

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
April 4, 2013

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12 Noon CDT, April 4, 2013. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes of the March 7, 2013, meeting were reviewed. Lynn Bradley moved that the minutes be approved. Elizabeth Turner seconded. All present voted in favor.

3. Letter from TNI to the FEM

The draft TNI letter to the FEM was reviewed. Several additional edits were suggested. Carol will make the edits and forward a clean version to Jerry and Steve. Jerry will place the letter on the TNI Board agenda for approval.

4. Feedback on Newsletter

Jerry asked for feedback on the March newsletter in the new format. Several responded that they didn't receive it. Jerry will check on that. The committee decided that the target date for the next newsletter will be July 1. We will begin discussion topics at the May Advocacy meeting and finalize authors in June.

5. Half Day Session in San Antonio for Data Users: The Benefits of Accreditation

The committee brainstormed topics and potential speakers for a half day session in San Antonio to promote the benefits of accreditation. The suggested title of the session is:

**The Importance of Competence in the Environmental
Measurement and Monitoring Community**

The session will focus on the benefits of accreditation to various stakeholder groups in the environmental measurement and monitoring community. Suggested organization of topics (from previous white paper):

a. Introduction

b. Public – promotes confidence that environmental decisions are based on reliable, authentic data

c. Organizations – accreditation promotes ongoing self-evaluation and continuous improvement and provides an effective system for accountability and enhances its reputation.

Suggested speaker: Kim Watson

d. **Government** – serves as a basis to ensure that environmental monitoring data are adequate for their intended purpose.

Suggested speakers: Lara Phelps (FEM competency memos), Brian Schumacher (importance of competency in field sampling and measurements), someone from EPA Region IV, Jordan Adelson

e. **Data Users** – provides assurance that the laboratory has been evaluated and has met accepted standards established by and with the profession

Suggested speakers: state agency program person or lawyer, TCEQ (Anne Strahl or Anne (Rhyne) Panko), Fred, Janice Willey, Jordan

f. **Profession** – advances the field by promoting uniform accepted standards of practice and advocating rigorous adherence to these standards.

6. Position Statements

The Quality Systems General Position statement was tabled for now.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Advocacy Committee will be in May 2, 2013, at 12 Noon CST.

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 | AB | Absent |
| 5. | Judy Duncan | Other | Absent |
| 6. | Kenneth Jackson | Other | Present |
| 7. | Martina McGarvey | AB | Absent |
| 8. | Zonetta English | Lab | Present |
| 9. | Paula Hogg | Lab | Present |
| 10. | Marlene Moore | Other and NEFAP | Present |
| 11. | Elizabeth Turner | Small Lab Advocate | Present |
| 12. | Gary Ward | AB | Absent |
| 13. | Michael Wichman | Lab | Present |
| 14. | Janice Willey | Federal | Present |
| | | | |

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| | Associate Members | | |
| | Kirstin Daigle | Lab | Absent |
| | Judy Morgan | Lab | Present |
| | Aurora Shields | Lab | Absent |
| | JoAnn Boyd | Lab and FAC | Absent |
| | Mandi Edwards | Laboratory | Absent |
| | Sharon Mertens | TNI Board Chair | Present |
| | Staff | | |
| | Jerry Parr | TNI ED | Present |
| | Carol Batterton | TNI PA | Present |