

**Stakeholder Advisory Committee  
for *Ceriodaphnia dubia* Quality Assurance Study**

**Minutes of Meeting #2**

Held remotely on Wednesday January 20, 2021, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Webcast link <https://vimeo.com/504522467>

---

**List of Participants:**

*Facilitators:*

Ken Schiff and Alvina Mehinto (SCCWRP)

*Stakeholder Committee members:*

State Water Board - John Wheeler (SWRCB)

USEPA - Debra Denton (EPA Region IX)

Regional Water Quality Control Boards - Veronica Cuevas (RWQCB4)

Wastewater Agencies - Mitch Mysliwicz (Larry Walker and Assoc/CASA)

Stormwater Agencies - Jian Peng (Orange County Public Works/CASQA)

Agriculture Organizations - Sarah Lopez (Central Coast Water Quality Preservation Inc)

Laboratory Accreditation - Steven Boggs (CA ELAP)

Private Laboratories - Jeff Miller (Aqua-Science Laboratories)

Public Laboratories - Josh Westfall (Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts)

There were 45 attendees in the virtual public audience.

---

**Agenda Items #1 and #2** - Welcome and Stakeholder Committee Introductions

Ken Schiff of SCCWRP called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM and welcomed the attendees.

The Stakeholder Committee members provided brief self-introductions. The minutes of the December 8 meeting were approved.

**Agenda Item #3**- Developing Workplan

Ken Schiff gave an oral presentation of the key components to develop the workplan. This is a multi-step process, with stakeholder and public comments collected before any presentation to the Science Panel.

The goal for the day was to provide feedback and improve the oral presentation of the workplan to the Expert Science Panel. While the presentation addressed all tasks of the workplan, the tasks are dependent on one another. So, the most details of the presentation were focused on Task 1 - Identify potential sources of variability within and among laboratories, which is comprised of

- Meta-analyses of laboratory method information
- Analysis of historical data collated from participating laboratories
- Laboratory visits for details on implementation of lab protocols
- Laboratory analyses of split samples

The Committee discussed the list of records (e.g., SOPs for food, culture, and test; historical performance data, lab checklists, training records) recipe and data needed from participating laboratories. They identified additional information that should be collected including variance (mean and std deviation) between control and test sample water quality, test replication, acclimation protocols, control performance variability (including reproduction and mortality). The Committee noted that EPA Methods Section 4.9.2. allows for flexibility in validating tests that may not meet all acceptability criteria. Records of the procedures to interpret test results should be provided.

Due to the pandemic, it is unlikely that lab visits will be conducted. The Committee suggested providing questionnaires to the laboratories that ensure that practices that deviate from the SOPs are recorded. Other options such as virtual visits were also discussed.

Next, the Committee discussed the procedure to collect, QA and conduct meta-analyses. Suggestions of a minimum of 30 tests were considered low by some members, and the option to evaluate a percentage of tests run per lab (which could be highly variable) was also discussed. Ultimately, it was agreed that the appropriate database format and QA parameters, and the minimum number of tests/ data points per lab will be determined based on the recommendation of the Science Panel. The Committee pointed out that CEDEN database format could be considered as it already includes automated QA/QC checkers, although the database is specific to non-NPDES programs.

**Agenda Item #4-** Public comments

Public comments and questions were answered through the question feature in the remote attendance software. It was clarified that the PowerPoint presentations will be available to the public through the SWB and SCCWRP website. It was reiterated that implementing the laboratory analyses of split samples will be determined based on the results of the meta-analyses of historical data, and the availability of resources to fund laboratories.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 PM.

**Agenda Item #5-** [Closed session] Formation of the Expert Science Panel.

## Minutes for the Closed Session

---

### List of Participants:

#### *Facilitators:*

Ken Schiff and Alvina Mehinto (SCCWRP)

#### *Stakeholder Committee members:*

State Water Board - John Wheeler (SWRCB)

USEPA - Debra Denton (EPA Region IX)

Regional Water Quality Control Boards - Veronica Cuevas (RWQCB4)

Wastewater Agencies - Mitch Mysliwicz (Larry Walker and Assoc/CASA)

Stormwater Agencies - Jian Peng (Orange County Public Works/CASQA)

Agriculture Organizations - Sarah Lopez (Central Coast Water Quality Preservation Inc)

Laboratory Accreditation - Steven Boggs (CA ELAP)

Private Laboratories - Jeff Miller (Aqua-Science Laboratories)

Public Laboratories - Josh Westfall (Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts)

---

### **Agenda Item #5-** [Closed session] Formation of the Expert Science Panel.

The Closed session began at 3:15 PM

Ken started the meeting with approval of the minutes of the December 8 closed session. A modification was requested to clarify that the Contractor, not the Stakeholders or Project Directors, are responsible for determining what constitute a conflict of interest.

Committee members had previously reduced the list to their highest-ranking candidates including:

#### Freshwater Aquatic Toxicology:

- Academic - Robert Brent, Inge Werner
- Government - Teresa Norberg-King
- Industry - Howard Bailey, James Pletl

#### Biostatistics

- John Bailer, John Fox

#### Data Quality Objectives Process

- Leana Van der Vliet, Rami Naddy

The committee had received the full CV of all 9 candidate experts a week prior to the meeting.

The Committee discussed each group and made their recommendations. Kaitlyn Kalua, absent at the meeting, provided her recommendation by email ahead of the meeting.

The Committee unanimously recommended the preferred expert for 4 of the 5 categories; Teresa Norberg-King, Robert Brent, Howard Bailey, and Leana Van der Vliet. For the biostatistician, the Committee could not come to an agreement. Stakeholders were almost evenly split between John Fox and John Bailer. In the absence of a consensus, the final decision will be made by the State Water Board.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 PM