

Highlights

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ITLA

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President's Message

By Chris Wakefield

During the next few weeks you may hear that ITLA is searching for candidates to run for the elected positions of President and Vice President. Some members may not give it a second thought, some may consider it for a few seconds and dismiss the thought, but a few may actually think about it for a while, although they may take no action. There are all sorts of reasons not to get involved, with the top reason being the time commitment.

I agree, there are many valid reasons not to get involved and the time commitment is certainly a great one. Yet, there are some valid reasons to get involved. The main reason is that ITLA is your organization. The old cliché “you get out of it what you put into it” is no exception here. I’m not trying to suggest that without your involvement in ITLA that nothing will be gained. Quite the contrary, without your involvement in ITLA the benefits and information generated by other members is substantial and you can still reap

these benefits. This begins with regulatory updates and vendor presentations, as well as information about new instruments and analytical techniques being considered or currently out on the market. I can go on and on, but I’m sure you get my point. What it comes down to is that this is your organization and it will only generate the information by those driving it and putting in the effort. You can’t expect to sit back and have your concerns addressed by others, rather, participate and others will address your concerns with you.

Now, for some, time really is an issue and it would be difficult to commit the time ITLA requires. For others, however, it may be possible, and those are the members I am addressing. If you think you may have the time, you probably do with some rearranging of your schedule. There is no question that serving on the board of ITLA takes both time and effort. Yet, with this commitment, the outcome is guiding and directing ITLA. It does give a sense of

Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, December 16, 2009, Courtyard by Marriott in Milford, MA. **Feature Presentation:** “EPA's Groundwater Rule & Unregulated Contaminants List” *Denise Springborg, & Nick Anastas, MA DEP*

accomplishment knowing that the effort you put in is part of a collective effort for the entire membership.

Well, if with this message, I have touched someone who may have the time, please think about it. Your time would be greatly appreciated by not only your laboratory, but the entire membership, and you will feel a sense of accomplishment knowing that you are a part of the driving force of ITLA. So, please, if you have the time, think about it.

MWRA Items

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

MWRA Obtains New DEP Lab Certifications

The MWRA labs are now certified for *E. Coli* by SM9222G/NA-MUG. We have applied for certification for *Enterococcus* by Enterolert for the Ground Water Rule and for ICP-MS metals by EPA 200.8.

Update On MWRA TRAC.IS and LIMS

MWRA's new Pretreatment Information Management System, formerly known as TRAC.IS, went live in 2008. 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 are required to use the eSMART system to electronically report industrial self-monitoring discharge data. For additional information, please contact Alice Chang, Data Management Supervisor, (617) 305-5621, or e-mail her at alice.chang@mwra.state.ma.us.

MWRA's new LIMS from LabWare (www.labware.com) went live on 2/1/09 for drinking water microbiology data, including eDEP uploads and is scheduled to Go Live for everything else on 12/1/09. This is a big change for us and everyone is working hard to make it a success.

Hultman Aqueduct Interconnections Project

After more than 60 years of continuous service, the Hultman Aqueduct is finally receiving a well deserved overhaul. From 1939 through 2003, millions of Metro Boston residents relied on the Hultman Aqueduct to deliver almost all of its drinking water. By the 1990s,

the aging surface aqueduct was riddled with leaks — it was losing about 400,000 gallons of water per day. Valves needed to be replaced and water pressure fluctuated. The Hultman was still operational, but without extensive repair, it was only a matter of time before a major breach occurred.

If the aqueduct failed, virtually all water service to Boston would have been cut off, a potential disaster for the region's public health, safety & economy. Still, repairs could not be performed as long as the Hultman remained the only major water line for Boston.

This vicious cycle ended in 2003, when MWRA started up the Metro West Water Supply Tunnel, a new water transmission line that mirrors the route of the Hultman Aqueduct. The Hultman has been taken off-line and its rehabilitation is underway. When work is complete, the old aqueduct and the new tunnel can be used interchangeably. If one line needs repair, the other will be activated, with little or no interruption to service.

The Hultman Aqueduct is off-line. MWRA and its contractor are inspecting and repairing the Hultman Aqueduct and related structures. The Hultman will be connected to MWRA's new water facilities, including the Carroll Water Treatment Plant and the Norumbega Covered Storage Tank.

Project Details

Construction and maintenance activities will take place in Southborough, Framingham, Wayland, Natick and Weston. Work includes:

- Inspection and repair of 13.4 miles of existing aqueduct pipe,
- Inspection and repair of 46 culverts under the aqueduct,
- Replacement of 28 access manholes,
- Replacement of 15 blow-off structures, and
- New fencing and guardrails at 39 street crossings.
- The project is expected to be complete in 2014.

Deer Island Wind Turbines Construction Video

MWRA's Deer Island wind project consists of two 190-foot, 600 kW turbines. These turbines will generate over 2 million kW hours per year and all of the power generated will be utilized on-site. This will

save MWRA ratepayers \$250,000 a year in energy costs. There is a fascinating time-lapse construction video here:

www.mwra.com/video/2009/2009-windturbines.wmv

MWRA Receives “Gold Award” for 2008

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority has received the Gold Peak Performance Award from the National Assoc of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) for its Deer Island Wastewater Treatment. The award recognizes facilities that have achieved 100% compliance with federal discharge limits for 2008.

The Deer Island facility has a 1.27 billion gallon per day capacity and is the second largest in the country. MWRA transports wastewater from 43 communities to Deer Island for treatment with the plant’s treated effluent sent through a deep rock tunnel 9.5 miles out to deeper waters for discharge in Massachusetts Bay. MWRA conducts extensive water quality monitoring in the bay and harbor. The plant’s sludge is converted into EPA Class A fertilizer pellets at a Quincy facility.

The \$3.8 billion invested in the treatment facilities at Deer Island have proven to be a great success and the harbor clean-up is widely recognized as one of the nation’s greatest environmental achievements.

Visit our Web Page for More Information

Check out 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

Perchlorate

The LCO has reported that one Massachusetts and one New Hampshire lab have indicated that they would be significantly impacted if the LCO only allows perchlorate to be analyzed by IC/MS or LC/MS and if they discontinue the acceptance of 314.1 by IC as an analytical method. The present thinking is that confirmation will be required by IC/MS or LC/

MS, and will have to be done within 2 business days. This is not yet cast in stone, however. Currently the LCO has discontinued accepting perchlorate requests for certification by 314.1.

EPA Method 524.3

The LCO has indicated that the use of EPA Method 524.3 is acceptable. Note, however, that it is all or nothing. There can be no mixing and matching of 524.2 & 524.3. We were warned by the LCO that the QC requirements are not the same between methods, so beware! The LCO also indicated that they were “shocked” to learn that Connecticut, in their outside audits of RI labs, were allowing variable desorb times. They reiterated the necessity for labs to adhere to the 4 minute desorb and stated their intent to send a letter to laboratories reinforcing this requirement if you are analyzing by 524.2.

eDEP

There is nothing much to report on eDEP, which is new, but the drumbeat continues regarding mandatory implementation. ITLA, however, continues to be concerned about any budget (staff) cuts which could impact accurate, timely uploading of data. We are watching the eDEP process for other programs as well.

Other DEP issues

For those reading the papers recently, there has been a flurry of activity in the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. There seems to be active discussion relating to new and possibly “out of the box” ideas to re-structure the EOEEA (of which DEP is a part). This may include elimination of programs, downsizing of programs, changing programmatic directions, etc. The ITLA is watching these events and keeping an eye on what effect, if any, they could have on our laboratory operations. We encourage you to do the same and ask you to *please* feed back to us on anything you hear.

On all of these, stay tuned!!! We will be able to update you at our upcoming meeting with news from the December 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.

ITLA Quarterly Meeting

Wednesday, December 16, 2009
Courtyard by Marriott
10 Fortune Blvd, Milford, MA 01757
(508) 634-9500

8:30 a.m. Coffee

9:00 a.m. Committee Reports

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

9:40 am Going Green with the New USEPA Approved Non-hazardous Nitrate Method for Discrete Analysis
By Craig Chinchilla & Cynthia Kradjel, Systea Scientific, LLC

You have been told to reduce pollutants in your lab, so now what? The new non-hazardous Systea Easy (1-Reagent) Nitrate method by discrete analysis operates on a micro-scale eliminating hazardous waste generation and problems commonly associated with current USEPA methods 353.1 and 353.2. The new method offer better linear range, method detection limits, no matrix interference, and consistently has recoveries between 95 and 105%. The presentation also explains how discrete analysis works and its advantages.

10:20 pm Break

10:30 am EPA's Groundwater Rule
By Denise Springborg, MA DEP

Denise Springborg, the DEP lead person for the Groundwater Rule (GWR) of the Massachusetts DEP Drinking Water Program will give us a laboratory perspective on the Ground Water Rule which went into effect on 1 December.

The rule establishes a risk-targeted strategy to identify ground water systems that are at high risk for fecal contamination. The GWR also specifies when corrective action (which may include disinfection) is required to protect consumers who receive water from ground water systems from bacteria and viruses.

11:00 am Unregulated Contaminants
By Nick Anastas, MA DEP

Nick Anastas, the DEP lead person for unregulated contaminants will also be on hand to tell us about emerging contaminants and more specifically, where EPA may be headed with the Contaminant Candidate List (CCL). This is a list of unregulated contaminants which are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems and which may require a national drinking water regulation in the future.

11:30 pm Questions

12:00 pm Meeting Adjourns

UPCOMING ELECTION

The ITLA has elections at the next Annual Meeting in March 2010. If you might be interested in being nominated or considered as a Vice Presidential candidate, please contact Mike Delaney, Nomination Committee chairman at mike.delaney@mwra.state.ma.us, or Dan Falcone at dfalcone@thielsch.com, or any of the executive committee members.

During its existence, ITLA has had a significantly positive impact on the Mass DEP and the environmental community. The ITLA officers are volunteers and the continued success of the organization depends on volunteers willing to participate. Please consider becoming a part of the leadership of ITLA.

**ITLA Award At The
Massachusetts State
Science And Engineering
Fair Goes To Meghan
McHugh Of North Attleboro
High School
October 23, 2009**

By Mike Delaney,
mike.delaney@mwra.state.ma.us

The ITLA Award at the Massachusetts State Science and Engineering Fair (MSSEF, www.scifair.com) was awarded to Meghan McHugh of North Attleboro High School for her project "Stopping the Spread: Finding a Deterrent of the Asian Longhorned Beetle". She also earned a second place prize. MSSEF's Ellie Tishler also reports the following recent highlights:

- 13 schools are expanding or starting new science fair programs (60% in high needs areas) as part of our Curious Minds Initiative (CMI), each school mentored by MSSEF's Regional Fair Leadership Council members.
- 3 high-needs schools held their 1st science fair program after more than 20 years without one!
- 45 science teachers from 22 schools enrolled/participated in CMI's foundational course, "Teaching Science Through the Inquiry Process" offered for graduate credit during 2009 in three regions across the state. These teachers are now using the inquiry approach to learning science with hundreds of students. In one high-needs district, a science coordinator enthusiastically noted that the renewed

[science fair program] "will become part of our school culture."

- Did you know that the inquiry approach to learning (our mission!) helped with discovery of a new drug to fight cancer? At our Annual Meeting, a leading research scientist inspired both science fair teachers and MSSEF Board members when he spoke about the critical importance of Inquiry-based learning (our mission!) in the discovery process.
- MSSEF filed H350, a house bill in support of inquiry learning and science fairs.
- The 2009 Fair Season last spring included the celebration of our 60th anniversary at the Broad Institute, and the MSSEF team is looking forward to 2010 being a banner year. With ITLA's interest in an inspired and a well educated science and technology workforce, we hope MSSEF is in your plans for 2010. Please keep in touch, either with inquiries or updates, about your going forward in the coming year. We are ever so appreciative of your past support and involvement in our programs, and we hope you will be a partner with us in the coming year.
- Many of the projects at the 2009 Fairs (especially at the high school level) represented significantly advanced research, and we are very proud of our Massachusetts Delegation at the International Fair, the largest group in MSSEF history, which came home with major awards, including 3 "Best in Category" awards for all high school students from 51 countries! Our hope is to continue this trend in 2010 and again send a full delegation to ISEF!

Food for Thought

There aren't any rules to success that will work unless you do. Author unknown