

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
February 2, 2011

1. Call to order

Judy Duncan called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm EST on February 2, 2011 in Savannah, GA. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1. In addition to committee members, Martina McGarvey and Kathryn Wangsness representing APHL participated in the meeting. Also, Dr. Megan Latshaw of APHL joined by conference call.

2. Discussion with APHL regarding an acceptable approach for accrediting state primacy labs

Judy Duncan gave some background on her conversations with State Primacy labs and how they have been historically underrepresented in TNI. Ken Jackson then gave an overview of TNI's new cooperative agreement which includes the following activities directed at supporting the laboratory accreditation needs of state primacy laboratories by:

Developing an acceptable approach for accreditation of primacy laboratories in the TNI system.

Creating specifications for accreditation of primacy labs and/or assistance to those seeking accreditation.

Providing training for laboratory staff on how to manage their NELAP accreditation.

Following Ken's overview, Martina McGarvey gave an explanation of APHL and their needs with respect to laboratory accreditation. An outline of Ms. McGarvey's remarks is included as a separate document. Ms. McGarvey particularly noted that APHL and TNI have very similar mission statements. Ms. Wangsness also noted that there is much variability in state lab accreditations and how states primacy labs participate in TNI and NELAP. She reviewed the perceived impediments noted on attachment document, but stated that APHL would like to pursue the following goal with TNI: A national environmental laboratory accreditation program that encompasses the state and local laboratories and provides a mechanism for accreditation to the state and local laboratories for other programs as needed.

Ms. McGarvey and Ms. Wangsness also noted that they saw TNI pursuing some exciting initiatives including the quality manual template, and educational delivery systems. There may be opportunities to share and collaborate.

Judy Duncan stated that TNI should continue to have dialogue with APHL on these topics. Judy asked that members of the Advocacy Committee contact her or

Carol Batterton if they wished to be a part of a subcommittee to work with APHL. Ken Jackson will chair this effort for TNI.

3. Review of Advocacy Objectives for 2011

Materials: Judy Duncan indicated that the Advocacy Committee will be reviewing TNI outreach materials and updating brochures. We currently have a general brochure, a CSD brochure, NELAP and PT to review and update. Others may be identified.

Comments and suggestions about needs for additional advocacy included:

- TNI needs a presence at more meetings like the ASDWA meeting
- TAC went over the list of regional meetings and is planning to ask for one day at each meeting to do training.
- TNI should exhibit at the APHL meeting
- The EPA memo about requiring NELAP accreditation for labs used in EPA contracts is about ready to go out.
- USGS contracts don't require an accredited lab, just an "approved" lab.

Judy stated that we need to evaluate whether we should meet with EPA program offices and develop a plan. It was agreed that this was not urgent. We are making progress. We do need to follow up with the Pb program in NEFAP.

Trade Associations: Zonetta English is continuing to pursue a joint meeting with representatives of AWWA, WEF, and NACWA to define any lingering concerns with the TNI standards and accreditation. Carol will work with Zonetta on this.

Other comments:

- The Obama administration is encouraging initiatives for new technologies in water monitoring. We should look into this.
- We should think again about focusing on lab accreditation for small water and wastewater utilities.
- Small lab handbook may address some of the small lab issues.

5. Newsletter

There was not time to discuss the newsletter. Judy Duncan asked Carol to poll members for an additional meeting time in February to make newsletter assignments and discuss follow up with APHL.

7. Next meeting

The next regular meeting will be March 3, 2011, at 12 noon CST.

A special meeting is scheduled for Feb. 22, 2011 at 1:30 CST.

Attachment 1

#	LastName	FirstName	Stakeholder Group	Present	Term
1	Autry	Lara	Other	Y	1
2	Coats	Kevin	Other	N	2
6	Bradley	Lynn	Other	Y	1
7	Duncan	Judy	AB	Y	1
8	Jackson	Kenneth	Other	Y	2
9	Shields	Aurora	Lab	Y	3
10	Wyatt	Susan	AB	N	1
12	English	Zonetta	Lab	Y	2
13	Perry	Michael	Lab	N	3
14	Hogg	Paula	Lab	N	1
15	Ward	Gary	Lab	Y	2
16	Wichman	Michael	Lab	Y	3
17	Keith	Chapman	Small Lab Advocate	N	
18	Parr	Jerry	ED	Y	
19	Batterton	Carol	PA	Y	
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS					
	McCracken	Kirstin	Lab	N	
	Morgan	Judy	Lab	N	
	Steve	Arms	AB	N	