

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
February 1, 2012

1. Call to order

Judy Duncan called the meeting to order at 1:15 PM EST on February 1, 2012, at the Forum on Laboratory Accreditation in Sarasota FL. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. New member

Following introduction of members, Lara Autry motioned to add Janice Willey as a committee member ex officio representing the federal sector. Judy Duncan seconded. All present voted in favor.

3. Advocacy accomplishments

Judy Duncan presented an overview of the Advocacy Committee's accomplishments since the Seattle summer meeting. Questions and comments on this presentation included:

- AB database
 - The committee had originally thought to limit access to TNI members only. Jerry Parr proposed we have this database open to anyone.
 - It was also noted that there should be a disclaimer on the database. William Daystrom has added it.
 - An alternative display would be to show a map of the states and have users click on the map to show information on the state of interest.
 - EPA Region 8 handles Wyoming's DW lab accreditations. This should be more clearly indicated on the table.
 - Curtis Wood and Judy Morgan will QA the database.
- Regional meetings
 - We should add a slide indicating regional meetings that TNI has participated in.
 - Examples include: TWUA in March, FSEA in May, and WEAT in June. We should also consider exhibit space at the National Water Quality Monitoring Conference.
 - Jerry will attend the DoE conference, and we should think about the ACIL meetings as well.

4. Policy on use of TNI presentations

Judy presented an overview of the policy on use of TNI presentations. Comments included:

- It is better to set this up as a library, so that users can browse available presentations.
- Access should be limited to Board, committee chairs, staff, and anyone else who requests permission. Jerry will give out the password. William will develop options.
- Members agreed that the policy was OK as written, but we need to think about implementation.

5. Encouraging states to participate

Judy asked for suggestions on how to encourage non-NELAP states to participate.

Comments and suggestions included:

- Hold a special session for non-NELAP states at the summer meeting. Listen to what the states do, what kind of programs they have. We need to think about a way to encourage them to come to the meeting. Maybe we can waive the registration fee or offer a travel stipend.
- The NELAP AC is thinking of having 1 or 2 open conference calls a year. Non-NELAP ABs can be invited. This should be done in May to encourage states to participate in DC meeting.
- Could target ASDWA meetings for presentations and also EPA regional meetings to reach non-NELAP states.
- Should consider developing a series of webinars. Think about multiple webinars with a regional focus but participants can attend any webinar. Webinar and/or meeting could include:
 - Where we are
 - What we've done
 - We want to know what you are doing. How have you used TNI standards or other resources?
 - What are the challenges in running your programs?
 - How have they integrated TNI standard into their regulations?
- Could also do a direct mail piece with an invitation to participate. TNI wants to know your needs and challenges. Put a copy of our newsletter in the mail out.

6. Newsletter

Judy reviewed the newsletter schedule for 2012. Lara Autry volunteered to be editor for October 2012 and Michael Wichman volunteered to be editor for March 2013.

The next newsletter will be published on April 15. Elizabeth Turner is editor and articles are due March 15. Suggested articles for this edition include:

- Update on QS standard
- Update on PT standard
- Sidebar on mobile app – executed at first level, plans for more
- NEMC update

- Outreach to non-NELAP states – open conference call, letter, invite to NEMC
- Board elections
- AB task force update
- OK accreditation application
- NELAP AC update
- Announce AB database
- Update from ACIL
- Update from SSAS – PT provider approved
- Regulatory column (important to include for non-NELAP states): MUR, pilot study LOD/LOQ, recreational waters
- Sidebar on Advocacy activities
- Member spotlight – Carol Smith for April and Catherine Katsikis for July.
Reminder from Jan W: we need better photos for member spotlight.

6. Method update rule

Jerry requested that a discussion of the Method Update Rule be on the next meeting agenda.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Advocacy Committee will be March 1, 2012, at 12 noon CST.

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Lara Autry	EPA (Other)	Present
2.	Lynn Bradley	Other	Present
3.	Judy Duncan	Other	Present
4.	Kenneth Jackson	Other	Absent
5.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Absent
6.	Susan Wyatt	AB	Absent
7.	Zonetta English	Lab	Absent
8.	Paula Hogg	Lab	Present
9.	Elizabeth Turner	Lab	Absent
10.	Gary Ward	AB	Present
11.	Michael Wichman	Lab	Present
12.	Janice Willey	Federal agency	Present
13.	Keith Chapman	Small Lab Advocate	Absent
	Associate Members		
	Kirstin Daigle	Lab	Absent
	Judy Morgan	Lab	Present
	Steve Arms	AB	Absent
	Aurora Shields	Lab	Present
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present