

Model Aquatic Health Code (MAHC)
STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 2, 2007, 8:30–11:30AM
CINCINNATI, OH

Members Present

Michael Beach, Bart Bibler, Chip Cleary (via conference call), Steve Goode, Joe Hunsaker, John Linn, Amanda Long - assistant to the Director, David Ludwig, Chuck Neuman, Charles Otto, Doug Sackett - Director.

Meeting Minutes

- The Atlanta Meeting Minutes were accepted with corrections and will be posted on the MAHC website.

MAHC Strawman Outline

- Draft Strawman document presented – outline with major headings for the technical committees to work from and fill in content.

- The committee agreed to use a Strawman as part of the MAHC process.
 - Strawman will be edited to have a consistent numbering system for each subject throughout the category sections.
 - Technical committees will be provided with guidance on subjects that are important to consider. They will be given a set of questions to ask for each subject. This will guide their consideration of necessary content, level of detail, and if the subject should be in the main body of the MAHC or an appendix.
 - Strawman will include details that should be addressed for each subject but will not preempt the technical committees by including too much detail. Technical committees will be given a compilation of content currently included in existing codes and suggestions of what to consider, they can evaluate this information and determine subjects to address.
 - Technical committees will determine how the model code language will be written; the steering committee will integrate sections into the document.

- Writing technically vs. writing simply.
 - Provide users with three options for printing the code: technical language only, simplified language only, or both technical and simplified language together.
 - Language may be interpreted differently depending on how it is published.
 - Review all MAHC language with respect to whether it would be open to interpretation, regardless if it is technical or simple.
 - Potential to write simply and straightforward but not too technical. Is this possible?
 - Keep simplified and technical language together in model code.

- If a difference in interpretation arises the language in question could undergo review, and an interpretation could be issued if necessary – part of process for updating MAHC.
- Most states would incorporate their own guidance for the MAHC when they adopt it.
- Members will submit comments on Strawman in a timely manner so an attempt to publish a consensus of ideas and suggestions can be made by the next meeting.
 - Determine if all subjects are included and appropriateness of subjects to include. Listing reasons a subject should be included would give rationale for what to include.
 - Include a list in the MAHC of items that do not have a public health purpose to be included as such, with a statement that there is no rationale for their inclusion.

Current Events: RWI Outbreaks, Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP) Draft Standard, Guidance Documents

- Recent CDC conference call with public health officials from across the country.
 - Incidence of cryptosporidiosis outbreaks at recreational water venues is increasing, and is unlikely to decrease in future years.
 - Need national communication effort; networks should be put in place before outbreaks occur.
 - Develop guidance for health departments on outreach/education and outbreak response.
- Need for increased media coverage; focus on public awareness and changing human behavior. Operators are often resistant to telling patrons about current outbreaks. It has been found that during outbreaks ¼ to 1/3 of people keep swimming even when they are still ill with diarrhea. Involve health departments in public outreach.
- Need to develop employee-training materials to increase awareness about problems that may arise from going to work ill, an employee illness policy, and materials that advise employees how to talk to patrons. Send out in time for seasonal training.
- Upcoming World Waterpark Association (WWA) meeting would provide a good opportunity to engage the aquatics industry. Ideal to have a network within the aquatics industry to disseminate information, so in the event an outbreak occurs, operators in the affected region can be alerted. Include suppliers. The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) would also be a good organization to work with. Put together a briefing document for upcoming WWA meeting (Oct 26) and IAAPA meeting (Oct 29). Tailor this document to aquatics groups. Emphasize that events have changed with Crypto, and communication with the public cannot be ignored.
- The APSP *Draft Standards for Water Quality in Public Pools and Spas* has been released for comment and have been created primarily as an industry effort. Set up

meeting with APSP; the Steering Committee and Technical Committees will consider APSP standards along with others when creating MAHC.

MAHC Project Outline Vision/Mission Statement

- Revisions to the MAHC Project Outline Vision/Mission Statement language were discussed.
 - The statement will read: “Our goal is to develop a MAHC that is user-friendly, knowledge-based, and scientifically supported in an effort to reduce risk and promote healthy recreational water experiences. Our objective is to transform varied swimming pool regulations used by health departments into a uniform national code to ensure the health and safety of the swimming public.”

Technical Committees

- Debate whether to have the seven technical committees decided on at the Atlanta meeting or additional committees based on subjects in Strawman.
- Views in favor of 7 technical committees:
 - Already decided to have 7 technical committees with subcommittees for specific subjects.
 - Based on list there are 11 technical committees; list only contains design subjects. Aspects of design & construction, operation & maintenance, and policies & management will be addressed for each subject where applicable.
 - Consider workload involved in managing many technical committees.
 - Will be a challenge just to find 7 technical committee chairs.
 - Issue of amount of time used to revisit decisions.
 - Need the same number of experts for 7 technical committees as for greater than 7; why not use subcommittees?
- Views in favor of a technical committee for each subject:
 - Convenient to lump subjects into 7 technical committees but this may do a disservice to the expertise needed and product itself.
 - Subjects are diverse; it would take too much time to develop the additional layer of management that would be needed if subcommittees were used.
 - Many technical committees could run in parallel and many would be short-term; this allows for a larger number of technical committees.
- General discussion:
 - Some of the 7 technical committees are subject-based (e.g. filtration, disinfection) and some are category-based (e.g. design & construction, operation & maintenance); this would mean that some of the committees would have overlapping subjects. In this case, technical committees could work together.
 - Minimize number of technical committees an expert in a particular subject would need to join to address all aspects of that subject – having to join multiple technical committees may reduce participation.

- Someone (steering committee or a technical committee) would be needed to integrate subjects and proposed language based on the categories that form the three main sections of the code (operation & maintenance, design & construction, and policies & management).
- Review list of 7 technical committees and the Strawman and to degree possible assign which technical committees would be responsible for various parts of the model code.
- Have initial “prototype” technical committee before developing the rest?
- Tasks include 1) prioritize technical committee formation, 2) find chairpersons for the seven committees, and 3) develop subcommittee guidelines.

Miscellaneous

- Focus on plan submittal section of MAHC. Develop guidelines for submittal; states and industry should work together to create checklist of required items. Use of checklist would save time on the design end and the health department review end.
- Determine terms to include in definitions section and the definitions of these terms.
- Consider section on ways to limit pool contamination (such as keeping diapered and toddler-aged children out of pools or limiting them to wading pools with separate systems). Would need more national awareness to implement this type of policy.
- Evaluate if standards for flocculants and coagulants should be included in MAHC.