



LABORATORY COMMITTEE

“What We Do”

- **MEETINGS**

On the first Wednesday of each month, the committee meets at various locations around the State to discuss future committee projects, on-goings in our individual labs, tribulations reported from outside labs, and the latest news in the laboratory community. Occasionally, meetings are followed by a one-hour presentation that shall offer one CEU for attendance.

- **SEMINARS**

The committee orchestrates a minimum of one seminar per year that is aimed directly at assisting laboratory personnel. The seminar is usually held in the fall or the spring and may range from a half-day seminar to a full-day seminar. On occasion, the seminar will be held jointly with another committee of the IWEA.

- **IWEA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

The committee orchestrates the laboratory session of the IWEA Annual conference. This session typically takes place the morning before the Awards Luncheon.

- **WASTEWATER CHALLENGE**

The committee orchestrates the laboratory session of the Operators' Challenge. This part of the Challenge is aimed at teaching QA/QC parameters, introducing new lab equipment and procedures, enhancing operator technique, and evaluating operator knowledge of lab analyses.

- **NETWORKING**

Having QC problems or getting uncontrolled results on some of your analyses? Committee involvement affords the opportunity to network with some of the most knowledgeable lab personnel in the State. Get troubleshooting tips to recover your analysis and start getting quality data. Also, you can get the latest news on proposed/approved methods, new lab equipment and more!

- **CONSULTING**

Need help with establishing a Method Detection Limit or constructing Control Charts? Or has a recent IDEM audit got you wondering where to even start to achieve compliance? Committee members often volunteer to help smaller or struggling labs build and implement a solid QA/QC program. From the smallest of tribulations to developing an entire QA/QC program – We can help you!

- **LAB AUDITS**

Once a year, the committee members travel to labs around the State to conduct thorough lab audits – Similar to the audits performed by IDEM inspectors except these audits are conducted in labs of voluntary participation only. The audits serve as an excellent tool for hands-on consulting in your actual laboratory. Labs that score well are awarded with the *IWEA Laboratory Excellence Award*.

- **OUR INFLUENCE**

The committee works with State and Federal government to represent you! We have developed the *Quality Assurance Manual for Indiana Wastewater Laboratories* and helped to construct a number of standardized bench sheets that are IDEM-approved and available for use in any Indiana wastewater lab. We also review the proposed updates to 40 CFR Part 136 and formally object to any method updates that we feel may negatively impact our capability to reasonably produce quality results.