

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting  
September 3, 2020

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon CDT, September 3, 2020. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1. Steve introduced Alfredo Sotomayor, TNI Board Chair, Suzanne Rachmaninoff, and Joel Holtz, TNI staff, who were attending as well for the conference planning discussion.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from July were reviewed. Sharon moved approval, and Stacie seconded. All present voted in favor.

3. Conference Planning

- **Feedback on Summer virtual meeting** – Jerry reported that the virtual conference went better than expected with over 500 attendees. This format allowed more people to attend than normal. He received a lot of positive feedback. The negative aspects of the conference were that the format did not allow networking or committee meetings, and the vendor exhibit hall did not work particularly well for the vendors.
- **Winter Meeting** – Jerry reviewed the options we have for the winter meeting in San Antonio. These include:
  - A hybrid meeting (in-person and virtual). Jerry reviewed the steps that Hyatt is taking to keep the hotel safe during meetings. He also noted that Hyatt has agreed to waive the attrition and food and beverage minimums. Jerry presented his proposed schedule which called for at least one virtual session every half day concurrent with committee meetings. Comments included:
    - We will need to consider break times with a hybrid format.
    - Will committee members be willing to travel? We can consider Microsoft Team for committee meetings if some don't travel.
    - Exhibitors would likely prefer an in-person opportunity. Jerry asked Joel to check to see how many might come. Hyatt is not allowing tablecloths or draping for vendors.
    - Small utilities and other government staff might have difficulty getting travel funded due to budget shortfalls.
    - We will need to be aware of quarantine requirements in case some attendees have to quarantine coming in or after they get back home.
    - We will need to have at least 100 in-person attendees for this option to work, but there is always a lot of in-state attendance when we are in Texas.
  - Virtual meeting only – Jerry noted that this option would produce less income than a hybrid meeting but is still feasible. Members noted that a virtual meeting was hard to attend in the office because of work interruptions.
  - Cancel meeting completely – Jerry stated that if we cancel the meeting completely, TNI would have no income and would need to cease committee support.

After additional discussion, a hybrid meeting was the committee's preferred option.

4. Newsletter

Zonetta English is editor for the next newsletter. Articles are due September 30. Target publication date is mid-October or whenever registration for the winter meeting opens.

<b>Article &amp; Description</b>	<b>Authors</b>	<b>Email for Authors</b>
Recap of NEMC virtual meeting	Jerry Parr and Lara Phelps	<a href="mailto:jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a> <a href="mailto:Phelps.Lara@epa.gov">Phelps.Lara@epa.gov</a>
Upcoming San Antonio meeting	Jerry Parr	<a href="mailto:jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a>
Status of task forces (Board Initiatives): Mentoring Consumables  Competency  Training	Articles from chairs:  Jacob Oaxaca Jerry Parr/Lynn Bradley Judy Morgan/Bob Wyeth Calista Daigle/Ilona Taunton	<a href="mailto:Jacob.Oaxaca@Waterboards.ca.gov">Jacob.Oaxaca@Waterboards.ca.gov</a> <a href="mailto:jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a> <a href="mailto:lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org">lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org</a> <a href="mailto:judy.morgan@pacelabs.com">judy.morgan@pacelabs.com</a> <a href="mailto:rwyeth@yahoo.com">rwyeth@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:cdaigle@amrad.com">cdaigle@amrad.com</a> <a href="mailto:Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org">Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org</a>
Data You Can Trust white paper	Carol Batterton and Steve Arms	<a href="mailto:carbat@beecreek.net">carbat@beecreek.net</a> <a href="mailto:arms.steve@comcast.net">arms.steve@comcast.net</a>
LDH withdraws from NELAP – Press release as a sidebar	Jerry Parr	<a href="mailto:jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a>
QMS language Module 2	Jerry Parr	<a href="mailto:jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a>
Committee openings sidebar	Paul Junio	<a href="mailto:paulj@nslslab.com">paulj@nslslab.com</a>
Member spotlight-Mike Michaud	Zonetta English	<a href="mailto:zonetta.english@louisvillemsd.org">zonetta.english@louisvillemsd.org</a>
Recipe from San Antonio	Sharon Mertens	<a href="mailto:smertens@mmsd.com">smertens@mmsd.com</a>
Musings from the Chair	Alfredo Sotomayor	<a href="mailto:ASotomayor@mmsd.com">ASotomayor@mmsd.com</a>

## 5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be October 1, 2020, at 12 Noon Central time.

Attachment 1

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Stakeholder Group</b>	<b>Present/Absent</b>
1.	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Absent
2.	Steve Arms	Other	Present
3.	Lynn Bradley	Other	Present
4.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Present
5.	Stacie Crandall	Lab	Present
6.	Zonetta English	Lab	Present
7.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Absent
8.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
9.	Trinity O'Neal	Lab	Present
10.	Robin Cook	Lab	Present
11.	Sharon Mertens	Lab	Present
12.	Teresa Coins	Lab	Absent
13.	Josh Wyeth	PT provider	Absent
	<b>Associate Members</b>		
	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	Present
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Lily Sanchez	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Silky Labie	Other	Absent
	Elizabeth Turner	Lab	Absent
	Stephanie Drier	AB	Absent
	Erin Consuegra	Lab	Present
	Nan Thomey	Lab (other)	Present
	Aurora Shields	TNI Ambassador	Present
	<b>Staff</b>		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present