

TNI Information Technology Committee Meeting Summary November 20, 2014

1. Roll Call

Participants	Present
Clark, Arthur	
Daystrom, William	X
Evans, Nick	X
Friedman, Maria	X
Hickman, Dan	---
Kuhn, John (Chair)	X
Parr, Jerry	X
Pierrot, Rebecca	
Shepherd, Mei Beth	X
Starr, Rip	X
Varner, Pam	X
Ward, Keith (Vice Chair)	
Wlodarski, Jan	X

Approve October 2014 Minutes:

Changes: Page 2 – under items requested most it should read “SSAS ID” (has been corrected)

Motion for Approval: Pam V.

Second: Maria F.

Approved: Unanimous

2. EPA Laboratory ID Issue

Summary of issue: EPA laboratory Identification numbers are a common thread for reporting PTs in most states. EPA ID coordinator Charles Feldman has retired and it sounds like EPA has no one to replace him or to continue the issuance of EPA ID numbers. Can the TNI IT Committee consider the use of the TNI ID Code as a common ID in reporting PTs?

PTPEC meeting – Maria: The SDWIS requires that we retain the EPA ID. It was suggested that we consider taking on this task. Michelle is not opposed to the idea, but for Safe Drinking Water, they want a separate code, not a consolidated code, and they want to keep what they have right now for existing IDs.

If the TNI ID started replacing some of these IDs that are not going to be coming out of EPA, this will be more easily accommodated by LAMS. LAMS has EPA, State, and TNI IDs. All records must have a TNI ID; it is up to the ABs to enter/update the EPA and/or State ID numbers.

So if the committee were going to participate in this, old IDs would stay the same, but there may be some confusion.

Jerry to talk with Dan Hautman to see if we could assign the IDs. Can we charge nominal fee for this service for non-TNI-members?

How would we get labs in that are not part of an AB? Our database is only for accredited labs. How would they be tracked, who would be responsible for putting that information in, updating and maintaining information, etc?

Aren't EPA ID's also used for DMRQAs? Yes, this is a far reaching issue for labs and others that use that information and submit it to the states.

This is much bigger than just TNI – it may be an ELAB issue (approximately 20k lab IDs).

We will continue this discussion at the December meeting.

3. Website Status, Design Changes & Update (William)

Discussion continued from October 2014

Just adding another menu is not a long term solution and may add to the confusion instead of alleviating it. William focused on what he could do with the menu to make things easier to find:

1. We need room for more options, and
2. We need a different menu hierarchy (current based on TNI functions).

In the past, the “Quick Links” on the Home page was a good compromise to get more functionality on the site and keep things easy to find.

Looking at new/sample menu/home page: <http://nelac-institute.org/indexbeta.php>

William made the dropdown menus program-centric instead of function-centric. The new menu uses content that is currently available on the site – the pages themselves need to have content updated, but there was no new content created to make this menu. The only thing new is the menu/layout itself.

Current Quick Links buttons on the home page would probably go away (but the quick links would remain on each Program home page). We would need to revise the remainder of the home page to take up the space remaining when the Quick Links section is taken out.

Everyone likes the idea and the way it looks. We just need to look at all the detail now to make sure that nothing is missing, unnecessarily duplicated, and that we have everything that we want to have in this new menu layout. Everyone should review the new menu and email the committee with their suggestions (changes, additions, etc.) for discussion in the December meeting.

This is what we should present in Crystal City.

Crystal City information has now been posted.

4. Status on Rewrite of Data Upload Routine for LAMS (William/Dan)

William has largely rewritten the upload routine. It is much quicker than before, although there have not been a large amount of usage yet. Lab demographic upload routine – has also been revised and working better as well.

5. TNI Meeting Presentation on Website Status (Jerry/William)

Process for getting the presentations from TNI meetings is different than NEMC meetings. We may want to set up the same process for obtaining presentation copies that we use with NEMC. We should set expectations, for committee chairs and TNI staff, about capturing these presentations on a flash drive and turning them in to Jerry. This topic will go on the December and January IT agenda for discussion/finalization.

6. LAMS

IL: Dan completed the updating of the lab codes, method codes, and analyte codes for Illinois. He is waiting for response on a few stragglers. We are starting the upload/update process with lab demographics this week. Dan reviewed their work plan for completing the FOA process in the next few months.

NJ: FOAs have been finished, with both primary and secondary FOAs entered.

PA: Dan completed method and analyte codes for PA and is waiting for a few stragglers. PA lost their database contractor and they are in the process of contracting a new one. I will work with them to upload FOAs once the new contractor is on board.

LAMS: A new problem with the upload/download process was identified and William was able to get it fixed quickly.

Missing FOAs: Dan continues to get questions about missing FOAs. He is telling people to talk to the ABs and get them moving.

Method Compendium: Dan is moving along slowly as he is in the process of identifying EPA SW-846 methods by Update (III, IV, and V). Dan hopes to have that available as a filter on methods in LAMS.

7. Feb 2-5, 2015 TNI Meeting in DC Update (Jerry)

Nothing new to report right now.

8. Next Meeting: Thursday, December 18, 2014; 3:00pm EST