

2002 AIHA Laboratory Health and Safety Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday June 3, 2002
San Diego, California
10:30 AM- 12:30 PM

1. Opening Remarks

Lindsey Kayman, Chair, welcomed the group and indicated that this year's committee meeting would include a break-out session where participants choose to attend on of the following three work groups: Committee Web-site, New Codes Affecting Labs or CHO Training.

A summary of the evaluations from all of the technical sessions and forums from the 2001 AIHCE was passed around. The Lab Health and Safety Committee session evaluations looked very good.

The Laboratory Health and Safety Committee is awarding a plaque to each of the Z9.5 committee members for contributions to the field of health and safety. The awards were to be going to be given out at the Z9 committee meeting and mailed to Z9.5 members who were not present. A plaque was also give to Lindsay Cook for his contributions as board coordinator and to the past two committee chairs.

2. Board Report

Lindsay Cook informed the committee that he is stepping down as board liaison and introduced Ezekiel Haslam as the new Board Liaison.

Ross Grayson inquired about the top issues for AIHA. Lindsay indicated that Finances were a serious issue and that AHIA had lost \$500,000 in assets and this prompted a change in asset management companies.

Other top priorities for AHIA are greater cooperation with ACGIH and improving relations with ASSE.

3. Committee Business Plan/Budget

The committee had looked into including money for developing an online Chemical Hygiene Officer Training program in the budget and business plan. Lindsay Cook, the board coordinator, indicated that probably no more than \$2,000 would be approved so this item was not included.

4. Discussion of AIHA Leadership meeting and Technical Session content for 2002 AICHE

David Lumby, Vice-Chair, provided highlights from the 2002 AIHA Leadership Meeting held in Fairfax. Highlights from that meeting included deactivation of non-productive technical committee. The session arrangers meeting for 2004 will not be live and will be accomplished via the internet.

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Dave also indicated that the committee had difficulty getting the minimum of 6 papers for its platform session. Dave also noted that Liz Gross was responsible for arranging the Forum on Lab Decommissioning.

4. Laboratory Health & Safety Committee Web site

Lindsey Kayman passed around a server report on the committee website. Many pages on the site are receiving over 8,000 hits per month. Lindsey Kayman reported that the Committee's web site was in need of new incidents and technical links. An online question and answer page could be incorporated into the website with the proposed tentative title "Dear Labby". It was noted that this content could also be published in the Synergist.

The committee also discussed that there may be a need in the future to make web submissions a prerequisite for membership on the Lab Health and Safety committee.

4. Chemical Hygiene Officer training

The dilemma of how to provide training for CHO who do not attend national meetings was discussed. Doug Walters indicated that the American Chemical Society (ACS) has CHO training programs that are held in various locales. He suggested that better coordination between ACS and AIHA is needed in order to provide training at the local level.

5. Program Content for AIHCE 2003

A forum which would include green laboratory issues such as Low Flow Hoods and Labs of the 21st Century (the EPA initiative) was proposed. Doug Walters, Ross Grayson, Thomas Ovimet and Jim Wilson volunteered to work on developing a Forum/Roundtable on this topic.

6. ANSI Z9.5, "Laboratory Ventilation Standard" Update

Doug Walters reported that 16 people responded to the request for public comment and that the revised standard will likely be published in the next year.

7. International Mechanical Code wording affecting laboratories

The BOCA, Western and Southern Codes have been incorporated into the International Codes. Peter Harnett gave a summary of how certain sections of the International Mechanical Code requires sprinklers and prohibits manifolds of hoods using certain chemicals that have a NFPA 704 health hazard rating of 4. These provisions contradict NFPA 45 and the soon to be published revision of ANSI Z9.5. The committee decided that it would produce a Position Paper on these issues and would try to have the code changed. Peter Harnett and Lindsey Kayman will head this issue.

8. Work Groups

Attendees at the meeting broke up into three work groups: Chemical Hygiene Officer Training, Committee Web Site and, New Codes Affecting Laboratories. These work groups reported back as follows:

Chemical Hygiene Officer Training. This work group will attempt to develop a “model PowerPoint training program” that can be presented by local professionals at regional and local ACS meetings. In order to accomplish this the subgroup identified the need to move on two areas. The first is to coordinate this effort with the ACS’s Chemical Health and Safety Section. Jim Kaufman, who is on the CHAS board, will introduce this concept to CHAS. The second area is curriculum. There are a number of people presently providing CHO training. Jim Kaufman and Doug Walters are responsible for identifying individuals to provide content. It is anticipated that this effort will take a number of years to accomplish.

Committee Web Site This work group tried to come up with a better format for the “key learning points” section. It is hard to locate specific points in the current format. It also requires editing of already-developed material. It was decided that this section should probably be removed. This group also discussed how to get more incidents and technical links and will actively recruit committee members to provide web content.

Codes Affecting Laboratories This work group discussed the need for a position paper regarding the impact of certain requirements in section 510 of the International Mechanical Code “Hazardous Exhausts” and will assist Lindsey and Peter in working on this issue. The group will try to work with the AIHA to have this code change and will also look at how these codes are developed with a view on how AIHA members can impact the development process.

The issue of how to sustain progress on subcommittee topics was discussed. Consensus was that a minimum of quarterly telephone conference call meetings should be scheduled.

9. American Chemical Society Liaison Report.

Doug Walters, AIHA Liaison to ACS, mentioned that nominations for the Fawcett Award for individuals who have contributed to lab health and safety were being accepted by CHAS.

10. Committee Membership

Ross Grayson asked how committee members were selected and if AIHA has published guidelines. No one on the committee had an answer and Dave Lumby volunteered to find out and report to the group.

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11. 2001 Committee Minutes

Meeting Minutes from the Lab Health and Safety committee meeting at the 2001 AIHCE were approved by voice vote.

The meeting was adjourned

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph R. Passante, Secretary