

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
July 1, 2010

1. Call to order

Judy Duncan called the meeting to order at 12 Noon CDT. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

There was not a quorum, so approval of the May and June minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

3. Member resignation

Andy Eaton has resigned from the committee due to workload issues. Judy Duncan suggested that the committee defer action on this until we can get an update on new applications. She also suggested that the DC meeting would be a good opportunity to solicit new members.

4. Update from strategic planning meeting

Judy Duncan reviewed the draft Strategy 2: Increase Participation as revised at the TNI Board strategic planning meeting. Key points included:

- TNI does not have much to offer non-NELAP states using the TNI standards. Advocacy needs to develop information that characterizes assimilation of our standards into these programs in accreditation, quality systems and PT.
- Advocacy needs to begin targeting data users in outreach programs.
- Advocacy needs to work on a strategy for federal legislation to mandate accreditation.

These new goals will be addressed in detail after the DC meeting when the final revised core strategies are published.

5. Status of outreach to trade groups

Judy reported that letters of invitation had been sent to WEF, NACWA, and AWWA inviting them to attend the Advocacy lunch on August 11 at the DC meeting. So far, we have received a RSVP from NACWA. In preparation for the

meeting, a draft presentation was reviewed. Comments on the draft presentation included:

- On slide #4, add the workshop numbers, completed and planned.
- On slide #5, add “SLAG presented 2 nominations for the TNI Board of Directors”
- List TNI Board members and affiliations at the end
- On slide #6, state that “EPA’s attorneys have determined that oversight is not possible” Cannot have oversight, but participation is possible: Liaison to TNI Board and NELAP Accreditation Council.
- Add a slide on the NEFAP program (Jerry will do)
- Add a cost benefit statement. Can use a summary slide from Judy Morgan’s presentation, benefits beyond cost.
- Add a slide on PT frequency. Formed a subcommittee to evaluate, considered alternatives, membership chose to stay with 2 PTs.

In addition to the slides, the “Benefits of Lab Accreditation” paper could be a handout.

6. Agenda for Advocacy meeting in DC

Judy proposed the following agenda for the Advocacy meeting on August 11 at 12 noon at the DC meeting:

Introductions

Briefing for trade groups

Discussion of new areas of concentration from the strategic planning meeting

New members for Advocacy committee

Newsletter editors for coming year

There was a suggestion that the Advocacy committee should also meet with state environmental labs. Judy proposed that this be a separate side bar meeting or perhaps be postponed until Savannah. Michael Wichman will get with his APHL committee and determine the best time for the meeting and the issues that need to be discussed.

It was also suggested that Elizabeth Turner should be invited to attend the Advocacy committee meeting, as well as someone from the EPA Office of Water.

7. ASDWA call for papers

The committee reviewed ASDWA call for papers for their annual meeting. In lieu of submitting an abstract, the committee concluded that it would be better for TNI to exhibit as a way of marketing to data users. We could also present NEFAP materials. The exhibit fee is \$1200.

It was also suggested that TNI have a booth at the DC meeting. We could staff the booth with volunteers at breaks and receptions. We will need to re-print TNI materials and develop a NELAP brochure. We have plenty of NEFAP and SLA materials.

8. Update on Regional meetings

Jerry Parr presented an overview of regional meetings on the new standard that have been conducted to date, along with the upcoming schedule. He asked for input on whether a workshop was need in the Cincinnati or Knoxville area as well as the Carolinas. He will put Knoxville and Cincinnati on the tentative list.

9. Outreach to non-NELAP states

Judy Duncan stated that the committee needed to gather some information about what these states are doing with lab accreditation. Jerry suggested that Judy Morgan probably has this information and could share it with the group.

8. Next meeting

There will be no conference call on August 5. The next meeting will be August 11, 2010, at 12 Noon EDT in Washington, DC. See above for agenda.

Attachment 1

#	LastName	FirstName	Stakeholder Group	Present	Term
1	Autry	Lara	Other	Y	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	N	1
11					
12	English	Zonetta	Lab	Y	2
13	Perry	Michael	Lab	N	3
14	Hogg	Paula	Lab	N	1
15	Ward	Gary	Lab	N	2

16	Wichman	Michael	Lab	Y	3
17	Keith	Chapman	Small Lab Advocate	Y	
18	Parr	Jerry	ED	Y	
19	Batterton	Carol	PA	Y	
			ASSOCIATE MEMBERS		
	McCracken	Kirstin	Lab	N	
	Morgan	Judy	Lab	N	
	Steve	Arms	AB	Y	