of Independent Laboratories
Y	Dr. Deyuan (Kitty) Kong	Chevron Energy Technology Company Representing: Chevron
N	Ms. Sylvia (Silky) Labie	Environmental Laboratory Consulting & Technology, LLC Representing: Third-Party Assessors
Y	Dr. Mahesh Pujari	City of Los Angeles Representing: National Association of Clean Water Agencies
Y	Ms. Patsy Root	IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. Representing: Laboratory Product Developers
Y	Ms. Aurora Shields	City of Lawrence, Kansas Representing: Wastewater Laboratories
N	Ms. Michelle Wade	Kansas Department of Health and the Environment Representing: Laboratory Accreditation Bodies

PARTICIPANTS LIST (CONT)

Guests

Attendance (Y/N)	Name	Affiliation
Y	Ms. Kristen LeBaron (Contractor)	The Scientific Consulting Group, Inc. (SCG)
N	Ms. Marie Russell (EPA ASPPH Fellow)	EPA/OSP

Attachment C

ACTION ITEM

1. Ms. LeBaron will finalize the April meeting minutes and send them to Ms. Phelps via email.

Attachment D

I hereby certify that this is the final version of the minutes for the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board Meeting held on May 18, 2016.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dallas Wait". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Signature, Chair

Dr. Dallas Wait

Print Name, Chair