

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
April 6, 2017

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon CST, April 6, 2017. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes from March were reviewed. Lynn Bradley moved approval and Robin Cook seconded. All present voted in favor.

3. NELAP Accreditation Council Meeting update

Lynn and Steve gave an update from the discussion at the NELAP AC meeting on Monday regarding the efforts to coordinate evaluation of the accreditation bodies for NELAP and Drinking Water. This discussion was the result of a meeting with EPA DW officials in Houston and direction given to the Advocacy committee in TNI's strategic plan. Lynn and Steve reported that Donna Ringel, EPA ex officio member of the NELAP AC, had provided to the AC a list of EPA's essential elements that need to be covered in a DW primacy evaluation of an AB. The NELAP AC discussed this matter at least twice and concluded that it did not see these elements as something they could include in a NELAP AB evaluation. Several were concerned about how to do findings especially if the requirements were only in the DW certification manual and not in regulation. There was also concern that not all regions would participate. Steve emphasized that everyone thought it was a good idea to coordinate in principle, but it is not feasible at this time. Lynn reported that Aaren Alger, chair of the AC, tabled this issue indefinitely with the note that if at some future date all EPA regions agreed to participate, they will reconsider.

All members of the AC agreed that having EPA's list of essential elements for DW ABs was a useful tool and something they could all use to be consistent. It was agreed that no further action on this specific directive from the TNI strategic plan was needed at this time although we should continue to have regular meetings with the EPA DW staff. In a related matter, it was noted that when Advocacy prepares the next progress report for the FEM (Fall 2017), we should send a copy to EPA's Regional RS&T Directors.

4. Newsletter

Jerry noted that all articles for the newsletter have been forwarded to Jan and the newsletter will be out shortly.

5. California update

Jerry reported that he had a discussion with Christine Sotelo about what TNI could do to help provide clarifications and guidance that California stakeholders had requested for

their new program. By clarifying language, the stakeholders are looking for an explanation of what the requirement means, and how to implement. Apparently, if the state program provides the clarification and guidance, it will greatly complicate and delay their rulemaking process. Committee members made the following comments and suggestions:

- Some of the needed clarification may already be available in SIRs and other guidance that TNI has prepared like the small lab handbook.
- We could consolidate the guidance we already have to address the needs of California stakeholders. Do we make this a document or a webinar?
- One issue is that small labs in CA have said they will need to hire a quality manager at a cost of \$150,000 per year. This makes the CA rule a “major” rule and will trigger extra requirements for finalizing the rule. TNI needs to demonstrate that no additional staff are necessary. There may be start up costs, but labs should already have most elements in place and continuing costs will be minimal.

Jerry will consider these ideas and formulate next steps.

6. FL DEP rulemaking

This item was postponed for discussion in May.

7. Charter

Members reviewed the current draft of the Advocacy Committee charter. It was noted that there was no specific language indicating that the charter applied to Advocacy efforts in all of TNI’s programs. Members agreed that we need to specifically mention NEFAP and FSMOs. Members also agreed that it was acceptable to leave the Success Measures unquantified and include more quantification of activities in the work plan. Carol will revise the charter and circulate for comments before the next meeting.

7. Next meeting

The next teleconference meeting of the Advocacy Committee will be on Thursday, May 4, 2017, at 12 Noon Central time. The handbook project will be on the agenda.

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
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	Present

8.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Present
9.	Elizabeth Turner	Small Lab Advocate	Absent
10.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
11.	Trinity O'Neal	Lab	Present
12.	Robin Cook	Lab	Present
13.	Sharon Mertens	Lab	Absent
	Associate Members		
	Kirstin Daigle	Lab	Present
	Judy Morgan	Lab	Absent
	Aurora Shields	Lab	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Celeste Crowley	AB	Present
	Kenneth Jackson	Other	Absent
	Keith Chapman	Other	Absent
	Teresa Coins	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Andrea Teal	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Devon Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Bob Pullano	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Lee Wolf	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present