



**WESTERNA CANADA MICROTOX USERS COMMITTEE
MEETING
MAY 10, 2006
ETL Labs, Edmonton**

I. Call to Order – John Ashworth called meeting to order at 10:15am

1. Review/Modify Agenda

1.1 Approve Agenda – add in Sec 6 item #2 – Contract review for Vitrak Creative Services. Add in Sec 6 item #3 – Standardization of method reporting. Agenda approved by all in attendance (see attached sheet).

1.2 No new representatives

2. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting, Nov 4, 2005 - Irene G. move to accept previous minutes as written, Vince W 2nd and all approved.

2.1 Matters Arising – a) Dark coloured samples – John A. has some concerns that different labs have a different approach as to when to test for colour correction and we need to look at standardizing the approach to this method. The results over two absorbance create a huge confidence interval; should there be a WCMUC recommendation of an SOP with advice towards how to deal with data generated on exceptional samples. Action: Form a subcommittee to deal with this recommendation with Vince Walker, Anthony Neumann, and John Ashworth along with the scientific advisors Irene Gaudet and Ansar Qureshi. Ansar Q. moves a WCMUC subcommittee be formed to develop an SOP for handling, testing and result interpretation of coloured samples. Irene G. 2nd with all in favour.

2.2 [Link Soil Science Workshop paper to WCMUC website](#) for peer information and review. ([Powerpoint show](#))

3. New Business

3.1 to 3.3 Jason Ambrosius (SDI technical support advisor) – there is an alpha version of new software. Started beta testing with two requirements 1) requirement of active internet connection ver.8 – required files are now on installation CD and 2) software will not work on anything older than Win2000. Quality of reagent should have improved because internal quality control has improved toward end of 2005. Lot 5M should be the star of new improved data. New instrument – fully functional test unit with PDA. Has volatile data when battery dies **everything** is lost. Anthony suggested an onboard PDA that will save all data. There is a PC version that you could sync your data to from the PDA. There is significant effort to bring back the Mutatox. The European Union is a high user of this test. Mutatox reagent has genetic mutation and does not fluoresce, and then

light output comes back. Qualifier for Teratogens, Mutagens and Carcinogens within a 24hr test. SDI is toying with automatic colour correction but currently is only a prototype, which has its own inherent issues. There was a software demo using the test selection assistant – this helps with advise on how to analyze a sample which a lab may not be familiar with as well as which regulatory authority you may be dealing with. Has basically the same functionality but it doesn't have onscreen tester. QC data does not show up in a control chart. Data can be exported to Excel basically same way as current version. Even with new M700 prototype, they will not abandon M500 support or service.

Break for lunch at noon, resume meeting at 12:45pm

4.0 Round Robin Report #34 (Dave Wong)

4.1 and 2 Review results and discuss – the two test samples were mining effluent from Environment Canada and a drilling additive from Brine-Add. Testing was performed on March 30 & 31. Two labs did not report data.

Sample 1 – 10mg of Zinc Std

Sample 2 – Mining Waste

Sample 3 – Real World Sample

Sample #1 – Lab #2 & 3 – reported really low values but could not be excluded statistically. This lowered the average results. Next day repeatability is really good. Description of method needs to be standardized i.e. 82% as opposed to 81.9%. Because we are a self-help group we cannot tell labs 2 and 3 to check their process. It is up to individual labs to monitor their own data and correct accordingly. # Of data line on Table 1 has been reversed. Dave Wong to double check. No reissue of report is required. Long-term statistics. RR328 is the same while RR #30 & 31 were high with RR #34 being average.

Sample #2 – Mining waste – pH was basically neutral with modest toxicity. Lab #11 had data rejected. Their values didn't increase as normal with zinc – could be a recon/operator issue as their data should have fallen. Lab #1 & 10 had high data but not rejected.

Sample #3 – Most challenging sample in set. Black liquor sample from pulp mill. High pH issue. Very viscous and toxic. Sample was diluted 10g/L and pH was adjusted with conc. Sulfuric acid. Lab #9 colour corrected data with numbers changing dramatically. There should have been no colour correction required after dilution was made. Most labs ran a dilution. Because of high toxicity – colour wasn't so much of the tested issues.

4.3 Determine sample type and date for RR #35 – Zinc sulfate, Carpet dye and drilling fluid additive. Date for testing September 28/29 with shipment on September 25.

5. Treasurer's Report (Anthony Neumann)

\$11,300 in account with no Epcor Bills paid.

503.00 in 1 member outstanding to pay

5543.04 out

6279.69 monies

\$4058.63 after all bills paid out

Memberships in 2005: 10 full, 3 sub, 1 assoc and 2 honorary

Memberships in 2006: 9 full, 5 sub, 1 assoc and 2 honorary

Motion to accept treasurer's report by Genevieve P, Dave W. 2nd and all in favour.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 and 2 Website – moved up in rankings to #1 on most search engines.

Last review set up contract for 2yrs, which ends November 2006. Domain registry, hosting fee and maintenance fee = \$339.00. Members list needs to be updated and Irene can receive list from Anthony. Include article from John and Vince. The contract will run through November 2007.

Ansar Q. moves to accept contract with Dave W. 2nd and all in favour.

Thank you Irene for maintaining the website.

6.3 Standardize method to say 82% instead of 81.8 or 81.9%. Ansar proposes to state 82%, Anthony N. 2nd and all in favour. Dave can make a footnote on his notes that he sends with samples.

7. Next Meeting

7.1 November 17, 2006 at 10am to be held at Epcor.

7.2 Topics for Discussion – SOP, New lab to take up prep work, Standardization of Reporting

Meeting adjourned at 2:40pm

Attendance:

Name	Affiliation	E-Mail
John Ashworth	ALS Enviro	John.Ashworth@alsenviro.com
Sharon Lu	Epcor Water Services	slu@epcor.ca
David Wong	Epcor	dwong@epcor.ca
Janina Linton	Maxxam Analytics	janina.linton@maxxamanalytics.com
Genevieve Payeur	DMK Drilling Fluids	genevieve@dmkdrillingfluids.com
Irene Gaudet	Vitrak Creative Services ARC	info@vitrakcreative.com irene@arc.ab.ca
Jason Ambrosius	SDI	jambrosius@sdix.com
Barbara Bomersback	Osprey Scientific	barbara@ospreyscientific.com
Ha Du	ALS Enviro (GP)	ha.du@alsenviro.com
Vince Walker	ALS Enviro (FSJ)	Vince.Walker@alsenviro.com
Ansar Qureshi	AQ SS	ansar@shaw.ca
Anthony Neumann	Norwest/Bodycote	anthony.neumann@norwestlabs.com

WCMUC Register Report
11/03/2005-4/30/06

BALANCE 11/03/05

11319.44

DATE CHK#

12/1/05	INTEREST	INCOME	0.85
1/3/06	INTEREST	INCOME	0.88
1/25/06	Round Robin	EXPENSE	2770.77
1/25/06	Round Robin	EXPENSE	2770.77
1/25/06	Cheque Processing charge	EXPENSE	1.50
2/1/06	INTEREST	INCOME	0.78
3/1/06	INTEREST	INCOME	0.37
4/3/06	INTEREST	INCOME	0.41
4/17/06	Memberships	INCOME	500.00

TOTAL INFLOWS	503.29
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	5543.04

NET TOTAL	6279.69
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Accounts Receivable	Memberships 2005-2006	500.00
Small Account		49.71
Large Account		6279.69

Accounts Payable	Round Robin #34	-2770.77
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Total Equity	4058.63
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10 Full Memberships
 3 Subsequent Memberships (-2 from last year)
 1 Associate Membership
 2 Honorary Memberships

For 2006:
 9 Full Memberships (-1 for merger for ETL/ALS)
 5 Subsequent Memberships (+2 - 1 for merger ETL/ALS, 1 for Norwest Labs)
 1 Associate Membership
 2 Honorary Memberships

Reviewed by: _____

Reviewed by: _____