

Magruder Committee Minutes
February 15, 2022
Mobile, AL

Meeting called to order at 8:00 am CST by Frank Sikora

Attendance – 41 (13 control officials; 28 industry)

Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review and Approval – Frank Sikora

Agenda - Motion to approve agenda Sharon Webb, seconded by James Bartos - motion approved

Approval of Last Meetings Minutes – Frank/Patty

Minutes – Motion to approve by Sharon Webb, seconded by Ametra Berry – motion approved

Treasurer's report – Matt Pearson

Matt shared the information about the financial status. We are in good shape. He is learning the Quickbooks system. For the account reports (Quickbooks) the deposits need entered but invoices paid. Discussion: Sharon asked a question about which invoices they've been reimbursed for (for quality samples); and said she can send an invoice.

Administration Update – Frank Sikora

- New N, P, and K sample schemes
- Number of labs enrolled
- Paid vs. unpaid labs
- Scheduled Samples
- Method Codes

See Powerpoint

Frank shared a slide on the number of labs reporting. There was a dip during the Covid-19 timeframe. There was a low reporting for Gypsum 70/95 and CaSO4 B-Zinc and UAN.

There was a successful push to get labs to pay earlier. The number of paid labs is:

Regular – 110-115 labs (Note: 25 labs in regular scheme chose other schemes)

N – 25 labs, P – 38 labs, K – 22 labs

There are 30 unpaid labs. The deadline is March 1 or no sample is sent in next shipment.

See slide on type of labs in scheme and number of labs paid/scheme.

International, USA Regulatory, USA Manufacturing, USA Service and USA Other

New Labs to the Program

14 International, 10 Manufacturing, 4 USA Service

James Bartos asked what the total number of participating labs in program is. Frank Sikora said total number that are paid for 2022 is 136. He then shared a chart of the number of paid labs vs. enrollment year. The trend shows an overall increase from 129 (2017) to 136 (2022) with a reduction around 2020. It was identified that there are 39 unpaid labs that may yet pay. Mark LeBlanc asked about unpaid labs and at what point do we address. Is 39 typical year to year? Frank said it's hard to say because we used to send samples at the beginning and wait on payment after. Bill Hall asked a 2 part question regarding

how the statistician cost increased and will revenue from new schemes cover the cost in statistician services. Frank said the cost is per sample and it might take a year or two to get things going. Frank doesn't have hard numbers yet. Bill said its an investment in the future.

See slides for total paid labs (US public 41-regulatory), US private 46 (service 23, manufacturing 21, other 2) and international 49. For all labs (paid and unpaid), the total is 175 (US public 42-regulatory), US private 49 (service 25, manufacturing 22, other 2) and international 84.

Sharon Webb asked how Bob Kieffer is keeping up. Frank said it's a little challenging. Per Bob, there was a challenge in preparing packages for the February sample; and Frank provided him a list.

Upcoming samples –

Discussion: Potassium sample (MgSO₄ product) – mesh size – either go out at this size or lab's grind to dissolve potassium (65 mesh screen). Job Fugice asked Frank what sieve size Bob uses. It's a herring bone-measure size of width. Hugh explained it as 500 μ min. And said have him grind it and test to be sure it is homogeneous to see what the particle size is in his normal operation. Would it be ok to have some taken out? No, it changes material. Need to see what size he gets from his procedure. If all passes 65 mesh, its ok. See if sample prep had an effect (particle sizes). Hugh discussed that we may need to look at sample prep. Changes may be needed due to changes in product. James asked if we go to the extent to verify. Bill said the current procedures developed in 1929 and materials have changed. It was discussed that if it doesn't work, Michelle should provide the specific sample. Sharon said its great that she knows her product so well, but the sample should be done the way a regular lab would grind/prepare it. Discussion continued about methods we have vs. special method considerations. Bill said what if a manufacturer says here is my sample method. Needs to be validated for all samples. Frank asked will it be ground and applied at this 65 mesh (agronomy consideration). Homogeneous sample to labs, get variability of results, determine IA. For integrity of program, Michelle's is regarding increasing solubility. A regulatory lab may determine its deficient because they aren't going to get to that extent of grinding to 65 mesh. Frank said approach for modified procedures. We have AOAC standardized. Another way to look at it, Bill said if not soluble in this method, is it a slow-release potassium product.

Question from the audience (Dr. Elizabeth Woznick), asked can you send 2 samples, one ground and one unground? Frank said there will be a difference. James said maybe send a different grind next year to see difference due to grind error/distribution from different labs. Frank said Job is in charge of getting samples for program. Bill shared info from AOAC (sieve size details); may need to tighten up.

Updating LabPortal to handle payments, contact changes, list of labs to ship, shipment information – Frank Sikora

Frank shared a proposal he has for updating the lab portal to handle payments, contract changes, list of labs to ship, shipment information

Frank spoke to Brenda Snodgrass at AAFCO regarding the Data Reporting Website (DRW). Frank met with her to look at how this could be used for Magruder program. Frank would like to transition the Access database to a web based/easier to use system that others could use to perform detailed functions. (See Powerpoint on FASS PT Program Functions)

Data Reporting Website Lab Portal (Magruder) – Current functions, data entry/access to reports

Proposed additional functions – invoicing, generating invoices, receiving payments, provide shipment option when invoicing, new lab enrollment; sample shipments; laboratory contracts, lab edits contact for DRW Access; QRMS, purchasing, inventory

Provide list of paid labs for sample shipments

- Lab edits address for shipment
- Provide shipment tracking
- Add email contact for shipping notices

Big advantage of going with FASS is AAFCO already has a working system; not starting from scratch.

Frank shared the dashboard for Laboratory Manager. There is separate login for different functions (manager, invoice, etc.). Discussed payment types and pro-forma invoice. A big advantage using FASS for AAFCO program is the schemes they sign up for are available to them in DRW.

AAFCO Quality Reference Material Order Form - Sharon said this would really help her out. Wouldn't need to track/enter into a different separate spreadsheet. James asked if when the material quantity goes to zero, does it go away? They don't know for sure, but assume it may. Bill asked about what to use if folks want to continue using bank drafts vs. credit cards, Matt or FASS. Mark said whatever is easier for Matt. Sally Flowers shared that when they moved, they had lots of turnover. Would Matt/Sharon be handling those questions?

Last slide addresses what would it cost for FASS to handle those things; look at what the cost would be. Sharon shared that from a feed side user, it is way more efficient (faster).

Advantages – Administrative functions are pushed to the lab (Bob Kieffer); invoicing is synced with the DRW.

The cost – development is \$8,300

- \$1600 Baseline app cloning
- \$1600 Developing discount support
- \$2500 Data migration/import and switch over
- \$2600 Communication/project management/training/support
- Support \$60/hour for support with customer issues on payment (max 10 hr/month)

It was asked how much do they have to help feed customers? Feed may have someone who handles it.

James asked how much it would need to be tweaked? It was said that if we go with this, it would be Frank's time to assist with customizing but will free up Frank's time if this is done.

James Bartos made a motion to pursue this, seconded by Ametra Berry. Motion passed.

Magruder Newsletter – Frank Sikora

There was discussion on what topics might be useful in future newsletters. James suggested the topic of testing various forms with a focus on Nitrogen (speciating ammoniacal vs. others). One aspect may be

plant available forms and agronomic considerations/educational. Sharon clarified to discuss element/availability to plant; and how it reacts in soil? James said for example, do people realize ammonium will convert to nitrate over time?

Another topic is the history of how we came up with available phosphate. Bill said from an environmental perspective (metal speciation).

Sally suggested including information from PT programs. A lot of good things come out of the program including QC factors for supporting continuous improvement and educational information.

Frank suggested having a lab volunteer how they use the information from the PT program. Hugh said maybe we can find a way within the program to help labs that don't perform as well; methodology to help them improve. Frank said that was a great idea but does take someone's time, which can be limited.

Bill shared vendors that have good training videos, etc. and suggested putting a link in newsletter. Sally indicated that starting a vendor's corner. Dr. Elizabeth Woznick liked the idea to evaluate data and share information about for example, a poorly performing method, etc.

Sally asked if we could solicit feedback about the newsletter? Frank said Bill had shared an older practice of writing up how methods are performing. Would be good if we can get back to doing this once a year. It could be put in the newsletters by nutrient/method and would be a value to industry in general. The work could be spread out within experts. Hugh suggested having someone new to Magruder program to share their experience; and referred to a question from Sanford regarding 190511 and how to get more. Sharon summarized the process of going to Magruder website, order past QRM, cc: treasurer, and once he receives the payment, she will send it out.

Regarding newsletter content, James said that if manufacturers want to share anything about product, industry could provide background such as contributions to variability. Also, Elaine Hasty at CEM volunteered to provide a vendor perspective for the Vendor's Corner. Bill said Andy would like labs to also run for nonnutritive metals. And asked if there's a way to promote more labs reporting nonnutritive data for good statistics?

Dr. Elizabeth Woznick (Verdesian) mentioned looking at breakout by regulatory/international, etc. (variability). Bill suggested putting an email place to provide information; which could provide Frank a list of potential recipients.

There was a discussion regarding getting more participants. Hugh said there is a new international initiative that is working on a workgroup for N, P, K. During an upcoming meeting could emphasize Magruder to compare data and increase overall aspects of Magruder. Bill mentioned advertising in IFA Newsletter (goes out over the world). A question was asked about advertising through TFI? Frank said what it boils down to is having people to do things, need more volunteer effort.

A question was asked about how quickly will you be able to introduce new FASS system? Frank said he would like to have it in place for 2023 and hopes the motion still stands.

Regarding Biostimulant involvement, a question was asked, would you consider having industry WP involved? Possibly the development of additional samples/program; maybe a marketing group – between Magruder and industry to introduce. Frank wondered how interested industry would be in regular schemes. Ask industry if they'd be interested in discussing how to advertise/develop program (Biostimulant scheme)? In general, get more voices from manufacturers in developing Magruder program in general. Magruder committee, industry can vote. Will gladly accept members from industry.

Frank said group is meeting monthly, would welcome more participation. Email Frank to be on distribution list or email Frank in newsletter.

A different concept: Measurement Uncertainty rather than Investigational Allowance for compliance testing

(see presentation)

Frank shared Hemp PT program information.

For MAP/DAP, similar but not newer materials.

Bill said need to factor in sampling contributions with today's materials/mixtures.

New Topics

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Sally Flowers, seconded by Sharon Webb - motion approved

Magruder committee meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.