

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
February 5, 2009

1. Call to order

Judy Duncan called the meeting to order at 12 Noon CST. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes from the 12-4-08 meeting were reviewed and approved for posting on the TNI website. Minutes from the 1-23-09 meeting were reviewed and approved with corrections from Carl Craig and numbering changes.

3. Update from Small lab Advocate

Len Schantz reported that 4 individuals at the Miami meeting had approached him and indicated interest in the small lab focus group. However, none of these individuals was from a small lab. He also sent out emails targeted at small labs from Judy Morgan's survey. He received 10 responses from this email representing a good cross-section of labs. He will try to set up a call with these labs later in the month.

The committee also discussed the importance of reaching out to the small lab community during any TNI presentation. It was agreed that TNI should develop a one page handout that anyone could use as a "leave behind" when doing presentations. The handout would be targeted to small labs and explain TNI efforts and benefits of participation. Judy Duncan will call Brooke Connor to see about developing the handout.

TNI could use the handout to solicit input from small labs on the following:

- Issues identified in Judy Morgan's survey: PT frequency, SW 846
- DMRQA
- How does DW certification compare to TNI standards?
- What are the training issues?
- What can TNI do to assist small labs?

The committee also considered ways to get on the agendas of regional water and wastewater organization meetings to promote small lab advocate efforts. Carol will contact WEF to get a list of WEF member association meetings. Jerry already has a list of most regional lab associations. Jerry will assist Len with setting up his conference call.

4. Newsletter

Pat Conlon reminded everyone that newsletter articles are due on February 16. Publication is estimated to be March 3. Editor for the next edition is Ken Jackson. Due date for articles is June 16 and publication target is June 30. Carl Craig will be editor of the following edition. Sept. 22 will be due date for articles and Oct. 6 will be target publication date.

5. Outreach to EPA RS&T Directors

Deb Szaro, EPA RS&T Director for Region 2, has invited Jerry Parr and Judy Duncan to be on a conference call with other RS&T directors in March. Deb will give Jerry and Judy a list of issues to discuss ahead of time. We will follow up with Regional labs and evaluators as needed.

6. Support to States with Budget Issues

Jerry Parr reported that Matt Sica had resigned from the PT Board and the NEMC Board due to budget issues in his state and demands on his time. Some states are getting pretty discouraged with the current budgetary situation. Since most states are obligated to do the DW certification program, it was suggested that there may be resources available from the EPA OW to assist states. It may also be possible to get language related to maintenance of the lab accreditation program in grant guidance.

We should try to get the message to state agency leadership that NELAP accreditation has value for their regulatory programs. Jerry will work on setting up a call with Greg Carroll and Deb Szaro to discuss. There should be an AB on the call (perhaps Oregon).

We should also consider approaching the FEM and asking them to express support for state laboratory accreditation programs.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be March 5, 2009, at 12 Noon CST.

Attachment 1

#	LastName	FirstName	Stakeholder Group	Present	Term
1	Autry	Lara	Other	y	1
2	Coats	Kevin	Other	N	2
3	Conlon	Pat	Other	Y	3
4	Craig	Carl	Other	Y	2
6	Moore	Marlene	Other	Y	1
7	Duncan	Judy	AB	Y	1
8	Jackson	Kenneth	AB	Y	2
9	Shields	Aurora	AB	Y	3
10	Wyatt	Susan	AB	N	1
11	Eaton	Andy	Lab	N	1
12	English	Zonetta	Lab	N	2
13	Perry	Michael	Lab	Y	3
14	Pletl	Jim	Lab	N	1
15	Ward	Gary	Lab	Y	2
16	Wichman	Michael	Lab	N	3
17	Schantz	Leonard	Small Lab Advocate	Y	
18	Parr	Jerry	ED	Y	
19	Batterton	Carol	PA	Y	
			ASSOCIATE MEMBERS		
	McCracken	Kirstin	Lab	N	
	Morgan	Judy	Lab	Y	