

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
June 6, 2019

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon CDT, June 6, 2019. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from March 7, 2019, April 4 and May 2, 2019, were approved unanimously in response to a motion by Robin, seconded by Sharon.

3. Updates

Sarah Wright of APHL had asked TNI for an article for APHL's environmental health newsletter, but the original author will not be able to prepare the article as anticipated. Scott Siders was suggested as an alternate, for an article based on his presentation about best practices for managing environmental laboratories, and he is willing but will not be able to deliver that article on a short turnaround time due to other responsibilities. Carol is contacting APHL to learn the needed timeframe.

4. Conference Agendas

Lunch meeting with NELAP AC and NGABs at Conference – the focus of this two-hour session on Wednesday, August 7, will be a presentation by Christine Sotelo about California's MOUs with the Non-governmental ABs (NGABs) recognized to accredit to the NELAP standard that will have the NGABs provide third party assessors for "sophisticated technologies" in the CA ELAP based on the NELAP standard, when it goes into effect. Steve will contact Christine to ensure that she can make this presentation to the group.

The NELAP ABs will then be asked to address the four questions previously designed to be a survey, as follows:

- If a laboratory applies to your program for accreditation and as part of their application package provides you with the required fee, PT results, an assessment report from a TNI recognized NGAB and their corrective action report, would you consider granting accreditation based on that information, or would you need to perform your own assessment? Is there other information you would require?
- Would a third party assessor credentialing program be helpful or useful to your state program?
- Do you see TNI recognized NGABs playing a role in accrediting labs that do not do business in your state? If so, how?
- Can a lab accredited by a TNI recognized NGAB report data to your state?

Hopefully, this will lead into a discussion about whether and how other ABs could utilize such a scheme, with a definitive response that will inform the NGABs' business decision about whether to retain their recognitions and whether TNI should continue to provide NGAB recognitions for this purpose.

Advocacy Committee Meeting Friday August 9 – the agenda for this committee meeting at conference will be as follows:

9-10 am Discussion of Small Laboratory Advocate role being added to Advocacy

Committee Charter, defining the role and support for Robin as she develops a work plan and formalizes her leadership in this area.

10 – 10:30 am Break

10:30 – noon Review of Week's Events and Advocacy Response if any
Newsletter Articles and Assignments for Fall Issue
Discuss Potential New Project "Investigating the Value of Accreditation" for
Launch in Newport Beach
Review of Activities since Milwaukee
New Business, if any
Adjourn

5. Value of Accreditation Paper

Carol circulated the document reformatted from a position statement to a white paper, and Jerry provided a peer-reviewed article comparing an accredited to a non-accredited lab that can be used as an additional reference to the paper, and some draft language to summarize the article. Participants agreed that the title of the White Paper should be "Does Accreditation Based on the TNI Standard Improve Environmental Laboratory Performance?"

The edited document will be circulated for review prior to the July meeting (see rescheduled date, below) so that it can be considered for approval then.

Lynn asked about plans for communicating or publicizing the document, once completed, and participants agreed to internal distribution, publication on the website and in the next newsletter, and distribution to the State Assessor Forum and possibly for re-publication in the APHL environmental newsletter as well as distribution to WEF and AWWA for consideration.

Jerry proposed an attempt at scoring some "volunteer" labs against the twenty-five sections of V1M2 (omitting §5.1), using a 0-4 point scale (so, 100 points total), done before and after achievement of accreditation, as a potential measure of improvement. This concept may need further consideration in a more public setting, but would likely be feasible with some of the California labs, such as those being assessed by Dade Moeller now (drinking water only, but transitioning from a technical systems certification to a quality management system accreditation).

6. New Business

Jerry informed participants that EPA has suspended the requirement for participation in the Stationary Source Audit Sample Program, due to withdrawal of one of the two sample providers. The SSAS community would like to continue as a voluntary program, and some states will continue to encourage participation, but without the EPA mandate, it likely will not be a requirement. There is a possibility that a new provider may seek to become an SSAS PT provider. The Board is actively involved with this issue. See TNI website for more information <https://nelac-institute.org/news.php?id=3894>

Robin noted that she, along with Val Slaven and Michelle Wade, have been requested to provide a three-day version in California of their two-day training offered previously. CA's labs are requesting and supporting this offering, and it could happen as soon as September.

Jerry also noted that Kenneth Brown (City of Escondido [CA] lab) gave a talk about accreditation to a WEF tri-states meeting in Las Vegas recently.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 2, 2019, at 12 Noon Central time. This reschedule is due to the Independence Day holiday, which falls on Thursday, July 4. An agenda and documents will be sent in advance of the meeting, with the main agenda item being finalization of the white paper.

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Present
2.	Steve Arms	Other	Present
3.	Lynn Bradley	Other	Present
4.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Absent
5.	Stacie Crandall	Lab	Absent
6.	Zonetta English	Lab	Absent
7.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Absent
8.	Janice Willey	Federal	Present
9.	Trinity O'Neal	Lab	Absent
10.	Robin Cook	Lab	Present
11.	Sharon Mertens	Lab	Present
12.	Teresa Coins	Lab	Present
13.	Ron Coss	Lab	Absent
	Associate Members		
	Kirstin Daigle	Lab	Absent
	Judy Morgan	Lab	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Celeste Crowley	AB	Absent
	Keith Chapman	Other	Absent
	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
	Lily Sanchez	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Silky Labie	Other	Absent
	Elizabeth Turner	Lab	Absent
	Stephanie Drier	AB	Absent
	Erin Consuego	Lab	Present
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Absent