

**TNI Policy Committee Meeting Summary
Friday, March 3, 2017**

1. Welcome, Roll Call and Announcements

The meeting was called to order by Patsy at 11:00 am Eastern. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Proposals to Develop Guidance from NEFAP

Two guidance documents have been in use by NEFAP for a while, that were neither approved for development nor reviewed by Policy after finalization. When discovered, NEFAP promptly submitted proposals to develop guidance and provided the documents in circulation along with the proposals.

The NEFAP Accreditation Process

Participants agreed this will be a valuable reference for NEFAP. With a motion by Bob and second by Mei Beth, the proposal was approved with the comment that a flow chart should be added before final Policy review.

Priority Elements of a Management Plan....

Participants agreed that the existing document, as written, should be revised to eliminate the use of "priority" since all elements of a management plan are needed, and that perhaps NEFAP should consider whether a white paper or a checklist format (per the proposal) might be more appropriate than "guidance." In addition, participants supported the concept of creating a template for the management plan (or quality plan, similar to the NELAP quality management template that is offered on the TNI website.)

Mei Beth moved and JoAnn seconded that the proposal be approved, with the understanding that the existing document would be revisited and revised before presentation to Policy for approval. All present agreed with the motion as presented.

3. Educational Development System SOP 1-110

This SOP was previously reviewed and approved in 2011. The following comments were offered:

§5.1.3 – use of active voice would make the sentence easier to follow.

§5.4 – the numbering of sub-elements should be fixed.

§5.4.1 – eliminate reference to Dropbox and replace with generic term for access-controlled online/cloud storage. The name "Dropbox" could be used as an example.

§5.4.3 – when 4.4.3 is properly renumbered, add an example of the numbering system.

Attachment A – edit to refer to third parties.

Bob moved and Eric seconded to approve the SOP contingent upon making the edits as noted. The edited SOP will be presented to the Board at its March 8 meeting.

4. Future Meetings

Policy Committee will meet again on March 17, 2017, at 11 am Eastern. An agenda and documents will be circulated in advance of the meeting.

Action Items are included in Attachment B and Attachment C includes a listing of reminders.

Attachment A

Name/Affiliation	Representing	Present
Patsy Root, Chair IDEXX Patsy-Root@idexx.com	TNI Board Secretary	Yes
JoAnn Boyd Southwest Research Institute, San Antonio, TX jboyd@swri.org	Lab and FSMO	Yes
Lynn Boysen MN ELAP Lynn.Boysen@state.mn.us	NELAP AC	Yes
Silky Labie, Vice Chair Env. Lab. Consulting & Technology, LLC Tallahassee, FL elcatllc@centurylink.net	At Large	No
Calista Daigle Dade Moeller, Inc. calista.daigle@moellerinc.com	NEFAP Executive Committee	No
Mei Beth Shepherd Shepherd Technical Services mbshep@sheptechserv.com	At Large	Yes
Eric Smith ALS eric.smith@alsglobal.com	PTP Executive Committee	Yes
Bob Wyeth Retired rfwyeth@yahoo.com	CSD Executive Committee	Yes
Jerry Parr (ex-officio) Executive Director, TNI Jerry.Parr@nelac-institute.org		No
Lynn Bradley, Program Administrator The NELAC Institute (Staunton, VA) lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org		Yes
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org		Yes
Alfredo Sotomayor (ex-officio) Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewer District, WI asotomayor@mmsd.com	TNI Board Chair	No

Attachment B

Action Items – TNI Policy Committee

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Comments/ Completion
89	Prepare individualized committee self-audit checklists and circulate to individual committees	Hona with subcommittee	Responses from committees requested for February 2017	Hoping for responses by March
98	Review LAMS ITQA and determine if update is needed to accommodate incorporation of methods	Jerry	Date of decision not specified	If update is required, assignment will go to the IT Committee and TNI's Database Administrator

Attachment C

Backburner / Reminders – TNI Policy Committee

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
1.	Look into need to include something about review schedule in all SOPs	3/20/12	
8	When the CSDEC charter is next updated, it should clarify which committees have added stakeholder categories and note that Board approval is required and was obtained for including those additional representatives in the committee(s)	2/21/14	Address with revision of Charter format
11	Create SOP for document review of Policy committee documents (which will automatically require Board review)	10/17/14	Grew out of streamlining the approval process for SOPs and Policies
12	Revise how TNI refers to its own training courses, prepared and presented to train individuals for the accreditation and peer review (evaluation) processes. Typically, these are courses required in order to perform a specific function, yet are not referred to as a credential, per se, but are designed and presented under contract to TNI and thus implicitly endorsed by the organization	1/23/15	From discussion about language used in SOP 5-101 (TNI-recognized training) versus usage elsewhere as just “TNI training” (e.g., NELAP Evaluation SOP 3-102)
15	Updates to Committee Chair training materials should include QMP when adopted as well as the need to specify decision rules (per SOPs 1-101 and 1-102)	3/4/16	Consider possibly specifying a default decision rule in one of the SOPs, or in committee charters. NOTE: NELAP AC has a voting SOP that declares decision rules for different types of issues
16	When internal audit checklists are posted to the website, be sure to add a disclaimer that those will be uncontrolled and may not be the latest version	5/9/16	Internal audit database will NOT be publicly available.
17	Review Ethics and Corporate Governance documents (as removed from the QMP) for possible updates	6/3/16	
18	Develop new policy about implementation dates for SOPs, based on recent decisions affirming the practice of completing activities underway with the former revision but newly initiated activities with the most recently approved version, as was done with the Standards Development SOP 2-100 and agreed upon with the NELAP Evaluation SOP 3-102	7/8/16	
19	Ensure that “ASAP” gets replaced with definite length of time during the next revision of the NELAP Evaluation SOP 3-102	11/4/16	

20	Develop and document a process to ensure that the latest versions of all TNI documents are promptly posted to the TNI website, with some method of notifying committee chairs (or those who sign up for updates about documents, which would need to be mandated for committee chairs and staff.) See also #11, above.	11/4/16	
21	Develop a procedure is needed for all committees, about creating charters and annual work plans	11/18/16	
22	Review SOP 4-102 (and likely others) once the CSDEC glossary is finalized	12/2/16	
23	Review various tracking formats used by committee work plans and settle on a standardized version	1/6/17	Best timing is probably along with outcomes of committee self-audits? Fall/winter 2017-2018
24	Modify appropriate committee SOPs (1-101 and 2-101) to indicate that telephone numbers NOT be included on committee rosters made publicly available	1/6/17	One complainant indicated that phone number was found in committee minutes by someone they were trying to avoid.
25	Document mechanism for updating internal audit checklists annually, prior to call for completion of committee internal audits	2/3/17	
26	When CSDEC's glossary is ready, all TNI documents incorporating definitions should be reviewed to see if replacing individual definitions with a reference to the glossary is appropriate	2/24/17	Discussion while reviewing SOP 2-103