

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
February 6, 2014

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12 Noon CST, February 6, 2014. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes of the January 9, January 29 and January 30, 2014, meetings were reviewed, once a quorum of members arrived. Lara Phelps moved approval of all three sets, and Zonetta English seconded. All present voted in favor.

3. Newsletter Assignments

TNI Newsletter Assignments Due February 28 to Stephanie Drier, issue editor <stephanie.drier@state.mn.us> Publication date – March 15		
California Withdrawal from NELAP	Jerry/Lynn	Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org Lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org
SSAS	Maria Friedman	maria.friedman@testamericainc.com
Helium shortage -- ELAB letter to FEM and status of issue	Dave Speis	dspeis@qclaboratories.com
LAMS	Dan Hickman	Danthrax33@msn.com
NELAP update	Lynn Bradley	Lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org
Standards Development – 2015	Ken Jackson	Ken.jackson@nelac-institute.org
Committee vacancies and committee training webinar	Jerry	Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org
Board election	Steve Arms	steve.arms@flhealth.gov
TNI Webcasts available	Ilona Taunton	Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org
Member spotlight – Steve Arpe	Stephanie Drier	stephanie.drier@state.mn.us
SLAG Survey	Elizabeth Turner	eturner@ntmwd.com
What happened in Louisville	Jerry	Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org
Preliminary teaser on NEMC	Lara/Jerry	Phelps.lara@epa.gov Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org
Turning the corner to fiscal self-	Jerry	Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org

sufficiency – new fee structure		
Planning for the future effort	Carol	carbat@beecreek.net

4. SLAG Survey

Elizabeth Turner, TNI Small Laboratory Advocate, discussed the survey underway by the Small Lab Advocacy Group. The survey is for all labs, all sizes, both accredited and not accredited, about the awareness of TNI resources available to labs. From the first 2 weeks, 72 labs responded and half of those were unaware of TNI’s Small Laboratory Handbook, even though most of the respondents are NELAP-accredited.

The committee asked if Elizabeth could add a question about what is the best way to communicate with labs, and she agreed to do this. The survey will be noted in the News Feed on the TNI web site to encourage participation.

5. Future of Environmental Accreditation – More Planning

Steve summarized the conceptual plan as developed at the January 30 session in Louisville, and noted that we need to identify appropriate questions for the different groups to respond to.

One suggestion was that we need to ask why are they not participating in NELAP. Other suggestions were:

Do you believe in the concept of a national environmental accreditation program?

Do you interact with other certification programs?

What are the benefits of certification or accreditation? Do you see benefits of NELAP above the state by state programs?

Do you recognize other certifications/accreditations?

Do you use any parts of the TNI standard in your non-NELAP program?

The Accreditation Body Database (<http://www.nelac-institute.org/abdb.php>) is the starting point for identifying state contacts, and to ask if there is anyone else in the state we should speak with. The state calls are slated for March, so that an introductory letter should go out in February.

Steve asked the committee members to send their ideas about issues to discuss directly to him at <steve.arms@flhealth.gov> and noted that he wanted to talk with the committee staff soon about how to proceed.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting will be in Louisville, KY. We will decide in Louisville the date/time for the February meeting. See Attachment 2 for pending items.

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Present
2.	Steve Arms	AB	Present
3.	Lynn Bradley	Other	Present
4.	Stephanie Drier	AB	Absent
5.	Judy Duncan	Other	Absent
6.	Kenneth Jackson	Other	Absent
7.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Present
8.	Zonetta English	Lab	Present
9.	Paula Hogg	Lab	Present
10.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Absent
11.	Elizabeth Turner	Small Lab Advocate	Present
12.	Gary Ward	AB	Absent
13.	Michael Wichman	Lab	Present
14.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
	Associate Members		
	Kirstin Daigle	Lab	Absent
	Judy Morgan	Lab	Absent
	Aurora Shields	Lab	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Keith Chapman	Other	Absent
	Karna Holquist	AB	Present
	Sharon Mertens	TNI Board Chair	Present
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Absent

Attachment 2

Item	Status	Assigned to	Due Date
Small Lab Position Paper	Approved by TNI Board	Carol	
Prioritize future position papers	Agenda for next meeting	Committee	
PT position paper	Pending with Advocacy Comm.		
QS position paper	Pending		
FEM/ELAB response letter	Proposal for state/regional workshop approved by TNI Board. Will be discussed in Louisville	Carol, Jerry and Committee	Louisville meeting
Good practices handbook: Assign chapters for review/revision	Agenda for next meeting	Committee	
Follow up on Benefits Panel, webinars? Newsletter articles?	Newsletter article assigned	Committee	
Small Lab Handbook revisions	In progress	Carol	
Newsletter assignments	Sent to editor 2/10	Stephanie Drier, ed.	2/28/14