

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
April 7, 2016

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon CDT, April 7, 2016. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes from February 4, 2016, and March 3, 2016, were reviewed. Robin Cook moved to approve and Lynn Bradley seconded. All present voted in favor.

3. Newsletter update

Carol reported that all articles have been submitted, but Jerry was delaying publication until registration for the summer meeting was open.

4. Outreach meetings

Members reviewed the status of outreach meetings and TNI speakers. Stacie Metzler volunteered to contact Virginia WEA to see if they would like a TNI presentation at their upcoming meeting in July. Steve also noted that the association of State Drinking Water Administrators had a call for papers out for their upcoming meeting. Members agreed it would be good for TNI to have a presence at this meeting. Note: Following the meeting, Martina agreed to give a TNI presentation at the upcoming NY/PA Environmental Laboratory Association meeting. This presentation and the VA presentation will be added to the table of events. See Attachment 2.

5. Ambassadors

In lieu of a separate conference call for the TNI Ambassadors, the Ambassadors joined the Advocacy call to give their updates.

- Bob Pullano reported that all of the SC DHEQ staff would be at his lab for an audit soon and he would visit with them about TNI activities and resources.
- Devon Morgan reported that NV DEP would be coming to his lab in the Fall and he planned to talk with them more in depth at that time. He thinks they may be more comfortable with the new 2015 standard.
- Zonetta English reported that KY is having budget issues and that she doesn't expect much to happen or any decisions to be made until it all settles out. She will stay in touch with state contacts and remind them of TNI resources available at no cost.
- Andrea Teal reported by email that there was no new information from GA.
- Teresa Coins reported that she is maintaining contact with Arkansas officials but had nothing new to report.

- Lee Wolf also reported by email that he is coordinating with Oregon representatives to get the WA state officials to attend the ORELA meeting to hear the TNI update.

The ambassadors were encouraged to continue to keep their state officials apprised of TNI activities and the resources that are available to states regardless of their accreditation body status.

6. Handbook

Steve presented the Microbiology and WET chapters to the committee and suggested that these two chapters are ready for final editorial review. Members suggested that reviewers be asked to note the occurrence of “shall” “should” and “must” in the documents, and determine which is appropriate for consistency. Also, we will remind reviewers that this document is intended to be a procedural guide and not a standard. Carol will forward these two chapters to reviewers.

7. Review of PowerPoint

Jerry provided a draft PowerPoint that he intended to use at the TCEQ trade Fair and which could be used as the basis for other presentations by TNI members. He asked for comments from the committee. Stephanie Drier and Lara Phelps provided detailed comments by email. Marlene Moore also provided an email clarification. Using Jerry’s original slide #'s, other general comments provided by the committee included:

- Members agreed with Stephanie’s suggestion that an overview slide be provided at the beginning stating the goal of the presentation and subjects to be covered.
- See Stephanie’s notes about acronyms
- We need to be consistent with what we name the name the standard (TNI standard, NELAP standard, TNI NELAP standard, the new standard, etc)
- Slide 9, Micro example is out of date
- Slides 14 and 15, the “new” PT and QS standard or “2015 standard”. Be consistent with how we refer to the standard.
- Slide 16, “2016 clarifications and definitions”?
- Slide 17 - Chemistry Module 4 needs to be consistent
- Slide 26 – why does Module 6 have its own title slide? Maybe all modules should have a title slide to emphasize the module?
- Slide 45 needs bigger font
- Slide 46 - note that Mentor Sessions and Assessor Forums take place at face to face meetings
- Slide 48 – member benefits that are new as opposed to new member benefits
- Future meetings slide needs to be at the very end
- Consider modularizing the presentation with more break slides

8. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Advocacy Committee will be May 5, 2016. The agenda will include discussion of the drinking water crosswalk and position statements.

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Absent
2.	Steve Arms	Other	Present
3.	Lynn Bradley	Other	Present
4.	Stephanie Drier	Lab	Present
5.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Present
6.	Stacie Metzler	Lab	Present
7.	Zonetta English	Lab	Present
8.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Absent
9.	Elizabeth Turner	Small Lab Advocate	Absent
10.	Gary Ward	AB	Absent
11.	Michael Wichman	Lab	Absent
12.	Janice Willey	Federal	Present
13.	Trinity O'Neal	Lab	Absent
14.	Robin Cook	Lab	Present
	Associate Members		
	Kirstin Daigle	Lab	Absent
	Judy Morgan	Lab	Absent
	Aurora Shields	Lab	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Judy Duncan	Other	Absent
	Kenneth Jackson	Other	Absent
	Keith Chapman	Other	Absent
	Sharon Mertens	TNI Board Chair	Absent
	Teresa Coins	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Andrea Teal	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Devon Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Bob Pullano	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Lee Wolf	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Absent
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present

Attachment 2

Regional Meetings

Event	Date	TNI Speaker
AIHA, Falls Church, Virginia Contact: Cheryl Morton	March 17, 2016	Marlene Moore
Texas Water, Fort Worth, Texas Contact: Elizabeth Turner	April 22, 2016	Jerry Parr and Carol Batteredton
Kansas Laboratory Education Association, Manhattan, Kansas Contact:	May 3, 2016	Robin Cook
TCEQ Trade Fair, Austin, Texas Contact:	May 3-4, 2016	Jerry Parr
Oregon Environmental Laboratory Association, Salem, Oregon Contact:	May 11, 2016	Jerry Parr
Michigan WEA Lab Practices Seminar, East Lansing Michigan Contact:	May 18, 2016	Monitor for possible participation next year
Florida Society of Environmental Analysts, Sand Key, Florida Contact: Suzanne R.?	May 25-27, 2016	Steve Arms
NYAAEL/PaAAEL 2015 Environmental Laboratory Convention, State College, PA Contact:	July 17-19, 2016	Martina McGarvey
VA AWWA/VWEA Lab Practices Conference, Charlottesville, VA Contact: Peter DeLisle	July 25-26, 2016	Stacie Metzler
Georgia Association of Water Professionals (WEF MA) Contact: Jeff Fulton	Fall Meeting	Monitor/contact
Laboratory Section of ORWEF School Contact: Kristin Thomas and Chuck Lytle	March 2017	Monitor/contact