

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting March 4, 2021

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon CDT, March 4, 2021. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1. Steve introduced William Lipps who is joining the Advocacy Committee as an associate member.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from January 29, 2021 were reviewed. Lynn moved approval and Sharon seconded. All present voted in favor.

3. Updates

- Newsletter: Lynn reported that she planned to send out newsletter assignments after this meeting so that she could include any additional articles/authors that might be suggested.
- Summer meeting: Jerry reported that he is optimistic about the summer meeting. He is expecting that attendance will be about 50/50 in-person or virtual. The hotel is limiting capacity at 200 people per meeting room. The first week will be both in-person and virtual and the second week is virtual only. Zonetta noted that what TNI is doing is consistent with how other organizations are doing their conferences. Advocacy will be meeting at the end of second week on Thursday, August 12.

4. Mentoring Subcommittee Recommendations

Steve reported that the Mentoring Subcommittee had submitted their recommendations for the Advocacy committee's approval and submission to the TNI Board of Directors. Jerry noted that we will need to track membership income from laboratories being mentored as well as mentors in order to demonstrate that the program costs are covered. We also need to clearly state that mentors must be TNI members. The timeline to launch the Initiative was agreed upon as June 1, 2021. Lynn moved approval of the recommendations with the modifications as discussed. Sharon seconded. All present voted in favor.

5. State of National Accreditation Report

Steve and Carol presented the draft State of National Accreditation Report that included input provided by the various committee chairs and/or Program Administrators. Steve noted that the report as currently drafted was probably too long and detailed for its intended purpose. He asked for reactions and suggestions from the committee. Comments included:

- Who are we sending this to? The intended audience should inform the content. The suggested audience is Assistant Administrators at EPA, EPA Regional Administrators and Science Directors and all other interested federal agencies such as USGS, DOE, DOD. We should develop a list.
- What are we marketing? Suggestions included how NELAP and NEFAP have improved data, who are we, where are we today that we weren't 10 years ago, 20 years ago. Focus on what we've done and why it's important. Note that ISO 17025 isn't specific to environmental testing labs. The TNI standard is the only one. DoD and DoE based their programs on ours.
- Encourage accreditation for all environmental testing and sampling. Promote "data you can trust".
- We should develop two documents, a shorter more executive summary type document (bulleted list with links?) for high level administrators, and another with more detail for those in the trenches.

Jerry suggested that we reach out to John Griggs at EPA who chairs the Environmental Measurement Forum for ideas about who to send the report to at EPA. We should also contact Lara Phelps and Dan Hautman for ideas. Carol, Jerry, and Steve will work on a high-level draft to present at the next meeting.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting is April 1, 2021 at 12 noon CDT.

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Absent
2.	Steve Arms	Other	Present
3.	Lynn Bradley	Other	Present
4.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Present
5.	Stacie Crandall	Lab	Present
6.	Zonetta English	Lab	Present
7.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Present
8.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
9.	Trinity O'Neal	Lab	Absent
10.	Robin Cook	Lab	Absent
11.	Sharon Mertens	Lab	Present
12.	Teresa Coins	Lab	Absent
13.	Josh Wyeth	PT provider	Absent
	Associate Members		
	Kirstin Daigle	Lab	Absent
	Judy Morgan	Lab	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Keith Chapman	Other	Absent
	Andrea Teal	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Devon Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Bob Pullano	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Lee Wolf	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Lily Sanchez	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Silky Labie	Other	Absent
	Elizabeth Turner	Lab	Absent
	Stephanie Drier	AB	Absent
	Erin Consuegra	Lab	Absent
	Nan Thomey	Lab (other)	Absent
	Aurora Shields	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	William Lipps	Other	Present
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present