

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
May 5, 2011

1. Call to order

Judy Duncan called the meeting to order at 12 Noon CDT on May 5, 2011. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Michael Wichman noted that he was counted as present in the April minutes and he was not. Gary Ward was also counted as present and he was not. A motion was made and seconded to approve minutes for April 7, 2011 with these corrections. All present voted in favor.

3. Florida Update

Jerry Parr and Steve Arms reported that the recommendation to privatize the Florida lab accreditation program appeared to be a dead issue for this year. The FL legislature did not take action on the issue. However, it could come up again in the next legislative session.

In Minnesota, there was a bill to waive accreditation of wastewater labs. This bill is in conference committee now. The legislative session ends May 15.

4. Newsletter SOP

The committee reviewed a draft SOP for preparation of the newsletter. Suggested edits included:

- 5.3 An individual is chosen to be editor from among the Advocacy committee membership and will correspond with the authors of the assigned articles and ensure that timely delivery occurs.
- 5.4 The editor delivers the complete package of assigned articles to the ED on or about the “due date” agreed upon.
- 5.8 The ED distributes the newsletter using automated email to all members and others as needed.

Judy Morgan moved approval of the draft SOP with these changes. Michael seconded. All present voted in favor. Lara and Jerry will do some additional editing and then send to Carol to forward to Alfredo Sotomayor and the Policy Committee.

5. ASDWA meeting

Ken Jackson reported that there is another ASDWA meeting in October. TNI exhibited at the last one. Ken suggested that TNI should submit an abstract to deliver a paper at this next meeting. Data quality is a possible topic, but there is not a clear cut spot in the agenda for this topic. Judy Duncan suggested that we talk with the NELAC AC about how they interact with the DW program to get ideas for how to frame this topic. Ken will present ideas at the June Advocacy meeting.

TNI should also exhibit at this conference again. The exhibit fee is \$1200 with a 10% discount if we register by June 30. Susan Wyatt can help with staffing the exhibit booth. Ken also reminded everyone that there is an APHL meeting in June.

6. Draft brochures

Jerry circulated a draft folder for TNI brochures prior to the meeting. He thinks that the folder and brochures can be printed prior to the APHL meetings. Comments on the folders included having TNI business card for those working the exhibits, and enlarging the TNI sunrise on the folder.

The committee also suggested that Ken should consider visiting the Nebraska program while he is at the APHL meeting. NE only has a DW accreditation program. If there is a separate environmental agency, he should visit there as well. Ron Cada, former NELAC participant, lives in Lincoln, NE, and might be a good contact. Michael can also help with names of contacts in nearby states.

7. Implementation of Standards

Lynn Bradley reported that the NELAP AC had always recognized the need for rolling implementation of the new standards, but had recently become aware of some issues with implementation of the PT standard that could take a year or more to resolve. Also, NY has recently sent a letter asking that implementation of the PT standard be delayed. In response to these concerns, the LASEC is recommending the following:

1. If an ABs is non-compliant with the PT standard, an acceptable response is that the AB will fix the problem as soon as they can.
2. PTs should be done in compliance with the 2003 standard. V1 and V2 PT sections will not be implemented until revised.

NY has requested accommodation to remain in the program and participate in reciprocal accreditation. The other option is to require everyone who has secondary in NY to get primary from NY. There seems to be general consensus that remaining on the 2003 standard will not be a problem for most labs or ABs.

However this is resolved, there will be communication issues to address.

The Advocacy committee should consider preparing a communication piece on this to the general TNI membership. There should also be an article that ABs can send to their labs.

This may also present TNI with an opportunity to evaluate the standards development process. There will be questions about how a standard got adopted that ABs cannot implement. We need to do a better job of keeping the ABS advised of proposed changes while under development. There may need to be a recommendation from the Advocacy Committee to the CSDB to address this issue.

Lynn Bradley moved that the CSDB should be asked to develop a process to inform stakeholders through special briefings of changes being proposed in new standards. These briefings should include stakeholders not involved in consensus standards development and others responsible for implementation. This process should ensure that there is a thorough review and understanding of the new standards before voting out. Ken Jackson seconded. All present voted in favor.

8. SLAG

Keith Chapman reported that SLAG had two calls last month. One call was for labs only. The major topic concerned the cost benefit analysis for the new standards.

9. Other

Jerry reported that Nan Thome had made a presentation at the TCEQ Trade Fair concerning how a quality system lowers cost and improves productivity. Jerry suggested that TNI approach Nan about doing this presentation as a webinar.

It was also noted that there are some interesting posts on the SLAG bulletin board. This will be advertised in the next newsletter.

Jerry noted that Advocacy has 1.5 hours at the Seattle meeting. There is also a 1.5 hour slot for meeting with APHL. Ken noted that the first APHL-TNI task force meeting is on May 13.

10. Next meeting

The next meeting will be on June 2, 2011, at 12 noon CDT. Topics will include newsletter assignments and the AB task force report.

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	Y	2
9	Shields	Aurora	Lab	N	3
10	Wyatt	Susan	AB	Y	1
12	English	Zonetta	Lab	Y	2
13	Perry	Michael	Lab	N	3
14	Hogg	Paula	Lab	N	1
	Turner	Elizabeth	Lab	Y	
15	Ward	Gary	Lab	Y	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	