



**Meeting Summary, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Meeting Location – Willow Lake WWTP, Salem, Oregon**

<b>OTAC Members</b>			
<i>Dennis Wells</i>	<i>Cascadia Labs, President</i>	2017	<i>Present</i>
<i>Ken Yeomans (vacant)</i>	---		<i>Not Present</i>
<i>Marsha Farooqui</i>	<i>Portland Water Bureau</i>	2018	<i>Present</i>
<i>Rory White</i>	<i>Consultant, Analytical Labs, OELA</i>	2018	<i>Present</i>
<i>Steve Thompson</i>	<i>Clean Water Services</i>	2018	<i>Present</i>
<i>Chuck Lytle</i>	<i>City of Portland</i>	2019	<i>Present</i>
<i>William Michalek</i>	<i>Umpqua Testing Service, OELA</i>	2019	<i>Present</i>
<i>Rodger Voelker</i>	<i>OG Labs, Eugene</i>	2020	<i>Present</i>
<i>Darrell Auvil</i>	<i>Apex Labs, Secretary</i>	2019	<i>Present</i>
<b>ORELAP STAFF:</b>			
<i>Dr. John Fontana</i>	<i>OHA/Public Health Lab Director</i>	<i>Not Present</i>	
<i>Gary K. Ward</i>	<i>Guest, former ORELAP</i>	<i>Not Present</i>	
<i>Stephanie Ringsage</i>	<i>OHA/ Lab Compliance Manager</i>	<i>Not Present</i>	
<i>Chris Redman</i>	<i>ORELAP Program Administrator</i>	<i>Present</i>	
<i>Elizabeth Garcia</i>	<i>ORELAP Assessor</i>	<i>Not Present</i>	
<i>Ryan Pangelinan</i>	<i>ORELAP Assessor</i>	<i>Not Present</i>	
<i>Alia Servin</i>	<i>ORELAP Assessor</i>	<i>Not Present</i>	
<i>Patrick Dinwiddie</i>	<i>ORELAP (leaving, vacant)</i>	<i>Not Present</i>	
<i>Scott Hoatson</i>	<i>DEQ QA Officer</i>	<i>Not Present</i>	
<b>GUESTS:</b>	<i>Jennifer Shackelford (City of Portland), Kent Patton (Apex Labs) Kim Ramsay (Neilson Research) Derek Tanner (Pixis Labs)</i>		

1. **Welcome / Additions to Agenda:** Steve Thompson started the meeting, Dennis was running late. Brings a question, do we need a co-chair?
2. **Review of last meeting summary:** Minutes were approved. No changes
3. **ORELAP Update:** ORELAP is busy. Alia and Liz are soon to be radiochemistry certified for audits. 3 Labs are currently rad. Chem, all out of state.  
 EPA Region 10 provided training for Assessors. Cryptosporidium is ready for audit, none yet done.  
 To keep on track for 2 – 2.5 year on site assessments, ORELAP needs to complete 6/7 audits per month. That will be a difficult rate to keep.  
 Patrick Dinwiddie, introduced as new ORELAP staff, has taken another position, he will not be replaced. This will give Alia permanent status.  
 Large Midwest lab audit coming up.  
 Hoping to improve ODIE, revisions are taking time. New internal IT support person, will be able to help w/ODIE. Mostly internal improvements. Could be up to a year out, however.  
 Stephanie now has less supporting staff (loss of Pam) and appears to be moving away from

### **3. ORELAP continued. ORELAP.**

Chris would prefer one more assessor vs. one more support staff.

Rory volunteered support for this when Chris has put together a plan. Currently working on plan to meet client needs with current staffing.

Scott Hoatson to perform and internal audit. Chris to respond.

There will be a tri-annual audit from TNI, which will be EPA and another accrediting body.

Steve Arms from Florida and an EPA representative.

Scott Hoatson is DEQ representative for other, outside A/B audits.

Currently not accepting any new out of state labs.

Dropping 3 overseas labs, 2 in Korea, 1 in Fiji. Keep Hawaii?

Chris will be auditing whole effluent toxicity lab.

California appears to be leading the way with WET. Oregon has less of an issue with this as we have the excess rain/water to dilute those discharges.

### **4. Drinking Water**

Marsha asked if the TNI standard of 2003 would be moving to the 2009. Currently looking like they will bypass 2009 and go straight to 2016 TNI Standard.

Does the OAR verbiage use, "updated TNI standard" or similar? Chris was going to look into the specific language. Need a change to it?

Marsha's IT did a lot of work to get the DW to get the electronic upload.

NO flags allowed, is very difficult, data needs qualification at times.

Need to allow qualifiers, but the Feds say no.

Kent P. was looking to write a form letter regarding qualifiers and looking for feedback on the MUR update, Rory said he would send it to OELA.

### **5. NEFAB-** Chuck asked about sampling audit, but with current situation, there is no time or resources to manage this. Chris said, maybe, but cannot now.

Marsha asked if DEQ is required (by rule?) to do auditing of sampling methods?

### **6. Cannabis Labs Update:**

Rule DOES require auditing of Cannabis Sampling.

Labs still having disagreements of THC content, and are shopping results between labs.

Derek noted that % THC has been, "creeping up" used to be highs in the 25% range, but some labs are reporting up to 34% THC. At this point, they sort of feel as if no one is watching or overseeing their work.

At this point, ORELAP is not receiving any funding from Cannabis Program.

### **7. Membership:** Chuck nominated Derek Tanner from Pixis Labs to replace Ken Yeomans Seat on OTAC. Steve approved motion. OTAC voted and Derek was approved. Chris will offer this to the ORELAP executive committee for approval.

### **8. FRAUD?:** Kim Ramsay said during an audit that one of the assessors made a direct comment that Audit was going to take too long as they were looking for FRAUD.

Chuck was adamant that he was offended to have an auditor searching for fraud. Kim also did not like the assumption of fraud, or similar. Both did not like the assumption of guilt. Rory agreed as well.

ORELAP's job is checking on DATA, and fraud should probably be addressed at other times/processes.

Chris believes the new auditors had recent training on fraud and maybe a bit misguided. Is something a mistake? Or fraud? Fraud is intentional. A mistake, is honest effort.

## **8. FRAUD? Continued.**

Kim had a bad experience with a missed bacteria fax to the state. She ended up sending hardopies to the state. Then had difficulty on who would open the box and when it was actually received. L.

It feels as though the auditors have taken a, "gotcha" stance, and coupled with the Fraud angle, is straining relationships. Gary Ward had done a lot of work to foster an excellent lab / auditor relationship, but that seems to be fading now.

Kim, Rory, and Chuck have asked Chris to speak to the new auditors about the fraud angle and how that is NOT what ORELAP should be focused on.

ORELAP and the labs would like better relations, this doesn't need to be adversarial.

## **9. Announcements:**

OELA is April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 @ Salem Conference Center. Registration is open. Rory is managing. There will be vendors present. Agenda out in a week or 2.

Short School March 26-28. Clackamas Community College. Kristen and Chuck will be presenting, "back to basics" Kristen also co-chairing a workshop in October at WEF Tech. 8 municipalities in ORELAP, there are about 90. Quite a few are 1 person labs or small. Chuck would like to someday have more/all labs in ORELAP.

Should Wastewater be required to be certified by ORELAP? Would require legislation. City of Grant's Pass was noted on a recent bid, that the winning lab would be required to be certified by ORELAP.

Salem WWTP room was not reserved for February meeting, we need to reserve it for June.

**Next meeting: à April 12<sup>th</sup>, Public Health Lab, Hillsboro, OR @ 10am.**