

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
February 4, 2016

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon CDT, February 4, 2016. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes from January 7 and January 27, 2016, were reviewed. Robin Cook moved approval and Elizabeth Turner seconded. The minutes were approved for posting. Lara Phelps abstained.

3. Kentucky Letter

Jerry reviewed the draft letter responding to the questions asked by Kentucky state officials who are considering becoming a NELAP AB. Comments and suggestions from the committee included:

- On question #3, delete the phrase “at the end of the day”
- Remind state officials that they can participate in the NELAP AC calls, who to contact
- Is there an application fee? If so, mention that in question #5
- Add a bullet to question #7 indicating that having a NELAP program would assure state officials that they had regulatory data of know and documented quality, defensible, auditable, etc.
- On question #10, list the other NGABs that are active members of TNI

Jerry will clean up the letter, format and sign. Members agreed that the letter could be used to develop an FAQ sheet for use in the future with other states as they consider becoming ABs.

4. Alaska letter

Members reviewed the draft letter in response to Alaska’s Notice of Public Scoping. It was suggested that we might want to mention NEFAP since there was a lot of opportunity for site work in Alaska. Members decided to attach a pdf brochure with general information about all of TNI’s programs. Jerry will edit. Carol will attach Sharon’s signature and send to Alaska officials.

4. California ELTAC

California’s solicitation for nominations to the Environmental Laboratory Technical Advisory Committee (ELTAC) was reviewed. Members discussed nominating someone who could represent TNI’s position and provide information about TNI. It was unclear whether the nominees had to reside within the state of California or if it could be outside

the state. Steve Arms volunteered to call Karen Larsen to find out if the nominee had to be a CA resident.

Note: Steve reported back that the nominee did not have to be a resident. Sharon then nominated Jerry Parr on behalf of the TNI Board.

5. CWEA

Jerry reported to the committee that he had been asked to participate in a survey conducted by the California Water Environment Association (CWEA). CWEA stated that they are “connecting with key regulators to learn more about how they perceive the value of certification for wastewater professionals. This is an important part of our strategic initiative to provide more responsive and relevant certification programs for employers and certificate holders. CWEA and entire water sector would really benefit from NELAP participation.....The perspective can be about certification in general, not specifically about CWEA’s Laboratory Analyst certification program.” Members agreed that this was an important opportunity for TNI to talk about laboratory accreditation.

6. 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	carbat@beecreek.net
Summer meeting in Orange County	Jerry Parr	jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org
Update on TNI ambassadors	Steve Arms	arms.steve@comcast.net
Update on 2015 standard	Ken Jackson	ken.jackson@nelac-institute.org
New TNI Board	Steve Arms	arms.steve@comcast.net
Member profile (Steve Arms)	Stephanie Drier? Carol will check	Will let you know
Asbestos PT’s	Dan Hautman	hautman.dan@epa.gov
CA status report	Jerry Parr	jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org
Small lab handbook update	Paul Junio	paulj@nslab.com
OK (if we have news)	Lynn?	
Regional meetings (where we are going, let us know if you have a meeting)	Steve, Carol, Jerry?	carbat@beecreek.net jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org arms.steve@comcast.net
Sidebar: TNI will begin charging for training certificates	Ilona	ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org

8. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Advocacy Committee will be March 3, 2016.

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Present
2.	Steve Arms	AB	Present
3.	Lynn Bradley	Other	Present
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	Absent
9.	Elizabeth Turner	Small Lab Advocate	Present
10.	Gary Ward	AB	Absent
11.	Michael Wichman	Lab	Absent
12.	Janice Willey	Federal	Present
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	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present