

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
December 2, 2021 1:00 pm Eastern

1. Call to Order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm Eastern, December 2, 2021. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from November 4, 2021 were reviewed. Stacie moved and William seconded that the minutes be accepted as presented. Approval was unanimous.

3. Updates

Charter – the revised charter was approved by the TNI Board at its November meeting.

Newsletter – the newsletter was sent on November 15. Steve will edit the next newsletter, after the winter conference.

Mentors – all ten labs are matched with ten mentors. Jerry will ask for feedback from labs and mentors before conference.

Value of PT Initiative – PTPEC did not meet in November, so no progress yet.

Conference in San Antonio – the brochure is finalized and ready for mailing. Bexar County (where San Antonio is located) remains at “substantial” risk, but in the lower end of that range, so that Jerry anticipates a drop to “moderate” risk by the time of conference. The Field Activities Committee meeting on Tuesday morning has been dropped, as only the Chair will be at conference. Registration is open.

4. Review and Update to the Advocacy Committee Workplan

Steve noted that this is now a 2022 workplan, instead of 2021, but we will have an update in time for conference. Steve then suggested that we focus on the high priority items, and status updates for all but one of those were discussed. The workplan itself is distributed with these minutes for committee use.

The first item, Outreach to Data Users, began with a discussion of the forms of outreach underway (see the plan, below) and led to consensus that an actual long-range plan is needed to accomplish the outreach and progress towards a true national accreditation system in systematic fashion. This would include TNI's interactions with the Environmental Monitoring Coalition and the new EPA National Program Office, now led by Anand Mudambi, but also include NEFAP and the other federal agencies using environmental labs. Jerry, Marlene, William and Sharon will constitute a workgroup to create a draft plan, starting after conference; from their discussions, Lynn will compile and format the outcomes into a formal plan for review and acceptance by this committee.

Resources known to be available for implementing this plan are as follows; others will likely be identified.

- NEFAP list of data user organizations
- Possibly use non-profit/NGOs such as industry trade associations (American Petroleum Institute, American Chemistry Council, AWWA) and state executive branch associations (ASDWA, ASTSWMO, etc.)
- State Certification Officers (Jerry has a list from the State Assessor Forum)
- APHL for state environmental lab contacts
- TNI's Ambassadors

The webcast trainings were also discussed as part of the plan. Marlene has completed the updated "Introduction to NELAP" course and it is posted under free training. Jerry agreed to transform one of the existing presentations into an "Introduction to TNI" webcast for new members and recruits; he will distribute the draft for committee review when complete, probably later in the winter.

Also, TNI has contracted with an individual to set up and maintain a TNI page on LinkedIn. This should soon be available.

5. New Business

There was no new business.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting is January 6, 2022, at 1:00 pm Eastern. The agenda and documents will be sent in advance of the meeting.

The Advocacy Committee will meet on the final day of conference, Friday, January 21, 2022, starting at 8 am. The meeting agenda will be published in the program. While there will be no virtual participants, the session will be recorded as a webcast, and can be viewed by meeting registrants, once it is posted following the conference.

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Steve Arms, Chair	Other	Present
2.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Present
3.	Stacie Crandall	Lab	Present
4.	Zonetta English	Lab	Absent
5.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Present
6.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
7.	Trinity O'Neal	Lab	Present
8.	Robin Cook	Lab	Absent
9.	Sharon Mertens, Vice Chair	Lab	Present
10.	Teresa Coins	Lab	Absent
11.	Josh Wyeth	PT provider	Present
12.	William Lipps	Other	Present
	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
	Aurora Shields	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Carol Batterton	Other	Absent
	Celeste Crowley	Other	Present
	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Lynn Bradley	TNI PA	Present