

## **Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC) Meeting Summary**

**November 12, 2024**

### **I Welcome and Roll Call:**

Cody the meeting to order at 13:32 Eastern on November 12, 2024, by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 12 members present. Associates present were Nigel Allison, Lindsey Arnaud, Blake Brown, Antoine Chamsi, Thekkekalathil Chandrasekhar, Stacey Chmura, Kai Chung, Bryan Disch, Jody Frymire, Joe Guzman, Sviatlana Haubner, Carl Kircher, Morgan Lawrence, Deanna Lytle, and Christabel Monteiro. Paul Junio attended in the absence of Ilona Taunton as the scribe for minutes.

### **II Approval of Agenda**

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

### **III Approval of October Meeting Minutes**

Cody has presented the meeting minutes from the October 21, 2024 meeting in conjunction with the announcement of this meeting. Hearing no comments on the minutes. Cody asked for a motion to approve them. Following a motion by Patsy Root and a second by Maria Fayard, the following voted to approve the minutes: Hunter Adams, Cody Danielson, Maria Fayard, Matt Graves, Jessica Hoch, Silky Labie, Liz Lesold, Brian Mercer, Patsy Root, Bob Royce, and Tina Shidel. There were no votes against nor any abstentions.

### **IV Membership Update Time of Year**

Cody and Jessica are scheduled to rotate off the committee. Jessica is already serving her third term. Cody would be interested in additional term so that she can continue in her role while Standard Development continues. She will email the committee to determine their thoughts on that subject and with information on the procedure to be followed, should they agree. *[EDIT – the committee voted overwhelmingly in favor of Cody receiving an additional term, and the CSDP EC quickly approved that decision on 11/15/24.]* Due to the current makeup of the committee, there is no pressing need for any Stakeholder Group to be added to fill the impending vacancy. All Associates are reminded to submit an application if interested in applying. Paul put the link to the application in the chat. It is also included here: <https://www.nelac-institute.org/content/members/committee-application.php>,

### **V Continued Discussion on Draft Standard Language**

The discussion began on positive counts, as the question arose whether we wanted to count plates or samples. It was suggested to change 8.2.3 from ‘duplicate counts’ to ‘a duplicate count’. Silky asked if ‘in conjunction’ made it sound like analyst needed to be teaming up together. Bob asked if this is a count of cells or a count of CFUs? Robin said it should be done the way the laboratory says it is doing so. Paul thought that the standard was intentionally not

clear so as to work either way. Tina didn't think it was a good idea to do statistics on estimated values (i.e., values obtained from a conversion table). Robin agreed. Bob stated that is why it should be counts and not units stated in the standard. Patsy said whether you count a tray or a plate you get a reportable number. Both CFU and MPN are estimates. This should be a check on whether or not each analyst is reporting the right thing. Patsy is in favor of the result being subject to the count. The number of wells is sort of meaningless. We shouldn't pigeonhole it one way. Lindsay said if it is plated or diluted, the error is amplified. Cody pointed out that relative to each other's counts, those differences shouldn't cause the percentage difference to be a problem. Robin agreed. Paul suggested changing the language to say results. Matt said he wasn't familiar with the MPN table, but asked if you were off by 1 cell in the Qualitray 2000 table, would that meet the 10 % criteria? Tina pointed out that MPN values using RPD isn't correct in that there's logarithmic functions occurring. Liz asked if you were using a QT2000, is it the raw count, or a comparison of the large cells and a comparison of the small cells? Patsy said that it is the entire method that produces a result. If we are saying result, we ought to clarify if it is MPN or colonies. Jessica agreed that we need certainty. Silky asked if we should say 'final reported result' to clarify. Paul pointed out that there is only a small section of the IDEXX conversion chart where values that are different by one cell would result in failing to meet the 10% difference criteria. Bob stated that this has been a good discussion leading to a better understanding of the Standard. Patsy agreed that 'results' was good. Cody agreed, as did Bob. Tina pointed out that Standard Methods says 'counts' in 9020A 9a. Liz thought it might need to be result if Qualitray and colonies of plates, and again asked if we differentiated large wells from small wells. Bob thought that if the goal was to see if the lab is consistent, a straight count should determine that. Patsy said it should be final result, and Liz agreed. Robin said that final count would contradict Standard Methods, but changing to result also sets up issues. Tina agreed. Cody said it could be left up to the laboratory and their knowledge and expertise. We don't need to choose for them. Bob asked if we are determined to leave it intentionally vague? Paul said we need to remove results and keep it count.

Cody continued reviewing the Notes. There were no comments regarding Method Blanks or Autoclave, although the Committee said no to addressing waste handling. Thermal preservation changes have been made. The committee deleted 8.4.1.1 through 8.4.1.3. This isn't a change, as these items are covered elsewhere.

As the time for the meeting was drawing to a close, the meeting adjourned at 3:01PM Eastern. The next meeting (an additional meeting added to the schedule) will be held on Tuesday, November 19 at 1:30PM 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 <b>Present</b>	City of Wichita Falls	Lab	hunter.adams@wichitafallstx.gov
Robin Cook (Vice Chair) 2024* <b>Present</b>	City of Daytona Beach	Lab	cookr@codb.us
Cody Danielson (Chair) 2025 <b>Present</b>		Other	cody.danielson129@gmail.com
Maria Fayard 2026* <b>Present</b>	ORELAP	AB	maria.j.fayard@oha.oregon.gov
Maria Friedman 2025* <b>Absent</b>	California ELAP	AB	qamfriedman@gmail.com
Matt Graves 2025* <b>Present</b>	ERA	Other	matt_graves@waters.com
Jessica Hoch 2025 <b>Present</b>	Texas Comm. on Env. Quality	Other	jessica.hoch@tceq.texas.gov
Silky Labie 2026* <b>Present</b>	ELCAT, LLC	Other	elcatllc@centurylink.net
Ashley Larssen 2024* <b>Absent</b>	Pace Analytical	Lab	ashley.larssen@pacelabs.com
Elizabeth Lesold 2027* <b>Present</b>	NYSDOH ELAP	AB	elizabeth.lesold@health.ny.gov
Brian Mercer 2027* <b>Present</b>	City of Plantation	Lab	bmercerc@plantation.org
Patsy Root 2027* <b>Present</b>	IDEXX	Other	Patsy-Root@IDEXX.com
Bob Royce 2025* <b>Present</b>	New Jersey DEP	AB	Robert.Royce@dep.nj.gov
Tina Shidel 2027* <b>Present</b>	Pace Analytical	Lab	tina.buttermore@pacelabs.com
Elisa Snyder 2026 <b>Absent</b>	City of Austin - Austin Water	Lab	elisa.snyder@austintexas.gov
Ilona Taunton Program Administrator <b>Absent</b>	The NELAC Institute	NA	ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org
Paul Junio TNI Scribe <b>Present</b>	The NELAC Institute	NA	paul.junio@nelac-institute.org

\* - eligible to serve another term

**Attachment B**  
**Action Items – MEC**

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
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
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
116	Verify changes made in Module 2 and how they affect Module 5	Cody/Paul	Ongoing	

## 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.