

**Summary of the NELAP Accreditation Council Meeting
Monday, March 7, 2022 1:30 pm Eastern**

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kristin welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes of February 7 were approved unanimously. Attendance is noted in Attachment 1.

2. Environmental Justice Update

Kristin and David raised the topic of environmental justice at the February 9 meeting of TNI's Board of Directors. After a bit of discussion, Jerry offered to look into the federal environmental justice policies and activities more closely, and then turned to the Advocacy Committee for ideas about whether TNI should play a role and, if so, what activities TNI might undertake.

The Advocacy Committee offered four possible activities, as follows:

- Work to ensure that all environmental analytical data which might impact underserved communities is reliable.
- Develop a webcast on how to meet the sampling requirements of the new Lead and Copper Rule, published in December, 2021. This regulation lowers the MCLs and has much more stringent requirements for sampling, and will affect all municipalities. The thinking was that especially the smaller municipalities could benefit from explicit training.
- Find ways to better explain the contents of the required Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Reports (CCR), as many ordinary citizens find them incomprehensible. These were required by the 1996 SDWA amendments.
- Publicize how to contact authorities for suspected drinking water problems, and how to submit samples. Along with this information, create a plain language explanation of what "safe drinking water" actually means. [Citizens want to know their water is "safe", but when asked what they'd like it tested for, they are unable to respond, but will ask for "any contaminants" or to know "what chemicals" are in it.]

With these options as background, Kristin invited the AB representatives to further discuss possibly useful activities, and the following thoughts were offered:

- Roughly half of the NELAP ABs (and other agencies in their states) offer information in languages other than English. The language varies according to demographic of the regulated communities (ranging from Vietnamese to Spanish and many other languages). At least one state AB has a program to provide interpreters when needed for lab assessments and another provides translations for its public meeting materials (in regulatory development). It would seem inappropriate for TNI to become involved with these state efforts, although it is helpful to know they exist.
- Florida in particular has some labs where Spanish is the primary language (in Puerto Rico, but also some in-state), but does not offer documents in Spanish and believes that the English documents are well understood. For this reason, FL does not recommend that TNI undertake efforts to provide translations of the TNI Standard – the English language is not considered to be a problem for their labs.

- One suggestion was to develop a Fact Sheet (or perhaps a series of them) addressing the items identified by Advocacy – how to contact authorities, the CCR, the definition of “safe”.
- If TNI members who speak languages besides English would be willing, TNI could establish a version of mentoring whereby those familiar with the TNI Standard could be available to discuss the more subtle meanings of words in the Standard with labs (or others) who may not be fully conversant in English. (These are Lynn’s words, not the Council’s, but the idea came from Florida.)
- The EPA Board Liaison, Eric Graybill, EPA R3, stated that the Information Technology and Geographic Information Systems staff have advised him that they can provide mapping of “underserved” communities or “environmental justice” communities, but that they would require criteria for defining those groups. At present, there is no standard definition, but “we know it when we see it”.

NOTE: On March 9, the Board discussed the topic again, with the thoughts of both Advocacy and the NELAP AC. In the end, the Board concluded that TNI’s resources would likely be best spent by using our conferences to facilitate discussions promoting environmental justice throughout the environmental analytical community and its data users.

4. Discussion of SIRs

SIR 402 – this SIR was discussed in February but not all SIR voters who had requested discussion were present, and no additional votes have been cast. Kristin asked that every SIR voter please vote so that this SIR can be addressed somehow.

Lynn noted that revised responses to SIRs 390 and 391 are now posted. These are the third revisions, and if not approved, the submitter will be notified that the question cannot be answered with the current language of the Standard but that it will be addressed in the revision.

5. New Business

Although the two Nevada staff have expressed interest in participating in Council meetings, they were not in attendance. Kristin will reach out to them once again.

NH posed a question of whether state program/compliance sections accept analytical results for Iron and Sodium in Drinking Water by EPA 200.8, if those two analytes are regulated in some manner. Region 1 does not want to accept data from 200.8 even when the method is accredited by NH. FL noted that EPA Region 4 does not accept that method, as it is not part of the primary drinking water regulations. NY stated that it does not vary from 40 CFR. Bill asked that any additional comments be sent to him.

Victoria announce that she will leave the NY ELAP QAO position effective March 16, and that Derek Symula will be overseeing the ELAP until a permanent replacement is in place. She also noted that Lynn McNaughton is retiring, effective April 4.

6. Next Meeting

The April meeting of the NELAP AC is cancelled, as neither the Chair nor the Vice Chair are available and recent months have been relatively peaceful and uneventful; if an urgent

item arises, a meeting may be scheduled for the third Monday of April (April 18).

The next scheduled teleconference meeting of the NELAP AC is scheduled for Monday, May 2, 2022, at 1:30 pm Eastern. An agenda and documents will be provided in advance.

Attachment 1

STATE	REPRESENTATIVE	PRESENT
FL	Carl Kircher E: carl.kircher@flhealth.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Vanessa Soto E: Vanessa.sotocontreras@flhealth.gov	Yes
IL	Millie Rose T: 217-557-0220 E: mildred.rose@illinois.gov	Yes
	For information purposes: Dave Reed E: Dave.Reed@Illinois.gov	No
	For information purposes: John South E: john.south@illinois.gov	Yes
	For information purposes: Shirlene South E: shirlene.south@illinois.gov	No
KS	Carissa Robertson Carissa.Robertson@ks.gov (785) 291-3162	Yes
	Alternate: Paul Harrison paul.harrison@ks.gov (785) 296-1656	No
	For information purposes: N. Myron Gunsalus 785-291-3162 E: myron.gunsalus@ks.gov	No
	For information purposes: Amy Suggitt Amy.Suggitt@ks.gov	No
LA DEQ	Lily Giles E: lily.giles@la.gov 225-219-3247	No
	Alternate: Elizabeth West E: elizabeth.west@la.gov	No
	(Departing Alternate: Paul Bergeron Paul.bergeron@la.gov)	Yes
MN	Lynn Boysen E: lynn.boysen@state.mn.us	Yes
	Alternate: Stephanie Drier T: 651-201-5326 E: stephanie.drier@state.mn.us	No

NH	Brian Lamarsh (603) 271-2998 F: (603) 271-5171 Brian.M.Lamarsh@des.nh.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Bill Hall T: (603) 271-2998 E: george.hall@des.nh.gov	Yes
NJ	Michele Potter T: (609) 984-3870 F: (609) 777-1774 E: michele.potter@dep.nj.gov	Yes
	Alternate : Rachel Ellis E: rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov	No
NY	Victoria Pretti 518-485-5570 E: victoria.pretti@health.ny.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Lynn McNaughton E: lynn.mcnaughton@health.ny.gov	No
OK	David Caldwell (405) 702-1000 E: David.Caldwell@deq.ok.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Ryan Lerch Ryan.Lerch@deq.ok.gov (405) 702-1020	Yes
OR	Travis Bartholomew T: 503-693-4122 E: travis.j.bartholomew@dhsoha.state.or.us	Yes
	Alternate: Lizbeth Garcia 971 865 0443 E: Lizbeth.garcia@dhsoha.state.or.us	No
	Included for information purposes: Ryan Pangelinan E: Ryan.pangelinan@dhsoha.state.or.us	No
	Included for information purposes: Sara Krepps Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (503) 693-5704 E: sara.krepps@state.or.us	No
PA	Annmarie Beach E: anbeach@pa.gov T: 717-346-8212	Yes
	Alternate: Amber Ross ambross@pa.gov	Yes

	Included for information purposes: Dana Marshall dmarshall@pa.gov	No
TX	Steve Gibson (512) 239-1316 Steve.Gibson@tceq.texas.gov	Yes
	Jody Koehler (512) 239-1990 Jody.Koehler@tceq.texas.gov	No
UT	Kristin Brown T: (801) 965-2540 F: (801) 965-2544 E: kristinbrown@utah.gov	Yes
	Alternate: Alia Rauf T: 801-965-2511 E: arauf@utah.gov	No
VA	Cathy Westerman T: 804-648-4480 ext.391 E: cathy.westerman@dgs.virginia.gov	No
	Alternate: Shane Wyatt shane.wyatt@dgs.virginia.gov	No
NELAP AC PA and EC	Lynn Bradley T: 540-885-5736 E: lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org	Yes
EPA Liaison	Eric Graybill Graybill.eric@epa.gov	Yes
CA	Christine Sotelo Christine.Sotelo@waterboards.ca.gov	No
NV	Michael Antoine mantoine@ndep.nv.gov	No
NV	Dan LaFara dlafara@ndep.nv.gov	No