

TNI Board of Directors Meeting Summary

March 14, 2018

1. Roll Call

Directors	Present
Jordan Adelson	X
Aaren Alger	
Steve Arms	X
Justin Brown	X
Bob Di Rienzo	X
Jack Farrell	
Maria Friedman	X
Chris Gunning	
Myron Gunsalus	X
Daniel Lashbrook	X
Judy Morgan	X
Cheryl Nolan	
Patsy Root	X
Debbie Rosano	
Scott Siders	X
Alfredo Sotomayor	X
Dave Speis	X
Lem Walker	X
Curtis Wood	
Past Chair	
Sharon Mertens	X
Staff	
Lynn Bradley	X
Carol Batterton	
Ken Jackson	X
Jerry Parr	X
Ilona Taunton	X
Janice Wlodarski	X

2. Welcome New Directors

- Maria Friedman, California ELAP
- Bob Di Rienzo, ALS Environmental
- Curtis Wood, ERA

3. Approval of February 2018 Minutes

Motion to Approve: Myron Gunsalus
Second: Patsy Root
Abstentions: Dave Speis, Daniel Lashbrook
Approved: Approved

4. Officer Election

The Officers shall be a Chair, Past-Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Other Officers may be established by the Board of Directors. The Officers, with exception of the Past-Chair, shall be elected annually at the first meeting of the newly elected Board of Directors, from among its members.

The current officers are:

- Alfredo Sotomayor, Chair
- Aaren Alger, Vice-Chair
- Patsy Root, Secretary
- David Speis, Treasurer

These individuals have indicated a willingness to continue to serve, but also a willingness to step aside if anyone else is interested in serving.

Motion to Approve Slate of Officers as Provided in the Agenda Above: Steve Arms

Second: Judy Morgan

Approved: Unanimous

5. 2017 Annual Report

Each of TNI's programs provided a report on accomplishments for 2017 and plans for 2018 at the Albuquerque meeting. These presentations were converted into a document, the TNI 2017 Annual Report that was provided as a separate file. As discussed in the TNI Quality Management Plan:

- These annual reports are reviewed and approved by the Board.

The Annual Report will be posted on the website. We should include the pie charts regarding finances. This is information that the Board reviewed last October/November.

Motion to Approve the 2017 Annual Report, including the note to first bullet in CSDP and adding the financial pie charts: Steve Arms

Second: Maria Friedman

Approved: Unanimous

6. Implementing the 2016 Standard (Attachment 1)

An updated spreadsheet summarizing the activities that need to occur before the 2016 Standard can be implemented can be found in Attachment 1. This document will be updated every month for the Board to track progress on this topic.

7. PowerDMS Training

The pilot project to use PowerDMS for the Advocacy and Policy committees will start with a training event on March 19. Suzanne has created folders for both committees in PowerDMS and uploaded over 100 documents.

8. EPA's Compliance Monitoring Data Portal

This email was received from Chip Mackey from the State of New Hampshire on March 12:

It was good talking to you last week about EPA's new drinking water electronic Compliance Monitoring Data Portal (CMDP).

As we discussed, CMDP is the first phase of EPA's development of a truly national drinking water database (called SDWIS Prime). CMDP will enable drinking water utilities and laboratories to report drinking water monitoring data electronically to the States through services hosted by the EPA. Currently this data is submitted to each individual state. The state then uploads the information to the EPA.

The State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau is in the process of transitioning to CMDP. During this effort NHDES has learned that TNI method codes are not supported in CMDP. CMDP, as developed, only accepts EPA method descriptions. NH views this as a significant deficiency in CMDP. NH currently accepts TNI codes (in addition to EPA methods) from accredited laboratories submitting drinking water compliance monitoring results. NH considers this information critical for performing data validations. Many New Hampshire labs submit only TNI codes, others submit both TNI and EPA method codes. This issue affects not only NHDES, but 36 NH accredited laboratories.

We see this as having far reaching impacts for not only State of New Hampshire accredited laboratories, but potentially for the accreditation programs in other states, laboratories in those states, and for third-party companies providing proficiency testing (PT) services. We appreciate any assistance TNI can provide to shed light on this problem and help find a reasonable solution.

FYI: NH's drinking water administrator, Sarah Pillsbury, is raising this topic at an ASDWA meeting this week.

We have 4 options:

1. Reply to email - Here are our concerns – flesh those out. Get other committees to help.
2. Send to ELAB and get their take it on.
3. Find out who within EPA is leading this effort and initiate contact with them directly.
4. Notify the Council about this and see if they can begin collecting information about this for us.

We will also need input from the IT Committee about the issue.

We should get a small group of people together to look into this more and respond back in a month: Patsy Root, Jerry Parr, Judy Morgan, Dave Speis, Myron Gunsalus.

9. Policies and SOPs to Review

- **Policy 1-102, Rev 0.2 Ethical Conduct of TNI Members**
 - This SOP has only minor revisions, adding a reference and a monetary value to Section IV, item 3, but does require approval of the Board.

Changes: This policy will be revised to include "...employed by *or under contract with*" text.

**Motion to Approve Revised Policy 1-102,
including the addition of Steve's language above:**

Dave Speis

Second: Maria Friedman

Approved: Unanimous

- **Policy 1-124, Rev 1.0 Governance and Ethical Practice**
 - Sections I, II, and III were added as introductory materials.
 - Section IV, item 2 revised to remove 2 face-to-face meetings of the Board.
 - A section on ethics and conflicts of interest was removed since this topic is covered by other policies that are now references in this Policy.
 - Section IV, item 5 on Reporting Concerns was simplified.

This Policy requires additional review and discussion. We will postpone addressing this policy until next month.

- **SOP 1-121 TNI Elections and Voting Process**
 - This SOP was developed by the IT Committee and approved by Policy, and thus does not require review by the Board. It was developed to document our web-based voting procedures.

10. 2018 Environmental Measurement Symposium (Attachment 2)

The preliminary schedule for the summer meeting has been drafted. See Attachment 2.

11. First Quarter Financial Data

1Q18 financial data was reviewed during this meeting.

12. Program Reports (Attachment 3)

**Attachment 1
 2016 Standard Implementation Issues**

Action Item	Assigned To	Expected Completion Date	Status Update
<p>QAM Template Update Create a template that will help laboratories prepare a QA Manual compliant with the new TNI Standard. Include multiple examples of documents, forms and procedures that might be helpful to laboratories.</p>	<p>QS Expert Committee</p>	<p>12/31/17</p>	<p>Completed November 2017. Now on the website for \$115 for members.</p>
<p>Post comparison document A document detailing the changes between 2009 and 2016 was prepared in October. The website needs to be revised to allow individuals to access this document as well as the 2009 to 2003 comparison. Need to prepare document that summarizes changes between 2003 and 2016, since some are still using 2003.</p>	<p>Jerry Parr and William Daystrom</p>	<p>1-22-18. No date determined for 2003-2016 document</p>	<p>2009-2016 document posted on website 1-22-18. Draft of 2003 to 2016 document completed on 2/10</p>
<p>Guidance Document - PTRL Issue There is still an issue regarding the clarification and use of the PTRL. Include LASEC in final review of document. Small Lab Handbook will be helpful and could provide additional guidance. Check PTRL guidance in handbook to see if it needs revising.</p>	<p>PT Expert Committee</p>	<p>05/01/18</p>	<p>Committee has requested Policy approve developing guidance</p>
<p>Update Standard Interpretation Requests (SIRs) Review current interpretations from 2003 and 2009 Standard and map to new TNI Standard. Is an interpretation still relevant and if so, what is the section reference in the new standard? Keep legacy 2003/2009 SIR's active along with 2016. Relevant 2003, 2009 and 2016. Put folders on website. Long term review and consider whether SIRs trigger notes, annotations, or guidance. Archive old, obsolete SIRs.</p>	<p>Expert Committees</p>	<p>08/10/18</p>	<p>Draft spreadsheet summarizing existing SIRs provided to Expert Committees</p>
<p>SIRs Set-up site for interpretation requests for the new TNI Standard.</p>	<p>IT Administrator</p>	<p>03/01/18</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Can I Implement the New Standard Now? LASEC? needs to prepare an answer to this question for a Training Workshop PPT slide. Consider preparation of guidance on how to move to the new standard - what do you need to add and when? What can you stop doing? Etc.</p>	<p>LASEC</p>	<p>08/10/18</p>	<p>Assessment Forum for New Orleans will address this topic</p>

Action Item	Assigned To	Expected Completion Date	Status Update
Quality Systems Checklist - Laboratory Assessments Checklist needs to be prepared for ABs to use during laboratory assessments.	Quality Systems	01/31/18	Checklist provided to Cathy W and Aaren A to see if any issues may exist.
Quality Systems Checklist - Website Revise the checklist web page to allow downloading either the 2009 or 2016 checklist	IT Administrator	03/01/18	Done
LOD/LOQ Guidance Will need LASEC and Policy review. Implementation date set after review by AC.	Chemistry Expert	03/07/18	Chemistry finalized document on 3/7, will be sent to LASEC by 3/16. LASEC, Policy and NELAP AC reviews complete by 8/10/18
Calibration Guidance Needs LASEC and Policy review. Implementation date set after review by AC.	Chemistry Expert	03/07/18	Chemistry finalized document on 3/7, will be sent to LASEC by 3/16. Document expected to be complete by 2/20. LASEC, Policy and NELAP AC reviews complete by 8/10/18
New Standard Training Webinars Make training on the new standard available to laboratories and ABs across the country. Roll out when we have an implementation date for 2016 standard.	CSDP EC	Fall 2018	4 webinars planned; one every 3-4 weeks beginning mid-August.
Small Lab Handbook Update Small Lab Handbook. Create a tool that will help laboratories prepare a QA Manual compliant with the new TNI Standard. Include multiple examples of documents, forms and procedures that might be helpful to laboratories. Work with Expert Committees to provide these examples. Hold until chemistry guidance documents done. Policy committee review needed on current document.	QS Expert Committee	08/10/18	Final draft complete and document sent to Jan for formatting. Add Guidance documents as appendices; update PTRL discussion from small lab handbook if needed.

Action Item	Assigned To	Expected Completion Date	Status Update
<p>Implementability Issues Review the final Volume 1 of the 2016 Lab Standard and the Volume 2 PT module as well. Each method/type module will be reviewed against the QS module to ensure no conflicts as well as implementability, and the administrative parts of the QS module (record keeping, document management, etc.) will be reviewed against Volume 2 for the same ends. Members without a specific module assignment are asked to review the entire Volume 1 for implementability and potential internal conflicts.</p>	LASEC	03/05/18	Completed. One editorial change needed for asbestos module
<p>Benefits of the New Standard Prepare a document to show why the 2016 standard is an improvement over the 2009.</p>	Expert Committees	5/31/2018	Draft completed 3/5/18

Attachment 2
ENVIRONMENTAL MEASUREMENT SYMPOSIUM
PRELIMINARY TECHNICAL PROGRAM

Monday, August 6

8:15 Presentation of the 2017 Charlie Carter Award

9:00 — 12:00 Concurrent Sessions

- NEMC: Academic Research Topics in Environmental Measurement and Monitoring
- NEMC: Microbial Monitoring in Ambient Water
- NEMC: Monitoring for Contaminants in Foods & Beverages
- NEMC: New Environmental Monitoring Techniques for Organics (Session 1)
- TNI: Assessment Forum: Early Implementation of the 2016 TNI Standard
- TNI: Proficiency Testing Expert Committee

1:30 — 5:00 Concurrent Sessions

- ELAB: Environmental Laboratory Advisory Board
- NEMC: Changing the Paradigm for Water Pollution Monitoring
- NEMC: Operational and Advocacy Issues Impacting the Environmental Laboratory Industry
- NEMC: Topics in Shale Gas
- TNI: Chemistry Expert Committee
- TNI: Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

5:30 — 7:00 Opening Reception and Exposition and Poster Session

Tuesday, August 7

8:15 — 8:45 Keynote Address: Why Science Matters
Dr. Donald Boesch, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Studies

9:00 — 12:00 Concurrent Sessions

- NEMC: New Environmental Monitoring Techniques for Organics (Session 2)
- NEMC: Resolving Method Differences for Volatile Organics by GC/MS with Best Practices
- NEMC: Spotlight on Method 6020 Instrumentation – ICP-MS Metals Analysis
- NEMC: Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP)
- TNI: Mentor Session
- TNI: Whole Effluent Toxicity Expert Committee

1:00 — 3:00 Concurrent Sessions

- NEMC: Citizen Science
- NEMC: Forensic Environmental Chemistry
- NEMC: Metals and Metals Speciation Analysis in Environmental Samples (Session 1)
- TNI: Consensus Standards Development Program Executive Committee
- TNI: Laboratory Accreditation Body Expert Committee

3:30 — 5:30 Innovative New Technology Showcase and Reception

Wednesday, August 8

8:30 — 12:00 Plenary Session: The Future Landscape of Science

1:30 — 5:00 Concurrent Sessions

- NEMC: Air Methods & Monitoring
- NEMC: Challenges and Opportunities for Solid Phase Extraction
- NEMC: Data Quality, Management and Review
- NEMC: Laboratory Informatics
- TNI: Changes to the TNI Standard from the 2017 ISO/IEC Standard 17025

Thursday, August 9

8:15 — 8:45 Keynote Address:
Dr. Ann Marie Carlton, University of California, Irvine

9:00 — 12:00 Concurrent Sessions

- NEMC: Characterization of Perfluoroalkyl Substances in the Environment (Session 1)
- NEMC: Field Sampling, Measurement & Sensor Technology
- NEMC: Metals and Metals Speciation Analysis in Environmental Samples (Session 2)
- NEMC/TNI: NEMC Steering Committee and Conference Planning
- TNI: Laboratory Accreditation System Executive Committee
- TNI: National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) Accreditation Council
- TNI: Quality Systems Expert Committee

1:00 — 5:00 Concurrent Sessions

- NEMC: Characterization of Perfluoroalkyl Substances in the Environment (Session 2)
- NEMC: Collaborative Efforts to Improve Environmental Monitoring (Session 1)
- NEMC: Government Public Health and Private Environmental Laboratory Partnerships
- TNI: Field Activities Committee
- TNI: National Environmental Field Activities Program (NEFAP) Executive Committee
- TNI: Microbiology Expert Committee
- TNI: Stationary Source Audit Sample Committee
- TNI: General Session (Committee Chairs Report)

Friday, August 10

8:15 — 8:45 Keynote Address: STEM/ Women in Science
Dr. Melanie Cooper, Michigan State University

9:00 — 12:00 Concurrent Sessions

- NEMC: Collaborative Efforts to Improve Environmental Monitoring (Session 2)
- NEMC: Overcoming Legacy Obstacles with Innovative Approaches
- NEMC: Topics in Drinking Water
- TNI: Advocacy Committee

Attachment 3 PROGRAM REPORTS

CONSENSUS STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

- The American National Standards Institution (ANSI) gave final approval to the 2017 Chemistry module (V1M4) as an American National Standard on February 27, 2018. The entire Standard is now approved, the other modules having been approved by ANSI on December 6, 2016.
- The LASEC revisited the 2016 Environmental Sector Standard, suggesting several editorial changes after it had been approved by ANSI. Most of these changes would be to the modules developed as the un-adopted “2012 Standard” that were not further changed in 2016. Any substantive changes would require the standards development process to start again and to follow the time-consuming route of ANSI approval. Although ANSI is silent on the permissibility of editorial changes after its approval, it may be prudent to keep such changes to a minimum. Therefore, the CSDEC has decided to make only one change at this time, to the 2012 Asbestos Module (V1M3), which contains an erroneous reference to a section of the 2003 NELAC Standard. This error has been found to have also occurred in the 2009 Standard, and that will also be corrected. The CSDEC believes the remaining editorial changes suggested by LASEC are not essential at this time, and they will be incorporated into the next standards development cycle.
- The CSDEC submitted its update of SOP 2-101 (Procedures for Expert Committee Operations) to the Policy Committee on February 25, 2018. Significant changes include removing the restriction that an individual cannot be a Voting Member of more than one Expert Committee, and of allowing waivers in exceptional circumstances of the restriction to serving only two 3-year terms on a committee.
- The CSDEC received a “lessons learned” document from LASEC, arising from its on-going review of the 2016 Environmental Sector Standard. This is being discussed by CSDEC to decide on further improvements to the standards development process that will facilitate LASEC’s work.
- The Chemistry Expert Committee, at its conference call on March 7, 2018, completed its guidance documents to supplement V1M4 of the 2016 standard. These will be checked editorially by the program administrator and will then be submitted to LASEC for consideration.
- A request has been submitted to the Policy Committee for the Proficiency Testing (PT) Expert Committee to prepare guidance for Proficiency Test Reporting Limit (PTRL) in the 2016 Standard. A member of the PT Expert Committee has changed employment, resulting in two members of the committee now being employed by subsidiaries of the same company. In accordance with SOP 2-101, one of them will need to step down.
- The Laboratory Accreditation Body Committee now has a “legal-for-revisions” copy of the 2017 version of ISO/IEC 17011, and the TNI language from the 2009 Volume 2 combined modules 1 and 3 has been inserted. Committee members are working through this draft document, slowly, but steadily.
- The WET Committee continues to juggle multiple important issues in addition to its effort to revise V1M7, the WET module of the TNI Standard – in particular the chemistry QA requirements and the demonstration of capability requirements. WET is seeking one or more volunteer members to work with FAC as it revises the FSMO standard. Volunteers have been identified to work with Dan Hickman in culling extraneous material from the method manuals, so that each individual method can be posted in the compendium, and a different set of volunteers is reviewing Dan’s assignment of analyte codes to the WET FoPT table analytes. There have been no further interactions with ELAB or EPA about the WET PT issues, although the problems remain unresolved.

- The Radiochemistry Committee is continuing work on review of the procedures used to update Radiochemistry FoPT limits. The target completion for this work is April 2018. The committee has begun planning for the New Orleans training.
- The Quality Systems Committee is still waiting for the guidance documents from the Chemistry Expert Committee to finalize the Small Lan Handbook. The committee has started pulling together materials to help with the review of the 2016 Standard vs. ISO/IEC 17025: 2017. The committee is reviewing SIRs and discussing how to incorporate them into the next Standard update. The committee is finalizing 3 new members by email.
- The Microbiology Committee is planning a working lunch in New Orleans to discuss microbiology method code issues. They hope to include NELAP ABs and EPA. A conference phone has been requested to include people that are limited on travel. Robin Cook has been voted in to continue as Chair of the committee and Kasey Raley (Eurofins) has been voted in as the Vice-Chair.

NEFAP Executive Committee

- Kirstin and Paul are finishing up conversations with candidates for the Mobile Laboratory Task Force. Once conversations are complete, a report will be submitted to the TNI Board with a recommendation on task force membership for the Board to finalize so they can get started.
- The committee will continue to focus on Marketing/Strategic Planning over the next few meetings. Justin Brown and Marlene will meet in the next month to pass the baton for this subcommittee.
- The committee is continuing review of their evaluation SOP to determine if it is still needed or whether the combined evaluation SOP can stand on its own. The committee will finalize this discussion in March.
- The committee has started reviewing the DRAFT Scope Guidance Document and will provide comment to the FAC in March.
- The committee is putting together their candidate/nomination list for committee membership with a goal to vote in late March/April. New committee members will begin work in April.
- The committee plans to meet with FAC and all NEFAP ABs to begin discussions on impact of the ISO/IEC 17011 and 17025 2017 updates.
- The review of an old FAQ document still needs to be added to an agenda, but other priorities have taken precedence,

Field Activities Expert Committee (FAC)

- The Scope Guidance Subcommittee: The document was updated based on comments from ABs and Ilona and has now been forwarded to the NEFAP EC for comment.
- The committee is working on candidates for the positions open on the committee due to normal rotation and a few resignations during the year. The new candidates will be finalized in March.

NELAP

Accreditation Council

- For the current round of evaluations, twelve renewal letters will have been issued as of this month's Board meeting. Two renewal recommendations are approved. The other ten applications are in various stages of review, with two applications pending.
- The Council continues considering nominations for Chair with an election planned for April. Vice Chair nominations and election will follow, beginning in May.
- The Council will also consider LASEC's Lessons Learned document. There are no specific actions requested from the NELAP AC, but general awareness of problem areas is needed there.
- In response to a request from Policy Committee, the Council was asked to provide a representative to that group. A number of AB representatives have replied that either their workweek does not include Fridays (Policy meeting days) or that they cannot possibly juggle any additional responsibilities due to current workloads. The search continues, and perhaps an AB staff person can be identified, or assigned, to take on that role.
- The Council is reviewing an article for the upcoming newsletter on implementation of the 2017 Method Update Rule.
- We have started receiving Standard Interpretation Requests (SIRs) for the 2016 Standard. As of March 12, we have received a total of 317 SIRs with 295 closed out.

Laboratory Accreditation System Executive Committee (LASEC)

- Planning for the Mentor Session and Assessment Forum session in New Orleans is underway. The Assessment Forum will focus on the topic of what requirements in the 2016 Standard can be implemented early.
- LASEC members have completed their review of the final Volume 1 2016 Environmental Lab Sector Standard and the Volume 2 PT module. LASEC's review identified several needed technical edits, one of which is essential; these have been transmitted to CSDEC. With those edits noted, LASEC will soon conduct an email vote on its recommendation to the NELAP AC about adopting the standard, so that the AC will have the recommendation for consideration at its April meeting.
- Work on revising the draft policy for de-coupling the NELAP AB recognition certificates from the evaluation process to address some form of interim oversight during the time between the actual evaluations, as well as consideration of a draft Conflict of Interest SOP, will resume at the March meeting.

PROFICIENCY TESTING

- All the FoPT tables were reviewed for format based on the discussion last month to be consistent with font colors, formatting and logo placement. The changes have been made and the tables will be posted as they are updated for content changes. The DW, NPW and SCM tables all have content updates that were finalized and Maria has forwarded these three tables to the NELAP AC for approval. One new feature of the tables is a Change Log that is now being maintained on a separate tab of the Excel spreadsheets.
- FoPT Table Format Subcommittee: Craig Huff (Chair) presented an example of the new format changes to the FoPT tables. CAS numbers have been added and he took a first pass at lining up nomenclature with the LAMS. He and Eric Smith have some concerns that some of the nomenclature changes are not consistent with what is being used in the lab community, so the PTPEC will reach

out to Dan Hickman and the NELAP AC to see if there are some changes that are needed to LAMS. A comprehensive change log has been prepared by the subcommittee to track all the changes being made to the DRAFT tables.

- Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee: The Radiochemistry FoPT Table Update is still on hold until Keith McCroan (EPA, Radiochemistry Expert Committee) and Bob Shannon (Chair, Radiochemistry Expert Committee) take the radiochemistry data and apply their proposed procedure. The committee will compare these results to those developed using the current procedure and decide how to move forward. The data has been requested from the PT Providers and is expected late March. The proposed updates should be available late April 2018.
- Microbiology FoPT Table Update: The subcommittee has started reviewing the data and will formally vote on updates to the FoPT table and provide the proposed changes to the PTPEC in late March/April. The Analyte Request Application (ARA) that started this review was originally received on 12/21/14 with the following request: The code for MPN encompasses different methods – SM 9221 (Multiple Tube) and 9223 (Multiple Well). These methods have different sample volumes and therefore different reported values. A lab reporting results from 9221 in a PT Study, with others reporting 9223, will fail. There needs to be further subdivision of codes.
- PTP SOP Subcommittee: The subcommittee is still working on SOP 4-101 – FoPT Table Updates. The committee submitted a proposal to the PTPEC to make the current PTPA Evaluation Procedure (SOP 4-104) obsolete because the new combined evaluation procedure (SOP 7-101) covers all the procedures needed.
- The PTP/NEFAP Evaluation Workgroup: New language dealing with recognition and the preparation of a recognition certificate were prepared and reviewed by each of the Expert Committees. There were no negative comments on the proposed language, so it was forwarded to the Policy Committee to include in their review of the combined evaluation (SOP 7-101). The Policy Committee has finished its review and a report was received on Friday. The SOP is being updated based on the comments and will be reviewed and voted on in April by the Executive Committees. The next steps include finalizing the application, finalizing the evaluation checklist and reviewing current recognitions to extend effective dates as needed.
- The PTPEC is continuing to work on the formal complaint received regarding 4,4'-DDD PTs. The complaint committee has received the requested data needed to resolve the complaint and they are now evaluating the information. A recommendation will be sent to the PTPEC. Maria has kept the complainant in the loop during this process.

ADMINISTRATION

Advocacy

- The effort to provide EPA with data to validate the new 600 series methods is moving forward. Two different conference calls will be held this week and a face-to-face meeting will be held on March 20 in Washington DC.
- The Advocacy Committee has drafted an SOP for approval and control of documents that are mostly created by the Advocacy Committee. The SOP will be forwarded to the Policy committee shortly.
- The Advocacy Committee will be prioritizing and assigning responsibilities to a number of tasks that were identified during the Albuquerque meeting.

- TNI will be represented at the upcoming regional meetings:
 - Oregon Environmental Laboratory Association, April 17 – Lee Wolfe
 - California Water Environment Association, April 18 – Jerry Parr
 - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Trade Fair, May 15 – Jerry Parr
 - Florida Society of Environmental Analysts, May 23 – Paul Junio

Policy Committee

- Policy Committee has completed its review of the PTPEC-NEFAP Combined Evaluation SOP 7-101, and returned it to those committees for requested revisions. Several other revised program SOPs await review, and then perhaps the five-year reviews can resume.

Training

- A number of new training courses are being worked on:
 - Sample Collection (Silky Labie – The course will emphasize the importance of collecting samples that represent the source matrix and maintaining the integrity of the sample until delivery to the laboratory. This will be an 8-hour course being planned in May 2018. A final date has not been selected yet. Ilona is looking at helping with this webinar in Florida since she will be there for other TNI business.)
 - Technical Training Series (Marlene Moore – 5 4-hour classes. The dates have been set for:
 - General Chemistry Methods – May 24
 - Microbiology Methods – March 23
 - Drinking Water Methods – April 20
 - Wastewater Methods – February 23 - Complete
 - Soil Methods – June 12)
- Response to this series has been excellent. The first course included 101 registrations - 90 individual and 11 group. Survey response was very good.
- Good Laboratory Practice – Internal Audits (Matt Sica – Self-paced courses). This training has been reviewed by TNI and some recommendations were made to update the class before it is finalized. This course should be available in April 2018.
 - The Asbestos assessor training is planned for May 21-23, 2018. This will be held as a webinar. The flyers for the course will be available in the next week.
 - “Understanding Radiochemistry: Ra-228 and Gas Proportional Counting” webcast is being worked on. The trainers are updating the recording and this should be available by April 2018.

NEMC

- Over 150 abstracts for oral presentations and 36 for poster presentations were received.
- Marlene Moore has been chosen to receive the Charlie Carter Award.
- Registration will open in early April.

Active Members: 1078

- There have been 11 new committee applications received. A number of these applications received continue to be from ABs. Applications have been forwarded to the Program Administrators and Chairs of the committees of interest.