

**SUMMARY OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

Teleconference: 866-299-3188/9195415544#

April 20, 2011; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. EDT

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB or Board) teleconference was held on April 20, 2011, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. EDT. The agenda for this meeting is provided as Attachment A, a list of the participants is provided as Attachment B, and action items from the teleconference are included as Attachment C. The official certification of the minutes by the Chair or Vice-Chair is included as Attachment D.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. OPENING REMARKS

Ms. Judy Morgan, Chair of ELAB, and Ms. Lara Autry, Designated Federal Officer (DFO) of ELAB, welcomed participants to the teleconference. Ms. Morgan called an official roll of the Board members and guests.

2. APPROVAL OF MARCH MINUTES

Ms. Morgan asked whether there were any comments about the March 2011 Board minutes. There were no suggested changes to the minutes. Dr. Jeff Flowers moved to accept the minutes, and Mr. John Phillips seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the March minutes with no further discussion.

3. UPDATES

Dr. Jim Pletl provided an update regarding progress on the Sufficiently Sensitive Methods Rule. Prior to this teleconference, Ms. Morgan distributed the minutes of the teleconference that the Sufficiently Sensitive Methods Task Force had conducted with EPA staff members on March 30, 2011.

Dr. Pletl and some members of the Task Force have reviewed the minutes, and they appear representative of the teleconference. Dr. Pletl thanked Ms. Patsy Root, Mr. Phillips, Mr. Jeff Lowry, Dr. Flowers, Ms. Aurora Shields, and Dr. Mike Wichman for their efforts; he noted that Ms. Kristen LeBaron and Ms. Jennifer Lee of The Scientific Consulting Group, Inc. were present on the call to provide minutes. The proposed rule generally requires that analytical methods be used that include a minimum limit (ML) that is less than the corresponding permit limit or a target concentration that includes various factors (e.g., dilution), and ELAB asked to meet with EPA staff to discuss its comments on the proposed rule. The Task Force was well-represented on the teleconference.

Prior to the teleconference, ELAB provided EPA with a number of questions that reflected the Board's comments; this was to ensure that Agency staff understood the questions and accompanying concerns. EPA was fairly limited in its response because the rule has not been finalized. One of the topics that was discussed included the Board's concern that the method detection limit (MDL) aspect of the rule was premature given the current status of the prior

Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) committee's work on MDL. EPA staff explained that, for the purposes of the rule, ML, MDL, and reporting limits are equivalent terms. The minutes are very reflective of the meeting, but as ELAB members review them, they will note that specific, tangible responses were not received from the Agency, and very little additional information was learned during the call. EPA staff indicated that they expect that the rule will be finalized within the next few months, and ELAB's comments will be considered.

Dr. Flowers reported that EPA has asked for additional supporting evidence regarding the cost effect of the rule, and he will provide data from the City of Orlando, Florida. He was surprised by the request because ELAB is a balanced opinion group from the United States, and he did not think that the EPA staff present on the call understood this. Although the Board members may have differing opinions on certain topics at times, the Task Force presented a consistent perspective. Ms. Shields stated that EPA views this as a narrow rule and did not appear to have considered the larger implications. She also thought that Agency personnel did not think that the rule would have significant effects because EPA presumes that most permittees already are in compliance. Mr. Lowry agreed; EPA indicated that it is seeking only to capture the small percentage that are not in compliance. Mr. Phillips agreed with the assessments of the other Task Force members. The fact that the comments were being provided by a FACA committee did not elevate the Board's opinions. Per the Agency, if an ML has not been defined by the method, it is the responsibility of the laboratory or permittee to establish the ML or method with an appropriate ML, allowing permittees to "shop" for laboratories and choose the laboratory that has the most desirable ML. There may be more repercussions than EPA expects.

Ms. Morgan asked the Task Force members about their thoughts on next steps or outstanding concerns. Dr. Pletl's main concern is that the rule will lead to implementation of environmental concentrations that cannot be quantified properly at the current water quality criteria concentrations (e.g., current concerns regarding polychlorinated biphenyl MDLs). The most significant gap in the rule is in regard to low criteria. A similar issue in the past regarding mercury led to a FACA committee being formed to investigate the issue of mercury quantitation. Ms. Morgan asked whether EPA understood this implication. Dr. Flowers did not think so because EPA personnel were focused on mercury. Mr. Lowry thought that the issue was a lack of knowledge rather than willful disregard. Ms. Shields said that there had not been much substantive discussion on EPA's part, rather just assurances that the Agency had considered the Board's comments.

Mr. Lowry asked about the next steps. Dr. Pletl did not think that the Board could do much more on this issue; his major concern is that a partnership was not evident in this process. He would have preferred that ELAB had been consulted before the rule was proposed. The Board is a resource for the Agency, and one of its main functions is to provide recommendations to EPA. Once a rule is proposed, it is very difficult to change. ELAB, with its knowledge-base and resources, would have been significantly more helpful to EPA prior to the rule being proposed. He wondered whether this was a one-time incidence or a trend and whether the Board should advise EPA regarding this issue. Ms. Autry thought that this was a very appropriate issue for ELAB to address. The Board must market itself to ensure that Agency staff are aware of the opportunity to use FACA committees. There are almost 25 FACA committees across the Agency that could provide this type of utility. She explained that once rules and notices are published in the *Federal Register*, FACA committee comments cannot carry more weight than other comments because it is a public document at that point; this is the nature of public comment.

ELAB will have much more of an effect by being included in the process via collaboration prior to any publication. Mr. Dave Speis asked how to better position ELAB so that the various groups within EPA know that it is a resource prior to proposals being published. Ms. Autry said that the first step was to ensure that the Board has the right balance and expertise to advise in a cross-Agency, cross-capacity manner. Historically, ELAB has focused predominantly on water issues; she did not remember Board comments on pesticides or air. It may necessary to discuss the balance of membership to address this; other methods can be explored to advertise ELAB within the Agency. If EPA groups assume that ELAB's focus lies in one definitive area, then the Board may not be approached regarding other topics.

Ms. Autry can help the members address the above issues, including examining and updating the Web site and its information. This is a very timely topic because ELAB's charter is up for renewal; the current charter expires on July 14, 2011. The current charter should be renewed as is unless Paul Anastas has a different vision of the charter in mind. Currently, the Board has the capability and capacity to provide advice regarding measurements and methods. Ms. Morgan asked about changes to the Web site. Ms. Autry explained that the members should begin to think about what information they would like conveyed on the Web site, as the current version was designed by a prior Board. The Web site should convey what the current Board is working on and what the current expertise can address. She asked the members to examine the Web site and identify what information should be placed on the Web site to capture the current expertise, work, message, and so forth. Ms. Morgan was unsure how much control ELAB has over the actual Web site. Ms. Autry explained that the ELAB members could determine the content, and EPA staff would implement it. Ms. Morgan placed the Web site as an action item on the Agenda for the May meeting.

Ms. Root asked whether ELAB sent a response to EPA following the teleconference to discuss the Sufficiently Sensitive Methods Rule. She asked whether it would be appropriate to send a thank you with follow-up bullet items. Dr. Pletl thought that this was a good idea. In addition to the Board's comments, it could include a reminder that ELAB is available to provide advice prior to any future rulemaking. Dr. Pletl agreed to draft such a letter. Ms. Morgan suggested that the members discuss the contents of the letter via e-mail so that it could be finalized and sent prior to the next Board meeting. Dr. Flowers said that the minutes could be sent to EPA, as they reflected the meeting contents. Dr. Pletl agreed to write the letter and send it to the Board members by the beginning of the following week, so that it could be sent out by the end of that week after a consensus was reached. Ms. Autry explained that the Board needed official consensus that such a letter should be written for it to legally be discussed via e-mail. Dr. Pletl made a motion to prepare a response letter to EPA that would address the teleconference discussion and the Board's comments on the Sufficiently Sensitive Methods proposed rule; the letter will cover the basic understanding of questions and responses and include the materials that Dr. Flowers will provide on cost and a copy of the teleconference minutes. Ms. Root seconded the motion, which the Board approved unanimously.

Dr. Flowers provided an update regarding the Methods Update Rule. He spoke to Mr. Lemuel Walker (EPA), and the Agency is in its review process of categorizing, examining, and responding to the public comments. The final rule is expected to be approved by the fall of 2011. Ms. Morgan asked whether there were any indications of the number of comments that EPA had received. Dr. Flowers explained that Mr. Walker was unable to discuss any specifics. Ms. Root said that the number of comments can be examined at the online docket. Mr. Speis

emphasized that the only manner by which to have impact is prior to rule proposal. Ms. Root thought that the deadline to finalize the rule was aggressive, and Dr. Flowers that the fall date was a goal rather than a guarantee.

Dr. Flowers provided an update regarding the Board's comments on Improving EPA Regulations. A final set of comments was sent by Ms. Morgan on the day it was due. He noted that it would be beneficial to have more time to work on these topics in the future. Ms. Autry explained that short, finite deadlines for response were the rule rather than the exception. Mr. Speis wondered whether it would make sense to write letters to the various EPA office directors to highlight the fact that ELAB exists to provide advisory input from a broad spectrum of the affected community. Ms. Autry thought that it would serve the Board well to make such an effort. The Board can emphasize that it appreciates the opportunity to participate in these types of efforts and activities to ensure that EPA offices and programs are aware of the Board's existence and charter. The Board should express that it desires to be helpful when its expertise can be useful in providing advice. ELAB must prove that it can be helpful to the offices with which it does not have a strong history (e.g., Office of Pesticide Programs, Office of Air and Radiation). Mr. Speis volunteered to write such a letter; Ms. Morgan, Ms. Root, and Dr. Wichman volunteered to help.

Ms. Root noted that rules are the result of many years of research, and the Board should be included in this research as well as collaborate with those who write the rules. Ms. Autry suggested that the Board tailor each letter to be specific to its experiences with each program office because these experiences have been very different. The cover letter could be sent with an attachment that captures the Board members' expertise/backgrounds. It would be advantageous to send it with the new charter as a second attachment. Ms. Autry could think of no better way for the Board to commence the next 2 years of its charter than by marketing itself to the Agency. The letters could be sent at the same time as the *Federal Register* notice regarding the Board's new charter is published. Mr. Speis introduced a motion to form a subcommittee to develop an ELAB marketing letter to send to the various EPA office and program directors, with attachments containing the Board's charter, expertise, and past successes. Ms. Root seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Ms. Morgan thought that this effort would be helpful and strengthen ELAB and its relationships with other programs.

4. NEW DEVELOPMENTS/DISCUSSION

Ms. Root provided information regarding the Recreational Water Quality Criteria development. She recently attended the National Beach Conference with a number of representatives from EPA and several state department of health laboratories; other interested groups (e.g., Heal the Bay) also attended. The main focus of the meeting was discussions regarding current research; and EPA listened to past, current, and proposed research focal points. The meeting was interesting because there was a great deal of discussion regarding PCR methods, the many differences among these methods, and how to make them more effective; there does not appear to be one cohesive method nor a cohesive approach to performing two EPA methods in a consistent manner. The Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act has not been reauthorized since 2005, but EPA still is moving forward with the associated grant program and provides annual funds to the states. Also involved is the fact that EPA is re-evaluating water quality criteria, which has not been performed since 1986. The new criteria will

be published in February 2012, with finalization expected to occur in October 2012. EPA expects to release draft guidelines on implementation by late 2012, and final implementation guidelines will be published in 2013. The opportunity exists for ELAB to provide input prior to the criteria being written and published in the *Federal Register*.

States will use the water quality criteria to develop their water quality standards, from which permits, Clean Water Act Section 303 limits, and total maximum daily loads are derived. The second manner in which water quality criteria are used is for beach monitoring and notification. PCR will be in the criteria and guidelines in some form. A good deal of discussion at the conference was in regard to modeling and PCR methods. One group is strongly advocating for some form of modeling to be included with the PCR method. Those responsible for the beaches know how they perform over time and in response to various impacts. Modeling is a better long-term predictor, and PCR can be used in emergencies and/or for high-impact beaches. Culture methods still will have a place in the new beach monitoring, and enterococci will be a focus. The thought is that levels should not be different for fresh and marine environments, so they will be the same for both. A stakeholder meeting will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, in mid-June 2011. There was some surprise that there is not a universal PCR method.

Ms. Morgan asked whether EPA was receptive to the feedback the Agency had been receiving. Ms. Root responded that the Agency was receptive, but she did not think it would take action because of the consent decree. Congress declared that EPA would investigate and implement a rapid method, so the Agency did not have a choice in implementing a national rapid method. Ms. Morgan asked whether there could be a choice of rapid method options. Ms. Root replied that states and tribes would be required to implement water quality standards based on EPA's water criteria guidelines and methods.

Dr. Flowers explained that he had invited Mr. David Whiting of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to attend this teleconference because he is an expert in this area. Mr. Whiting explained that the dispute in Florida is in regard to who is in charge of water quality standards and who is in charge of beach monitoring. Dr. Flowers noted that the criteria will not distinguish between the different types of beaches (e.g., river beaches in Kansas, marine beaches in Key West, Florida). The default criteria in Florida support recreational use; therefore, the criteria will have wide applicability. Ms. Root stated that the BEACH Act covers only marine and Great Lakes beaches; these will be impacted by the potential use of PCR methods. Mr. Whiting noted that the EPA water quality criteria and their implementation will need to be flexible so that the criteria can be applicable nationwide.

Ms. Morgan asked what the next steps for ELAB should be in regard to this issue. Ms. Root said that if EPA is to make a recommendation under the BEACH Act in regard to beach monitoring and notification that includes a rapid method (PCR), the Agency should have a better understanding of how the recommendation will be implemented and what its effects will be. Relevant considerations include: How will laboratories implement the recommendation? What are the costs? What must occur to make it work? Is this approach feasible? The fundamentals of "real-life" implementation must be expressed to the Agency. Dr. Wichman explained that one of the questions in the questionnaire that was sent to state laboratories lists the issues that the state laboratories thought would be problematic (e.g., training). Mr. Whiting stated that the issues predominantly were of scale and the "major players" for same-day notification. In the case of

Florida, many samplers and laboratories will be needed to ameliorate the workload and make it implementable. Southern California has experimented in this area and reported issues of scale.

Ms. Root said that she had sent a Web link regarding relevant research and noted that a significant question is how the various laboratories that will be involved in beach monitoring and notification will be accredited to ensure consistency. There is a disparity between what EPA thinks is possible and what actually is possible. The reality of the situation must be explained to the Agency. Mr. Lowry asked how ELAB can facilitate this. As it stands, it appears that EPA will propose a rule with a suspect method that states must implement despite the fact that they may not have sufficient staff, laboratories, or accreditation to do so. Dr. Flowers added that an additional problem is that there is no single applicable method. For example, Florida has many different water types, which affect PCR methods. Ms. Root noted that EPA needs a “reality check.” ELAB needs to start a conversation with the EPA group that will write the guidances to which states will write water quality standards and explain what ELAB is and who it represents, and present the questions the Board has based on current information. Nothing has been written, and there are several months before anything will be published in the *Federal Register*. Many states and their departments of health will be taken by surprise by this measure. Ms. Morgan thought that she was hearing a need to make this issue an action item and offered a motion to form a workgroup to develop comments to EPA. She asked to whom the comments should be addressed. Ms. Root thought that it probably would be Ms. Grace Robiou. Mr. Lowry suggested assigning the issue to an established workgroup. Ms. Morgan thought that it was appropriate for the Monitoring Workgroup.

Dr. Wichman reported that only nine states responded to the questionnaire regarding this issue. Dr. Flowers stated that it would be most beneficial for those with the most experience in this area to respond (e.g., Southern California). Mr. Lowry asked which organization was responsible for sending the questionnaire. Dr. Wichman responded that it had been sent through the Association of Public Health Laboratories to its state environmental laboratories list. Ms. Root volunteered to send Dr. Wichman a list of additional individuals who could be contacted. Ms. Morgan said that the Monitoring Workgroup would discuss this issue and determine a plan to obtain more responses from the state laboratories. Mr. Whiting volunteered to forward the questionnaire to the appropriate group within the State of Florida (i.e., Florida Department of Health).

5. WORKGROUP ACTIVITY

Ms. Morgan provided an update for the Monitoring Workgroup. The Workgroup’s ongoing project, the greening of laboratories, is in progress. There have been many good ideas but no time to implement them yet. The members’ schedules have been very fragmented, and the Workgroup has not met since the last Board meeting. The goal is to have some products drafted prior to the next ELAB meeting. Ms. Autry asked whether the goal of the project is to create tools for small laboratories that might not have access to information; if this is the case, unfortunately, this type of project is not within the Board’s charge or charter. This initiative will need to be taken up by another organization. If the goal is to create a tool that the Agency needs to provide better information, and ELAB has suggestions regarding such a tool, then the project is within the charge. She reported that there has been some concern within EPA regarding this project. Ms. Morgan explained that the goal of the project was the former scenario, a tool for small laboratories. Ms. Autry said that the Workgroup could recommend to ELAB that the Board

in turn recommend to the Agency that a tool be developed for the EPA Web Site, but it is not appropriate for the Workgroup or Board to develop the tool. The Workgroup will discuss the project during its next teleconference; Ms. Morgan knows of possible avenues to pursue to identify another organization to initiate the project.

Mr. Lowry provided an update for the Measurement and Technology Workgroup. The Board needed to discuss the letter to Mr. Greg Carroll, which was to be placed as a main agenda item during this call; however, time had run short during this teleconference. Mr. Speis suggested that the documents be redistributed and that this item be placed high on agenda for the May Board meeting. Mr. Lowry reported that the Workgroup would like to move on to other topics. He asked whether it was possible to make a proposal now to accomplish the discussion via e-mail. Dr. Flowers thought that the Board needed to discuss the issues and letter during a teleconference rather than via e-mail; the Workgroup still can move on to other projects. Ms. Morgan will place this item at the top of the agenda for the May ELAB meeting.

Dr. Flowers provided another update regarding Florida accreditation and reported that the states of Maine, Michigan, New Jersey, and Texas are in similar situations. Mr. Speis did not think that this was the main issue in regard to national accreditation; previous Board discussions focused on a third-party approach and that the Laboratory Management Workgroup would identify topical areas for ELAB to discuss. Dr. Flowers thought that it was relevant because national accreditation may not occur as a result of financial pressures, which are causing states to re-examine and change their programs (e.g., “transition” in New Jersey and “privatization” in Florida). ELAB must be aware that accreditation may not be the same as in the past. In Florida, a paradigm shift has occurred in that the state has determined that accreditation is not a government function; this is causing significant consequences in how accreditation programs are being administered. There are challenges that will impact many areas, including the Agency and its primacy programs. He is concerned about the state of national accreditation, and the challenges that were discussed during the recent face-to-face meeting may come to fruition very quickly. Decisions are being made well above the Board members’ level of involvement by individuals who are not knowledgeable about ELAB and its functions; because of this lack of knowledge, it is difficult to present the current case properly to higher levels of government. There are significant challenges that will impact the industry and the Agency as economic pressures come to bear. He thought that this is an issue that ELAB should adopt and address.

Mr. Speis stated that several documents by the American Council of Independent Laboratories regarding attempts to privatize national accreditation had been distributed. The Board discussed this and did not identify anything that would prohibit ELAB from adopting the issue of national accreditation and some of the matters impacting this accreditation. The decision was made to develop an approach to make the Agency aware of this issue. The Laboratory Management Workgroup was tasked with identifying relevant topics for ELAB to discuss, although this was put on hold temporarily while the Workgroup dealt with the response to Improving EPA Regulations. The Workgroup now must address this issue.

Ms. Autry thought that all of the issues that Dr. Flowers introduced were included in the issues that the Board already decided to address and asked whether Dr. Flowers’ goal was to make recommendations to other groups regarding this issue, which would be against the Board’s charter. Dr. Flowers thought that the Board needed to be aware of what is occurring nationally. Ms. Autry noted that the information that Dr. Flowers provided can be included in the fact-

finding mission of the group that has been established to investigate and provide thoughts regarding national accreditation. The information does not change the established mission and fits within the current focus. The Board cannot address state-by-state issues or concerns and, per the charter, must focus on advising the Agency regarding national accreditation. The Board members discussed the possibility of states relinquishing primacy, and Ms. Autry stressed that nothing has been decided on officially.

Dr. Flowers explained that his point is that the conversation in the country is changing, and ELAB did not anticipate these changes 1 year ago. If these discussions become a reality, then the Board will need to devise a strategy to continue so that the previous efforts are not lost. It may be necessary to shift the Board's paradigm to that which is being imposed on ELAB via external forces. Strategies that can be successful in these changing times must be developed.

Mr. Speis noted that his understanding was that this already was what the Workgroup was working on (i.e., evaluating "talking points" that ELAB could address as a group), which includes the issues that Dr. Flowers introduced. The Laboratory Management Workgroup will adopt this topic and provide a report during the May Board meeting.

Ms. Autry had announced the release of a new policy (*Policy to Assure Competency of Laboratories, Field Sampling, and Other Organizations Generating Environment Measurement Data under Agency-Funded Acquisitions*) developed by the Forum on Environmental Measurements (FEM), which was sent to the ELAB members via e-mail on March 30, 2011. The endeavor began approximately 6 to 7 years ago when FEM was asked to explore raising the standards for laboratories submitting proposals to and/or participating in contractual efforts with EPA. FEM broadened the scope to include all environmental measurement data (e.g., field sampling) to ensure that data of the highest quality are generated. Various levels of competency were defined concisely. Meanwhile, the Department of Defense successfully implemented a requirement in its contractual process to ensure the competency of organizations with which it worked. FEM used this language and pilot tested it to determine whether it could be applied to the Agency and this effort. Ms. Autry did not recall any other FEM policy receiving the attention that this one has, which has been positive. Ms. Morgan noted that the Frequently Asked Questions document that accompanied the policy is a useful and comprehensive document.

6. REVIEW ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Morgan reported that most of the action items from the March 2011 Board meeting had been accomplished. Ms. LeBaron reviewed the action items identified during this meeting, which are listed in Attachment C.

7. CLOSING REMARKS/ADJOURN

Ms. Morgan thanked everyone for their attendance and participation. Dr. Wichman introduced a motion to adjourn the meeting, which Ms. Shields seconded. Following a unanimous vote, Ms. Morgan adjourned the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

Attachment A

AGENDA ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ADVISORY BOARD

Monthly Teleconference: 866-299-3188/9195415544#

April 20, 2010; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. (ET)

Opening Remarks	Autry/Morgan
Approval of March Minutes	Morgan
Updates (<i>as available</i>)	
Sufficiently Sensitive Methods	Pletl
Methods Update Rule (MUR)	Flowers
Improving EPA's Regulations	Flowers
New Developments/Discussion	
Recreational Water Quality Criteria Development	Root
Workgroup Activity (<i>in addition to any specific projects above</i>)	
Monitoring Workgroup	Morgan
- Greening Our Laboratories	
Measurement/Technology Workgroup	Lowry
- DQO Document Review	
Laboratory Management Workgroup	Flowers
- State of National Accreditation	
Review Action Items	Morgan
Closing Remarks/Adjourn	Autry/Morgan

Attachment B**MEMBERSHIP LISTING AND GUESTS**

ELAB TELECONFERENCE
April 20, 2010; 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET

Attendance (Y/N)	Name	Affiliation
Y	Ms. Judith (Judy) R. Morgan (Chair)	Environmental Science Corp. Representing: Commercial Environmental Laboratories
Y	Ms. Aurora Shields (Vice- Chair)	City of Lawrence, Kansas Representing: Wastewater Laboratories
Y	Ms. Lara P. Autry, DFO	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Representing: EPA
Y	Dr. Richard Burrows	Test America Inc. Representing: Commercial Laboratory Industry
N	Mr. Eddie Clemons, II	Practical Quality Consulting Services Representing: Clients of QS Services
N	Mr. John (Jack) E. Farrell, III	Analytical Excellence, Inc. Representing: The NELAC Institute (TNI)
Y	Dr. Jeff Flowers	City of Maitland, Florida Representing: Elected Officials of Local Government
N	Dr. Reza Karimi	Battelle Memorial Institute Representing: Nonprofit Research and Development Organizations
Y	Dr. H. M. (Skip) Kingston	Duquesne University Representing: Government Consortia, Native Americans, and Academia
N	Ms. Sylvia (Silky) S. Labie	Environmental Laboratory Consulting & Technology, LLC Representing: Third Party Assessors
Y	Mr. Jeffrey (Jeff) C. Lowry	Environmental Resource Associates Representing: Proficiency Testing Providers
Y	Mr. John H. Phillips	Ford Motor Company Representing: Alliance of Auto Manufacturers
Y	Dr. James (Jim) Pletl	Hampton Roads Sanitation District Representing: Municipal Environmental Laboratories
Y	Ms. Patsy Root	IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. Representing: Laboratory Product Developers
Y	Mr. David (Dave) N. Speis	Accutest Laboratories Representing: American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL)
Y	Ms. Michelle L. Wade	Kansas Department of Health and the Environment Representing: Laboratory Accreditation Bodies
Y	Dr. Michael D. Wichman	University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory Representing: Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL)

Attendance (Y/N)	Name	Affiliation
Y	Ms. Kristen LeBaron (Contractor)	The Scientific Consulting Group, Inc. (SCG)
Y	Mr. David Whiting (Guest)	Florida Department of Environmental Protection

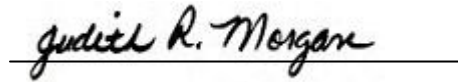
Attachment C

ACTION ITEMS

1. Ms. LeBaron will finalize the March 2011 meeting minutes and send them to Ms. Autry via e-mail.
2. Ms. Morgan will ensure that the finalized February 2011 meeting minutes are sent to the Board members.
3. The ELAB Web Site will be added as a formal agenda item for the May meeting.
4. Dr. Pletl will draft a follow-up letter to EPA staff regarding the Sufficiently Sensitive Methods Rule teleconference that was held on March 30, 2011; the letter will cover the basic understanding of questions and responses and include materials that Dr. Flowers will provide on cost and a copy of the teleconference minutes.
5. A subcommittee will be formed to develop a marketing letter to promote ELAB's availability and expertise to provide advice to the Agency.
6. The Monitoring Workgroup will take up the Recreational Water Quality Criteria Development issue.
7. Ms. Root will provide Dr. Wichman with additional contacts to whom he can send the Recreational Water Quality Criteria Development questions in addition to state environmental laboratory directors.
8. The Board members will examine the document and letter regarding the proficiency testing issue and be prepared to discuss the issue at the May Board meeting.
9. The Laboratory Management Workgroup will examine the issues affecting national accreditation, including the paradigm shift that Dr. Flowers explained during the teleconference.

Attachment D

I hereby certify that this is the final version of the minutes for the Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board Meeting held on April 20, 2011.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Judith R. Morgan", is written over a horizontal line.

Signature Chair

Ms. Judith R. Morgan

Print Name Chair