

**TNI Board of Directors Meeting Summary
February 9, 2022**

ROLL CALL

Directors	Present	Staff	Present
Jordan Adelson	X	Lynn Bradley	X
Aaren Alger	X	Jerry Parr	X
Steve Arms	X	Ilona Taunton	
Justin Brown		Janice Wlodarski	X
Kristin Brown		Bob Wyeth	X
David Caldwell	X		
Stacie Crandall	X		
Jack Farrell	X		
Maria Friedman			
Myron Gunsalus			
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. Review of Consent Agenda – Approved 2/9/2022**
- 2. 2022 Forum on Environmental Accreditation (Attachment 1)**
 - We ended up with 189 attendees, but only 136 in person due to 20-30 cancellations due to positive Covid tests, company management decisions, and other personal issues.
 - The recordings of the session are still available until April 1.
 - Attachment 1 contains a summary of the actions during conference.
- 3. EPA Certification Officer Virtual Training**

Calista Daigle and Jennifer Best had a very preliminary discussion about TNI supporting this training by using TNI's virtual training platform. EPA would continue to provide the training and would want TNI to assist with providing an in-person venue for the mock assessment portion of the training, either in conjunction with our meetings, or perhaps at a state or EPA regional laboratory at some established frequency. At this time, the discussion was simply a question of interest and potential feasibility.

4. Competency Task Force (Attachment 2)

As discussed in 10.1 of the Consent Agenda, the Task Force has completed its effort on the Technical Manager language and will now shift focus to the Credentialing effort which was well received in San Antonio.

This effort will require a significant effort over the next 2-3 years to pilot a credential program for Quality Manager Experts and may well become a permanent activity for TNI.

The Board needs to consider turning this Task Force into a TNI committee. Attachment 2 compares the differences between the Task Force and the Committee. This effort could well become a significant revenue stream for TNI.

If the Board agrees conceptually with this direction, a detailed business plan will be prepared and the Task Force will review it, as well as perhaps the Finance Committee.

Motion to continue the Task Force efforts in Credentialing: Paul Junio

Second: Jack Farrell

Approved: Unanimous

5. Review and Approval of Annual Report or Outline of Annual Report

A very rough draft of the Annual Report was provided separately along with the 2020 report. You will see the 2021 report is much shorter, containing mainly bullets as opposed to the 2020 report which had more prose. The 2021 accomplishments do not require a review, but the 2022 Objectives do. As noted in the Policy committee report, Policy is working to revise SOP 1-101 to add a new Section 11 concerning this topic.

This section, which has not yet been reviewed by Policy is shown below.

12.3 Annual Report

12.3.1 Preparation of PowerPoint

In December each year, each TNI group is requested to prepare a brief summary of Accomplishments from the current year and Objectives for the next year. The TNI Executive Director combines these summaries into one PowerPoint presentation and then adds in other significant accomplishments.

12.3.2 Presentation at Annual Meeting

The presentation prepared as described above is presented to the Forum attendees during a general session at the conference. A copy of this presentation is made available to the public on the Previous Conferences webpage.

12.3.3 Preparation of Written Report

The TNI Executive Director combines all of the Monthly Reports into one document and then edits this to prepare a summary of activities. The Objectives from the annual meeting presentation are then added in. Additionally, the following items are included:

- *A listing of all Policies and SOPs developed and approved.*
- *A listing of all Training Courses developed.*
- *A Laboratory Accreditation Management System (LAMS) report containing demographics including the number of accredited laboratories and Field Sampling and*

Measurement Organizations (FSMOs), the number of analytes and method codes, and an appendix listing all new analyte and method codes generated during the year.

- *A list of all individuals who rotated off as Committee Chairs and a list of new Committee Chairs.*
- *A membership report showing the total number of members and the number of committee applications.*
- *A financial report (Statement of Activities) presented as a pie chart.*
- *An appendix containing a roster for every committee and task force.*

12.3.4 Review and Approval

This report is shared with all group chairs and relevant TNI staff for review before presenting to the Board. Once that review is completed the report is provided to the Board for review and approval. The Board is required to vote on this report as it then empowers each group's Work Plan.

The current 2021 draft report does not comply with the language above as the Accomplishments are from the PowerPoint document and not from the Monthly PA reports.

Note: While this report is 30 pages, about half of it is appendices.

Action Items for the Board

1. Review and approve 2022 objectives. We may want to table approval of the objectives until next month.
2. Decide on format for Accomplishments, bullets, or prose.
3. We will have this ready by the time the newsletter goes out.

6. EPA Environmental Justice Effort (David Caldwell)

<https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>

The following is information that Cathy Westerman provided regarding the subject discussed at a recent AC meeting:

At Monday's AC meeting, David Caldwell (OK) initiated a discussion about Environmental Justice Concerns and the possible need for a translation of the TNI Environmental Standard into Spanish, or other measures to ensure all who need access to this information have it.

This is likely to emerge as a need in the future. Sharing with you all as "FYI" at this time. Some ideas discussed in the AC meeting:

- 1) *TNI workgroup to help translate, comprised of bilingual folks already familiar with the TNI Standard.*
- 2) *Seeking university support - perhaps this translation project could be an internship project / masters / PhD project for someone looking for a meaningful advanced project for university credit*
- 3) *Consider translating the Small Lab Handbook rather than the standard (if regulatory issues are "daunting" or makes it more complicated); as the SLH is already a "paraphrase" it would reduce some pressure for "perfection".*
- 4) *ISO Language in Spanish would likely need to be purchased by TNI (but would not need these translation services)*
- 5) *Mentorships for labs needing assistance in language support using well-matched bilingual volunteers from TNI labs*

We need more clarity about what our involvement could be.

Is there grant money available? From EPA? There are a lot of things options for grant money out there – we have to look.

We need to make sure there is a need for this before we do anything.

Next steps: Do more research and discuss again next month.

**Attachment 1
Closing Session San Antonio Forum
January 20, 2022**

Asbestos Expert Committee (Paul Junio)

- The Response to Comments document was reviewed during the meeting. Feedback was received from the audience on 2 items which were shared with the Chair (Michelle McGowan) and PA (Bob Wyeth) for their follow-up. Persuasive comments will result in a next revision of the Draft Standard.

Chemistry Expert Committee (Nicole Cairns)

- The Committee reviewed many SIRs, and there were problems in completing the process with some of them. Module 4 was reviewed, and items that may need modifying were identified for possible update. Audience feedback was invaluable during the session for such items.

Laboratory Accreditation Body Expert Committee (Carl Kircher)

- The Response to Comments document for Volume 2 Module 1 was reviewed, specifically looking at comments that have not yet been determined to be persuasive or non-persuasive. Comments have been received, including some that are global, editorial changes. There will be an additional revision to the Draft Standard, which will result in an additional posting and public comment period. Aaren Alger is the incoming Chair of the Committee. The goal is to have the revision of the Standard ready by Crystal City. Assessor training comments (i.e., education/experience, additional training, Basic Assessor Training, written exams) are among the items requiring resolution.

Quality Management Systems Expert Committee (Nicole Cairns)

- A summary of the 3 Work Groups' work was discussed. The Definitions Work Group has updated definitions of terms to be included in the Standard (i.e., annual, quarterly) as well as some that may not. This Work Group is also cognizant of additional work being done on the Glossary. The Language Work Group was assigned certain portions of the Standard that may be more problematic. They are working on language in a smaller group that will then come back to the Committee as a whole for consideration. The ISO 17025 Work Group compared language found in ISO 17025:2005 to ISO 17025:2017. While certain requirements are no longer stated in 2017, the group is verifying whether or not there is any language in 2005 that we may want to keep. One SIR was also reviewed, and a response prepared.

Radiochemistry / Special Session (Kirstin Daigle)

- There was a good turnout Tuesday morning. The consensus is that there isn't a concern about reporting uncertainty on PT samples. ABs would not need to score the results, and everyone seems to be ok with that plan. There needs to be a discussion with the Accreditation Council (especially those with radiochemistry interest) to be certain that there is no concern.

LASEC (Maria Friedman)

- The committee reviewed its 2021 results in 2020 two goals. They talked about tracking for SIRs including using the SIR number online making things easier to track. They are prepared for any SIRs related to ISO 17025 (it shouldn't be an issue since there have been such requests previously). They're streamlining their SOP, focusing especially where interpretations relate to disputes. Previous discussions have indicated that SIRs resulting from disputes would be rejected. This has been clarified on the website; the timeline for the process isn't fast enough to resolve a dispute. The committee is interested in clarifying the timeline on SIR responses. They want a streamlined approval process for the SIRs that seem to result in more back and forth discussion among the various committees. This needs to be reflected in the SOP.

Accreditation Council (Kristin Brown)

- The Council each reviewed their (1) current operational status related to the pandemic; (2) their Implementation status for the 2016 TNI Standard; and (3) their status related to the 2021 Method Update Rule. The Council also discussed updates to LAMS, especially as it relates to the timeframe for updates. They would like a combined meeting with LASEC to discuss SIRs in Crystal City. Kristin offered a thank you to all who participated - this was a good job, as always. This is a great chance to learn and share knowledge among all.

Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee (Fred Anderson)

- Subcommittee reports were provided as well as a review of the SOP.

Proficiency Testing (Kirstin Daigle)

- The committee recapped their 2021 accomplishments and discussed their 2022 goals. Notice of Intent to modify their Standards has been approved. They offered their proposed changes for the PT standard and sought feedback. Chief complaint among both the laboratories and the accreditation bodies is that the method codes cause issues with reporting data, choosing the correct method, and uploading data.

Microbiology (Cody Danielson)

- The committee presented the formal comments on the revised standard. They went through the work that has been done so far on addressing those comments. They sought additional feedback for later work on the draft standard. They also had audience input on microbiology training that they would like to see or have the committee address. The committee worked on an SIR response and finalized it via e-mail the next day. The committee needs AB members especially. The meeting in Crystal City would be dealing with comments from the draft standard as well as possible training ideas. Jerry asked if the training would be ready for August. Cody replied that it might be – that is the goal. Feedback from participants was for more in-depth training at shorter session-length.

Assessment Forum (Valerie Slaven / Aaren Alger)

- The forum went incredibly well. Similar good feedback was received using the findings, the severity and the terminology differentiations that were described. Great audience participation. If we would be able to keep the ABs in the room, it would give great participation in the forum and great credence to the responses provided. We would like to not go up against Quality Systems, Chemistry or Microbiology to aid in that possibility. Pairing the assessment forum with the mentor session went really well.

Mentor Session (Dorothy Love)

- There was an intentional pairing of the assessment form and mentor session to tie the two sessions together. That obviously went very well. Approximately 40 were in attendance for the mentor session. As mentioned with the Assessment Forum, the Mentor Session needs AB participation. We would fill whatever time is available.

Training Committee (Calista Daigle)

- The committee presented its 2021 accomplishments and 2022 goals. Discussion revolved around the concepts of digital badges or credentialing; both were considered useful and there was agreement among the attendees that the committee should pursue both options. Additional discussions revolved around possible training courses. Specific KSAs were discussed and what training might fall underneath each type. There was also a discussion of what courses may be needed for future goals of the organization.

Competency Task Force (Jerry Parr)

- There was a clear directive to move toward the technical expert concept and away from the technical manager concept. Remove requirements for credit hours of courses and turn this over to the Quality Systems committee. The task force is done with this issue. Credentialing and digital badges also met with approval and needs to be presented to the TNI Board for funding approval.

Attachment 2 Competency Task Forces v Credentials Committee

Task Force

Explore and make recommendations regarding programs to document competencies for Quality Managers, Technical Managers, Assessors, Samplers, and others as appropriate. Note: Such documentation may involve credentialing and/or digital badges.

- Define the types of professional positions to which this program would apply.
- Define the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) each type of position should have.
- Explore how training courses and/or on-the-job experience contribute to this knowledge and skills.
- Establish generic competencies for each group.
- Research credentialing to see if it is a viable option for this program.
- Develop recommendations, including an implementation plan, to present to the TNI Board of Directors.
- Coordinate with TNI Training Committee in developing courses.

Committee

Explore and make recommendations regarding a program to credential Quality Managers, Technical Managers, Assessors, Samplers, and others as appropriate.

- Define the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) each type of position should have.
 - Pilot the program with the Quality Manager position.
- Develop recommendations, including an implementation plan, to present to the TNI Board of Directors, including:
 - Determine the education and experience the individual must have.
 - Develop a test for a proctored exam.
 - Determine the Professional Development Hours required to maintain the credential.
 - Establish a series of required courses for someone to earn Digital Badges which could lead to become a Credential Quality Manager
- Coordinate with TNI Training Committee in developing courses.

CONSENT AGENDA
Approved 2/9/2022

1. Approval of January 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 have been published on the website and PINS have been submitted and accepted by ANSI. All four (4) PINS are in the ANSI public comment period. No ANSI public comments have been received to date. The Radiochemistry Expert Committee has posted their DS and announcements of this activity have also been distributed as per SOP 2-100. A BSR-8 has been submitted and accepted by ANSI. The BSR-8 for Radiochemistry is in the ANSI public comment period and no comments have been received to date.
- One on-going issue which is confounding approvals at ANSI is that previous approvals were for entire Volumes of the Standard and now, by necessity, we are submitting application for individual Modules which requires the submittals to be “partition” of the existing standards. Additionally, we may have to resubmit EL V4 as a new standard as ANSI misinterpreted our previous submission on EL V1M4 as a replacement for EL V4. These issues are not overly serious and are being resolved but it has slowed and already lengthy process.
- The TNI Glossary Work Group is 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.
- Training for Expert Committee Chairs and Committee members is progressing well and documentation of said training for all Committee participants should be completed shortly. All Expert Committees are also in 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. The Committee hosted a public meeting in San Antonio and solicited public comments for consideration in the process of revising the DS for EL V1M3. A few additional comments were received and will be considered by the Committee.

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, 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 hosted a public meeting in San Antonio and solicited public comments for consideration in the process of revising the Module and creating a DS for EL V1M4.

5.4 Laboratory Accreditation Body Committee

- Aaren Alger takes on the LAB Chair role with Yumi Creason (PA DEP) as Vice Chair. The review of comments submitted on the V2M1 Draft Standard will continue, with decisions about replacement language for the assessor qualifications and training section of the Draft Standard still to come.

5.5 Microbiology Committee

- The Committee is continuing to review comments to its posting of the DRAFT Standard. These were shared during the meeting in San Antonio and feedback was discussed.
- The Committee plans to update membership in February, and this will keep the committee in balance as the Chair's stakeholder group changes from AB to Lab.

5.6 Proficiency Testing Committee

- The PTEC Committee has completed its initial plans focusing on needed changes to EL V1M1. The Committee has also begun review of V2M2, EL V3 and EL V4 for any needed updates or modifications to these Volumes/Modules. The Committee hosted a public meeting in San Antonio and solicited public comments for consideration in the process of revising all of the PT Volumes and Modules.

5.7 Quality Management Systems Committee

- The Committee met in San Antonio.
 - The Definitions Workgroup provided an update on definitions being updated and developed.
 - The Language Workgroup shared progress made on SOP requirements.
 - The Committee then worked on reviewing and updating language in the Crosswalk document between the 2016 language and the new ISO/IEC 17025:2017 language. Topics with more discussion included the sampling section, reference equipment, calibration program, and document requirements.
- Discussion on SIR 412 dealing with uniquely identifying solvents is continuing. Kristin Brown is discussing this with LASEC.
- SIR 422 (deals with documentation for purchase, receipt, and storage of consumables for technical operations) was completed and sent back to LASEC.

5.8 Radiochemistry Committee

- The Committee reviewed progress made during the Reporting of Radiochemistry Uncertainty in PTs meeting in San Antonio (see PTPEC report). They will begin developing a recommendation for implementation to the PTPEC and PT Expert committees.
- The Radiochemistry DRAFT Standard has been posted on the TNI website for comment.
- Terry Romanko was voted to continue as Committee Chair and Robert Aullman was voted to continue as Vice Chair.
- The Committee plans to discuss future plans for more training courses or adding a training component to their conference meetings.

5.9 Stationary Source Audit Sample Committee

- No change from last meeting.

5.10 Whole Effluent Toxicity Committee

- WET continues reviewing and revising new language for the WET module, V1M7. The committee continues to seek resolution to its PT recommendations with both PTPEC and PTEC.

6. NEFAP

6.1 NEFAP Executive Committee

- Justin will provide a metrics update in March.

6.2 Field Activities Expert Committee (FAC)

- The Committee had an extended meeting with the NEFAP EC to work on the Standard in January. Progress is continuing to be made and the Committee is sensitive to adding procedures that add value to the Field Standard.
- A number of comments were received on the final DRAFT of the Field AB Standard (Volume 2). The comments have been incorporated and a DRAFT summary of changes has been pulled together in preparation of a public meeting to discuss the Standard on March 15, 2022 at 11am Eastern.
- The Committee received approval from the CSDP EC to approve a third term for Scott Haas, Chair of the FAC. The third term has been approved and Scott has been voted to continue to serve as Chair of the Committee. Marlene Moore will continue as Vice-Chair.

7. NELAP

7.1 Accreditation Council

- All three Lead Evaluators (Steve, Aaren, and Ilona/Alternate) are working on at least one active evaluation, so that we can expect to see more rapid progress with renewal recommendations being issued as those are completed and additional evaluations begun.
- Representatives from Nevada's Laboratory Certification Program planned to join the February 7 NELAP AC teleconference meeting, as NV explores the possibility of becoming a NELAP AB.

- There are some minor detail revisions to the implementation status of the 2016 TNI EL Standard that came out during the NELAP AC session at conference for KS, NH, OK, and VA.

7.2 Laboratory Accreditation Systems Executive Committee

- LASEC is presently reviewing the Radiochemistry Draft Standard with a view towards making its required recommendation to the NELAP AC.
- The Mentor Session and Assessment Forum in San Antonio were successful, as we've come to expect. Thank you to Dorothy Love and Judy Morgan for coordinating these important and useful training events! Planning for the next offerings (in Crystal City) will soon begin. Please note that these sessions are now being recorded and offered as on-demand training. Additional sessions will be added as they occur.

• Implementation Plans for 2016 TNI ELS Standard – 1/19/2022		
State	Process for Implementing the New Standard	Anticipated Implementation Date
FL	FL adopted the TNI 2016 Standards by regulation on September 26, 2018.	Fully implemented on April 1, 2019
IL	Full implementation on January 31, 2020	January 31, 2020
KS	Hope to implement later this year. Allows labs to upgrade now and is assessing to 2016 Standard even though 2003 NELAC standard is still the official version	2022?
LA	Departmental management now in place and briefings planned, rulemaking will follow.	Unknown
MN	Adopts by statute, and is updating its databases now.	January 2021
NH	Regulation finalized on November 23, 2021	March 1, 2022
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	Rulemaking in process; several additional steps including approval by state legislature. Anticipate completion by June or July.	September 2022
OR	Implemented 2016 Standard effective January 1, 2021	January 1, 2021
PA	Incorporated into regulation by reference.	January 31, 2020
TX	Incorporated into regulation by reference.	January 31, 2020
UT	Rulemaking complete, 2016 standard implemented.	June 11, 2021
VA	Regulation signed, awaits publication. Implementation will follow.	Unknown

8. PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM

- The Committee met with PT Expert and Radiochemistry Expert in San Antonio to discuss the reporting of uncertainties for Radiochemistry PTs. The current Standard requires that uncertainty be reported, but this has not been happening. Discussion centered around whether this can be reported (PT Provider will need to update database) and what will be done with the information if it is reported. The thought is to just provide the information but give no criteria for evaluation. Labs are concerned that because the information is being reported, ABs could use it negatively. A historical example of concern is experimental PTs that were never intended to be used as some ABs used them. Radiochemistry would like to see the data collected even if there is no criteria so it can help to develop future limits. Action items that came out of the meeting included:
 - The PTPEC needs to meet with the NELAP AC to understand whether any states have requirements that they have to do something with the result if it is reported.
 - Radiochemistry will develop a recommendation on how to move forward on reporting uncertainty.
 - PTPEC and PT Expert will work together with the NELAP AC to develop a plan.

9 ADMINISTRATION

9.1 Advocacy Committee

- Advocacy planned the next TNI newsletter, to be edited by Zonetta English, and is developing a plan to create a sustainable pipeline for volunteers to support TNI's activities (Goal 2.1 of the Strategic Plan). Once that is well underway, a small workgroup will draft a plan for outreach to data users, generally promoting the benefits of using accredited laboratories (Goal 2.2 of the Plan).

9.2 Policy Committee

- The Committee is reviewing and updating SOP 1-101: Operation of TNI Committees.
- SOP 1-125 (Committee Application and Membership Tracking Procedures) is being updated for review later in February. This SOP and SOP 1-101 are key to completing the internal audit checklists.
- The Committee will have an extra meeting in February to expediate completion of the Internal Audit Checklists and to continue to make progress in reviewing submitted SOPs.

9.3 Training Committee

- Training Committee:
 - A training meeting was held in San Antonio that was led by the Chair of the TNI Training Committee. Jerry Parr shared a document that showed what courses TNI currently offers or is planning to develop that relate to the Credentialing Program document shared earlier in the day. Ilona shared a DRAFT of the course list planned for the next training Request for Proposal (RFP) and asked for input. Other items of discussion:
 - Continue to look at ways to automate certificates so cost can be reduced.
 - Send the RFP to all TNI members this next round. There may be more people interested in preparing training classes that don't catch the announcement in the News section of the TNI website.
 - Consider doing away with closed book tests during trainings.
 - Many suggestions were made for future courses of interest.

- The Training Opportunities Workgroup prepared DRAFT final language for the next training RFP that should be approved this week and an RFP will go out the end of the week or by next Monday.
- Current Classes being worked on:
 - The Microbiology Expert Committee is planning to develop a “Understanding Microbiology” course. Timing will likely be late Summer/Fall. There was lots of enthusiasm expressed for this class in San Antonio and people would like the Committee to consider doing a series of classes instead of just one.
 - An RFP will go out late this week or Monday for development of the following courses:
 - Ethics and Data Integrity for Field and Plant Sampling
 - Managing Your Proficiency Testing Program
 - Training: Beyond the Demonstration of Capability
 - Keeping the Chain of Measurement Traceability Intact
 - Brown Bag 12: Accommodation and Environmental Conditions Relative to Analytical Activities
 - Managing Laboratory Support Equipment – Calibration, Verification, and Maintenance
 - Brown Bag 13: Handling Samples and Sample Integrity
 - The following courses are in development internally:
 - Choosing the Right Analytical Protocol
 - Developing a Laboratory Specific Ethics and Data Integrity Training

9.4 2023 Forum on Environmental Accreditation

- January 9-12 in San Antonio; No effort until after summer conference.

9.5 2022 Environmental Measurement Symposium

- Based on feedback from San Antonio, the TNI sessions will need 12-13 half day openings. A proposed schedule will be sent to committee chairs for review by March 1.
- Currently, the NEMC portion of the Symposium has 83 oral and 16 poster abstracts submitted. We have room for around 100-120 oral presentations.

9.6 NGAB

- No activity.

9.7 Information Technology

- No change from last meeting.

10. TASK FORCES AND OTHER EFFORTS

10.1 Competency Task Force

- This group was an important contributor to the Special Session on Thursday morning at conference in San Antonio, where additional refinements to the Technical Expert concept were made and aspects of a potential credentialing effort for TNI were shared with the environmental lab community.

- Ken Brown has accepted the Chair role for this Task Force.
- Further development of the Technical Expert concept has been formally handed off to the Quality Management Systems Expert Committee. The Task Force will next take up credentialing aspects of either (or perhaps both) the Technical Expert and the Quality Manager roles in a laboratory.

10.2 Consumables Task Force

- The Task Force has met infrequently during the past few months and has experienced poor participation when meetings were convened. Thoughtful consideration should be given to reconstituting the Task Force in order to move this effort to completion.
- As previously reported, the recent work of the Task Force continues to focus on how laboratories can ensure compliance with the TNI requirements and appropriate ISO/IEC requirements. The Task Force 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 been presented in a final draft stage. A “decision tree,” developed by Judy was presented and reviewed by meeting participants. Efforts to further develop and refine this decision tree/matrix will continue to be the short-term focus of the Task Force. It is believed that a guidance document regarding the products of the Task Force will provide for compliance with TNI requirements and assist 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

- No change from last meeting.

10.4 Environmental Monitoring Coalition

- EMC had a very productive meeting with EPA’s Environmental Methods Forum on January 31. There is strong support from all EPA program offices to move away from correlation and require relative error or relative standard error as in the TNI standard. EPA indicated this could take some time to get fully implemented. EMC volunteered to provide the EPA CWA program a list of all EPA methods that currently have r or r^2 in them and also how many laboratories are accredited for these methods. Preliminary data suggests there are less than 10 methods.

11. MEMBERSHIP

- 1116 active members

11.1 Committee Applications

First	Last	Organization	Committee
Cathy	Westerman	Virginia DCLS	Laboratory Accreditation Body
Dylan	Lyon	Virginia DCLS	Laboratory Quality Systems
Karl	Yang	New York DOH	Chemistry
Matt	Graves	ERA	Microbiology
Zaneta	Popovska	ANAB	Laboratory Quality Systems
Leah	Villegas	APTIM	Training
Fida	Kased	New York DOH	Laboratory Quality Systems
Sushmitha	Reddy	Inland Empire Utilities	Chemistry

Sushmitha	Reddy	Inland Empire Utilities	Laboratory Quality Systems
Jessica	Jensen	KC Water	Training
Alex	Tite	EnviroScience Inc.	Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET)
KC	Lee	Environmental Enterprises	Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET)
William	Lipps	Shimadzu	Advocacy
Nevein	Narouz	City of Saint Petersburg Fairfield Suisun Sewer	Chemistry
Nicole	Van Aken	District	Chemistry

11.2 New and Renewed Members

- Of the 18 expired memberships from December, 2 renewed or requested an invoice after contact, 15 did not respond, and 1 retired or had bad emails. Emails were sent to January expired members on February 2, 2022.
- 71 New and Renewed memberships in January 2022

11.3 Expired Memberships

- 59 Memberships Expired in January