

## **TNI PT Executive Committee Meeting Summary**

**April 19, 2012**

### 1) Roll call and approval of minutes:

Chair, Stacie Metzler, called the TNI PT Executive Committee meeting to order on April 19, 2012, at 1:00PM EST. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 10 Executive Committee members present on the call. Additional people on the call included: Jeff Lowry.

*(Addition: See September 27, 2012 meeting for approval of minutes.)*

### 2) Welcome New Committee Members

Susan Butts (South Carolina DHEC), Patrick Brumfield (Sigma Aldrich RTC) and Nicole Cairns (NY State DOH) were welcomed as new members to the Executive Committee.

### 3) FoPT Updates

- Protozoa- Eric made the motion to approve the table, and Michella Karapondo seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Stacie is planning to work with Carrie Miller to determine if EPA would like these to be NELAC FoPTs. Eric mentioned that the reason for the development of the FoPT tables was to streamline the Crypto PT program and that we need to see if the approach currently used is compatible with NELAC. Michella suggested we look into adding Colipahge and Enterococci to the DW FoPTs as well.
- WET- The subcommittee is still working to make changes and has requested PT provider data if available.
- Other- The NEFAP Pb FoPT Table still needs to be posted on the TNI Website.
- This committee needs to work with William, the TNI webmaster, to determine how non- NELAC FoPT tables will be posted on the website to clearly distinguish these from the NELAC FoPTs.

#### 4) PTPA Database Subcommittee Update

The subcommittee is in the process of identifying the fields in each of the PTPA databases to pull as a report for the committee to be able to determine a national pass/fail average for evaluation of the program.

#### 5) New Business

SOPs. Stacie and Ilona will be working on committee SOPs in person tomorrow. The main focus will be on the complaint SOP. A copy of the DRAFT SOP will be distributed before the next meeting for comment and review during the May meeting.

#### 6) Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PT Executive Committee will be the third Thursday in May.

Action Items are included in Attachment B and Attachment C includes a listing of reminders.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 pm EST.

## Attachment A

### Participants TNI

#### Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

Members	Affiliation	Contact Information
Stacie Metzler (2009) CHAIR <b>Present</b>	HRSD	757-460-4217 <a href="mailto:smetzler@hrsd.com">smetzler@hrsd.com</a>
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator <b>Present</b>	TNI	828-712-9242 <a href="mailto:tauntoni@msn.com">tauntoni@msn.com</a>
Eric Smith (2010) <b>Present</b>	TestAmerica Laboratories, Inc.	615-726-0177 x1238 <a href="mailto:eric.smith@testamericainc.com">eric.smith@testamericainc.com</a>
Justin Brown (2011) <b>Absent</b>	Environmental Monitoring and Technologies, Inc.	847-875-2271 <a href="mailto:jbrown@emt.com">jbrown@emt.com</a>
Amy Doupe (2009) <b>Absent</b>	Lancaster Laboratories, Inc.	717-656-2300 x1812 <a href="mailto:aldoupe@lancasterlabs.com">aldoupe@lancasterlabs.com</a>
Steve Gibson (2011) <b>Present</b>	Texas Comm. on Env. Quality	512-239-1518 <a href="mailto:jgibson@tceq.state.tx.us">jgibson@tceq.state.tx.us</a>
Susan Butts (2012) <b>Present</b>	South Carolina DHEC	(803)896-0978 <a href="mailto:buttse@dhec.sc.gov">buttse@dhec.sc.gov</a>
Patrick Brumfield (2012) <b>Present</b>	Sigma-Aldrich RTC	(307) 721-5488 <a href="mailto:Pat.Brumfield@sial.com">Pat.Brumfield@sial.com</a>
Michella Karapondo (2011) <b>Present</b>	USEPA	513-569-7141 <a href="mailto:karapondo.michella@epa.gov">karapondo.michella@epa.gov</a>
Carl Kircher (2010) <b>Present</b>	Florida DOH	904-791-1574 <a href="mailto:carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us">carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us</a>
Nicole Cairns (2012) <b>Present</b>	NY State DOH	<a href="mailto:nlc02@health.state.ny.us">nlc02@health.state.ny.us</a>
Joe Pardue (2011) <b>Present</b>	Pro2Serve, Inc.	423-337-3121 <a href="mailto:joe_pardue@charter.net">joe_pardue@charter.net</a>
Dr. Andy Valkenburg (2011) <b>Absent</b>	Energy Laboratories, Inc.	<a href="mailto:avalkenburg@energylab.com">avalkenburg@energylab.com</a> 406-869-6254
Curtis Wood (2010) <b>Present</b>	Environmental Resource Associates	303-431-8454 <a href="mailto:cwood@eraqc.com">cwood@eraqc.com</a>

**Attachment B**

**Action Items – TNI PT Executive Committee**

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
165	Follow-up on need for NEFAP EC approval of the FSMO FoPT Table.	Eric	Next Meeting	
168	Update FoPT Management SOP, distribute to EC and then distribute to NEFAP EC and NELAP AC for comment.	Eric	Next Meeting	Received from NELAP AC. Need to follow-up with NEFAP.
169	Contact Chem FoPT Subcommittee to look at the PCB data again and make sure that it supports the limits TNI has set.	Eric	Next Meeting	Eric will touch base with Carl.
170	Ask NEFAP EC and NELAP AC if they are aware of any analytes that need to be added to the table.	Eric	8/16/11	Need to follow-up with NEFAP.
181	Supply Ilona with Scope information for PTPAs.	Eric	12/22/11	
183	Update Protozoa FoPT Table and distribute.	Carl	4/19/12	
184	Invite Carrie and Leah to next meeting.	Michella	4/19/12	Complete
185	Send updated DW table with Footnote 15 to NELAP AC for approval.	Stacie	4/1/12	
186	Follow-up with PT Expert Committee regarding “Assigned Value”.	Susan	4/19/12	
187	Review complaint #1 included in Attachment D before the next meeting.	All	4/19/12	
188	Review SOP 4-101 in preparation for review during the next conference call.	All	On-going	

**Attachment C**

**Backburner / Reminders – TNI PT Executive Committee**

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Meeting Reference</b>	<b>Comments</b>
6	DW Table Micro Total Coliform Rule Request	10/15/09	9 out of 10 vs. 10 out of 10
7	Add the Field PT Subcommittee to the limit update SOP during its next update.	3/4/10	
8	Implement all policies and procedures necessary for operation and continual improvement of a national PT program – including FoPTs for various matrices, stakeholders and accreditation programs. (Need to update SOPs – including an appeals process) – Complete by 7/1/11.	10/21/10	From 2010 Strategic Plan Review
9	Implement a process to periodically evaluate the effectiveness of the PT provider oversight program and the Fields of Proficiency Testing. Complete by 6/1/11.	10/21/10	From 2010 Strategic Plan Review
10	Define a process for addition or removal of analytes from FoPT tables. Complete by 7/1/11.	10/21/10	Complete
11			
12			

## Attachment D – Complaint #1

### Description of Issue

Many of the State AB websites link directly to the A2LA website for the list of approved TNI PT Providers. This information is no longer correct since PT Providers can now (since January 2011) be accredited by 2 different PTPAs. This situation involves accreditation bodies in both NELAP states and non-NELAP states that use the TNI Standards. We feel that TNI is not actively or has not properly notified the states and that this situation is contributing to a restraint of trade with the state accreditation bodies defined above.

### Description of Actions

1/2011 - ACLASS was approved as a TNI PTPA.  
10/1/2011 – “PT PROVIDER” switched TNI PT Provider accreditation to ACLASS. Prior to this date “PT PROVIDER” was accredited by both A2LA and ACLASS. There was no lapse in accreditation during this period.  
11/10/11 – became aware that North Carolina (NCDENR) had issued letters saying that “PT PROVIDER” was not an accredited provider. The NCDENR website links directly to the A2LA webpage which only shows the A2LA accredited PT Providers. “PT PROVIDER” requested that NCDENR retract the letter. NCDENR said that they would temporarily accept PT data and they would try to update their website. As of 2/16/12 the website still links to A2LA website only.  
12/2/2011 - “PT PROVIDER” contacted state ABs to make sure that they were aware that ACLASS is an approved TNI PTPA and that “PT PROVIDER” is an approved TNI PTP.  
12/8/11 – Received email from Minnesota (MNELAP) saying that we were not on their list of approved TNI PT Providers because their website directs laboratories only to the A2LA website. “PT PROVIDER” requested that they change this and were told that they are working on it. As of 2/16/12 the website still links to A2LA website only.  
1/31/2012 – Issue was brought up in the TNI PT Executive Committee meeting. The issue did not seem to gain much traction and the consensus seemed to be that the issue should be handled by the TNI BOD.  
2/15/12 – became aware that the South Carolina (SCDHEC) website directs laboratories to the A2LA website only for the list of approved TNI PT Providers. The South Carolina (SCDHEC) representative said that they were never notified of ACLASS being approved as a TNI PTPA until “PT PROVIDER” contacted them on 12/2/2011 and would change their website as soon as possible. As of 2/16/12 the website still links to A2LA website only.

### Description of Remedy Sought

While we appreciate the memo issued 1/13/2012 on the TNI website regarding clarification of approved TNI PT Providers, we feel that this is not enough. We ask that TNI formally contact any NELAP State ABs or any non-NELAP State ABs that apply the TNI Standards and inform them that linking their website to only the A2LA website is misleading, outdated, incorrect and is currently restricting free trade. We additionally request that TNI inform the states that the only correct list of approved TNI PT Providers can be found on the TNI website and that any links should point to the TNI website.