

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting  
April 1, 2010

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 3-4-10 meeting were reviewed and approved for posting. Jerry Parr indicated that he had received no additional comments on the document "Support for National Accreditation" as revised after the last meeting, so he considered it to be final.

3. Outreach to non-NELAP states

Jerry met with representatives of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Maine following the new standards workshop in Boston. There was no one at the workshop from Connecticut or Vermont.

Maine reported that they were adopting new lab accreditation rules which would essentially put the state in compliance with the 2003 NELAC standards. They expect to apply to be an accreditation body in about two years.

A big concern of non-NELAP states continues to be the sovereignty issue. There is still a feeling that EPA needs to be in charge of lab accreditation. Some states think they cannot be subject to another state or a private organization. Jerry suggested that TNI needs to identify examples where this arrangement has worked. Ideas presented included the state crime labs and weights and measures.

Jerry stated that TNI needs to continue to reach out to more non-NELAP states. Additional workshops will be conducted in Seattle, Las Vegas, and Texas.

4. Review of stakeholder issues

Issues identified by stakeholders during meetings with selected organizations in 2007 were reviewed. Judy suggested that it was time to re-visit these groups and give them an update on the progress TNI has made to address the issues. Judy asked Carol Batterton to review the list and identify the issues that have been addressed. Next steps will include drafting a status report letter to the organizations and offering them the opportunity to visit during the TNI meeting in Washington, DC, in August.

Paula Hogg noted that the current issue of Laboratory Solutions published by WEF included an article about TNI's Small Lab Advisory Group (SLAG). WEF also has a technical Q&A discussion board which says a lot about what small labs are thinking about TNI. Some of the questions have a negative tone, but the answers are usually in a more positive vein. Some of the negative comments may be coming from small utility labs where operators are responsible for the lab testing. TNI may want to consider a guide that is directed only at small utility labs with limited analyses. Jerry indicated that TNI will join WEF so that we can have input on these discussions.

#### 5. Speech by EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson

Jerry provided the committee with a link to a recent speech by EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa/dwstrategy.html>. The speech outlined priorities for the drinking water program. Jerry asked the committee to consider what impact these priorities might have on the laboratory community. It was suggested that Greg Carroll might have some insight.

It was also noted that there is a national DW federal advisory committee. TNI should try to get involved with this or at least with some of the subcommittees. Jerry will contact EPA to see if they need people on the subcommittees with lab expertise.

#### 6. Status of the newsletter

Judy Duncan indicated that the newsletter was well on the way, but she needed to follow up with Marlene Moore, Brooke Connor and Richard Burrows on their articles. Jerry will share a draft of the newsletter next week.

The next newsletter articles will be due June 1 for publication July 1. Aurora shields will be the editor and the focus will be the Summer meeting. Articles will be discussed at the May Advocacy meeting.

#### 7. Other

Judy reported that Dave Speis had requested that TNI provide a speaker at the NEMC portion of the DC meeting to talk about EPA-TNI relationships. Jerry will contact Brenda Bettencourt to see if she will do this.

#### 8. Next meeting

The next meeting will be April 1, 2010, at 12 Noon CDT. The agenda will include:

Status of stakeholder issues  
Articles for next newsletter

## Attachment 1

#	LastName	FirstName	Stakeholder Group	Present	Term
1	Autry	Lara	Other	N	1
2	Coats	Kevin	Other	N	2
3	Conlon	Pat	Other	Y	3
6	Bradley	Lynn	Other	Y	1
7	Duncan	Judy	AB	Y	1
8	Jackson	Kenneth	Other	N	2
9	Shields	Aurora	Lab	Y	3
10	Wyatt	Susan	AB	Y	1
11	Eaton	Andy	Lab	Y	1
12	English	Zonetta	Lab	N	2
13	Perry	Michael	Lab	N	3
14	Hogg	Paula	Lab	Y	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	Y	
	Morgan	Judy	Lab	N	