

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
December 4, 2008

1. Call to order

Judy Duncan called the meeting to order at 12 Noon CDT. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of minutes

Minutes from the 11-6-08 meeting were reviewed and approved for posting on the TNI website.

3. Draft documents from EPA Office of Water

Jerry Parr circulated three draft documents from the Office of Water prior to the meeting. The documents provide clarification on the role of EPA Office of Water, the EPA Regions and TNI with respect to state laboratories and programs. Jerry summarized the message of these documents as being that EPA clearly has certain responsibilities with respect to state primary labs, but that NELAP meets the requirements for DW certification.

Jerry suggested that when these documents are final, TNI should schedule a meeting with regional representatives to discuss. We should also see if it will be possible to schedule a meeting with Greg Carroll and EPA regional staff at the Miami meeting. Jerry will contact Greg to see when the OW documents are expected to be final.

Judy Duncan reported that she has been invited to participate in an APHL teleconference next week regarding state primacy labs. She suggested there may be opportunities to work with APHL by providing quality systems training.

4. Task List

The Advocacy committee's task list and comments from the last meeting were reviewed.

Carol Batterton will contact WEF to see when the transition to the new chair of the Lab Practices Committee will occur.

Carl Craig will prepare a histogram showing the range of PT costs for government labs participating in DMR QA.

Judy Morgan reviewed preliminary results from the lab survey she is doing as part of a master's degree requirement at Western Kentucky University. She reported

that most respondents felt that one PT sample was adequate and that 80% of the respondents would recommend NELAP accreditation. Respondents reported that they saw the primary benefits to NELAP accreditation as:

Improving the defensibility of their data
Providing a basis for a national accreditation program

Judy will give a presentation on survey results at the Miami meeting.

By January, the committee will need to prioritize groups for another round of meetings. Jerry, Judy and Carol will work on that list.

Lara Autry reported that the comparison of the DW certification manual and the new TNI standards is still ongoing. It will be a very thorough comparison of all components of both programs.

Lara also reported that she has talked with representative of OSWER and they have committed to having two staff at the Miami meeting to discuss methods revisions issues. They would like to have questions in advance.

With respect to additional meetings with EPA headquarters offices, the Advocacy Committee's priority is the Office of Water, with the Office of Air being second priority. A meeting with OW should be scheduled in early in 2009. We should wait another six weeks to allow the new administration to come in before approaching other offices. Jerry reported that the TNI budget has money for advocacy travel.

Carol will revise the task list to reflect the decisions/status of the task items.

8. Next meeting

The next meeting will be January 13, 2009, in Miami, FL. Potential agenda items for that meeting include:

Regional cooperation
Small lab advocate role
Report from Kevin Kubik on requirements for EPA contractors to be NELAP accredited
Update on advocacy task list status

Attachment 1

#	LastName	FirstName	Stakeholder Group	Present	Term
1	Autry	Lara	Other	y	1
2	Coats	Kevin	Other	N	2
3	Conlon	Pat	Other	Y	3
4	Craig	Carl	Other	Y	2
6	Moore	Marlene	Other	N	1
7	Duncan	Judy	AB	Y	1
8	Jackson	Kenneth	AB	Y	2
9	Shields	Aurora	AB	Y	3
10	Wyatt	Susan	AB	Y	1
11	Eaton	Andy	Lab	Y	1
12	English	Zonetta	Lab	Y	2
13	Perry	Michael	Lab	N	3
14	Pletl	Jim	Lab	N	1
15	Ward	Gary	Lab	N	2
16	Wichman	Michael	Lab	Y	3
17	Schantz	Leonard	Small Lab Advocate	Y	
18	Parr	Jerry	ED	Y	
19	Batterton	Carol	PA	Y	
			ASSOCIATE MEMBERS		
	McCracken	Kirstin	Lab	N	
	Morgan	Judy	Lab	Y	