

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
October 6, 2016

1. Call to order

Lara Phelps, substituting for Steve Arms, called the meeting to order at 12:00 Noon CDT, October 6, 2016. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes from September 1 were reviewed. Due to the impending landfall of Hurricane Matthew, a number of committee members were unavailable for the call, and there was not a quorum to approve minutes.

3. Newsletter

Robin Cook has sent out an email to all newsletter authors advising them of the article due date (October 28).

ARTICLE & Description	Authors	Email for Authors
The 2016 Standard A promo piece for the final standard, w/ a plan for roll-out w/ implementation schedule if possible, workshops across the nation. Note that FL may be an early adopter.	Jerry Parr	Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org
PTPEC – new FoPT tables for SCM and NPW	Maria Friedman Ilona Taunton	gamfriedman@gmail.com Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org
Looking forward to Houston	Jerry Parr	Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org
From the Chair	Alfredo Sotomayor	asotomayor@mmsd.com
Nominations to the Board with voting schedule	Sharon Mertens	smertens@mmsd.com
The QMP Article to be written IF checklists are available for committee self-audits	Lynn Bradley	Lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org
The Charlie Carter Award Member spotlight on Richard Burrows	Stephanie Drier	stephanie.drier@state.mn.us
Post-conference Summary	Jerry Parr Lara Phelps	Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org , phelps.lara@epa.gov
Upcoming Events	Jerry Parr	Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org
CA's next steps	Lara Phelps Steve Arms	phelps.lara@epa.gov arms.steve@comcast.net
Ambassador Updates	Steve Arms	arms.steve@comcast.net

Identify ambassadors and itemize substantial progress where possible	Carol Batterton	carbat@beecreek.net
FL rulemaking (if complete)	Steve Arms Vanessa Soto	arms.steve@comcast.net vanessa.sotocontreras@flhealth.gov
KY Status (may be incorporated into Ambassador Update, depending on length)	Zonetta English Patrick Garrity	english@msdlouky.org patrick.garrity@ky.gov
Update on WY and AK Only if substantial change underway	Jerry Parr	Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org
New ELAB Board	Lara Phelps	phelps.lara@epa.gov

3. Houston meeting

Jerry reviewed and explained the overall schedule for the Houston meeting in January 2017. He reminded members that in Orange County, the Board and Advocacy Committee had agreed that the mentor session in January should be focused on small labs, particularly on challenges with implementing quality management systems.

Comments/ideas/suggestions included:

- We should invite 6-10 small labs to give a 15minute presentation each on challenges they faced implementing the TNI standard
- We can reach out to Texas and Louisiana labs for volunteers
- Speakers should have assigned topics so we don't have duplication
- The presentations should be designed to generate discussion
- We can also reach out to California labs
- We need to think about advertising through local lab associations

Jerry will contact Barbara Escobar to let her know that the Advocacy Committee will plan the mentor session.

4. California Update

Jerry reported that California officials had stated that TNI would “criss cross” the state with training on the TNI standard for California’s program. So far TNI has made the following available to CA labs:

- A copy of the TNI standard is available to the California labs for viewing on the TNI website. It will go away on October 20.
- TNI will negotiate the Quality Manual template for CA labs at a reduced rate.
- We could also have mentor sessions weekly or monthly for CA labs.

There are about 750 labs in California that will be subject to the new program. We need to think about how we want to structure additional outreach to these labs. Jerry will work on a plan that will include at least some live training sessions.

5. 2016 Standard

The NELAP AC has concerns about the 2016 PT and Chemistry modules. Judy Morgan has sent emails to the respective expert committees expressing these concerns. The PT Committee has responded and there seems to be an easy solution on this module. Judy has not heard back yet from Chemistry. Jerry indicated that he has drafted revised language to address the concerns. He thinks the needed changes are editorial, but he needs the expert committees to sign off before making the changes.

6. SLAG

As a follow up on the discussions at the summer meeting on small lab advocacy, members discussed ways we could better reach the small lab community and address their concerns and issues. Ideas proposed included;

- What are we trying to do? How should we define our mission with respect to small lab advocacy?
- In light of the above, do we need to restructure our approach?
- We should have a small lab discussion on every Advocacy Committee agenda.
- Our approach to small labs may be a two pronged approach. First, finding out the issue, and second, designing outreach to address the issues. This may be two different groups/people.
- The small lab advocate/champion may or may not need to be from a small lab. Just need to understand the issues. This may need to be a staff led project.
- We should put this discussion on the agenda for the Monday mentor session at the Houston meeting.

7. FSEA meeting and other

Jerry reported that the agenda was set and speakers identified for the FSEA meeting on October 26-28. Basically, the presentations from the Orange County meeting had been turned into training. These same presentations will be done again in Houston and then turned into webinars.

Jerry is also attending the EPA QA officers meeting in Athens, GA, on Tuesday October 22.

8. Alaska

Alaska is moving ahead with program updates in their UST program. They will require NELAP accreditation for laboratories in this program.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting of the Advocacy Committee will be on Thursday, November 3, at 12 Noon Central time. Steve Arms will be on vacation and Lara Phelps will chair the meeting.

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Present
2.	Steve Arms	Other	Absent
3.	Lynn Bradley	Other	Present
4.	Stephanie Drier	Lab	Absent
5.	Martina McGarvey	AB	Present
6.	Stacie Metzler	Lab	Absent
7.	Zonetta English	Lab	Present
8.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Present
9.	Elizabeth Turner	Small Lab Advocate	Absent
10.	Gary Ward	AB	Absent
11.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
12.	Trinity O'Neal	Lab	Absent
13.	Robin Cook	Lab	Absent
14.	Sharon Mertens	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
	Teresa Coins	TNI Ambassador	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
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Carol Batterton	TNI PA	Present

Attachment 2

Regional Meetings

Event	Date	TNI Speaker
AIHA, Falls Church, Virginia Contact: Cheryl Morton	March 17, 2016	Marlene Moore
Texas Water, Fort Worth, Texas Contact: Elizabeth Turner	April 22, 2016	Jerry Parr and Carol Batterton
Kansas Laboratory Education Association, Manhattan, Kansas Contact:	May 3, 2016	Robin Cook
TCEQ Trade Fair, Austin, Texas Contact:	May 3-4, 2016	Jerry Parr
Oregon Environmental Laboratory Association, Salem, Oregon Contact:	May 11, 2016	Jerry Parr
Michigan WEA Lab Practices Seminar, East Lansing Michigan Contact:	May 18, 2016	Monitor for possible participation next year
Florida Society of Environmental Analysts, Sand Key, Florida Contact: Suzanne R.?	May 25-27, 2016	Steve Arms
NYAAEL/PaAAEL 2015 Environmental Laboratory Convention, State College, PA Contact:	July 17-19, 2016	Martina McGarvey
VA AWWA/VWEA Lab Practices Conference, Charlottesville, VA Contact: Peter DeLisle	July 25-26, 2016	Stacie Metzler
Georgia Association of Water Professionals (WEF MA) Contact: Jeff Fulton	Fall Meeting	Monitor/contact
ASDWA, Milwaukee, WI	October 17-20, 2016	Exhibit
Quality meeting ? Athens, GA	October 22, 2016	Jerry Parr
FSEA	October 26-28	Jerry Parr, workshop
Laboratory Section of ORWEF School Contact: Kristin Thomas and Chuck Lytle	March 2017	Monitor/contact