

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting  
January 5, 2017

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon CST, January 5, 2017. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes from December were reviewed and approved.

3. Session Planning for Conference in Houston

The Advocacy Committee meets at 1 pm local time on Wednesday afternoon, January 25. The agenda will include a review of significant issues arising from conference sessions as well as some conference planning (proposals for winter 2018 and also NEMC in Washington for summer 2017 and some planning for NEMC in summer 2018.) The next newsletter's articles will be decided and assigned, too. A new template for the committee charters is expected, so that may be discussed as well.

Jerry asked about how best to follow up on the Mentor Session discussions, which will focus on 4-5 items that California plans to modify from the 2016 TNI standard. The outcome(s) from the Mentor Session will be turned into a written report by the end of the conference. Separately, TNI may wish to formally comment on the list of items to be removed from the 2016 standard prior to California's implementation of it, as well as try to make the point that the standard is not intended to be specific about how labs must comply with the standard, but only to specify what the requirements are, so that labs may comply in a variety of ways, as they see fit.

Consensus was that a discussion draft for the TNI comments on items that CA will omit would be the most reasonable way to have that conversation within the Advocacy Committee. Steve and Lara noted that they would likely need to recuse themselves from such discussion, due to their roles in the CA advisory committee. Jerry suggested that TNI should also look at the California modifications to see whether they should be considered for the next revision of the TNI standard. Marlene, Paul and Robin agreed to help with this aspect of the discussion draft.

Participants briefly considered whether a discussion of the recent Method Update Rule (MUR) was needed, since there appear to be some conflicts between the 600 series methods and the TNI standard. The decision was reached that, while the issues are important, Advocacy Committee is not the appropriate host for such a discussion.

Another topic considered was Advocacy's role in communicating the NELAP decision not to adopt or implement the 2016 TNI Standard. Jerry noted that this announcement would be made during the Monday morning session. NOTE: the NELAP AC will also be available to discuss this topic during its Wednesday morning session.

Steve asked about a follow-up meeting with the EPA drinking water program representatives, to discuss how to use the list of items that the EPA evaluators look for during evaluations that are not part of the TNI standard, and whether (and how) that information can be used to harmonize the TNI standard with the needs of the drinking water program. A new meeting was set up for Tuesday lunchtime to accomplish this, with Advocacy, the NELAP AC representatives and the LAB Expert Committee. NOTE: The NELAP AC already has confirmed a separate meeting with the drinking water representatives to discuss the certification officer training, which topic grew out of Advocacy's meeting in California with the drinking water program. That meeting will be restricted to regulatory agencies, so not suitable for the Advocacy discussion.

#### 4. Updates

Jerry noted that TNI had sent formal comments to **Alaska** about two items from its proposed rulemaking – that TNI will soon recognize NGABs to accredit to the TNI standard, so those ABs will be available in addition to the NELAP ABs, and also that there is an additional PT provider accreditor that should be included when AK specifies which PTs it will accept, not just A2LA.

Devon noted that **Nevada** has its NELAP audit coming up soon. Lee reported that there's nothing new from **Washington State**. Paul advised that **Wisconsin** DNR needs more assessors and that the industry is pushing them to begin using third party assessors.

Marlene stated that NEFAP has some new videos about NEFAP accreditation and why it's a good idea. The executive committee is deciding how best to display those on the TNI website. She also noted that there are only about twelve organizations currently accredited, but that many have held off, waiting for Oregon to become a NEFAP AB. We advised her that ORELAP is going to need time to rebuild its program with the loss of the two primary staff in OR's health department, so that may affect the NEFAP in unexpected ways. NOTE: Scott Hoatson of OR DEQ is the interim manager of ORELAP.

#### 5. Replacing the AB Member

With Gary Ward's retirement from OR, a new AB representative is needed for this committee. Steve has approached Celeste Crowley of Illinois about joining Advocacy, but does not have a definite response, yet.

## 6. Next meeting

The next teleconference meeting of the Advocacy Committee will be on Thursday, March 2, 2017, at 12 Noon Central time.

Advocacy will meet twice at conference:

- Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> lunchtime meeting with EPA drinking water program representatives plus NELAP AC and LAB Expert Committee members (invitation only, not on the program)
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>, 1-4 pm local time, full committee session.

### Attachment 1

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Stakeholder Group</b>	<b>Present/Absent</b>
1.	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Present
2.	Steve Arms	Other	Present
3.	Lynn Bradley	Other	Present
4.	Stephanie Drier	Lab	Absent
5.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Present
6.	Stacie Metzler	Lab	Present
7.	Zonetta English	Lab	Absent
8.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Present
9.	Elizabeth Turner	Small Lab Advocate	Absent
<del>10.</del>	<del>Gary Ward</del>	<del>AB</del>	<del>Absent</del>
11.	Janice Willey	Federal	Present
12.	Trinity O'Neal	Lab	Absent
13.	Robin Cook	Lab	Present
14.	Sharon Mertens	Lab	Present
	<b>Associate Members</b>		
	Kirstin Daigle	Lab	Absent
	Judy Morgan	Lab	Absent
	Aurora Shields	Lab	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Judy Duncan	Other	Absent
	Kenneth Jackson	Other	Absent
	Keith Chapman	Other	Present
	Teresa Coins	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Andrea Teal	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Devon Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Bob Pullano	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Lee Wolf	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Present
	<b>Staff</b>		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Absent

Attachment 2

Regional Meetings

Event	Date	TNI Speaker
AIHA, Falls Church, Virginia Contact: Cheryl Morton	March 17, 2016	Marlene Moore
Texas Water, Fort Worth, Texas Contact: Elizabeth Turner	April 22, 2016	Jerry Parr and Carol Batterton
Kansas Laboratory Education Association, Manhattan, Kansas Contact:	May 3, 2016	Robin Cook
TCEQ Trade Fair, Austin, Texas Contact:	May 3-4, 2016	Jerry Parr
Oregon Environmental Laboratory Association, Salem, Oregon Contact:	May 11, 2016	Jerry Parr
Michigan WEA Lab Practices Seminar, East Lansing Michigan Contact:	May 18, 2016	Monitor for possible participation next year
Florida Society of Environmental Analysts, Sand Key, Florida Contact: Suzanne R.?	May 25-27, 2016	Steve Arms
NYAAEL/PaAAEL 2015 Environmental Laboratory Convention, State College, PA Contact:	July 17-19, 2016	Martina McGarvey
VA AWWA/VWEA Lab Practices Conference, Charlottesville, VA Contact: Peter DeLisle	July 25-26, 2016	Stacie Metzler
Georgia Association of Water Professionals (WEF MA) Contact: Jeff Fulton	Fall Meeting	Monitor/contact
ASDWA, Milwaukee, WI	October 17-20, 2016	Exhibit
Quality meeting? Athens, GA	October 22, 2016	Jerry Parr
FSEA	October 26-28	Jerry Parr, workshop
Laboratory Section of ORWEF School Contact: Kristin Thomas and Chuck Lytle	March 2017	Monitor/contact