

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
January 6, 2011

1. Call to order

Judy Duncan called the meeting to order at 12 Noon CDT on January 6, 2011. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Approval of minutes was delayed until a quorum was present. After Zonetta joined the call, a motion was made and seconded to approve minutes for November 4, 2010. All present voted in favor.

3. Small Lab Advocate report

Keith Chapman reported that the SLAG had taken December off, and there was nothing new to report. The SLAG will meet later this month and resume work on current projects.

4. Report from ASDWA meeting

Members reviewed the report sent by Ken Jackson on his participation at the ADSWA meeting. Ken recommended more interaction with this group and that TNI submit a paper to next year's conference (Minneapolis in Oct. 2011). Ken also recommended that TNI continue to have a TNI exhibit at meetings such as this, but we need more materials to hand out. We have brochures on NEFAP and SLAG. Brochures also need to be developed for NELAP, CSDP, and PT.

Judy asked Carol to contact Jerry Parr about having Brooke Connor assist with development of some new brochures that could be handed out at meetings like this. Several ideas were expressed including whether or not we wanted to have an all encompassing brochure or whether we should have program specific brochures. Identifying our audiences will be necessary. Also, we should strive for continuity of appearance, so that the brochures will be easily recognizable as TNI material.

5. Agenda for Savannah meeting

The Advocacy Committee will meet on Wednesday afternoon from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. Issues which will be covered at this meeting include:

- Meeting with representatives of APHL to discuss ways to develop an acceptable approach for accreditation of state environmental labs.
- Development of a long range plan for Advocacy.

- Establishing target dates for the 2011 newsletters and assigning articles for the next newsletter. Jerry will be prepared to assist with this.

With regard to development of a long range plan, the committee needs to work with Ken Jackson as he develops plans for the new cooperative agreement. Any long range Advocacy plan should include NEFAP. Elements of a long range plan should include assuring that federal agencies specify use of NELAP accredited in contracts (specific focus on USGS), outreach to other organizations such as APHL, WEF and AWWA, and lobbying for national accreditation.

Several ideas concerning lobbying for national accreditation were expressed including:

- We need to be careful that cooperative agreement funds are not used for lobbying Congress or EPA.
- TNI should be prepared to tie public panic to the issues. Oil and gas explorations issues, recent chromium focus are opportunities to publicize need for data quality. Congress will want any legislation related to accreditation to be newsworthy.
- We need to express benefits of accreditation in economic terms.
- We should have our information and case presentation together before an incident arises. We should review the white paper on benefits, brochures and other information to help us present our case to different audiences.
- Another avenue would be to arrange a Capitol briefing prior to an incident so that we can begin to establish relationships and have TNI recognized as a credible organization on data quality issues.
- Congress will want to know who our opposition is and who our allies are.

Key activities to begin this effort include getting our message together and working with other organizations, and beginning to couch our message in terms that advocate for a national accreditation program. The Advocacy committee will pull together existing information for review at Savannah along with the FEM policy statement on accreditation.

6. Committee membership

Judy Duncan indicated that it was time to review committee membership. According to TNI SOP 1-101, we are little off track on appointing new members, but we can get on track at Savannah. Judy suggested that we ask those current members whose terms were for three years if they want to continue. We should add an AB representative. The Advocacy committee does not have to have strict balance but should strive for lack of dominance from any one group. There are currently 18 members. There is one pending application for committee membership.

7. Outreach to Utilities

Elizabeth Turner reported that Len Schantz and Susan Boutros attended the water quality session at the AWWA meeting along with Steve Via from AWWA staff. The presenters tried to keep the meeting focused on quality systems as opposed to accreditation and the differences in PT requirements, etc. AWWA has agreed to present a series of webinars on quality systems.

Zonetta English reported that NACWA staff has been in contact with AWWA staff and all are agreeable to a conference call later in January to discuss accreditation issues and a possible joint meeting to identify remaining concerns with NELAP accreditation.

8. Antimicrobials and efficacy testing

Jerry reported that Lara Autry had been contacted by representatives of the Office of Pesticides regarding accreditation of labs that do efficacy testing for antimicrobials. They are sending representatives to Savannah and would like to meet with us to discuss. Jerry has set the meeting for Tuesday morning at 10:30. Steve Arms, Judy Duncan and Lynn Bradley will attend for TNI.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting will be in Savannah on February 2, 2011, at 1:30 pm.

Attachment 1

#	LastName	FirstName	Stakeholder Group	Present	Term
1	Autry	Lara	Other	Y	1
2	Coats	Kevin	Other	N	2
6	Bradley	Lynn	Other	Y	1
7	Duncan	Judy	AB	Y	1
8	Jackson	Kenneth	Other	N	2
9	Shields	Aurora	Lab	Y	3
10	Wyatt	Susan	AB	X	1
12	English	Zonetta	Lab	Y	2
13	Perry	Michael	Lab	N	3
14	Hogg	Paula	Lab	N	1
15	Ward	Gary	Lab	Y	2
16	Wichman	Michael	Lab	Y	3
17	Keith	Chapman	Small Lab Advocate	Y	
18	Parr	Jerry	ED	Y	
19	Batterton	Carol	PA	Y	
			ASSOCIATE MEMBERS		
	McCracken	Kirstin	Lab	N	
	Morgan	Judy	Lab	Y	
	Steve	Arms	AB	Y	

