

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
June 4, 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 5-7-09 meeting were reviewed and approved for posting on the TNI website.

3. Small Lab Advocate Update

Len Schantz reported that membership of the Small Lab Advocacy Group (SLAG) was growing and is now up to about 40. At the last SLAG call, the group discussed demonstration of capability (DOC) and ongoing DOC. The discussion focused around requirements and issues for small labs. He is also focusing on identifying training needs and possible changes needed to the standards.

The group has set up a bulletin board for ongoing discussion. Len is thinking about dedicating part of the bulletin board to small lab success stories. Jerry Parr arranged for Jan Wlordarski to provide administrative support to the SLAG.

Susan Wyatt offered to provide Len with examples of small labs that have successfully implemented the NELAC standards. Len is working on a way to capture ideas and opinions from small labs in a way that will be useful to the standards development and implementation process.

4. Judy Morgan's Survey

At the last call, the committee agreed to review comments associated with Judy Morgan's survey in order to find out if the comments revealed any action items for the Advocacy Committee. Judy provided the group with the individual comments along with some statistical analysis of the responses.

Judy Morgan indicated that one of the things she saw in the comments was a need for TNI to be more clear about what the organization does and what EPA's involvement is. Judy indicated that her analysis showed that there was not any statistical difference in lab response when analyzed by size.

Judy Duncan suggested that everyone take more time to review the comments and consider the original problems that national lab accreditation was created to solve. Then consider what else needs to be done according to survey responses.

We should also evaluate the comments to see what the recurring themes are. Continued analysis of the survey will be on the next agenda.

5. June newsletter

Ken Jackson is editor for the June newsletter. Articles are due June 16. Estimated publication date is June 30. Articles and assignments are below:

TNI NEWSLETTER 2009 -2				
Featured Topics	Assigned to	Email	Due Date for Draft	Status
Training topics: regs and monitoring, data qualifiers, metals spec.	Jerry Parr	jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org	June 16	
Mentoring topics: Method mod. New standards	D. Caldwell Jerry Parr	david.caldwell@deq.ok.gov jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org	June 16	
Assessment Forum topics	Jack Farrell	aex@ix.netcom.com	June 16	
Member Profile (K. Ryder)	Kirstin McCracken	kmccracken@stl-inc.com	June 16	
Details for summer meeting	Jerry and Carol	jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org carbat@beecreek.nuiet	June 16	
Status of new standards	Ken Jackson	kenjksn@yahoo.com	June 16	
SLAG Update	Len Schantz	lgs@cityofrochester.gov	June 16	
Summary of NEMC meeting	Ilona and Lara Autry	tauntoni@msn.com autry.lara@epa.gov	June 16	
Req'ments for Bd. Members	Aurora Shields	ashields@ci.lawrence.ks.us	June 16	
Sidebar Topics	Assigned to	Email	Due Date for Draft	Status
New Board and officers	Jerry Parr	jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org	June 16	
Thursday night boat ride to art museum	Jerry Parr	jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org	June 16	
OW memo	Jerry?			

6. Program for San Antonio

Carol Batterton reviewed the TNI meeting schedule for San Antonio. She indicated that there would not be a separate Advocacy Committee meeting, but that the Advocacy Committee would give an update on advocacy efforts in the NELAP portion of the program (Building the Program).

5. MOU's with EPA

Jerry Parr had provided the committee with some background emails and a sample draft MOU and agreement for consideration in formalizing TNI and EPA's relationship. The purpose of the MOU would be to try to dispel concerns that EPA is not involved with TNI.

Judy Duncan commented that she liked the MOU format better, but liked some of the bullets in the agreement format. In the last bullet, second paragraph of the agreement format, Len suggested adding "utility operators" to the list of professions.

In 2.2 of the MOU format, we need to emphasize expansion into other EPA programs. It was also suggested that section 3.3 of the MOU be modified to say "public and private" laboratory community. The committee agreed to postpone further discussion of the MOU until Jerry and Lara Autry could be on the call.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting will be July 2, 2009, at 12 Noon CDT. The agenda will include discussion of the EPA MOU and the survey comments.

Attachment 1

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