

**TNI Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
December 8, 2021
1:00 – 2:20 PM EST**

ROLL CALL

Directors	Present	Staff	Present
Jordan Adelson	x	Lynn Bradley	x
Aaren Alger	x	Jerry Parr	x
Steve Arms		Suzanne Rachmaninoff	x
Justin Brown	x	Ilona Taunton	x
Kristin Brown	x	Janice Wlodarski	
David Caldwell	x	Bob Wyeth	x
Stacie Crandall	x		
Jack Farrell	x		
Maria Friedman			
Myron Gunsalus	x		
Jessica Jensen	x		
Paul Junio	x		
Judy Morgan	x		
Patsy Root	x		
Debbie Rosano			
Nick Slawson	x		
Alfredo Sotomayor	x		
Lem Walker	x		
Past Chair			
Sharon Mertens	x		

AGENDA

1. Consent Agenda

- The Consent Agenda was accepted with the exception to move the 2022 Forum on Accreditation into the agenda for discussion.
- A request was made that in future reports items that remain the same from the previous meeting be reported as 'no change from last meeting'.

2. Financial Report

Motion to Approve the 2022 Budget: Patsy Root

Second: Jack Farrell

Approved: Unanimous

Discussion prior to approval: The Finance Committee has asked that the hotel food and beverage charges be scrutinized carefully before setting the registration fees for the 2022 Environmental Measurements Symposium to account for the rapid and steep rise in prices.

3. Committee Charters

- Charters for the NELAP, IT, Finance, Nominating, and Training committees were reviewed and approved by the Board.

- Information Technology:

Motion to Approve the Information Technology Committee Charter: Jack Farrell

Second: David Caldwell

Approved: Unanimous

- Finance Committee:

Motion to Approve the Finance Committee Charter: Patsy Root

Second: Myron Gunsalus

Approved: Unanimous

- Nominating Committee:

Motion to Approve the Nominating Committee Charter: Stacie Crandall

Second: Judy Morgan

Approved: Unanimous

- Training Committee:

Motion to Approve the Training Committee Charter: Judy Morgan

Second: Jessica Jensen

Approved: Unanimous

- NELAP Accreditation Council:

Motion to Approve the NELAP Accreditation Council Charter: Jessica Jensen

Second: Stacie Crandall

Approved: Unanimous

Discussion of NELAP AC charter prior to approval:

- NELAP AC does not appear to fit into the TNI organizational chart the way other parts of the organization do.
 - Expand NELAP by adding NGABs to better fit the organizational structure.
 - This is currently the best structure to facilitate the NELAP AC and the TNI BOD interaction.
 - The Success Measures of Objectives 2 and 3 are too broad and not easily measurable.
 - Objective 2i: consider for future charters changing the language to show that the NELAP AC considers LASEC recommendations; this language is in the NELAP AC SOP, but is not reflected in the charter.
 - Objective 2ii: This language was changed so that the NELAP AC no longer approves PT relevant acceptance levels; however they do review and comment on relevant acceptance levels.
 - Jerry adds the endorsement date line to the charters as they are approved.
- The Policy Committee charter will be presented for approval at the January meeting. NEFAP EC and PTP EC charters are back in committee.

4. FDA Accreditation for Food Laboratories

- The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) final rule on Laboratory Accreditation for Analyses of Foods (LAAF) establishes a laboratory accreditation program for the testing of food in certain circumstances. Under the LAAF program, FDA will recognize accreditation bodies (ABs) that will accredit laboratories to the standards established in the final rule (referred to as LAAF-accredited laboratories).
- The final rule specifies eligibility requirements that ABs and laboratories wishing to participate in the program will need to satisfy, as well as procedures for how the FDA will manage and oversee the program. In certain circumstances, owners and consignees will be required to use a LAAF-accredited laboratory for food testing.
- The rule incorporates by reference ISO/IEC 17025:2017. FDA has established that being an ILAC signatory is a necessary, but not sufficient, condition to being recognized by FDA to LAAF-accredit laboratories.
- The rule applies to bottled drinking water and potentially water used for agriculture crops.
- Question: Should TNI get involved with this and request FDA consider allowing NELAP ABs to be used?

https://www.fda.gov/food/food-safety-modernization-act-fsma/fsma-final-rule-laboratory-accreditation-analyses-foods-laaf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

- Directive to Jerry, Patsy and possibly Victoria Pretti (NY DOH): Outreach to FDA via letter or conference call and report back to Board at the January meeting. The rule was listed on December 7, 2021 and will remain open for 6 months before final consideration.
 - TNI background information,
 - FDA recognition of the TNI program as meeting their accreditation requirements.
 - Both the LAAF and TNI programs are ISO 17025 compliant so labs should not be required to 2 separate accreditations.
 - Note that some states are regulated bottled water differently depending on volume of water being sold.
- A longer-term objective would be to pursue TNI becoming involved with FDA laboratory accreditation.

5. EMC Letter on DOC for Drinking Water

The Environmental Monitoring Coalition (EMC) prepared a memo related to the Initial Demonstration of Competence (IDOC) in July this year and sent this to every state accreditation/certification program. The memo contained guidance from the Drinking Water program that suggested the method requirements only applied to regulated analytes, not all analytes in the method. The NELAP AC provided feedback to the EMC that the EPA guidance was not appropriate since the Council believes laboratories should meet method requirements for all analytes for which the laboratory holds accreditation. The Council indicated appropriate corrective actions could be allowed.

EMC revised the memo on November 22 and has asked TNI to post this new memo on the TNI website. See Attachment 1.

The Board agreed that this letter can be posted on the TNI website. The NELAP AC has noted that they will accept this with the changes made regarding a corrective action process and root cause analysis.

6. TNI LinkedIn Company Page

The Training Committee has been looking to improve our social media presence to help market our training course. In doing so, Jerry Thao from Pace developed a proposal that would not only take on this task but do much more as well. See Attachment 2.

- Two questions arose regarding this proposal:
 1. What is the cost to own a LinkedIn Company page? Jerry will verify that there is no charge for a Company page.
 2. Do we need guidance documents for content? Jerry will look at the current SOP regarding dissemination of information. Policy may need to update that SOP.
- Jerry noted that this is a big job and too much for a volunteer. He would offer a position on a contractual basis to Jerry Thao to develop and maintain the LinkedIn Company page. Jerry Parr would provide content and PA's could contribute content from committees as warranted.

7. 2022 Forum on Environmental Accreditation

- Registration has opened at <https://www.nelac-institute.org/forum/2022-winter/index.php>.
- We now have 19 Exhibitors.
- We have 68 registered attendees (60 in-person and 8 by recordings)
- Both training courses are filling up nicely.
Bexar County is still at a substantial risk at 86 cases per 100K. The positivity is down to 5.4% from a high of 20% in August.
- Chairs and PAs have been sent reminder notices.
- Jan will send an email next week about hotel deadlines and registration.
- Some public-sector travel may be rescinded.
- The federal mandate for vaccines has been overturned.
- Do we want to require masks? This is a fluid situation and will be reviewed again at the January meeting with current number on Bexar County and the Hyatt policy. Enforcement may not be optimal; but encouragement if suggested.
- Prominently add to the website that the Forum continues to be an in-person conference (Suzanne will contact William).

8. Wastewater Covid Testing

- The National Academy of Science is calling for nominations for people to sit on an expert panel to review wastewater testing for Covid. Jerry will send the information to Stacy and Sharon who expressed interest and/or know people who would be good nominees.

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Attachment 1: Guidance on Initial Demonstration of Capability for Drinking Water Methods

November 22, 2021

1.0 BACKGROUND

Problem Statement: Most EPA drinking water methods require that laboratories conduct an Initial Demonstration of Capability (IDC) which includes verifying the Minimum Reporting limit (MRL) using the Half Range Prediction Interval of Results (HR_{PIR}) for all analytes is within limits published in the method. This requirement has proven difficult to meet for methods which contain many analytes. The EPA drinking water program agrees and only requires that the HR_{PIR} be met for regulated drinking water analytes. State accreditation/certification programs believe any analyte listed within the Fields of Accreditation of the laboratory must meet method requirements.

EPA Response: EPA is not aware of any issued guidance or correspondence that specifically addresses or advises drinking water laboratory Certification Officers (COs) to exclusively focus on regulated parameters when conducting drinking water laboratory audits and/or reviewing IDC data. There are several approved analytical methods that include an extensive list of target analytes that fall within the scope of the procedure, but most often only a subset of these analytes is federally regulated in drinking water. Nothing was ever issued because this position could be inferred from the regulated analytes, the approved analytical methods specific to monitor those regulated analytes, and the lab certification requirement that applies to conducting compliance monitoring for these regulated analytes with those approved methods. EPA allows drinking water primacy states to be more stringent than federal requirements and some may establish state-codified monitoring requirements for these additional non-federally regulated analytes, which then would warrant a state certification officer's finding. States also have the authority to be more stringent than federal regulations in how they implement their laboratory certification/accreditation programs and could require labs to generate IDC data for all analytes included in the method scope. Included within the CO training program are ways for COs to be efficient and prioritize data review during a lab audit. EPA suggests the auditor not include in their lab audit these non-regulatory analytes that fall within the scope of the method, but rather they specifically focus on the drinking water federally regulated analytes and associated QC.

Auditors review a significant amount of information and if during a lab audit the CO would happen to notice poor performance for a non-regulated analyte with failing QC data or poor recoveries in the IDC, they may identify that observation in their report. In this case, the observation would include a recommendation that the lab maintain awareness and consider looking into why the method may be performing poorly for that non-regulated analyte, but they would not make it a finding requiring any corrective action. The observation would be shared with the lab for broad awareness and recognition that the failed IDC for the non-regulatory analyte may represent an early warning of potential future lab performance problems. Oftentimes specific target analytes can be more sensitive and may serve as early indicators/sentinels that the analytical system (extraction and/or analysis) may be teetering and soon may fall out of control for regulated analytes.

EMC Action: This guidance was shared with every state agency that accredits or certifies laboratories that analyze drinking water.

State Response: The National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) Accreditation Council represents 14 state programs that accredit laboratories to the TNI laboratory accreditation standard. The Council discussed this guidance and indicated they could not use it since any analyte listed in a laboratory's Accreditation Certificate must meet any method requirements. However, the Council did agree that laboratories could take corrective action as outlined in Section 4.11 of Module 2 of the TNI standard.

2.0 EMC FINAL GUIDANCE

Most EPA drinking water methods require that laboratories conduct an Initial Demonstration of Capability which includes establishing a Minimum Reporting Level (MRL). The methods then require the laboratory to verify that the Half Range Prediction Interval of Results (HR_{PIR}) by analyzing seven replicate samples at or below the MRL. The MRL is validated if both the Upper and Lower Prediction Interval of Results meet criteria of $< 150\%$ and $> 50\%$ respectively. These values are based on the mean and standard deviation of the seven replicates. The methods then state:

If these criteria are not met, the MRL has been set too low and must be confirmed again at a higher concentration.

The EPA methods provide no guidance regarding what to do if only a few analytes in a long list do not meet these criteria. Should all analytes be retested at a higher concentration? Should only those that fail be repeated at the MRL concentration?

EMC also recommends laboratories follow the corrective action process in the TNI Standard as summarized below.

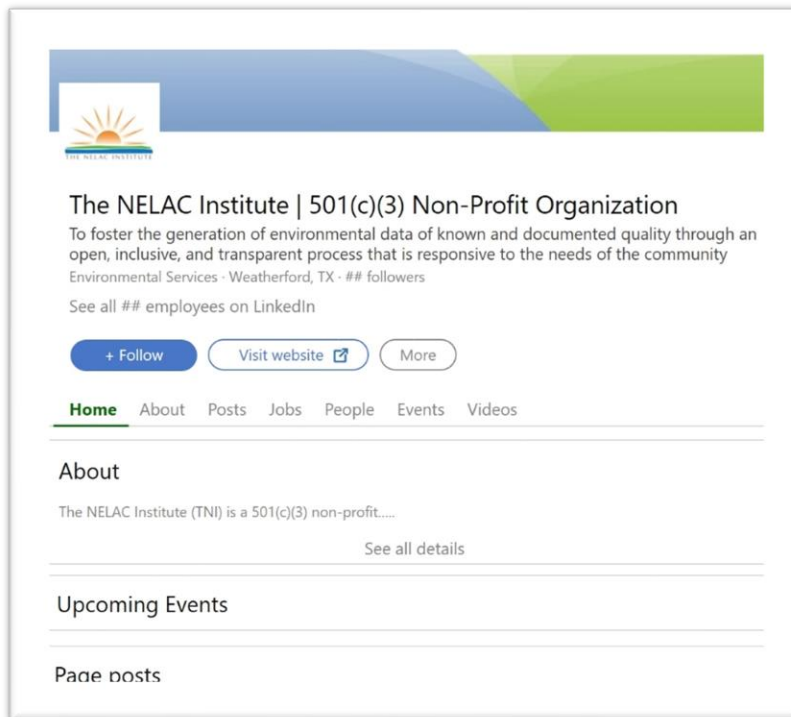
1. Start with an investigation to determine the root cause(s) of the problem.
2. Select and implement the action(s) most likely to eliminate the problem and to prevent recurrence.
3. Document and implement any required changes resulting from corrective action investigations.
4. Monitor the results to ensure that the corrective actions taken have been effective.

NOTE: Often the root cause is not obvious and thus a careful analysis of all potential causes of the problem is required. Potential causes for this situation could include a sporadic random failure, inadequate calibration, incorrect spiking solution, insufficient training, or analyst error.

Once the root cause has been identified and addressed, the corrective action must result in a MRL verification process for only those analytes that didn't pass the HR_{PIR} process, using additional replicates or a higher concentration.

Attachment 2:

Proposal for a LinkedIn Page



Social media allows for the building of relationships, sharing of expertise and increase one's visibility, as well as educate oneself and connect with others anytime.¹ Undeniably, there is no better social media platform to do that with than LinkedIn.

LinkedIn is the world's largest professional network, with 756 million members in more than 200 countries and territories worldwide.² Not only will LinkedIn allow both industry and non-industry professionals to connect with TNI, but it will also allow TNI to expand its reach and hopefully spark bigger conversations along the way.

One of the advantages of creating a LinkedIn "company" page vs a "group" is that the company page will allow for TNI to be more transparent and inclusive. In addition, a "company" page would be able to be used as a shared platform where any TNI group can request for information to be shared, while a "group" page would limit the content shared and/or discussed to just the applicable TNI group only. In addition, there would be no need to moderate who can join or not, with a "company" page.

The amount of content that TNI chooses to share and post on LinkedIn can be as unlimited as the Board will allow. The following are the various sections of a LinkedIn profile, in which TNI can share content about the organization:

¹ Friedman, L. (2014, April 2). 5 Benefits of Using Social Media. Retrieved from <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/20140422162738-44670464-5-benefits-of-using-social-media>.

² LinkedIn (2021). About LinkedIn. Retrieved from <https://about.linkedin.com>.

Home

The “Home” page/section will provide a quick snapshot to all that visit the page. It also provides a quick snapshot of the recent content shared and/or posted under the various sections.

About

The “About” section is used to explain who and what TNI is, including its mission, values and future outlook. The following information that are and/or can be included in this section include:

- Website;
- Industry classification;
- Company size;
- Headquarters;
- Type of company;
- Founded;
- Specialties; and
- Location

Posts

The “Posts” section can be used for anything from providing a recap of conferences, meetings and trainings to updates and/or changes coming to the Standards and method update rules, etc.—the possibilities are endless. In addition, posts can also be made to acknowledge personnel changes and congratulate new appointees.

Example(s) of posts:

- Conference
 - Provide a brief summary of the conference, including but not limited to the theme of the conference; conference dates and location; virtual vs in-person and note how any participants attended; keynote speakers or topics; and a couple photos from throughout the week.
- New Board Director
 - Congratulate the new Board Director appointed and share some background on their TNI membership and/or activities over the years and include a photo of the personnel.

Jobs

The “Jobs” section is optional. This section can be used to post about openings and/or vacancies in committees that need to be filled . The goal here would be to encourage more members to participate in TNI so that we can keep discussions stimulating and moving forward.

A prerequisite can be set, noting that applicants must be a current TNI member. For interested people who are not yet TNI members, hopefully the posting will draw them in with enough interest to where they will visit the TNI website for more information and register to become a TNI member.

People

The “People” section is optional but can be adjusted to TNI. Instead, this section can be used to showcase the many faces and diversity of TNI members. It may be more applicable to TNI members who are currently volunteering in a TNI group, but we can make this section work if approved by the Board.

Applicable members can list the TNI group(s) that they are currently volunteering in as a “job”. By doing so, the TNI group will be listed as a “job” on the member’s personal LinkedIn profile page. Once listed, the member will be linked to and appear in the “People” section of the TNI page.

Events

The “Events” section would be used as one of the primary sections for promoting and/or marketing upcoming events, including but not limited to conferences and trainings. At minimum, each event post would include the following information, if applicable:

- Date(s);
- Registration deadline(s);
- Registration fee(s);
- Photo(s); and
- Link to the TNI website where detailed information about the event is provided, including registration.

Example(s) of event posts:

- Conference
 - Provide a brief summary of the conference, including but not limited to the theme of the conference; conference dates and location; type of conference (virtual, in-person or both); registration information; and keynote speakers or topics. A link would be included to the TNI website where detailed information of the conference is provided.
 - Information regarding conferences can be posted and shared as early as it is available and updated periodically until the event takes place.
- Training
 - Provide a brief summary of the training, including but not limited to the training title, the registration information and who will be leading the training. If the trainer has a LinkedIn account, their profile can also be linked here as well. A link would be included to the TNI website where detailed information of the training is provided.
 - Information regarding training can be posted and shared as early as it is available or based on a schedule. For instance, a training can be posted on LinkedIn once the date is confirmed, followed by periodic updates up until the training starts (ex: Notification is received today that a training is confirmed for September 16, 2021. A post would be made on LinkedIn today, followed by event reminders on August 1st and September 1st).

The following information is a proposal on how the LinkedIn account will be managed:

- Postings

- Content would be submitted to the LinkedIn account administrator for review prior to posting. All applicable information (i.e., content, summary, dates, registration information, etc.) must be provided in the request.
 - The frequency that content can be posted can vary, depending on how active the Board would like the LinkedIn page to be.
- Question(s):
 - Do posts (i.e., events, jobs, general posts, etc.) need to be approved by the Board prior to posting and/or sharing on LinkedIn?
 - Is there specific content that the Board would like to steer away from (ex: political, race, religion, etc.)?

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of November Minutes

2. [Reserved]

3. [Reserved]

4. [Reserved]

5. CONSENSUS STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT REPORT

5.1.1 CSDP Executive Committee

- Standard/Module review continues for virtually all Volumes and Modules of the TNI Standard. An NOI for EL-V1M1, V2M2, V3 and V4 concerning all aspects of Proficiency Testing has been forwarded to the CSDP EC for approval. Notifications to all interested parties including ANSI, consistent with the requirements of SOP 2-100 will be completed upon approval the CSDP EC. The public and TNI internal comment periods for Chemistry and Microbiology are now both closed and no public comments were received. One comment from notification of the ABs has been received for the Chemistry NOI and will be considered.
- The TNI Glossary Work Group has to, a large degree, completed Work on the Glossary Annex (i.e., those definitions not in the Standards but in other TNI documents). Relevant ISO Standards definitions have also been considered in this review as have state specific definitions contained in laboratory accreditation regulations. The Work Group is now focusing on those terms/definitions in the Volumes and Modules of the Standard. As any changes proposed by the Work Group involving these terms/definitions must go through the entire Standard development process, initial efforts will be directed towards those Volumes and/or Modules that are currently under review and potential modification by the Expert Committees. A request of the authors of the documents in question to modify their language to utilize the harmonized definition will be made.
- Training for Expert Committee Chairs and Committee members is progressing well and documentation of said training for all Committee participants should be completed prior to years end.
- All Expert Committees are also beginning the process of Roster review for calendar year 2022. While changes are anticipated, balance will be maintained for all expert committees.

5.2 Asbestos Committee

- The Asbestos Expert Committee has completed all requirements for their modified Draft (DS). All notifications have been made and the comment period is closed. The Committee has prepared and published their Response to Comments (R2C) document consistent with SOP 2-100. A number of editorial (and clarifying), as well as persuasive comments were received, and the Committee has now prepared a revision to its Draft Discussion of the Standard will continue and a vote to finalize is anticipated during the December meeting later this month. The Committee is also preparing for their presentation of the revised DS at the San Antonio meeting.

5.3 Chemistry Committee

- The Chemistry Committee continues to seek resolution of SIRs from the LASEC. The primary focus of the Committee is now on development of proposed modifications to the language in V1M4 in preparation for a revised Draft Standard. While the entire Module will be examined as per SOP 2-100, at this point in time, principal issues facing the Committee relate to reconsideration of the language and/or clarification of the requirements for Initial and Continuing Demonstration of Capabilities for the laboratory and individual analysts, and detection limit and calibration language clarifications. Numerous other issues of a lesser nature are also being discovered as the Committee reviews the current Module. The Committee is also

planning for the San Antonio meeting and intends to present the concepts surrounding potential modifications to EL V1M4.

5.4 Laboratory Accreditation Body Committee

- LAB members continue reviewing the comments submitted on the V2M1 Draft Standard. Decisions about replacement language for the assessor qualifications and training section of the Draft Standard are being postponed to the end of comments, as the committee still struggles with finding consensus on that portion of the module.
- In January 2022, LAB will lose at least half of its current membership due to term limits, and Carl's third term as Chair also expires. The committee is actively recruiting new members and already has two membership applications from current associate members. LAB will have the minimum requirement (5 members) carrying over and balance will be maintained.

5.5 Microbiology Committee

- The Committee has started reviewing comments to its posting of the DRAFT Standard.
- Work on the implementation guidance for Equilibrium Testing (V1M5: 1.7.3.7.b.v.a) will continue after the comments to the DRAFT standard are reviewed.
- The Committee is working on new membership but is currently in balance.

5.6 Proficiency Testing Committee

- The PTEC Committee has completed its work plans focusing on needed changes to Module 1 including review of ISO 17011, 17025, 17034 and 17043 for consistency with the TNI Standard. The Committee has begun review of V2M2, EL V3 and EL V4 for any needed updates or modifications to these Standards. The Committee has developed and approved NOI's for each Standard/Module and submitted said NOI's to the CSDP EC for consideration. The Committee is also addressing SIR 413 concerning Secondary Accreditation and its requirements in the PT Volumes and Modules. The Committee is also planning for the San Antonio meeting and intends to present the concepts surrounding potential modifications to EL V1M1.

5.7 Quality Systems Committee

- The SIR 412 (dealing with solvent analysis and unique IDs) vote was completed by email and a final response was sent to LASEC on 12/2/21.
- The Workgroups continued meeting this month to update parts of the Standard.

5.8 Radiochemistry Committee

- The Committee discussed the topic mentioned in the PTPEC report. They feel it is important that uncertainty be reported, and a comment was made by the previous Committee Chair that he had understood that the PT Providers could handle this reporting. Terry Romanko (Chair), Bob Shannon (Previous Chair) and Keith McCroan (former EPA and Committee Member) will participate by Webex during the meeting in San Antonio.)

5.9 Stationary Source Audit Sample Committee

- The Committee is working on the update to its second module (General Requirements for an Accreditor of Stationary Source Audit Sample Providers).

5.10 Whole Effluent Toxicity Committee

- The WET Chair met with the PTPEC Chair to discuss changes to the agreement made at the January 2021 conference about including WET PT instructions in the standard itself. Unfortunately, PTEC representatives were unavailable at the appointed time and an additional meeting will be needed.

6. NEFAP

6.1 NEFAP Executive Committee

- The Committee membership vote has been completed. Justin is reaching out to new members to confirm membership and welcome them to the Committee.
- The Committee discussed the low voting turnout for new membership. The Committee will consider updates to their Nomination SOP to help increase voter turnout during the next vote. More awareness of the vote is needed.
- The Committee finished their review of the Policy Committee comments and have sent it back to the Policy Committee for finalization.
- The Training Subcommittee is continuing working on the development of an Internal Audits course. Paul Bergeron is coordinating this effort with Adam Szafran. They have a DRAFT for review that has been sent to Subcommittee members for review. Once they receive comments, they will plan a training date. There is a lot of material, and it could be a full day course.
- The Marketing Subcommittee took a break due to member schedules, but they are making good progress on a PPT to use to promote NEFAP. They are starting to look for volunteers to reach out to states to tell people about the Program.
- Justin and the Marketing Subcommittee will put a note together to get a better understanding about what needs to be reviewed by the Advocacy Committee before it is published.
- There will not be a field meeting in San Antonio, but there will be a meeting planned for summer.

6.2 Field Activities Expert Committee (FAC)

- The Committee is continuing work on Volume 2 of the Field Standard – General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Field Sampling and Measurement Organizations and Volume 1 of the FSMO Standard.

7. NELAP

7.1 Accreditation Council

Three AB renewals have now been approved, with the site report for a fourth AB delivered. The good news is that Jerry has contracted with Aaren Alger to share with Steve the workload of completing the remaining ten evaluations, with each of them being Lead Evaluator for five ABs. This should enable completion of nearly all evaluations by the beginning of the next cycle, when Steve had already planned to depart the LE role. Ilona continues to serve as the Alternate LE; for the next cycle, she will evaluate Pennsylvania to avoid the appearance of any conflict of interest for Aaren, just as she has done Florida, from where Steve retired.

Comments on the updated NELAP AC Charter were received from Policy Committee, and the requested revisions will be proposed for acceptance at the December 6 Council meeting.

There is another change to the implementation status of the 2016 TNI EL Standard – Oklahoma has published its proposed rulemaking to adopt the 2016 standard.

Implementation Plans for 2016 TNI ELS Standard – 12/1/2021		
State	Process for Implementing the New Standard	Anticipated Implementation Date
FL	FL adopted the TNI 2016 Standards by regulation on September 26, 2018. Laboratories were granted a	Fully implemented on April 1, 2019

	grace period until April 1, 2019, to implement the new standards	
IL	Full implementation on January 31, 2020	January 31, 2020
KS	Rulemaking underway, but slowly. Is allowing labs to upgrade now and is assessing to 2016 Standard even though 2003 NELAC standard is still the official version	Unknown
LA	Regulation updates delayed by pandemic, tropical storms and hurricanes	Unknown
MN	Adopts by statute, and is updating its databases now. Is encouraging labs to implement 2016 standard now, with database updates ready and checklist going into electronic data system now	January 2021
NH	Is encouraging labs to upgrade now, working with counsel about how and when they can proceed with rulemaking	Unknown
NJ	Incorporated into regulation by reference	January 31, 2020
NY	Adopts by reference; unable to obtain permission to complete rulemaking to update other aspects on separate timeline. Implemented PT modules of 2016 Standard immediately but not able to use the updated/2016 checklist yet. Encouraging labs to upgrade now	PT changes implemented; other modules await rulemaking to revise NYS certification manual. Unknown date for completion
OK	Proposed rule published 12/1/2021 to adopt 2016 TNI EL Standard	If legislature approves (February 2022 session), implementation will be September 2022
OR	Implemented 2016 Standard effective January 1, 2021	January 1, 2021
PA	Incorporated into regulation by reference, all labs are required to have the 2016 standard implemented by July 2020.	January 31, 2020
TX	Incorporated into regulation by reference. Implementation has gone well.	January 31, 2020
UT	Rulemaking complete, 2016 standard implemented.	June 11, 2021
VA	Regulatory update stalled, awaiting first publication.	Unknown

7.2 Laboratory Accreditation Systems Executive Committee

- LASEC submitted comments in response to the Notice of Intent to Revise the Chemistry module, asking that the two guidance documents be considered, both to incorporate items only in the guidance but also to ensure that the guidance is updated to the new module, and that especially the Detection and Quantitation Guidance (GUI 3-109) be edited for clarity during that revision process.
- Planning for the Mentor Session and the Assessment Forum in San Antonio is well underway. Again, many thanks to Dorothy Love and Judy Morgan for spearheading these training events.

8. PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM

- Shawn Kassner (Chair) started a new job with Kaycha Labs (Full-Service Cannabis and Hemp Testing). He will continue on as Chair and his Stakeholder status is still Lab. He will not be able to be in attendance in San Antonio, but Fred Anderson (Vice-Chair) will be there.
- There was a follow-up meeting with PTEC and WET. Conversations will continue and Shawn is still trying to get volunteers to start the WET FoPT Subcommittee.
- Policy reviewed the PTPEC Charter and provided recommendations that will be considered during the

December meeting.

- The Committee was made aware of a conflict between Volume 1 and 3 of the Standard in regard to reporting uncertainty for Radiochemistry PTs. A meeting will be held in San Antonio to review the issue, whether there is value in reporting uncertainty, and how should it be evaluated?
- Ongoing items include review of the FoPT Table Management SOP, Voting SOP, PFAS ARA and the Radiochemistry Limits.

9 ADMINISTRATION

9.1 Advocacy Committee

- Advocacy began review of its work plan to accomplish the goals of the most recent TNI Strategic Plan. Several excellent ideas were offered for use in outreach to data users, and these concepts will be formalized early next year (after conference) for implementation by TNI.
- There are now ten mentor-mentee matches in place, with each applicant lab having its own mentor assigned to it. There are eleven TNI Ambassadors reaching out to a total of sixteen states, and we continue to recruit additional Ambassadors for the remaining twenty states (the remainder, after accounting for the current Ambassadors and the 14 NELAP states).

9.2 Policy Committee

- Ongoing: Review of SOP 3-105 (Standard Interpretation SOP) has been completed and Patsy is drafting an email to return this SOP for further updating. Still needs completion.
- The Committee is continuing to review updated Charters. Final Charters will be submitted to the Board in December (Training, NEFAP and Policy).
- The Committee finished the review of SOP 1-110 (Educational Delivery System) and comments have been forwarded to the Training Committee for consideration during their final review.
- The Committee is adding another voting member from the Administration side of TNI. Jerry will work with the Advocacy Committee to select a candidate.

9.3 Training Committee

- Training Committee:
 - The Training Opportunities Workgroup has a list of courses for the next RFP that they are working on. The RFP is expected to go out in late January.
 - Review on SOP 1-110 (Educational Delivery System) has been started and will be completed in December.
- Current Classes being worked on:
 - Introduction to Proper and Scientific Integration Techniques for Chromatographic Systems – December 7 and 9th (4 hours). 54 people are currently registered for this class.
 - Good Laboratory Practice – Internal Audits – Part II (ANAB) –No additional update.
 - ANAB's new course: Risk Based Thinking in the Environmental Laboratory. This will be a 10-hour class. People are asking about this type of class. They want to handle this class a little different. TNI will essentially be marketing the class on the website, but ANAB will be handling all the registration. They also signed up to do the class at the Winter meeting in person.
 - Marlene and Ilona are still discussing evaluator training for the NEFAP/PTP Evaluations. It looks like this training will need to be completed during the summer.
 - The NEFAP Training Subcommittee is developing an Internal Audit course for early 2022.

9.4 2022 Environmental Measurement Symposium

- The Call for Abstracts is open.
- The Exhibit Program opened on December 1.

9.4 NGAB

- No activity.

9.6 Information Technology

TNI Management System: The new system became active on September 13. As of that date, all committee rosters on the website are being maintained in a central database. Pending work items include updating the user manual to reflect last-minute changes, adding a form for PAs to add new members through the database website rather than using the Committee Application Form, and creating a membership activity report for Jerry's use at Board meetings.

Website

- At the Advocacy Committee meeting in August, there was some discussion about how people find out about standards development activities, after a "Request for Comments" to a draft standard was posted on the website on August 9. To improve communication of these kinds of postings, William created a mailing list subscription for standards development activities. The list works in the same manner as the existing notification lists for Standard Interpretation and FoPT Table updates. In this case, a signup form is on the [Standards home page](#) of the website. 86 people have signed up so far, and two notifications have already gone out as a result of news postings made this month.
- The website has been [updated](#) with information about the upcoming TNI Forum.
- The membership database software, aMember, was updated to the latest version. Two weeks later, it was discovered that aMember had stopped sending automatic e-mail responses to new members who requested an invoice. William reported the issue to the developer and they fixed the problem the same day.
- Numerous new training courses were posted as webinars and (later) as webcast recordings. Among these recordings of the [Assessment Forum](#) and [Mentor Session](#) from the last Forum, as well as one of the Symposium's [keynotes](#). This was the first time we have offered recordings from sessions as stand-alone training webcasts.

10. TASK FORCES AND OTHER EFFORTS

10.1 Competency Task Force

- The Task Force affirmed its tentative decision that, after receiving final feedback on the draft language about the concept of "Technical Manager" (now renamed as Technical Expert) at conference in San Antonio, it will hand off the most recent version to Quality Systems Expert Committee for its use in revising the fine details of V1M2. The Task Force reviewed plans for the combined session with TNI's Training Committee and Expert Committee Chairs at conference, where discussion will update participants on recent activities and then focus on components of a possible credentialing program, initially addressing Technical Experts and Quality Systems Management Experts. Our expectation is that, after conference, the group will be able to pursue establishing the knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) needed for various roles in a functioning laboratory, and also for assessors (once the V2M1 details are settled).

10.2 Consumables Task Force

- The Task Force did not meet in November due to an insufficient number of participants. It was noted that participation has been waning over the past few months and Bob sent an e-mail to all participants

requesting a re-dedication of their time and energies to the work of the Task Force. The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for December 14, 2021. If participation continues to be a problem, the Chair will initiate efforts to re-constitute the Task Force.

- The recent work of the Task Force has focused on how laboratories can ensure compliance with the TNI requirements and appropriate ISO/IEC requirements. The Task Force in response to this question, has and continues to investigate ISO Guide 31 and the necessary informational requirements of product “certificates”. The anticipated “checklist” for certificates for critical supplies and services has recently been presented in a final draft stage. A “decision tree” is also being developed for use in laboratory procurement efforts to ascertain which supplies and/or services are critical and subsequently require certificates to ensure compliance with TNI requirements.

10.3 Mentor Initiative

- We now have 10 laboratories paired with 10 Mentors.

10.4 Environmental Monitoring Coalition

- The EMC will be having a meeting with EPA staff from the “National Programs Office” on December 13. The discussion will involve the following topics: Assist with developing, validating, and approving for use laboratory test procedures by providing analytical expertise and laboratory performance data.
 - Speed up the adoption of new measurement technology.
 - Develop harmonized requirements for such activities as instrument calibration and quality control based on the current best science.
 - Support the adoption of the performance approach for use of test methods.
 - Support the use of any validated method across all program offices.
 - Educate regulators and legislators on the how the value of a laboratory accreditation system that covers all environmental monitoring programs and ensures reliable monitoring data.

11. MEMBERSHIP

- 1164 active members

11.1 Committee Applications

Danielle	Pearman	Phenova	Proficiency Testing
Brian	Mercer	City of Plantation, FL	Microbiology
Sviatlana	Haubner	Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati	Laboratory Accreditation Body
Selisha	Prahlad	NYC DEP	Expert: Asbestos
Tim	Miller	Phenova	Proficiency Testing Program
Stacey	Chmura	NYC DOH	Microbiology
Denice	Johnson	Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District	Chemistry
Amy	Hackman	PA DEP	Microbiology