

**SUMMARY OF THE  
TNI LABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTING EXPERT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**APRIL 7, 2017**

The Committee met by teleconference on Friday, April 7, 2017, at 11:00 am EST. Chair Nicole Cairns led the meeting.

**1 – Roll call**

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|--|---------|
| Fred Anderson, Advanced Analytical Solutions (Other) | Present |
| Nicole Cairns, NYSDOH (Chair; Other)                 | Present |
| Rachel Ellis, NJ DEP (AB)                            | Present |
| Patrick Garrity, KYDOW (AB)                          | Present |
| Craig Huff, ERA (Other)                              | Absent  |
| Susan Jackson, SC DHEC (AB)                          | Absent  |
| Stacie Metzler, Hampton Roads San. Distr. (Lab)      | Absent  |
| Tim Miller, Phenova (Other)                          | Present |
| Joe Pardue P2S (Vice-Chair; Other)                   | Absent  |
| Donna Ruokonen, Microbac (Lab)                       | Present |
| Ken Jackson, Program Administrator                   | Absent  |

Associate Committee Members present: Joe Boatright, BSK Associates; Thekkekalathil Chandrasekhar, FLDEP; Audrey Cornell, ERA; Amanda Grande, Phenova.

**2 – Previous Minutes**

It was moved by Fred and seconded by Patrick to approve the minutes from March 3, 2017. All were in favor.

**3 – Small Laboratory Handbook**

A workgroup comprising Nicole Cairns, Fred Anderson, Shawn Kassner, and Mitzi Miller had completed its review of the proficiency testing sections of the small laboratory handbook. Nicole circulated a draft with the workgroup’s recommended changes. The committee went through each section of the draft and had no comments. Nicole then raised some issues that the workgroup had raised.

In **4.2 Sample Handling Preparation and Analysis Requirements** the workgroup had added “same instrumentation” as one of the requirements for treating PT samples in the same way as routine samples, but Nicole pointed out that V1M1 did not state this specifically. She said the workgroup believed it was the intent of the standard that the same instrument should be used, but the workgroup was divided over whether its addition to the handbook would be seen as adding an additional requirement. On discussion, the committee felt this reference to the same instrument should be removed.

Nicole said the workgroup had considered the need to address the ways Accreditation Bodies (AB) are evaluating PT performance for drinking water. This arises from the EPA requirement of proficiency testing by method for drinking water, which is in conflict with the TNI requirement of reporting by technology. Therefore, the TNI standard tells laboratories

they must report by method for drinking water, because that is the EPA requirement. However, it is not specified that they must report by method for every PT Study, because TNI requires two studies per year and EPA requires only one study. In New York, laboratories that hold accreditation for two methods in the same technology are allowed to alternate between the methods so that a PT is reported on each method once per year. This means, though, if the laboratory was to fail both of them, that would be two failures in the same technology and the laboratory would lose its accreditation for both methods. It was considered by the workgroup that all ABs might not be doing it that way; e.g., the laboratory might be required to analyze every PT by both methods, and failure of one PT by (say) Method 524.2 and one by Method 524.3 might not result in a loss of accreditation. Two ABs that were contacted by the workgroup said they were handling it in the same way as NY, but it was not known if all ABs are doing so. Nicole suggested, rather than be specific in the handbook, it would be better to lay out some of the potential scenarios, and to tell the laboratories to contact their ABs. There was general agreement on this and Nicole said she would modify the sections where this occurred in the handbook and would re-circulate it for discussion on the next call.

#### **4 – Committee Workplan**

The new charter will require each committee to present an annual workplan, and Nicole circulated a draft proposed workplan for consideration. This was a spreadsheet listing each task, those assigned to work on it, start and completion dates, communication, and notes. In order to show how it would look, Nicole had filled in the tasks already done in 2017. She suggested the workplan should be updated after every call. It was moved by Fred and seconded by Tim to approve the format. All were in favor.

#### **5 – Next Steps**

On the next call, the Committee would complete the Small laboratory handbook, and would begin work on a checklist for the new standard. Nicole would also send out the link for committee training on the TNI website. She explained that all Committee Members are expected to complete the training.

#### **6 – Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am EDT.