

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
October 7, 2010

1. Call to order

Judy Duncan called the meeting to order at 12 Noon CDT on October 7, 2010. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve minutes for September 2, 2010. All present voted in favor.

3. Report from APHL subcommittee

Judy Duncan reported that she had recently joined the APHL Subcommittee on State Environmental Laboratory Accreditation (SELA). This subcommittee is considering issues related to TNI accreditation and Judy invited Michael Wichman to give a report of the subcommittee's activities.

Michael reported that this subcommittee was established to deal with accreditation issues. Michael stated that state labs have to be certified by EPA for drinking water which is free, but if they want to be accredited for environmental analyses they have to pay for NELAP accreditation. There is also the issue of 2 PTs for NELAP accreditation and conflict of interest within some state programs.

Michael requested that a meeting be scheduled between TNI and the SELA to talk about a way that state labs could be accredited by TNI. The subcommittee wants to explore options for accreditation that would not require states to be accredited by other states. APHL is working on a position paper on this as well.

Judy agreed that a meeting would be a good idea. Judy suggested that two hours of the Advocacy meeting in Savannah be devoted to discussing this with APHL SELA members. Judy also suggested that the AB task force may be able to help find a solution as well.

4. TNI workplan for new cooperative agreement

Judy reviewed the workplan for the new cooperative agreement funding that TNI has received from EPA. Judy pointed out that this funding will allow TNI to move forward in a number of areas where we have identified needs. There is work for

the Advocacy Committee, but there are no immediate action items. Key elements include:

- Environmental measurement methods expert committee
- Developing a methods compendium and establishing a system for methods interpretation
- Developing the Handbook for Small Laboratories
- Establishing the educational delivery system
- Formalizing liaisons with other organizations
- Assessor uniformity training

5. Update on outreach to utility labs

Zonetta English reported on the status of her efforts to set up a utility lab summit to get additional information from utility labs about their concerns about lab accreditation. She reported that she had been contacted by Chris Hornback of NACWA about the possibility of a setting up a teleconference to continue discussion about utility labs needs and concerns. Also, AWWA representatives have stated that they are not opposed to a face to face meeting, but they want to wait until after their November meeting in Savannah to commit. Zonetta indicated that we still need more input from utility labs about their concerns before scheduling a meeting, so that the right people can be there and be involved in developing solutions.

6. Newsletter status

Zonetta will be the editor for the fall newsletter. Articles are due November 1, 2010, with publication on November 15.

In addition to the articles assigned at the last meeting, the committee determined that the following additional articles are needed for the fall newsletter:

- NELAP action on PTs – Carol and Jerry
- Cooperative agreement award – Ken Jackson
- Sidebar on the status of regional workshops: Jerry

7. Update on Regional meetings

Jerry provided the following update on attendance at the regional workshops on the new standards:

- St. Paul – 65-70
- Houston – 50
- San Antonio – 50

- Seattle – 30

The next workshops will be Baton Rouge on Nov. 23 and Chicago on Dec. 3.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting will be November 4, at 12 Noon EDT.

Attachment 1

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