

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
October 2, 2014

1. Call to order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 12 Noon CDT, Oct. 2, 2014. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes of the September 4, 2014, meeting were reviewed. Since there was not a quorum of members present, no vote was taken.

Steve Arms announced that Paula Hogg has resigned from the committee due to a job change. Steve also indicated that we will need to review our membership list and possibly add some new members. We continue to have trouble getting a quorum because of lack of member participation. Steve also asked Carol to poll the existing membership to see if there is better time to have the Advocacy meeting.

3. Exploring the Future of National Accreditation

Carol reviewed the handout that was prepared from the results of the work session at the summer meeting. These recommendations will be shared at the TNI strategic planning meeting for possible inclusion in TNI's strategic plan. Committee members suggested that we plan a follow up webinar to discuss what we did with the input we received. We should also note what we acted on in the final report.

4. WEF articles

Carol shared the feedback from Elizabeth Turner on the NEFAP article for WEF's WE&T magazine. Elizabeth suggested that we include some discussion on the accreditation process, including the steps, length of time and cost. Elizabeth also offered to share her utility's perspective since they are considering accreditation for their pre-treatment samplers. Jerry noted that the City of Maui already has FSMO accreditation and we should follow up with them.

We also noted that we need to check in with Richard Burrows on the status of his article on MDLs.

5. Newsletter

Janice Willey, editor for this edition, was unable to be on the call, but she provided a report indicating that she has already received one article, and she will be sending out a reminder to authors next week.

6. California

Steve asked Lynn Bradley to share information she had on the California program and new management. Lynn stated that Christine Sotelo was the new program manager. Christine had called Lynn and indicated that CA wants to continue to participate in the NELAP AC calls. CA plans to address all of the findings noted in their last evaluation. Christine estimated it will probably be about 2 years before they are ready to re-apply. Lynn noted that Christine seemed positive about being a part of NELAP again. Lynn also indicated the EPA Region 9 staff were staying in contact with the CA program.

The committee discussed possible avenues to provide assistance to CA. We can offer training among other things. Jerry will call Christine to see what would be most beneficial. He will offer to send a letter if that would be helpful to her.

7. Crystal City meeting – February 2015

Jerry shared plans for the Crystal City meeting in February 2015. This will be the 20th anniversary of NELAC I. He would like for the Advocacy Committee to be involved in planning the celebration activities.

Since the Super Bowl will be Sunday, February 1, Jerry suggested that we have a Super Bowl party that night. He suggested that we have a celebration brunch the following day. Other ideas include inviting all previous chairs of NELAC, INELA, and TNI to attend and have a “story telling” time. Suggestions for story tellers included Tom McAninch, Ken Jackson and Alfredo Sotomayor. Jerry suggested emphasizing how we have been successful as a public private partnership. This item will be on the agenda at the next meeting to develop ideas.

8. PT position statement

Members briefly reviewed the PT position statement. Carol will put it in the position statement format for the next meeting.

9. Handbook

Carol will send out a reminder to handbook chapter editors that first drafts of chapters are due by the end of the calendar year.

10. Next meeting

The next meeting is Thursday, November 6, 2014, at 12 Noon CDT.

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	Absent
7.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Absent
8.	Zonetta English	Lab	Present
9.	Paula Hogg	Lab	Absent
10.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Absent
11.	Elizabeth Turner	Small Lab Advocate	Present
12.	Gary Ward	AB	Absent
13.	Michael Wichman	Lab	Present
14.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
	Associate Members		
	Kirstin Daigle	Lab	Absent
	Judy Morgan	Lab	Absent
	Aurora Shields	Lab	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Keith Chapman	Other	Absent
	Karna Holquist	AB	Absent
	Sharon Mertens	TNI Board Chair	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present