

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
May 3, 2018

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon CST, May 3, 2018. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes from April 5, 2018, were reviewed. Steve noted that the final sentence of the fourth bullet in section 3 (Updates) should read "There will also be a special presentation with interactive graphics on Hurricane Katrina." Mid-way through the meeting, once a quorum was attained, Robin moved and Janice seconded that the minutes be approved with this change. All present voted in favor.

3. Updates

- Method validation project: Letters from TNI and WEF went to member labs to identify labs that might be interested in the 600 series method validation project. Similar letters are expected to be sent from ACIL and APHL in the near future. EPA will prepare a QA Project Plan for the project, once adequate interest from labs is affirmed. This may take about eight months, and then the actual data collection can begin.
- The Advocacy Document SOP 1-122 was reviewed and approved by TNI's Policy Committee. Jerry briefly explained the document management system being piloted, Power DMS, and noted that he is moving all of the Advocacy documents from Dropbox to Power DMS. Also, the webmaster, William Daystrom, has been asked to post all Advocacy documents to the Advocacy Committee web page. Jerry also mentioned that he may introduce this committee to Power DMS for the June meeting.
- Lee reported that the Oregon Environmental Laboratory Association meeting had about 125 people. He also stated that the new lab accreditation unit supervisor at the WA Department of Ecology, Rebecca Wood, is interested in learning about TNI. Jerry will send her our brochure.
- Jerry noted that he is seeing a shift towards acceptance of the new accreditation program by California labs. Ron indicated that the small labs are still resistant but the larger labs are working towards the 2016 standard. Apparently, the EPA Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board (ELAB) is meeting with small labs, but there may not be much change from that effort.

4. New Member Election

Midway through the meeting, an additional person arrived, so that a quorum was achieved. Ron Coss' application to become a full committee member (with voting rights) was considered. Robin moved and Martina seconded that his application be accepted, and approval was unanimous. Welcome, Ron!

5. Standards Comparison Articles

Two different articles were offered for the Advocacy Committee's review and approval. Both are titled "NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION STANDARDS" but the one dated February 1, 2018, is a comparison of the TNI standards 2003-2009-2016, while the one dated February 23, 2018, compares the TNI standard and ISO 17025.

The February 1 article still needs some “clean-up” of formatting inconsistencies and clarifying references to specific standards, as well as review and verification of the comparisons made. Jerry agreed to revise and expand Appendix 2. For Appendix 1, Steve agreed to review page 1, Stacie will review page 2, Ron will review page 3 and Paul will review page 4. The reviews should be completed by the June meeting and hopefully the article can be approved then.

For the February 23 article, participants were requested to review it and be prepared to approve it at the June meeting.

6. Article for APHL Environmental Health Newsletter

TNI has been invited to submit an article for the subject newsletter, with a deadline of mid-July. After discussion and clarification of the newsletter’s audience, participants settled on an article about analytical methods for water re-use. Stacie offered to be the lead author, since Hampton Roads Sanitation District has an active project on this topic. Ron and Robin agreed to join in, and perhaps Sharon can contribute, as well. Stacie and Robin mentioned that they have approached APHL about doing webcasts on the topic, with no response, so that an article seems like a good “entry point” for the topic.

During this discussion, Jerry noted that APHL has an excellent table on its website, comparing the various national accreditation programs. See <https://www.aphl.org/aboutAPHL/publications/Documents/QS-2017Jun-Crosswalk-of-Regulations.pdf#search=crosswalk%20of%20regulations>

7. The Advocacy Task List

This list was not reviewed during the meeting.

Action items from this meeting are to review the articles, for Jerry to rewrite Appendix 2 of the February 23 article, and to begin preparation of the water re-use article.

8. Possible Regulatory Comments

A copy of the EPA Proposed Rule, “Strengthening Transparency in Regulatory Science,” (83 FR 18768, April 30, 2018) was distributed with the thought that TNI might wish to file comments. Closer review showed that the types of information addressed in the proposed rule are not normally used by TNI, but participants were still urged to review the proposed rule and file comments if they were so motivated.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Advocacy Committee will be Thursday, June 7, 2018, at 12 Noon CST.

Attachment 1

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