

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
March 5, 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 2-5-09 meeting were reviewed and approved for posting on the TNI website with the correction noted on the bottom of page 1, “alb” to “lab”.

3. Update from Small Lab Advocate

Len Schantz reported that he held the first Small Lab Advocate Group (SLAG) conference call on February 25. There were nine participants representing a wide cross-section of labs and a wide range of opinions on NELAC. He explained to the group that his goal was to facilitate feedback from small labs to TNI. He also indicated that for future meetings the group will pick a topic related to implementation of the standards to discuss. The next topic will be continued demonstration of capability and continued demonstration of proficiency. Jerry will participate on the next call.

At the last call, the committee had discussed preparing a handout detailing TNI's outreach to small labs. Judy Duncan will follow up with Brooke Connor on this.

Carol Batterton discussed the listing of WEF state member associations. The committee agreed that Jerry should draft a letter and short article on the small lab advocate to each MA and ask them to publish it in their journals or newsletters. Jerry will also offer to draft additional articles if they are interested. Carol will check the AWWA website to see if there is a similar listing of state contacts on their website.

4. Newsletter

Jerry reviewed the draft newsletter page by page with the committee. March 12 is the target release date. Planning for the next newsletter (June) will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Ken Jackson is editor.

5. Update on Support to States with Budget Issues

Jerry reported that several members of the Advocacy Committee had participated on a call with Greg Carroll and Deb Szaro(EPA) discuss the funding issues that

some states are having with their lab accreditation programs. The purpose of the call was to see if EPA was aware and to find out if funding to assist these states might be available from EPA.

Neither Greg nor Deb was aware that states were experiencing funding issues in these programs. Greg agreed to follow up with ASWA members to see if they perceive a problem. Jerry and Judy D. have a call coming up this month with the EPA RS&T directors. They will follow up on the issue there as well.

6. Federal Register Notice

Jerry provided members with a copy of a Federal Register notice requesting comments on EPA's quality assurance requirements for Cryptosporidium analysis. Jerry requested discussion on whether or not TNI should respond. The committee proposed a working group to formulate a response. The "crypto" working group will consist of: Susan Wyatt, MN, Andy Eaton, MWH Labs, and Carl Craig or designee, ERA. The working group will propose a response from TNI.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be April 2, 2009, at 12 Noon CDT.

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	Y	2
6	Moore	Marlene	Other	Y	1
7	Duncan	Judy	AB	Y	1
8	Jackson	Kenneth	AB	N	2
9	Shields	Aurora	AB	Y	3
10	Wyatt	Susan	AB	Y	1
11	Eaton	Andy	Lab	Y	1
12	English	Zonetta	Lab	Y	2
13	Perry	Michael	Lab	Y	3
14	Pletl	Jim	Lab	Y	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	N	
	Morgan	Judy	Lab	Y	

