

Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC) Meeting Summary

June 11, 2024

I Welcome and Roll Call:

In Cody's absence for the start of the call, Vice Chair Robin Cook called the meeting to order at 1:35pm Eastern on June 11, 2024, by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 11 members present. Associates present: Nigel Allison, Jennifer Best, Antoine Chamsi, Thekkekalathil Chandrasekhar, Bryan Disch, Joe Guzman, Sviatlana Haubner, Carl Kircher (left 2:28PM), Deanna Kiska, Morgan Koelliker, David Lo (1:38PM), Alma McCammond, Christabel Monteiro, and Nina Fraulini. Paul Junio attended in the absence of Ilona Taunton as the scribe for minutes.

II Approval of Agenda

Robin asked for approval of the Agenda. Hearing no objections, she declared the agenda approved.

III Approval of May Meeting minutes

The Meeting minutes from the May 14, 2024 were emailed to all members along with the announcement for this meeting. Robin asked if there were any comments or corrections needed for the minutes. Paul pointed out that Jessica was unable to attend last month's call, but was at the same conference that he attended. He asked for her vote regarding the issue of indicator strips. Her vote in favor is included in the vote count even though she was not in attendance. With this point made, and hearing no objections, she accepted a motion from Patsy Root and a second from Maria Fayard to approve the minutes. Voting to approve were: Robin Cook, Maria Fayard, Jessica Hoch, Silky Labie, Ashley Larssen, Brian Mercer, Patsy Root, and Elisa Snyder.

IV Environmental Measurement Symposium

a) Topics for Discussion

In addition to the changes in Module 5, what topics should be on the agenda for the meeting in August? Patsy suggested Technical Specialist language and asked about any training ideas. Robin suggested aseptic techniques. Ashley suggested having a PowerPoint ready in case time is available with some of the training that's already prepared to offer. Patsy said we should also solicit audience feedback on the training that they think we ought to provide.

b) Attendance at NEMC

Cody joined during this discussion, and indicated that her attendance is still uncertain. Robin, Silky, Patsy and Tina all indicated that they would be in attendance. Associates who are planning to attend were Nigel, Chandra, and Joe.

V. Technical Specialist Discussion

Cody requested any comments starting with the email and comments that Patsy had made. Robin said that exemptions allowed in the Technical Specialist requirements in VIM2 5.2.6.2 might require a deeper understanding of microbiology in a), as such a TS might get involved in something like QPR. In b), it seems like that would entail more 'regular stuff'. Patsy added that in saying that out loud, the requirement ought to be for 1 year of experience in b), as it's easier and would be reflected in the knowledge gained in that year. Robin added that if other tests are associated with the experience, that's ok. If you've worked for a year in the lab you've gained experience, and we want at least some experience. Patsy added that if that is the reason for the difference, she was ok with that. You need some experience in the role, and it's not that some experience has less value. Silky asked if we need to add 'in a micro lab'? Cody asked if it would be environmental micro or just micro? Patsy pointed out that her experience wasn't micro. Ashley and Cody chimed in with the same (blood bank and clinical, respectively). The point being that if you've worked in a micro laboratory and know the technology, this is a good way to gain experience.

Cody pointed out that Module 2 will have the overall technical specialist requirements. Then we can add anything that we feel is important that needs to be covered. Cody reviewed the potential language on screen. A discussion ensued regarding where the Microbiology Technical Specialist additional language would be placed. Paul suggested having it in Module 5 so that it is visible to the microbiology community. There was general agreement with that thought. Paul further suggested that Technical Specialist have its own section and that the same section be used in each technical module. Robin suggested placing it before Section 4 that way you arrive at it before the other requirements of the standard. Cody agreed with the placement of it in Section 4. The requirements would start with a statement such as 'in addition to the requirements found in Volume 1 Module 2 Section ##'

VI. Review Draft Standard Language

Silky commented that we will have to update the Revision History. She attempted to change the shalls to musts. She made 1 edit for clarity that the Committee accepted. Patsy asked about whether a laboratory has to be accredited for the water quality testing. Should it state that it is not needed she asked. Cody says it should be clear that it's not required. The idea behind this requirement was that if the laboratory did it internally it would not require accreditation; however if it was subcontracted the subcontract lab ought to require Accreditation. Robin was ok one way or the other. Patsy was fine with leaving it as it was. Cody pointed out that newer members hadn't been subjected to this discussion from the past.

Prior to the meeting's conclusion, there was a brief discussion regarding the language 'check for hold or hot spots'. There had been suggested language at the Columbus Conference that we say 'check for nonconformity in temperature requirements' as this is more professional language.

Cody asked that all members read the Standard in total to look for any redundancies. Having reached the end of the scheduled time, the meeting adjourned at 14:58 Eastern. The next meeting of the Microbiology Expert Committee will be adjusted to 2 hours long and will be held as scheduled on Tuesday, July 9 at 1:30 PM Eastern. An additional

meeting will be held during July. *[EDIT – After the meeting, the additional meeting was set for Friday, July 12 from 1:30 until 3:30 Eastern]*

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

Attachment A - Participants

Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)

Members	Affiliation	Balance	Contact Information
Hunter Adams 2026 Absent	City of Wichita Falls	Lab	hunter.adams@wichitafallstx.gov
Robin Cook (Vice Chair) 2024* Present	City of Daytona Beach	Lab	cookr@codb.us
Cody Danielson (Chair) 2025 Present (1:48PM)	Oklahoma DEQ	Lab	Cody.Danielson@deq.ok.gov
Maria Fayard 2026* Present	ORELAP	AB	maria.j.fayard@oha.oregon.gov
Maria Friedman 2025* Absent	California ELAP	AB	qamfriedman@gmail.com
Matt Graves 2025* Absent	ERA	Other	matt_graves@waters.com
Jessica Hoch 2025 Present	Texas Comm. on Env. Quality	Other	jessica.hoch@tceq.texas.gov
Silky Labie 2026* Present	ELCAT, LLC	Other	elcatllc@centurylink.net
Ashley Larssen 2024* Present	Pace Analytical	Lab	ashley.larssen@pacelabs.com
Elizabeth Lesold 2027* Present (1:38PM)	NYSDOH ELAP	AB	elizabeth.lesold@health.ny.gov
Brian Mercer 2027* Present	City of Plantation	Lab	bmercerc@plantation.org
Patsy Root 2027* Present	IDEXX	Other	Patsy-Root@IDEXX.com
Bob Royce 2025* Absent	New Jersey DEP	AB	Robert.Royce@dep.nj.gov
Tina Shidel 2027* Present (1:54PM)	Pace Analytical	Lab	tina.buttermore@pacelabs.com
Elisa Snyder 2026 Present	City of Austin - Austin Water	Lab	elisa.snyder@austintexas.gov
Ilona Taunton Program Administrator Absent	The NELAC Institute	NA	ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org
Paul Junio TNI Scribe Present	The NELAC Institute	NA	paul.junio@nelac-institute.org

* - eligible to serve another term

Attachment B
Action Items – MEC

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
104	Implementation Guidance for Temperature Distribution and Equilibrium.	Committee	TBD	See note in 5/11/21 minutes. 4/11/23: Working on Temperature Distribution. 7/11/23: Working on Equilibrium; Anticipated January 2024
113	Complete Response to Draft Comments Process	All	Voting is complete.	5/10/22: Voted on Comments: 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10 6/14/22: Voted on Comments 5 and 6. 2/14/23: Final vote on 1, 4 and 11. 4/11/23: Need to post the document.
114	Work on Questions for the Credentialing Exam	Cody		Get to Jerry as soon as possible.
115	Committee motions, minutes, and votes as needed	Cody	Ongoing	Captured in meeting minutes whether in meeting or via email

Attachment C

Backburner / Reminders – MEC

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
1	Update charter (if needed) every 5 years.	n/a	Ongoing
2	Review Method codes and send comments to Robin for Paul Junio.		Moved to back-burner on 6/9/20.
3	Provide an update on what has been done with the method codes and database after Jennifer's review and internal EPA meetings.		This was moved from the Action Items table. Notes: 6/9/20: Ask Jennifer for a follow-up. 11/9/20 – Not available for a follow-up.