

Laboratory Practices Committee
1/12/2023 Virtual Meeting 10 – 11 AM
Main Topic: Post-Seminar Discussion

1. Attendance

- MWEA: Dan Sroka (Chair), Amanda Love, Sandy Buchner, Caitlin Bowens, Doug Engelsman, Karin Cook, Greg Kormelink, Mackenzie Shields, Kari Visser, Andrew Hayman
- AWWA: Stacey Kukkonen, Amani Saiyad, Andrea Busch, Dick Quinn, Eric Anderson, Jack Hughes (Vice Chair)

2. New Business

- Goal of creating a succession plan for the committee. Begin a rotation from Vice Chair to Chair on a yearly-ish basis. Ensure training and resources are available to support the transitions.
- Appointing of a new scribe to take notes during meetings. Jack will take on this role, with Greg K as a backup.
- MWEA has budgeted \$500/year in support of our committee and its endeavors.

3. Organization Updates

- MWEA: Upcoming events: Wastewater Administrators Conference (WWAdCon), Joint Expo & Operators Day on February 7 & 8, Biosolids – Registration is open
- AWWA: New website coming, moving their databases and operation systems to a new platform.

4. Future Meetings and Site Visit Tours

- Switching from Zoom to Teams for Virtual meetings, due to its 40minute constraint. Calendar invites will be coming out for the Teams Meetings.
- Plan to meet the second Thursday of the month at 10am.
- Site Visits, on a quarterly schedule:
 - Bells Brewery – Spring (March or April)
 - City of South Haven
 - City of Battle Creek
 - City of Grandville Clean Water Plant (Todd W)

5. 2023 Seminar Planning

- Wednesday, November 8th, 2023
- Headliner: Tony Glimpf secured for that date
- Venue Proposals: Eagle Eye (great location), Realtors Association, Lansing Community College West Campus

6. Round Table

- Idea to combine Vendor lists between MWEA and AWWA, generate more possibilities for future seminars.
- Magazine Article submission deadlines:
 - MWEA MATTERS Article – February 24
 - Send to Caitlin B or editor@mwea.org
 - AWWA Waterworks Article – February 10
 - Send to Stacey K
- Notes can be posted to the MWEA and AWWA websites via Stacey and Caitlin.
- Andrea Busch – Recruiting 2 chemists
 - [GLWA Link](#)
- Eric Anderson – Recruiting chemists for the Lansing BWL.
 - Apply at LBWL.com

7. Discussion of Previous 2022 Seminar

- Record attendance with 118 guests!
- Feedback from Surveys:
 - Move from Monday to Wednesday
 - More laboratory topics
 - Some slides font was too small, notably the Bench Sheets from Lab Training
 - “too much chemistry” and “too basic of chemistry” opposing points
 - Add 5 minute gap between presentations
 - Less topic overlap, particularly COVID-19
 - Ended too late in the day (debatable)
 - Upset about the poll questions vs chat-based ones.
 - EGLE only requires this style of participation for Drinking Water Topic CECs, which is odd
 - Manually control OWL so it stays on the speaker
 - Stacey has a wrangling app for her OWL
- Keep the structure of the seminar the same (breakouts, two tracks)
- Future Topics:
 - Panel Discussion: Recent water/wastewater lab inspections (new issues identified)
 - Lead pipe removals LBWL (Lead: Eric A)
 - Topic: Marijuana permitting sampling, monitoring (MI focus)
 - PFAS Drinking Water (EGLE) & PFAS Wastewater (EGLE)
 - How to Write a Good SOP & Developing Lab Safety Programs, Chemical Hygiene Plans etc..
 - Permit Audits – Chris Veldkamp as a resource (Lead: Doug A)
 - “Auditor’s Perspective on Lab Monitoring”
 - Specifics on Heavy Metals Analysis and why those metals
 - Cyanobacteria
 - Lab Tours included (future)
 - Lab Analysis - DO readings (Basic Operators), BOD
 - Lab safety
 - Staffing Challenges facing the industry
 - Jack feels this is too wide a topic, and we should be more focused

8. Next Meeting

- Go over future topics in greater detail, tease out best selection.
- Dates:
 - Feb 9
 - March 9

9. Chat Highlights:

- Andrea Busch: Dan, I still have the LPC folder. Should I give this to the Trace representative picking up samples?

- Buchner, Sandy: I get lots of people reaching out for help on writing lab docs. some of these topics have been covered by MWEA workshops. ex industry recruitment, development and retention this past May