

TNI PT Executive Committee Meeting Summary

January 20, 2011

1) Roll call and approval of minutes:

Chairman Eric Smith called the TNI PT Executive Committee meeting to order on January 20, 2011, at 1 PM EST. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 12 Executive Committee members present on the call. Associate members Aruna (A2LA), Keith (ACLASS), Jeff (ERA), RaeAnn (Oregon DEQ) and Patrick (RTC) were present.

The minutes from the December 16th meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Curtis to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Matt and unanimously approved. The minutes will be posted on the TNI website.

2) Membership and Election of Chair for 2011

Welcome new members: Dr. Brenda McGrath (other), Joe Pardue (other), Dr. Andy Valkenburg (lab), and Justin Brown (lab/other). Eric thanked Svetlana for her service on the Executive Committee the last three years.

Curtis moved to re-elect Eric Smith as chair of the PT Executive Committee. The motion was seconded by Gary and unanimously approved.

3) ACLASS Status

A letter was forwarded to the TNI Board of Directors with a recommendation to accept ACLASS as a new PTPA. The TNI Board approved this recommendation. A Statement of Work and TNI Agreement will be prepared for signature.

4) Review of A2LA Assessment

Eric forwarded the evaluation team's recommendation to the committee. There were no corrective action items. There were some comments. Stacie (A2LA evaluation team leader) said the documentation was well organized and made the evaluation run smoothly.

Eric thanked Kirstin (Chair of PT Expert Committee) and Stacie for their work.

Carl made a motion to recommend that the TNI Board renew A2LA's PTPA recognition within the scope of their application. A second was made by Gary and the motion was unanimously approved except for an abstention from Curtis (PT Provider).

5) DW FoPT Table and Letter – Vote

Eric forwarded the following to committee members: the DW FoPT table and a DRAFT letter to the NELAP AC.

Discussion:

Andy: There are analytes included on the table that are qualitative. He has seen failure on some of these analytes repeatedly and is concerned about the limits. There are analytes that are qualitative in the method, but they look like they are quantitative in the table. PCBs don't show up on the table. Not detected is a passing score – he has an issue with this.

Jeff noted that ELAB is going to recommend updates to the federal register analyte limits. Bromoform, chloroform, etc ... are tighter due to the CFR.

The subcommittee has been looking at lab QC levels when considering limits.

Carl asked about the Excel file and Jeff noted that he will be sending out a corrected Excel file.

Eric: The word "DRAFT" needs to be removed from the document. Naphthalene is a new analyte added to the volatile section, there were not enough studies to add it for the semi-volatiles. He is concerned that some programs will require that the volatile Naphthalene PT will be required to be run by a semi-volatile method. Carl pointed out that 525 and 524 are the same technology, so FL would honor the passing by 524 as accreditation for 525 if requested. No one noted that there are any other semi-volatile methods that run naphthalene – only 525. Based on this – Eric removes his recommendation to drop Naphthalene from the volatiles.

Michella: Where will Cryptosporidium be placed on the table? Matt confirmed that Cryptosporidium will have a separate table.

Carl – Asked about the Radiochemistry table. He would like to see this table looked at soon.

A motion was made by Carl to accept the DW FoPT table (dated 10-12-2010) with the removal of the word "Draft" and with an effective date of 7-1-2011. The motion was seconded by Michella.

Discussion:

In order to vote, Gary wanted to know the status on accreditation and experimental tables. Eric updated the new members on the history of experimental tables and the NELAP ACs request that they be eliminated by 7/1/11. Some analytes have been moved from the experimental table to the accreditation table – but some experimental analytes do not have sufficient data to be moved. Only the accreditation table is being voted on – not the experimental table.

NPW and SCM tables will be handled similar to the DW table. Experimental analytes that can be added, will be added. The remaining analytes will be dropped. These tables still need to be put together and distributed to the committee.

Eric noted that Jerry Parr asked if the experimental tables couldn't just be deleted from the website – see agenda item below.

A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Eric will take the Excel file from Jeff and attach it to the letter and send it on to the NELAP AC for review and approval. There were no comments on the DRAFT letter sent January 17th. Eric will send the letter to the NELAP AC next week, so final comments will be needed from the Executive Committee members in the next day.

6) Experimental PTs

As noted above, Jerry contacted Eric about removing the experimental tables from the website. Eric agreed with this concept because it allows work to continue on the remaining tables without the July 1, 2011 deadline.

Discussion:

Steve: If they are removed from the website and a current AB does not move over to the new standard on July 1, 2011, will this cause them any problems? The NELAP AC stated they do not have any problems with them being removed.

Curtis thought there should be a timeframe put on this to avoid confusion for PT providers and labs.

Carl recommended that the accreditation FoPT tables go up on the website. He suggested that additional tables could also be posted that include analytes that are being worked on. These tables would contain analytes that are not currently on the accreditation table.

The PT Expert Committee is working on language in the standard and they are suggesting something similar to Carl's comment, but the "table" cannot be called experimental in anyway.

The committee needs to move forward on the procedure for how new compounds are added to the accreditation table. A DRAFT is being worked on by Eric, Stacie and Curtis. Eric is waiting for comments and then it will be forwarded to the rest of the committee and associates.

There will be further discussion on this topic in Savannah.

7) PT Database Update

A request for database information has been sent to A2LA. This will not be a topic in Savannah – it is being worked on through a subcommittee.

8) Finalize Response – S&HW FoPT Table GRO Range Question

A question came in from NY and Carl provided some language for a response:

Question: The SW FoPTs list the GRO range as C5-C10. Is this correct? SW methods 8015B and 8015C list the range as C6-C10. Please clarify this discrepancy for our program. Thanks.

Carl's Response: I'll forward this to the Subcommittee if you want to. But I believe I remember for sure the answer to this one. It is not really a discrepancy. The main reason for C5 to C10 is that the isomer 2-Methylpentane elutes BEFORE n-C6 (n-Hexane) in most GC-FID chromatograms. The most commonly run GRO method is EPA 8015, and the EPA definition of GRO is the GC-FID response between 2-Methylpentane and 1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene (a C9 compound). The Wisconsin GRO method integrates between MTBE (5 carbons in this one) and Naphthalene (C10H8). AK-101 integrates between n-C6 and n-C10. Therefore, if we define the GRO PT as between C5 and C10 for PT formulation purposes, we capture most if not all of the GRO methods that labs are accredited for.

Comments:

Andy – Can there be two ranges instead of one? PT Providers are preparing state specific PTs. If the range is not within a state's requirements, the lab has an issue and will need to run additional PTs.

Is there a variation that needs to be accounted for? The committee decided to keep the range on the table at this point and then discuss it when the tables are reviewed by the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee. Eric will DRAFT a response with Carl's input above.

Would an FAQ be helpful on the website to include responses to these types of questions?

- Joe thought this would be helpful and should be considered.

- RaeAnn said this has worked well in the past.
- Gary asked if this is something TNI should consider as a whole and each committee have the option to create something like this.

Eric and Ilona will look into what it will take to do something like this.

9) Xylenes

Will be discussed at February 17th meeting.

10) Savannah Agenda

- 1) 1:30 p.m. - Program updates
 - a. Subcommittee Reports
 - b. PTPA Reports
- 2) 3 p.m. - Break
- 3) 3:30 pm
 - a. Discuss draft SOP 4-107 on FoPT table management
 - b. Discuss timetable for removing Experimental FoPT tables from the website
 - c. Open floor

RaeAnn will not be at the meeting in Savannah, but will send Eric something to include in the subcommittee report. The WET FoPT Subcommittee will be meeting every 2nd Wed of the month. RaeAnn has been selected as the Chair.

No other suggestions for the agenda were made.

11) Review Open Action Items

Updated in table.

12) New Business

None.

13) Next Meeting

The next meeting of the PT Executive Committee will be in Savannah, GA on February 1, 2011.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 EST. (Motion: Curtis Second: Joe Unanimously approved.)

Attachment A

Participants TNI Proficiency Testing Executive Committee

Members	Affiliation	Contact Information
Eric Smith, Chair (2010) Present	TestAmerica	615-726-0177 x1238 eric.smith@testamericainc.com
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator Present	TNI	828-712-9242 tauntoni@msn.com
Justin Brown (2011) Present	New Member	
Gary Dechant (2009) Present	Analytical Quality Associates, Inc.	970-434-4875 gldechant@aol.com
Amy Doupe (2009) Absent	Lancaster Laboratories, Inc.	717-656-2300 x1812 aldoupe@lancasterlabs.com
Steve Gibson (2008) Present	Texas Comm. on Env. Quality	512-239-1518 jgibson@tceq.state.tx.us
Dr. Brenda McGrath (2011) Present	New Member	
Michella Karapondo (2008) Present	USEPA	513-569-7141 karapondo.michella@epa.gov
Carl Kircher (2010) Present	Florida DOH	904-791-1574 carl_kircher@doh.state.fl.us
Stacie Metzler (2009) Present	HRSD	757-460-4217 smetzler@hrsd.com
Matt Sica (2008) Present	State of Maine	207-287-1929 matthew.sica@maine.gov
Joe Pardue (2011) Present	New Member	
Dr. Andy Valkenburg (2011) Present	New Member	
Curtis Wood (2010) Present	Environmental Resource Associates	303-431-8454 cwood@eraqc.com

Attachment B

Action Items – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
136	Start work on the SOP to add analytes to Accreditation FoPT Tables.	Eric, Curtis, Stacie	Jan 2010	Discussion in Savannah.
144	Prepare response to Kirstin and distribute to committee for comment.	Eric	12/16/10	Complete
146	Complete PTPA vote by e-mail.	Ilona	1/5/11	Complete
147	Invite candidates to be members of the Committee and forward acceptance to TNI Board for approval.	Eric Ilona	1/30/11	Complete
148	Request PT data from PTPA database.	Eric, Carl, Jeff	1/17/11	Complete
149	Update the FoPT tables to delete any analytes that do not meet the 2003 NELAC requirements.	Eric, Jeff	1/30/11	In progress.
150	Send out - DW FoPT table information and - a DRAFT letter to the NELAP AC. These will be voted on by the committee next month.	Eric	1/14/11	Complete
151	Follow-up on PTPA SOP with Policy Committee.	Ilona	1/20/11	Try to get comments from Policy Committee.
152	Forward A2LA PTPA recommendation to the TNI Board.	Eric	1/29/11	
153	Receive updated DW FoPT table from Jeff and forward with the cover letter to the NELAP AC.	Eric	1/29/11	
154	Draft response to GRO question.	Eric	1/29/11	
155	Prepare update on WET FoPT Subcommittee for Eric to present in Savannah.	RaeAnn	1/29/11	

Attachment C

Backburner / Reminders – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
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	