

Highlights

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ITLA

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Independent Testing
Laboratories Association
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Message from the President

By Chris Wakefield

The Independent Testing Laboratory Association (ITLA) is an organization that exists for the benefit of its members. Most if not all the members are laboratories. The question is, do we really serve a function for the 20 or so members that pay an annual fee to belong to this organization. Do we perform a service? Not that I'm bias, but I would think the answer is yes. ITLA gets involved in what affects your laboratory as a business, training, interfaces with state and government agencies, vendors and automation of new equipment and whatever else affects us all as an industry. Overall, it benefits each of us one way or another.

Now, the March meeting is the time of year which we have elections. The positions alternate and cycle on a two year term so that every March meeting two of the four executive positions are voted on. In an ideal situation, new members would be voted into these positions to not only allow for relief of the current position holders, but to bring in new

ideas and energy to the management of the organization. This allows for a continual evolution of an organization.

Please don't misinterpret what I am saying. The current staff of officers and executive members is amazing. I could not have asked for a more talented and knowledgeable group of individuals. Each member performs their responsibility for ITLA to the highest level. They are the driving force of ITLA and they do a tremendous job. Yet, we still have positions to fill.

As an industry, we are facing some significant challenges in these times. Hopefully, we will all emerge stronger as a result. In an effort to facilitate the environmental laboratory community, it will be necessary for organizations such as ITLA and others to continually monitor and be aware of the fast changing methods, policies and regulations for the benefit of us all. This takes time and effort.

If any of you are at all interested in contributing towards this goal, please step up. If you are at all

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 2009, Westborough DoubleTree Hotel in Westborough, MA
Feature Presentation: "Environmental Forensics and Other Topics of Interest" *Steve Mattingly*

interested in one of the positions on the board or chair position, please speak with either Mike Delaney or myself as to what is available. Remember, this organization is yours and it's only as good as you make it. If you feel you can make a difference and you want to, let us know. This year we will be voting for Treasurer and Secretary. As stated above, several chair positions remain open. Think about it.

Hope to see you all on the 18th.

MWRA Items

By Mike Delaney, mdelaney@mwra.state.ma.us

Update On MWRA Trac.Is And Lims

MWRA's new Pretreatment Information Management System (PIMS), formerly known as TRAC.IS, went live in August. This commercial, off-the-shelf system was configured to address MWRA's unique needs for enhanced data management capabilities in the MWRA's Toxic Reduction and Control section. Labs using the eSMART system to report industrial self-monitoring discharge data were informed in July that this transition to a new electronic reporting system was imminent. For additional information, please contact Alice Chang, Data Management Supervisor, (617) 305-5621, or email her at alice.chang@mwra.state.ma.us. Thank you again for your cooperation with this switch to the new reporting system. We hope you find it easy to use and an improvement in the data submittal process.

MWRA's new LIMS from LabWare (www.labware.com) went live on 2/1/09 (Super Bowl Sunday!) for drinking water microbiology data, including eDEP uploads. The Go Live for everything else should occur later this year.

"On This Day In 1991..." (12/24/1991) Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities Commemorates the End of Sludge Discharges to Boston Harbor

"The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority ended an age-old practice of dumping sewer sludge directly into Boston Harbor. Proponents of the Boston Harbor Project celebrated this milestone in an 11-year, \$3.6 billion effort to clean up the nation's

dirtiest harbor. It had taken several centuries for Boston's harbor to reach its nadir as a "Harbor of Shame." Conservation activists had feared it might take just as long for various government agencies to agree on how to address the problem. But in the early 1980s, two landmark lawsuits produced a timeline for a mandated solution to be paid for by water bill surcharges. The Boston Harbor Project is now an international model of environmental restoration." A podcast is available at www.massmoments.org/index.cfm?mid=368.

MWRA Reports On Renewable and Sustainable Energy Programs

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority has made a major commitment to reduce energy consumption at its facilities in an effort to trim operating costs and to minimize the environmental impacts of its daily operations. In a recent presentation to its Board of Directors, MWRA staff outlined on-going initiatives as well as new and planned projects. Across the service area, MWRA is looking at siting new renewable energy projects at as many facilities as feasible while aggressively seeking out any available grant and loan funds for these projects.

The MWRA's most energy-intensive facility by far is the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, which treats an average of 365 million gallons of wastewater each day from 43 communities in greater Boston. It is one of the largest electricity users in the Northeast. Deer Island currently self-generates 20% of its electricity needs and more than half of the island's energy demand is provided by on-site, renewable generation:

- Methane is collected and used in Deer Island's on-site power plant to create steam to supply hot water and heat for the facility. That steam is also used to generate electricity.
- The plant's hydroelectric facility also harnesses the power of the effluent as it drops into the outfall shaft.
- A large solar panel array was installed in May on one of the rooftops to generate electricity.
- A contract was recently awarded for the installation of two 190-foot wind turbines next spring, with the potential of three more to follow.

MWRA's on-going and new renewable energy programs will ensure that the agency reaches the goal of 30% by 2020 established by Governor Patrick's Executive Order 484. MWRA received the "Leading by Example Award" from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs last fall for its renewable energy, efficiency, and recycling efforts. More details are available here: www.mwra.com/05energy/pdf/111208energyupdate.pdf.

MWRA Employee Wins "Crystal Crucible" (C²) Award for Laboratory Analyst Excellence

MWRA is pleased to announce that Steven F. Rhode has won the "Crystal Crucible (C²)" Award for Laboratory Analyst Excellence. The award was established in 1993 by the Water Environment Federation's Board of Control to recognize individuals for outstanding performance, professionalism and contributions to the water quality analysis profession.

Mr. Rhode was honored at the New England Water Environment Association's 2009 Annual Conference and Exhibit Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, Jan. 27.

"Mr. Rhode is a very hard working and talented laboratory manager, overseeing six laboratory teams in four different locations, said Michael J. Hornbrook, MWRA's Chief Operating Officer.

"In addition to performing his daily work responsibilities, he has been an important contributor to his field with a demonstrated passion for the protection of local and national water supplies," he said.

Since Sept. 2001, Mr. Rhode has been a key member of MWRA's Task Force on Security and Emergency Preparedness. In this capacity, he has participated in a number of projects working with MWRA, state and federal staff in ensuring that MWRA's water quality and 2.1 million customers are protected.

Mr. Rhode has also worked to research available and emerging technologies to provide MWRA with the earliest warnings possible in the event of deliberate attempts to contaminate our water system. He also serves on state and federal committees for bio terrorism preparedness.

Visit our web Page for More Information

Check us out at www.mwra.com. We have a wealth

of information for both the public and for experts on our water and wastewater activities. This includes monthly updates on drinking water quality testing, information on lead, our most recent Consumer Confidence Report, and many technical reports associated with the Deer Island Treatment Plant and our extensive Harbor and Outfall Monitoring program.

Regulatory Update

By Bob Bentley, bob@h2otest.net

Rapid Confirmation of *E. coli* in Drinking Water

As we indicated in a prior post, ITLA submitted comments for consideration by MassDEP and several member labs submitted final comments before the end of the year. At the December Laboratory Advisory Committee (LAC) meeting, those ITLA members present got the distinct impression that implementation was imminent. We were told that DEP would have formal responses to the ITLA, and presumably anyone else who commented. ITLA has not received a response nor have we heard whether this will be implemented. We have a LAC meeting in March before ITLA's Annual Meeting, so we should have an update for you at that time.

Note that if implemented, this will have a major impact on your laboratory operations if you are confirming the presence of *E. coli* through the use of EC-MUG.

eDEP

There remains very little to tell. The promised upgrades seem to be moving along at a molasses-like pace although we have been assured that they have not been hit by the budget axe.

Subcontract Data Reporting

All certified labs and PWS' received notification in late January from the DEP Drinking Water Program of their requirements for submission of formal reports from subcontractors. This was apparently brought on by the fraudulent activities of one Massachusetts certified lab. The DEP has revoked this laboratory's certification. We have already asked a number of questions relating to:

- whether they are requiring ink signatures or is an

Nominating Committee Report

The offices to be filled in 2008 are Secretary and Treasurer. We are pleased to report that the nominee for Secretary is Laurel Stoddard and the nominee for Treasurer is Greg Yogis. Both are longtime ITLA members and have served the Association for many years in other capacities. If you are members in good standing, you will be asked to vote at the upcoming Annual Meeting. If you are unable to attend, please print this page and fax it to Judy Graves at (570) 882-8538. Please add your name and your company name to the bottom of this page. Remember that there is one vote per member lab. Questions about the elections should be addressed to Mike Delaney at mdelaney@mwra.state.ma.us.

ITLA

2008 Ballot for the Election of Officers

Please - one vote only per member lab or member vendor

please vote for one by circling the bullet for each office

Secretary:

■ **Laurel Stoddard**

■ _____

Treasurer:

■ **Greg Yogis**

■ _____

Company: _____

Name: _____

ITLA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

**DoubleTree Hotel
5400 Computer Drive
Westborough, MA
Phone: (508) 616-7402**

8:30 a.m. Coffee

9:00 a.m. Committee Reports

Secretary	Technical
Newsletter	Lab Advisory
Election	Membership
Ethics	Treasurer
Regulatory	By-laws

9:30 am Efficient Productivity & Optimal Conditions for EPA Methods

Lindsey Pyron, EST Analytical

Optimum purge & trap parameters will increase efficiency in generating EPA Method data. An optimized purge and trap method to provide better sensitivity, linearity, & accuracy will be presented. Advancements used to virtually eliminate carryover, use less carrier gas, and manage moisture will be highlighted.

Innovative solutions to double your sample runs with HALF the instruments on your bench will also be discussed.

10:15 am Break and Elections

10:45 am Implementation of MA EPH/VPH Methods in Connecticut

Jeff Curran, Connecticut DEP

This presentation will include the driving force behind the change, certification and guidance for the LEP to decide between the use of MA EPH/VPH, CT ETPH or EPA Method 1664. Mr. Curran will also touch on changes to the RSRs.

11:30 am Lunch

12:30 pm Environmental Forensics and Other Topics of Interest

Steve Mattingly, NewFields

1:15 pm Low Level PAH Analysis by LC and GC Analysis

Michelle Misselwitz, Restek Corp.

2:00 pm Meeting Adjourns

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- electronic signature appropriate;
- whether there is a requirement that subcontracted reports must be on DEP forms; and
 - whether there is a requirement that subcontracted reports must list PWS IDs as well as sample locations?

We anticipate that we will be able to obtain answers to these and other questions at the upcoming meeting.

Possible Rhode Island regulation changes

For labs who do work in Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Department of Health promulgated a new set of regulations which takes away the ability of private

and public labs to do a large array of analytical work. All work would have to be funneled to the Rhode Island Department of Health Lab for analyses. The implementation date in the regulations was supposed to be the 9th of March 2009. Since this is clearly not in the interest of our labs, ITLA sent a formal letter to the RIDOH strongly opposing these mandates. We believe other lab organizations sent letters of opposition as well. We will discuss this further at our meeting and update you on the status of the proposal.

On all of these, stay tuned!!! We will be able to update you at our upcoming meeting with news from the March Lab Advisory Committee. If you know of other regulatory issues or have any other items we should be watching, please contact me or any member of the Executive Committee.