

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
January 27, 2016

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm CDT, January 27, 2016, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes were not considered at this meeting.

3. Highlights of the Tulsa meeting

Jerry and Steve reviewed highlights of the Tulsa meeting and asked attendees to identify issues that Advocacy needs to address in the coming months. Items identified included:

- The Alaska DEC has published a Public Scoping document asking for input regarding a possible new regulatory requirement that labs in the UST program have NELAP or DoD accreditation. It was agreed that TNI should provide a response using the letter sent to the California regarding the benefits of NELAP accreditation as a basis. We should also add information about accreditations being available from NGABs later this year. We should advise NGABs in case they want to respond also. It was also suggested that we search LAMS to see how many labs in Alaska are already NELAP or DoD accredited. Comments are due Feb. 7.
- Zonetta reported on a meeting she had with State of Kentucky officials regarding the requirement to become a NELAP accreditation body. Zonetta had previously provided Jerry with a list of questions from Kentucky staff. Jerry and others have been working on a written response. TNI will need to provide them with information to help them explain/sell to state leadership. Currently, Kentucky has over 600 wastewater labs and 400 field sampling organizations with a staff of around 20. They already accept NELAP accreditation in lieu of state accreditation. The NELAP AC has invited KY to participate in their calls. It was agreed that we should have the response letter ready within a week and then save the questions to assist in preparing an FAQ for other states interested in becoming an AB.
- EPA's Office of Water has resolved the asbestos PT dilemma by securing RTI to provide asbestos PTs. RTI is already a 17043 accredited PT provider, and may not need to be TNI accredited. This issue will need further study.
- EPA's Office of Water is exploring options to provide more oversight of state DW programs and labs in light of the Flint, MI, situation. They will be making recommendations at some point. TNI should monitor for opportunities to provide input.
- TNI will have a new laboratory standard within 2 weeks. Jerry is suggesting that we have no expert committee meetings at the summer meeting, but instead have training on the new modules with no overlapping sessions.

- The Laboratory Accreditation Body expert committee is creating a notice of intent to develop a new standard. They hope to have a working draft standard by the summer.
- The newcomers' reception went well and should be repeated.
- The generic application was previewed and will be ready to roll out soon.
- NEFAP gave a vote of confidence to their new strategic plan for advocacy.
- TNI has over 1700 accredited labs, but only 909 members. What can we do to get more accredited labs to join? Jerry noted that we have recently re-structured member benefits. It was suggested that we consider a mail out to labs advertising benefits.

4. Regional meetings for outreach

Regional meetings previously identified for outreach included:

- TCEQ Trade Fair
- Texas Water
- WEAT Laboratory Conference
- Oregon Laboratory Association
- Kansas WEA
- Florida Society of Environmental Analysts
- Mid-west Water Analysts
- Virginia WEA
- NY-PA Environmental Laboratory Association
- KY-TN Wastewater Environment Association
- KY Water Professionals Conference

Additional suggestions from meeting attendees:

- Virginia Lab Practices
- Virginia Pretreatment conference
- Joint annual meeting of VA WEA and VA AWWA
- KLEA
- North Carolina
- New Jersey
- DoD Environmental Data Quality Workshop
- DoE
- WEFTEC – Stacie indicated there were plans in the works for a lab session on the exhibit floor which would not incur a registration cost for attendees
- **Note:** Following this meeting, TNI was contacted by California Water Environment Association to participate in an event.

Suggestions for topics to include in a TNI presentation:

- The 2016 TNI standard
- TNI resources available to laboratories
- Why using an accredited lab is important
- Member benefits (need a new brochure)

- Buy or ask for a booth only if speaking also

Jerry stated that TNI has received an invitation to speak to the Oregon Lab Association on May 11. Jerry will contact Lee Wolf, TNI ambassador to Washington to see if he might be able to speak. TNI has also received an invitation from the Kansas Laboratory Education Association (KLEA) to speak on May 3. KLEA has also offered a booth. Robin Cook may be able to do that meeting. She will work with Jerry.

It was suggested that TNI look into providing plaques to the small lab associations as was done in the past. This will be an agenda item at a future meeting.

5. Newsletter

Stacie Metzler will be the editor for the spring newsletter. Articles will be due March 15 with a target publication date of April 1. Suggested articles and authors are below.

TNI Newsletter Assignments		
Due March 15 to Stacie Metzler, issue editor Publication date – April 1		
Recap of Tulsa meeting	Carol	
Summer meeting in Orange County	Jerry Parr	Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org
Update on TNI ambassadors	Steve Arms	
Update on 2015 standard	Ken Jackson	
New TNI Board	Steve Arms	
Member profile (Steve Arms)	Stephanie Drier? Carol will check	
Asbestos PT's	Dan Hautman	
CA status report	Jerry Parr	
Small lab handbook update	Paul Junio	
OK (if we have news)	?	
Regional meetings (where we are going, let us know if you have a meeting)	Steve, Carol, Jerry?	
Sidebar: TNI will begin charging for training certificates	Ilona?	

The list of articles and authors will be refined at the next meeting. Editor for the summer newsletter will be Robin Cook and editor for the fall newsletter will be Trinity O'Neal.

6. California webinar

Jerry reviewed the history of the California laboratory accreditation program and the expert panel recommendations. He indicated that he had been invited to give a presentation on the TNI standards and accreditation on March 23. He reviewed his draft presentation which was designed to help small labs understand and be comfortable with NELAP accreditation. Comments/suggestions on the draft presentation included:

- Take out reference to calibration labs on the comparison slide
- Add a slide noting that other industries have done what we've done, e.g. clinical, forensic
- Add mention that TNI standards are American National Standards
- On Technical Assistance slide, revise to say that small lab handbook "provides tips and hints for implementing". Take out "in plain English"
- Promote summer conference and show agenda
- Show flow chart on how to get accredited
- On comparison slide, change "should to must" to say "should to shall"

Volunteers to review and edit included Paul Junio, Silky Labie, Sarah Hoffman, Ken Jackson, George Detsis, and Maria Friedman.

8. Handbook

Steve reported on the status of comments from the expert committees on handbook chapters. Jerry reported that he had formed a subcommittee for the Data Handling and Reporting chapter. Stacie Metzler reported that she will be re-writing the Quality Control chapter. Zonetta will ensure that the Safety chapter is submitted by March.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Advocacy Committee will be February 4, 2016. Agenda items will include:

- The Alaska comment letter
- The KY response letter
- CA ELTAC nominations

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Absent
2.	Steve Arms	AB	Present
3.	Lynn Bradley	Other	Absent
4.	Stephanie Drier	Lab	Absent
5.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Present
6.	Stacie Metzler	Lab	Present
7.	Zonetta English	Lab	Present

8.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Present
9.	Elizabeth Turner	Small Lab Advocate	Absent
10.	Gary Ward	AB	Absent
11.	Michael Wichman	Lab	Absent
12.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
13.	Trinity O'Neal	Lab	Absent
14.	Robin Cook	Lab	Present
	Associate Members		
	Kirstin Daigle	Lab	Absent
	Judy Morgan	Lab	Absent
	Aurora Shields	Lab	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Judy Duncan	Other	Absent
	Kenneth Jackson	Other	Absent
	Keith Chapman	Other	Absent
	Sharon Mertens	TNI Board Chair	Present
	Teresa Coins	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Andrea Teal	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Devon Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Bob Pullano	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Lee Wolf	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present