

WESTERN CANADA MICROTOX USERS' COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2006
EPCOR Water Services, Edmonton AB

Call to Order – John Ashworth called meeting to order at 10:16am.

1. Introductions
 - 1.1 Barbara Bomersback with Osprey Scientific is representing SDI and will be bringing forth any updates and answers to previous questions
 - 1.2 John Ashworth will be presenting the Treasurer's report on behalf of Anthony Neumann

2. Review/Modify Agenda
 - 2.1 Add Selection of Round Robin prep company in Sec 3
 - 2.2 Add sub-committee review in Sec 3

3. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting, May 10, 2006

Irene G. move to approve minutes of last meeting, Dave W. 2nd and all in attendance are in favour (see attached sheet)

 - 3.1 Matters Arising – Colour correction protocol: John A. and Anthony Neumann designed a new decision tree in regards to dark/turbid samples. Clients like to know cost factor upfront and it could lead to another bioassay. To get decision tree accepted, it should be presented to Sue Halla with EUB. In regards to the decision tree it may need a definition of “translucence”.
 - 3.2 Replacement of EPCOR for Round Robin preparation – Irene Gaudet to take over Round Robin prep work and she will work with Dave Wong and Barbara Bomersback to smooth over transition. Irene will prepare samples under EPCOR's standing contract until contract comes up for review.

Break for coffee at 11:02 am – Resume meeting at 11:16am

4. New Business
 - 4.1 Report from Osprey Scientific on behalf of SDI – Jason will be present at the May meeting. SDI is updating its guides, manual and protocols. What is available is in the current software or is available online at sdimicrotox.com. Jason will review the G-50 to have a better understanding of why some members are using Microtox. MSDS has been updated and are available through Osprey. Michael Jones is new to Sales & Marketing. He will be in charge of equipment updates. The new software – still being beta tested and SDI is working with suggestions and comments from the beta testing. Barbara to contact Jason about beta testing for WCMUC members.
 - 4.2 M700 is made and is working. Memory problems have been solved and work with PDA however it has been shelved indefinitely because

PDA technology is changing faster than SDI would be able to keep up with. Developing a new instrument called the M550, which will also include an on-board colour correction but will require a computer. Functionality will be more similar to M500 with updated components. It will be more robust; software will be compatible with both M500 and M550. The main reason for updating the M500 is because the electronics is becoming more outdated.

5. Round Robin #35

5.1 Review Data – 12 labs reporting data back, three labs did not report. Dave normally follows up if data is not submitted. Thank you to John A. for providing a coloured sample and Dave Horton with Brine-Add for providing another real world sample. Samples were sent out September 25th or earlier. Sample 1 was Zinc, Sample 2 was Shale Stabilizer with medium to high toxicity and Sample 3 was Carpet Dye from RR#32. Dave Horton will be provided with data for Sample #2 in lieu of providing sample. Only five labs do colour correction and two labs only submitted colour corrected data. Instruction sheet says to submit both original **and** colour corrected data.

Break for lunch at 12:05pm and resumed meeting at 12:58pm

Sample #1 – Zinc Std. EC50(15) good values overall with average of 1.8mg/L

Lab #6 – 2nd data rejected, Lab #15 – data rejected, Lab #5 data was really low but was not rejected – had two different techs performing analysis, Lab #2 – reagent approaching two years old, yet data still well within range. Zinc results are coming more inline with expected results over RR#34 and 35 as compared to RR#30 and 31.

Sample #2 – Shale Stabilizer. Lab #9 both days are very high – maybe they forgot dilution factor, calculation issue or pH issues? Lab #11 had two weeks between analyses and Lab #1 – 8.3 data was rejected. Colour corrected data fairly similar to non-corrected data only slightly less toxic.

Sample #3 – Carpet Dye (when doing completed report add in data from RR#32) There were no outliers and day 2 results are fairly comparable. Lab #11 data high but not rejected, Lab #2 data low but not rejected. Some labs had excellent reproducibility (#3 and 7)

5.2 Open discussion, including effect of colour/turbidity on variability – Sample #2 has some biocidal effects. Labs who are not performing colour correction may be willing to perform colour correction if provided with SOP. Cuvette method is still listed as SOP method for colour correction. Should approach G-50 Review committee about the spectrophotometer method.

Ansar Q. – **Appreciate Dave Wong's effort in QA/QC efforts in Round Robin performance. He was very dedicated and it was job well done.**

- 5.3 Determine Sample Type and Date for RR#36 – Types: Phenol as reference, Solid extraction – 1:1 extraction and the sample will be provided by John Ashworth. John to contact Newalta to see if they can provide a sample or else approach Brine-Add. Analysis will be Mar 22/23, 2007 with shipment Mar 19 (14th for members out of province). Results will be submitted by April 13/07 and Meeting will be May 11, 2007.
6. Treasurer's Report – John reporting on Anthony's behalf
No change in membership. Invoices were sent out: 9 full memberships, 5 sub-memberships and 1 associate
- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Memberships | \$6100 |
| RR & Incidentals | \$5540 |
| Surplus | \$4058 – Financial aspect is sufficient |
- Dave W. motion to accept treasurer's report, Esther E. 2nd and all in attendance in favour.
7. Vitrak Creative Services (Irene Gaudet) - Website
The website is up to date with the URL as wcmuc.com
Soil Science Workshop Paper is now up for reference on website, SDI's powerpoint presentation is up and RR#34 minutes are up. Irene requires an updated membership list so that she can ask members to link to (and from) their respective company's website. The SOP is up on the website including 1:1 extraction and colour correction. Irene will post the upcoming Round Robin dates and Meeting dates on the website.
8. Any other Business
Esther E. questions about stats program when performing 1:1 extraction. There are no subsequent calculations required, as 1:1 has no dilution factors; the top is still the highest bioassay.
9. Next Meeting
- 9.1 Time and Place – Osprey to host next meeting at Royal West hotel. Meeting will start at 10am on May 11/07. Barbara B. will send confirmation as to location.
- 9.2 Topics for Discussion – SDI to make a presentation, John to extend an invitation to CAEAL to attend meeting so that we may work together to help them understand our SOP, elections of officers, uses of Microtox from other users.

Meeting adjourned at 2:23pm

Attendance List for November 24, 2006

Name	Company	Email
Genevieve Payeur	Peace Analytical Laboratories	gkrogers@telusplanet.net
John Ashworth	ALS Environmental	john.ashworth@alsenviro.com
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Dave Wong	EPCOR	dwong@epcor.ca
Barbara Bomersback	Osprey Scientific	barbara@ospreyscientific.com
Irene Gaudet	AB Research Council Vitrak Creative	irene@arc.ab.ca info@vitrakcreative.com
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