

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
April 7, 2011

1. Call to order

Judy Duncan called the meeting to order at 12 Noon CDT on April 7, 2011. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve minutes for March 3, 2011. All present voted in favor.

3. Federal Register Notice

Jerry Parr reported that he had submitted comments to EPA on behalf of TNI in response to the Federal Register notice on improving regulations. Members noted that this comment document could become the basis for a position statement. Jerry will post it on the website and include a sidebar note in the newsletter.

4. Florida situation

Jerry reviewed the background on the Florida lab accreditation program situation. A report earlier this year on the Florida DoH, recommended that the lab accreditation program be privatized. The potential implementation date is July 2012; however the FL legislature would have to act in order for this recommendation to be implemented.

TNI issued a press release on this, but TNI has taken no other formal action at this time. There has been an association of commercial labs formed with the stated purpose of taking over the program as is if the legislature acts. There are several issues that will need to be addressed with this approach including the perception of impartiality, and how will accreditations issued by a non-governmental body be received by other NELAP ABs. Additionally, EPA has stated that the state must retain decision-making authority with respect to the drinking water program.

There was also a question about FL's current recognition as an AB and whether this recognition would automatically transfer to a non-governmental AB. Jerry will seek input from the Board about this and anyone with ideas should contact Jerry.

5. Policy statements

Jerry and Lynn Bradley presented draft policy statements, Demonstration of Method Competency and Consensus, and asked for the committee's comments on format. Comments included:

- What is meant by “challenges and intended audience”? It means what brought this issue to the forefront, why is it important.
- On the Consensus paper, it was suggested that the copyright discussion be moved to the end of the paper. Emphasis should be on the federal government requirement for use of consensus standards.
- It was suggested that CSDB should review the Consensus paper and the Quality Systems Committee should review Demonstration of Method Competency.

Jerry proposed that these two be finalized and sent to the Board along with a list of other potential policy statements. The Board can decide if this is where they want to go with this project. On a routine basis, policy statements will go to the Policy Committee for review prior to going to the Board. An SOP will need to be written for this process. Jerry, Lynn and Carol will identify the elements of the SOP before the next meeting.

6. Draft newsletter

Jerry had previously circulated the draft newsletter for comment. He noted that the Member Spotlight feature was missing, because Kirstin was on leave and unable to work at a keyboard. It was suggested that Kirstin be featured in the spotlight.

The next newsletter will be published July 15 with articles due on July 1. The newsletter release date will need to be coordinated with hotel and conference registration deadlines.

7. Brochures

Jerry reminded everyone that we have a meeting coming in June with APHL and we need to have some new brochures. Currently, TNI has a TNI general information brochure, an FMSO brochure, and the SLAG brochure. He suggested that we may need to develop a brochure for each TNI program. We may also want to consider developing a training brochure.

It was suggested that we might consider a folder with pockets so that we can customize our handouts for different occasions. Jerry will consult with Brooke Connor on options.

8. Other

Keith Chapman reported that he had a contact from a small lab in Kansas interested in the Small Lab Handbook.

Jerry reported that three additional workshops on the new TNI standard have been scheduled for Las Vegas, Denver, and Louisville. Jerry thinks this should be enough, and we should think about doing a webinar in the May-June timeframe.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting will be on May 5, 2011, at 12 noon CDT.

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	Y	1
8	Jackson	Kenneth	Other	N	2
9	Shields	Aurora	Lab	N	3
10	Wyatt	Susan	AB	N	1
12	English	Zonetta	Lab	Y	2
13	Perry	Michael	Lab	N	3
14	Hogg	Paula	Lab	Y	1
	Turner	Elizabeth	Lab	Y	
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	Y	
	Steve	Arms	AB	Y	