

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
April 1, 2021

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon CDT, April 1, 2021. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from March 4, 2021 were reviewed. Steve noted that “program” needed to be changed to “initiative” in item #4. Lynn moved approval and Sharon seconded. All present voted in favor.

3. Updates

- Newsletter: Lynn reported that Jerry has sent out an email notifying newsletter authors that the deadline for articles has been moved up to April 15. The revised publication date is May 1.
- Steve reported that the mentoring initiative was approved by the TNI Board. Key issues for the Board were limiting liability for the TNI Board and mentors and providing continuing oversight for the program. The Mentoring Subcommittee will check the mentoring expectations agreement to verify that indemnification is provided for TNI and the mentors. The Advocacy Committee will continue in an oversight role for the program.
- California Meetings: Jerry reported that as a result of Jacob’s presentation at the winter meeting he has received several requests for presentations at California meetings. Jerry asked for volunteers to help with the California Tri-counties CWEA meeting on the implementation topic. Jerry also asked for suggestions for a CA lab to speak at this meeting. Bruce Medhurst or Ken Brown were suggested. Marlene volunteered to help prepare a PowerPoint. Jerry will also submit an abstract on this subject to CA ELAP for their meeting.
- Summer meeting: Plans for the summer meeting are going well. The first week will be both in-person and virtual and the second week is virtual only. It looks like we may have 200 people in-person for the first week. Advocacy will be meeting virtually at the end of second week on Thursday, August 12 from 9-12 ET. Marlene noted that Field Activities needs to meet. She will check with the committee chair on that. She also suggested that WLA be invited to speak. Jerry will keep that in mind if any of the plenary speakers are not available. Jerry will be including information about COVID precautions in the registration information. Registration will open April 15.

4. State of National Accreditation Report

Following last month’s meeting, Carol, Jerry, and Steve, along with input from Sharon, William, and Lynn, worked to develop a shorter executive summary type document for communicating the state of national accreditation. Comments and suggestions on the revised draft included:

- To make the letter appear shorter and therefore more likely to be read, make a bulleted attachment as the second page, and reduce line spacing.
- Make sure all acronyms are defined.
- Make information about NELAP and NEFAP consistent in presentation. Marlene will provide suggested edits.
- IEC should appear after references to ISO, e.g., ISO/IEC
- Delete bullet about remote assessments under NELAP.
- Add the word “Program” on the headings. Make sure headings are consistent.
- Revise sentence order under Stationary Source Audit Sample Program.
- Add bullet about Mentoring Initiative under Educational Delivery system and Other Resources.

Carol reported that Lara had suggested sending this letter to the present Science Advisor who is also the AA for ORD – Jennifer Orme-Zavleta. Lara offered to make sure to get a meeting on her calendar to discuss it with her and fill-in some history once it is sent. We should also share with the Office of Water AA.

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6. Next Meeting

The next meeting is May 6, 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 | Absent |
| 6. | Zonetta English | Lab | Absent |
| 7. | Marlene Moore | Other and NEFAP | Present |
| 8. | Janice Willey | Federal | Absent |
| 9. | Trinity O'Neal | Lab | Present |
| 10. | Robin Cook | Lab | Absent |
| 11. | Sharon Mertens | Lab | Present |
| 12. | Teresa Coins | Lab | Absent |
| 13. | Josh Wyeth | PT provider | Absent |
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| | 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 | Absent |
| | 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 |
| | Celeste Crowley | Other | Present |
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| | Staff | | |
| | Jerry Parr | TNI ED | Present |
| | Carol Batterton | TNI PA | Present |
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