

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
August 17, 2011

1. Call to order

Judy Duncan called the meeting to order at 1:15 PDT on August 17, 2011, in Bellevue, Washington, at the Environmental Measurement Symposium. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Highlights from the Bellevue

Judy Duncan reviewed highlights of the Bellevue meeting that were of interest to the Advocacy Committee.

- Several good ideas came from discussions at the SLAG meeting. SLAG needs a place to share example SOPs, bench sheets and other documents. This could be a place on the TNI website for members only. This idea will be presented to the ABs and IT committee for discussion and implementation.
- SLAG suggested that a cost/benefit analysis on the new TNI standard would be helpful for labs. This might require a contractor with special expertise.
- Labs need tools to do root cause analysis. Using case studies might be a good way to demonstrate an approach for small labs.
- There are now four ABs for FMSO's. We will need to do advocacy for this program.
- Quality Manual template
- The Small Lab Handbook is almost ready for release. It was noted that this handbook really only addresses standards interpretation, but not process. We still need to have a process document. Jerry suggested that TAC take this project, but that staff may need to develop the first draft.

3. Accreditation Body Database

Judy reviewed the database of state accreditation bodies that Suzanne Rachmaninoff had prepared. A preliminary site to review the database has been set up at <http://nelac-institute.org/abdb.php> Judy stated that the next step is to QA the database and that Judy Morgan has offered to do a first cut. Then, we will need to contact each state and have them review their own information.

Once it is final, we will then need to decide how to make it available. Do we make it publically available on our website to members only? Do we charge non-members? The TNI Finance committee has recommended that we make it available to TNI members for no cost. We will also need to have someone in charge of keeping information current.

4. Position papers

Lynn Bradley and Jerry have prepared some draft position papers. They need input on format. This will be on the next agenda for discussion. After format is determined, a list of prioritized topics will be established.

5. Brochures

Jerry passed out samples of the folder and brochures developed for each of the TNI programs. He asked for the programs to read and edit before any additional copies were printed.

6. Newsletter

Editors for the upcoming newsletters will be:

November – Gary Ward
April – Elizabeth Turner
July – Keith Chapman

The next deadline for articles for the next newsletter is Oct. 1. Publication date is Nov. 1. Articles and authors are shown on the following table.

TNI NEWSLETTER 2011 -3

Featured Topics	Assigned to	Email	Due Date for Draft	Status
Re-cap of Seattle meeting	Steve Arms	Steve_Arms@doh.state.fl.us	Oct. 1	
Status of decision regarding PTRL reporting	Kirstin McCracken	kmccracken@stl-inc.com	Oct. 1	
NEFAP accreditation bodies	Ilona Taunton	tauntoni@msn.com	Oct. 1	
Small Lab Handbook status	Keith Chapman	kchapman@cityofsalem.net	Oct. 1	
Plans for Sarasota	Jerry Parr	jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org	Oct. 1	
NEMC call for papers	Lara Autry and Earl Hansen	Autry.Lara@epamail.epa.gov papaearl41@hotmail.com	Oct. 1	
AB task force forms	Judy Duncan and Carol	judy.duncan@deq.ok.gov carbat@beecreek.net	Oct. 1	

subcommittees	Batterton			
LAMS update	Dan Hickman	danthrax33@msn.com	Oct. 1	
CITF final recommendations	Alfredo Sotomayor and Carol Batterton	Alfredo.Sotomayor@Wisconsin.gov carbat@beecreek.net	Oct. 1	
Status update NELAP AC	Lynn Bradley	LmbTbird@aol.com	Oct. 1	
EMMEC update	Richard Burrows	Richard.Burrows@testamericainc.com	Oct. 1	
Member profile: Deb Waller	Kirstin McCracken	kmccracken@stl-inc.com	Oct. 1	
Sidebar: Announcement of New Committee Chairs and call for committee membership applications	Jerry Parr	jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org	Oct. 1	
Sidebar: TNI mobile app	William Daystrom	tni.webmaster@gmail.com	Oct. 1	
Sidebar: Removal of chlorohydrate as PT analyte	Eric Smith	Eric.Smith@testamericainc.com	Oct. 1	

7. Other

Lara Autry suggested that TNI should explore developing an app for mobile devices. William Daystrom reported that he had already set up an experimental site with an app <http://m.nelac-institute.org>. One possibility would be to set up this site for a meeting with the program and other meeting details, and hotel logistics.

TNI has volunteered to provide WEF Lab Solutions with articles and updates on TNI activities. Suggested articles include:

- Intro to TNI (what's going on)
- National database of accredited labs
- SLAG activities and quality manual template
- Small lab handbook
- State AB database
- EMMEC activities, mission and goals

Carol will contact Cathy Vidito, editor, and see which topics are of the most interest. We also need to look into the possibility of submitting articles to AWWA's Op-flow magazine.

Advocacy needs to add some new members to replace some who are no longer active. This will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

8. Next meeting

The next regular meeting should be on September, 1 2011, but the committee decided to cancel this meeting. The next meeting will be October 6, 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
3	Bradley	Lynn	Other	Y	1
4	Duncan	Judy	AB	Y	1
5	Jackson	Kenneth	Other	Y	2
6	Wyatt	Susan	AB	N	1
7	English	Zonetta	Lab	Y	2
8	Perry	Michael	Lab	N	3
9	Hogg	Paula	Lab	Y	1
10	Turner	Elizabeth	Lab	Y	
11	Ward	Gary	AB	Y	2
12	Wichman	Michael	Lab	Y	3
13	Keith	Chapman	Small Lab Advocate	Y	
14	Parr	Jerry	ED	Y	
15	Batterton	Carol	PA	Y	
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS					
	McCracken	Kirstin	Lab	Y	
	Morgan	Judy	Lab	Y	
	Steve	Arms	AB	Y	
	Shields	Aurora	Lab	N	
	Boyd	Jo Ann	Lab and FAC	N	