

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
September 2, 2010

1. Call to order

Judy Duncan was on vacation and Aurora Shields called the meeting to order at 12 Noon CDT. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve minutes for May, June and July. All present voted in favor.

3. Pat Conlon

Jerry Parr announced that Advocacy Committee member Pat Conlon had passed away last week while on a business trip in Houston. Jerry has prepared an article about Pat which will be published in the next newsletter.

4. Update on meeting with stakeholder groups

Carol reviewed a summary of the Advocacy meeting with WEF, NACWA, and AWWA at the summer meeting. The following representatives of stakeholder groups were present: Chris Hornback from NACWA, Carl Myers and Dorn Sanders from WEF, and Steve Via from AWWA.

Judy Duncan gave a presentation on TNI accomplishments and steps taken to address utility lab concerns about lab accreditation.

NACWA noted that TNI has done a lot of work and NACWA is willing to continue to talk.

WEF solicited TNI volunteers to assist with training review and development and indicated a willingness to work together on training and education issues. They also suggested that we meet with Office of Wastewater Management at EPA.

The AWWA representative made the following comments: AWWA stated that NELAC accreditation still involves too much paperwork. Drinking water is more in danger today than ever before as a result of NELAC. DW labs need a system that doesn't detract from their primary mission of protecting public health. DW labs that have NELAP accreditation will say it is beneficial because they don't want to admit that the last three years of effort have been a waste of time. Why is NELAP better than DW certification?

Greg Carroll answered these concerns by saying: DW analysts are clearer now about what needs to be done. The focus has shifted to quality systems. There is a big misconception about how big NELAP accreditation really is. TNI should concentrate on promoting information that is available to assist small labs.

AWWA also stated that the drinking water certification program has been on the books for years, it works and we shouldn't penalize the DW labs by placing more requirements on them.

Several representatives of DW utility labs were present and stated that they thought NELAP accreditation has been beneficial for their labs. Elizabeth Turner and others will engage AWWA and WEF Lab Practices Committees to try to find out if there are any additional issues. Jerry will follow up with Elizabeth for details on this. Elizabeth will be added to the Advocacy membership list.

In addition, Zonetta English will sponsor a summit at her facility to try to capture what additional concerns that water and wastewater utility labs still have about NELAP accreditation. TNI members will be a resource for this meeting, but TNI will not be a sponsor. Zonetta is proposing that this meeting take place in early November. Keith Chapman and Jerry Parr volunteered to email state utility lab contact names to Zonetta.

5. Briefing for EPA Regional staff

Judy Duncan chaired this meeting and provided an overview of TNI accomplishments and future plans. The following were present at the meeting: Brenda Bettencourt, Judy Morgan, Lynn Bradley, Ann Jeffries, Kevin Kubik, Art Clark, Elizabeth Turner, Paula Hogg, Ray Flores, Ken Hendrix, 4 people from Region 4, and Greg Carroll.

Questions and comments from attendees included:

- What if a Region, EPA headquarters or other party has a complaint about a lab? Who do they go to? Answer: Go to the primary AB first.
- Extra requirements are being imposed by some ABs. How does a lab deal with this AB? If the lab goes to the AB, they won't change. Answer: TNI needs to make sure that ABs make it clear in the pre-assessment interview how to escalate a complaint. The AB needs to explain the chain of command.

Judy concluded the meeting with a plea for more EPA people to join committees. She specifically mentioned were Proficiency Testing, Quality Systems, and Technical Assistance.

As a follow up to this meeting, Jerry Parr and Steve Arms will go to the EPA RS&T directors meeting in Florida and answer questions there. Jerry also reminded the committee that a response is due to Mike Shapiro at EPA. Carol

Batterton and Aaren Alger will draft that response. Jerry will email Lara to see if we need to be on the FEM agenda in the future.

6. Editors for upcoming newsletters

Judy asked for volunteers for the upcoming newsletters. The following committee members volunteered:

- Fall – Zonetta English
- Spring – Paula Hogg
- Summer – Lynn Bradley

It was noted that we may need an SOP for the newsletter.

7. Articles for fall newsletter

Zonetta will be the editor for the fall newsletter. Articles will be due November 1, 2010, with publication on November 15. The following articles were identified:

TNI NEWSLETTER 2010 -3				
Featured Topics	Assigned to	Email	Due Date for Draft	Status
Re-cap of DC meeting	Jerry and Lara	jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org	Nov. 1	
QM template and sm. lab handbook	Ilona	tauntoni@msn.com	Nov. 1	
Update on NEFAP	Marlene Moore	mmoore@advancedsys.com	Nov. 1	
New working draft standards for QS and PT	Silky Labie and Kirstin McCracken	kmccracken@stl-inc.com elcat-llc@comcast.net	Nov. 1	
MN as new AB	Jerry Parr	jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org	Nov. 1	
Savannah meeting	Jerry Parr	jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org	Nov. 1	
AB task force	Judy Duncan	judy.duncan@deq.ok.gov	Nov. 1	
Next round of evaluations	Lynn Bradley	LmbTbird@aol.com	Nov. 1	
Member profile Pat Conlon	Jerry Parr	jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org	Nov. 1	
WLA	EPA staff	Ken Jackson has contact info	Nov. 1	
Status of out of state accreditations	Carol/Judy	judy.duncan@deq.ok.gov carbat@beecreek.net	Nov. 1	

Implementation white paper	Jerry	jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org	Nov. 1	
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8. Update on Regional meetings

Jerry provided an update on the regional workshops on new standards. Aurora asked if the issues that were coming up are being captured and answered. Jerry wasn't aware of any from the recent KS workshop, but will contact Jack Farrell to confirm.

9. Outreach to ASDWA

Jerry reported that TNI will be an exhibitor at the ASDWA meeting in Pittsburg in October. Ken Jackson will staff the TNI booth.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting will be October 7, 2010, at 12 Noon EDT. The new TNI strategic plan will be discussed.

Attachment 1

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

