

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
November 6, 2008

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

Minutes from the 10-2-08 meeting were reviewed and approved for posting on the TNI website.

3. Advocacy Committee task list

- Carol Batterton had developed and circulated an activities list for the Advocacy Committee pulled from the TNI strategic plan. Judy Duncan color coded the list as follows:
- **Yellow coded** items in Activities 2.3 and 2.4 have end of year deadlines and are related to identifying and setting priorities for outreach to stakeholder groups and working with EPA programs.
- **Green coded** items in Activity 2.4 are related to the Comparison of the DW manual and the TNI standard and follow-up with EPA OW and TNI Expert Committees. These items have deadlines in the first half of 2009.
Pink coded items in Activities 3.1 – 3.4 are all related to the white paper to support benefits. We have completed the benefits white paper and met deadlines. Next step will be to develop a task list for promoting benefits

Comments on items 2.3 and 2.4 included:

- The WEF Lab Practices Committee chair will be changing and TNI should meet with the new chair. We should probably wait until the PT frequency sub-committee has made a recommendation since PT frequency is an issue for this group.
- Kirstin McCracken reported that the PT frequency group is looking at technical arguments as well as economic arguments for one vs. two PTs. If the recommendation is to remain with two PTs then, we need to approach the argument from an economic standpoint. There are over 450 NELAP accredited utility labs currently doing 2 PTs. TNI could develop some example cost data for these labs. We should try to develop information that shows NELAP accreditation is not as hard or as expensive for utility labs as some think that it is.
- Aurora will circulate summaries of past meetings with other organizations, so that we can develop approaches that address the concerns they told us at previous meetings. Meetings with AWWA, WEF and NACWA will

take different paths because AWWA's concerns are different than WEF and NACWA.

- The project for comparison of the DW certification manual and the new TNI standards will be completed by January. This is an ELAB project. The outcome could be useful for outreach.
- We should do a better job of marketing the tools we have developed to help small support small labs and focus less on promoting accreditation.
- Len Schantz asked about how he should build his group of small labs for regular calls. The ABs can let small labs know. The consensus was that it is OK to start small and grow the group later.
- We should wait until the new administration is in place at EPA before we try to meet with them again. The priority within EPA needs to be the Regions.
- We should also reach out to other state programs that are not ABs. Something like the new AB training needs to be offered for state primacy labs and state environmental labs. We don't have a good list of state environmental labs. Jerry and Carol will work on this. We should also reach out to ASWA and ASIWPCA.
- Jerry will contact Deb Szaro to find out the best way to get more involved with EPA regional staff.
- WEF's journal is soliciting articles on lab issues for the September 2009 issue. Due date for abstracts is April 15, 2009.

4. Other

Judy will draft a letter to Mike Shapiro as discussed at the last meeting and send to Jerry and Carol for comment prior to distributing to the committee.

Jerry indicated that there were many developments with stack testing and that Marlene Moore and Ilona were handling these issues.

Members requested a debriefing on the AB recognition renewal process, possibly from the QAO.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting will be Dec. 4, 2008, at 12 Noon CST.

Attachment 1

#	LastName	FirstName	Stakeholder Group	Present	Term
1	Autry	Lara	Other	N	1
2	Coats	Kevin	Other	N	2
3	Conlon	Pat	Other	N	3
4	Craig	Carl	Other	Y	2
6	Moore	Marlene	Other	N	1
7	Duncan	Judy	AB	Y	1
8	Jackson	Kenneth	AB	Y	2
9	Shields	Aurora	AB	Y	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	Y	
19	Batterton	Carol	PA	Y	
			ASSOCIATE MEMBERS		
	McCracken	Kirstin	Lab	Y	
	Morgan	Judy	Lab	N	