

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
June 3, 2010

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

There was not a quorum, so approval of the May minutes was postponed until the next meeting.

3. Outreach to non-NELAP states

There was no one on the call to report, so this item was delayed until the next meeting.

4. Update on Regional meetings

There was no one on the call to report, so this item was delayed until the next meeting.

5. Discussion of long term and short term priorities for Advocacy

The TNI Board will be holding a strategic planning meeting on June 25-26. In preparation for that meeting, the Advocacy Committee reviewed the Advocacy task list. Comments included:

- Stakeholder groups – Progress has been made with contacts with WEF, AWWA and NACCA. Michael suggested that we need to target outreach to state labs since only 8 are accredited at the present time. Lynne mentioned that figuring out who to contact is complicated by the fact that many states have more than one lab. Aurora asked what TNI could do to facilitate accreditation of state labs.
- Paula asked about university labs. Steve said that FL accredits about a dozen university labs. Aurora pointed out that university labs include testing for soils and biosolids using specialized techniques. Lynne said that EPA Quality System experience with university labs as contractors was that it was a huge problem to get them to get a quality system. Judy said that university labs were a potential for the future but were not as fruitful a group to target in the short term.

- Paula also asked about industry labs. Aurora said that KS required them to be accredited if they submitted data to the state. Judy indicated that OK has a similar requirement but that they have seen a decline in the complexity of industry labs as more work is outsourced to the private lab sector. Aurora observed that some industries are ISO accredited in other areas such as 9000 and did not see the need to have labs accredited by TNI.
- Lara suggested that we need to look at the problems that we have faced with outreach in the past and in the present. ELAB had lots of trouble with the air community that first was a part of the Field Activities Committee because that standard had expertise with water but not with air. Now we are facing some of the same problems with the solid waste program. The root of the ELAB issue with SW 846 is that the solid waste community does not recognize the problem laboratories and ABs face with lettered and numbered versions of the methods. The big question is who do we reach out to with regard to national accreditation in general? Michael suggested that the SW 846 ELAB issue should be taken to ASTSWMO. Judy suggested that outreach to ASTSWMO, ASWIPCA and ASDWA might be a way to begin to reach the data user end of the spectrum. Aurora said that we need to reach out with several prongs: go to Office of Solid Waste and look at policy first, then reach out to ECOS and other state groups and maybe work with guidance and good practice recommendations. Lynn pointed out that OMB has made guidance manuals almost impossible for EPA. Lara reminded the group that we need to reach out to EPA Regional Science Directors and to the Water Lab Alliance.
- Aurora observed that not as many EPA folks are participating as individuals in TNI. Lara said that a better job needs to be done of getting commitments from EPA programs to backfill TNI with individuals as participating staff age out of the agency. Some folks are showing up when we have a question or need their help but no one is really getting involved. We have created a relationship but we are losing people on the representation side. Lara indicated that it is fair to say that we have invited them to sit down and discuss issues but we have lost institutional participation and it needs to be replaced. EPA needs to be involved at both the formative as well as the problem solving stage of TNI discussions. Lynn questioned the influence of the FEM outside of the R&D program and said that there was not much influence in programmatic areas. She pointed out that they cannot carry a program to the rest of the agency alone. Lara said that the potential for change is high right now with a change in administration that is committed to putting in place a policy of using accredited organizations.

- Paula questioned whether implementation of the Methods Flexibility Rule will be the same sort of issue as SW 846. Aurora agreed that this was a good point if states take different positions on this and suggested that it should be discussed with NELAP. Steve indicated that it has not been discussed by NELAP.
- General discussion suggested that TNI needs to take advantage of TNI Standards meetings to have a membership drive for new participants.

7. Member resignation

Andy Eaton has resigned from the committee due to workload issues. Lynn questioned whether we should recruit someone from NEFAP to the Advocacy Committee so that we will have better representation from all programs of TNI. Judy will raise this issue at the TNI Board Strategic Planning session.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting will be July 1, 2010, at 12 Noon CDT. The agenda will include:

Outreach to Non-NELAP States
 Update on Regional meetings
 Report from TNI Board strategic planning meeting
 Agenda for meeting with trade groups in DC
 Response to ASDWA call for papers
 New member

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
6	Bradley	Lynn	Other	Y	1
7	Duncan	Judy	AB	Y	1
8	Jackson	Kenneth	Other	N	2
9	Shields	Aurora	Lab	Y	3
10	Wyatt	Susan	AB	N	1
11	Eaton	Andy	Lab	N	1
12	English	Zonetta	Lab	N	2
13	Perry	Michael	Lab	N	3
14	Hogg	Paula	Lab	Y	1
15	Ward	Gary	Lab	N	2
16	Wichman	Michael	Lab	Y	3
17	Keith	Chapman	Small Lab Advocate	Y	
18	Parr	Jerry	ED	N	
19	Batterton	Carol	PA	N	

			ASSOCIATE MEMBERS		
	McCracken Morgan	Kirstin Judy	Lab Lab	N N	