

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting  
May 2, 2013

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12 Noon CDT, May 2, 2013. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes of the April 4, 2013, meeting were reviewed. Lynn Bradley moved that the minutes be approved. Elizabeth Turner seconded. All present voted in favor.

3. Comments from Policy Committee on Small Lab Position Statement

The committee reviewed the feedback from Policy Committee on the Small Lab Quality Systems Position Statement. The Policy Committee suggested highlighting the first paragraph and revising the recommendations to indicate how TNI will support the position statement. In addition to the recommendations suggested by the Policy Committee, the Advocacy Committee agreed to pursue revisions to the Small Lab Handbook that would take out all reference to the TNI standard and TNI accreditation. The revised handbook would just focus on the importance of a quality system and how to set it up in a small laboratory. Carol will make the suggested revisions to the position statement and circulate back to the committee.

In addition, Jerry Parr suggested that as a future project, the Advocacy Committee consider a baseline document that would cover good practices for environmental laboratories. This document should cover quality fundamentals and use the EPA QC Handbook from 1979 as a starting place. This document could also be done as a webinar series. This suggestion will be on the Advocacy agenda in San Antonio to scope the project.

4. Half-day Session on Benefits of Accreditation

The committee discussed topics and potential speakers for the half-day special Advocacy session in San Antonio and agreed on the following draft agenda:

**The Importance of Competence in the Environmental  
Measurement and Monitoring Community**

The session will focus on the benefits of accreditation to various stakeholder groups in the environmental measurement and monitoring community.

1:00 pm      **Introduction: Steve Arms, Chair, TNI Advocacy Committee**

- 1:15 pm **Public:** Accreditation promotes confidence that environmental decisions are based on reliable, authentic data.  
**Invited Speaker: Ruth Forman, Environmental Standards, Inc.**
- 1:45 pm **Organizations:** Accreditation promotes ongoing self-evaluation and continuous improvement and provides an effective system for accountability and enhances its reputation.  
**Invited Speaker: Kim Watson,**
- 2:15 pm **Government** – Accreditation serves as a basis to ensure that environmental monitoring data are adequate for their intended purpose.  
**Speaker: Lara Phelps, USEPA, Office of the Science Advisor**
- 2:45-3:00 pm Questions and answers
- 3:00 pm Break
- 3:30 pm **Data Users** – Accreditation provides assurance that the laboratory has been evaluated and has met accepted standards established by and with the profession  
**Invited Speaker: Cathy Humphreys, TCEQ, Office of Legal Services**
- 4:15 pm **Profession** – Accreditation advances the field by promoting uniform accepted standards of practice and advocating rigorous adherence to these standards.  
**Invited Speaker: Nan Thomey, Environmental Chemistry, Inc.**

Carol will make contacts to invite speakers.

#### 5. Next Newsletter

Steve Arms will be editor of the next newsletter. Target publication date is July 1. Suggested topics and authors are listed below:

<b>TNI NEWSLETTER 2013 -2</b>			
<b>Featured Topics</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Due Date for Draft</b>
NELAP update	Lynn B.	<a href="mailto:LmbTbird@aol.com">LmbTbird@aol.com</a>	7-1-13
Upcoming training events, merger of TAC and LAS	Jerry/Ilona	<a href="mailto:jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a> <a href="mailto:ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org">ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org</a>	
Status of progress	Ken	<a href="mailto:ken.jackson@nelac-institute.org">ken.jackson@nelac-institute.org</a>	

on standards, changes to process, timeline	Jackson		
NEFAP has recognized another AB, FSMO talks about how accreditation process went	Kim Watson	<a href="mailto:kwatson@stone-env.com">kwatson@stone-env.com</a>	
EPA competency policy announced in FR	Lara Phelps	<a href="mailto:phelps.lara@epa.gov">phelps.lara@epa.gov</a>	
SSAS program approved by EPA	Maria Friedman	<a href="mailto:Maria.Friedman@testamericainc.com">Maria.Friedman@testamericainc.com</a>	
San Antonio meeting	Jerry and Lara	<a href="mailto:jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a> <a href="mailto:phelps.lara@epa.gov">phelps.lara@epa.gov</a>	
Letter to FEM	Carol/Jerry?		
Regulatory update	Jerry	<a href="mailto:jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a>	
Member profile – Maria Friedman	Stephanie Drier	<a href="mailto:stephanie.drier@state.mn.us">stephanie.drier@state.mn.us</a>	
Status of NGAB task force, FL and MN pursuing NGAB path	Carol and Steve A.	<a href="mailto:carbat@beecreek.net">carbat@beecreek.net</a> <a href="mailto:Steve_Arms@doh.state.fl.us">Steve_Arms@doh.state.fl.us</a> <a href="mailto:Susan.Wyatt@state.mn.us">Susan.Wyatt@state.mn.us</a>	

#### 6. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Advocacy Committee will be in June 6, 2013, at 12 Noon CST.

#### Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Present
2.	Steve Arms	AB	Present
3.	Lynn Bradley	Other	Present
4.	Stephanie Drier	AB	Absent

5.	Judy Duncan	Other	Absent
6.	Kenneth Jackson	Other	Present
7.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Present
8.	Zonetta English	Lab	Absent
9.	Paula Hogg	Lab	Absent
10.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Present
11.	Elizabeth Turner	Small Lab Advocate	Present
12.	Gary Ward	AB	Present
13.	Michael Wichman	Lab	Absent
14.	Janice Willey	Federal	Present
	<b>Associate Members</b>		
	Kirstin Daigle	Lab	Absent
	Judy Morgan	Lab	Present
	Aurora Shields	Lab	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Keith Chapman	Other	Present
	Mandi Edwards	Laboratory	Present
	Karna Holquist	AB	Present
	Sharon Mertens	TNI Board Chair	Absent
	<b>Staff</b>		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present