

TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

December 20, 2018

1. Roll call, approval of minutes and overview:

Chair, Maria Friedman, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order at 1:02pm Eastern by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 11 members present. Associate members present: Nicole Cairns, Keith Ward (Phenova), and Jennifer Best (EPA).

A motion was made by Fred to accept the minutes from the 11/15/18 meeting as written with the correction of the date in the header. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Mullins and they were unanimously approved.

2. Updates

- The DW FoPT Table has now been approved by NELAP AC. Maria sent an email to the PT Providers as a courtesy notice and asked if anyone would have an issue with a 6 month implementation. Footnotes were updated. There were no objections.
- The Committee is still waiting for more information from Jerry on the implementation of the 2016 PT Standard. This will affect evaluations of PTPAs.

3. Combined Evaluation SOP –

Maria distributed the final DRAFT of SOP 7-101 (Combined Evaluation SOP) that has already been approved by the NEFAP EC. She presented the SOP with the emailed notes.

Comments:

Section 6.11.5.2 Matt would like to see a time frame be put on this process. The following language was agreed to:

6.11.5.2 If either of the committees believes the RC did not follow the required process, a written statement is provided to the EC within fifteen (15) calendar days of the Executive Committee meeting to include the reasons for this concern and what the committee needs to resolve it. The EC reviews the statement with the RC. The RC will respond to the statement within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the statement with the information being requested so that the concern can be resolved. If the statement has validity and no additional information can be provided, the EC and RC will work to correct the concern with the ET and resubmit the recommendation.

A motion was made by Matt to approve SOP 7-101 distributed by Maria with the addition of timing in Section 6.11.5.2. The motion was seconded by Fred and unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote:

Fred – For

Jennifer D – For

Scott – For

Michella – For

Carl – For

Dixie – For

Jennifer M – For

Matt – For

Eric – For

Andy – For

Maria – For

The motion was approved and will be sent to the NEFAP AC to review the updated timing language. Once they finish up their approval, it will become a Provisional SOP can be used. The Provisional SOP will be sent to Policy Committee for final review and approval. It will then be sent to the Board of Directors.

Ilona asked if Maria would like to continue to work with Tracy Szerzen (NEFAP EC Vice-Chair) on the application or would she rather appoint someone to help. Maria preferred to finish up this application and will be in contact with Tracy. Ilona is hoping we are doing these evaluations this summer/early fall.

4. Implementation of Volume 3 and 4 of the PT Standard

The Committee is waiting for Jerry's report after last month's discussion on this topic. Once we get this we can determine how this will impact the PTPA evaluations and what Standard will be used.

5. Effective Date for DW FoPT Table

Eric asked what the difference was between the 2/19/18 and the April version. The AC has approved the 2/19/18 version of the DW table because it does not include the Micro updates. Maria is still waiting for analyte codes from the IT Committee. They don't want to create new codes for Microbiology at this point because they are in the process of updating their procedures and want to wait to put new codes together.

The group agreed to approve the 2/19/18 DW FoPT Table. An effective date of 7/1/19 was suggested. The table is already formatted and has a change log and corrected colors.

Eric made a motion to set a 7/1/19 implementation date for the 2/19/18 DW FoPT Table. The motion was seconded by Dixie.

Roll Call Vote:

Fred – For

Jennifer – For

Scott – For

Michella – For

Carl – For

Dixie – For

Jennifer M – For

Matt – For

Eric – For

Andy – For

Maria – For

The implementation date has been approved and Maria will send the final table to William for posting.

6. MPN Discussion

Labs were running multiple tube and others were running Quanti-Tray. Both are considered most probable number – MPN, but they are really different. Since more labs were using the multiple well, the results were skewed.

Data was requested from the PT Providers. The data was analyzed and the data supported that they should be split out ... MPN – multiple tube and MPN – Multiple well. Labs running multiple tube from 9221 will not be skewed with the multiple well approach.

Jennifer and Maria did get a chance to talk after the last Micro FoPT Subcommittee report and the Committee should see another ARA in the future.

Iлона asked whether Jennifer had had a chance to consider the concerns Keith raised at a previous meeting about lack of data to set limits. She said 1/3 of the data was from a multiple tube approach so there are still labs using that method. She thought it might affect how often the PT Providers will make the PTs for multiple tube. Perhaps they will only be available quarterly. Labs will need to pay attention to that.

Keith clarified that even if the PT Providers look at offering these quarterly, they would still need over 20 points . He agrees they should be split out. His concern is over the gross width of the limits because there aren't as many PTs to set the limits with. The limits will be wider than the QC limits in the method. There will be a small number of data points – won't have 20.

The TNI PT limit SOP describes what to do if there are low numbers of participants. 2:00 pm. Keith's concern is that even with that he is concerned what the EPA will think when more labs pass. This is up for professional judgement. Jennifer agreed this could be a concern. This needs to be taken into consideration when Eric and the SOP subcommittee work on the limit SOP (4-101). The change has to be made, but some of the details of setting limits still need to be worked out.

Eric commented that the PTPEC may have to evaluate after a few rounds and see if limits need to change.

Jennifer noted that there may be people that will fail the multiple well because those limits may become tighter because the other method is not pulling the limits wider anymore.

Keith asked about the Draft Microbiology FoPT table . Because most of the data that comes back is multiple well – wouldn't the multiple tube be the new analyte in new color? Nicole commented that both could be considered new. The current entry should be crossed out and two new lines should be added.

Maria asked if a footnote is needed as Keith suggested. 9223 has the term Multiple Well noted. IDEXX has the only multiple well product available, but that does not mean that others may not offer a similar product. That is why they don't use the term Quantitray.

Nicole suggested striking through what is there now (EColi MPN and Coliform MPN) and then add then two separate ones in blue. Same scenario for NPW table. It makes it crystal clear for laboratories. The committee agreed with this approach. The tables will be updated and the committee will vote in January. Maria will make these changes and prepare the change log and send it to the Committee before the next meeting.

7. Subcommittee Reports

Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee – The Radiochemistry Committee is ready to meet to discuss alternate methods to develop Radiochemistry FoPTs. Carl's schedule is busy right now and a meeting will likely be planned for January or February.

Carl has recently done the data analysis for Radiochemistry. He sent PDF files to Maria, Ilona and Bob Shannon. Historically they had the same procedure for developing limits for Radiochemistry and Chemistry. Bob Shannon is out of the office for the next 3 weeks.

SOP Subcommittee – Eric sent out a few emails after meeting with the subcommittee. He prepared a plan taking a new approach in updating the SOPs. The Subcommittee would like to keep 4-101 and 4-107 separate. There have been lots of comments on 4-101 in the past, so Eric is proposing that the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee take a look at the SOP

and provide some current comments. While comments are being collected on 4-101, the subcommittee will look at 4-107 and start work there.

Given the number of questions, Eric would like the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee to look at 4-101. Stacey is the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee liaison on the SOP Subcommittee. They want a fresh starting point and need a comprehensive SOP review from the subcommittee.

Eric suggested that the subcommittee have all the FoPT Subcommittees look at 4-101, but they will start with Chemistry.

Ilona clarified that the new pieces about improving the overall process will be worked on by the SOP Subcommittee, but they are looking for technical input from the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee. They may decide there needs to separate sections in the SOP or separate SOPs for things like Microbiology, WETT, Radiochemistry, etc ...

FoPT Table Format Subcommittee – Maria spoke with Craig, but he is still in conversations with Rami. Maria is planning a meeting with Craig and Rami. This WET table still is still being completed.

Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee – See discussion in Section 6.

8. New Business.

- Ilona reminded the committee about the need to look at membership. A number of people are rotating off, but most have the option for a second term.
- Slides for the Annual Presentation will be due to Jerry on 1/21/19.

9. Action Items

The action items can be found in Attachment B. The action items will be reviewed at the next meeting.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on 1/17/19 by teleconference at 1pm Eastern. The committee will also be meeting in Milwaukee. (*Addition: The meeting was delayed to 1/24/19.*)

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

Maria adjourned the meeting at 2:39pm Eastern. (Motion: Scott Second: Andy Unanimously approved.)

Attachment A

Participants TNI

Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

Members	Rep	Affiliation	Contact Information
Maria Friedman (2020) (Chair) Present	AB	California Water Board	Maria.Friedman@waterboards.ca.gov
Dixie Marlin (2018*) (Vice-Chair) Present	Other	Marlin Quality Management, LLC	marlinquality@gmail.com
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator Present		TNI	tauntoni@msn.com
Eric Smith (2019) Present	Lab	ALS Environmental	eric.smith@alsglobal.com
Carl Kircher (2021*) Present	AB	Florida Department of Health	Carl.Kircher@flhealth.gov
Andy Valkenburg (2021*) Present	LAB	Energy Laboratories	avalkenburg@energylab.com
Jennifer Duhon (2019*) Present	Other	Millipore Sigma	jennifer.duhon@sial.com
Matt Sica (2020) Present	AB	ANAB, ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board	msica@anab.org
Patrick Garrity (2019*) Absent	AB	Kentucky DEP	patrick.garrity@ky.gov
Michella Karapondo (2019*) Present	Other	USEPA	karapondo.michella@epa.gov
Fred Anderson (2020*) Present	Other	Advanced Analytical Solutions, LLC	Fred@advancedqc.com
Jennifer Mullins (2020*) Present	Lab	Upper Occoquan Service Authority	jennifer.mullins@uosa.org
Scott Haas (2020*) Present	FSMO	Environmental Testing, Inc.	shaas@etilab.com

Attachment B

Action Items – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
295	Moved from Backburner: PTPA Evaluation Checklist needs to be updated prior to next round of evaluations. (Originally discussed 8/6/13)	Shawn Ilona		New Date: 8/31/18	In Progress (will use 2009 TNI Standards and current SSAS Standards)
349	Review LAMS/FoPT Table Differences document. Provide comments by email and next meeting.	ALL	4/20/17	4/25/17 2/28/18 – For WET? June 2018 for all tables. New target date: 7/15/18	In Progress WET is still being reviewed. Update 1/23/18: Subcommittee expects to have updated FoPT tables with CAS #'s and LAMS changes by 3/15/18. 2/22/19: Still in progress. 6/21/18: Still working with Rami.
352	Moved from Backburner (originally discussed 2/20/14) : When new limits are established for the FoPTs, what is considered to be a statistically significant change to the old rates? At what point is it appropriate to question new limits? This lends to the TSS discussion a few months ago. Patrick commented that it would make sense to look at	All	2/20/14	TBD (see #350) <i>350: Prepare formal request to SOP Subcommittee regarding updating FoPT tables and applicable backburner items just</i>	In Progress – Update of SOP 4-101 6/21/18: Gil noted that this SOP will be worked on again at the next meeting. An expected completion date will be given at July meeting.

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
	changes to pass/fail rates 6 months after new limits are effective. This possible addition to procedures should be evaluated when updating the limit acceptance SOP.			<i>moved to the Action Items table (#352, 353)</i>	
353	Discuss possible procedural changes to how limits are updated. Maria talk to SOP Subcommittee. (Need to look at PT database implications.)	All		TBD	In Progress – Update of SOP 4-101 Maria will send a copy to close this item. 10/18/18: Maria will resend to Eric and Ilona.
358	Send request to SOP subcommittee to consider what happens when ARA's are rescinded. There is no formal process.	Maria	6-29-17	7/19/17	Maria will resend to Gil and this item will be closed. 3/15/18: Still in progress. 10/18/18: Resend to Eric to close out.
361	Analyte Code changes needed in LAMS. (TKN)	Maria Dan Hickman	7/20/17	9/30/17	Still need to look into TKN issue. 2/22/18 – Maria will confirm. 10/18/18: Maria still needs to confirm. She just got something.
363	Discuss procedural change in how changes are made to LAMS. Consider notifying			1/31/17	Will talk to IT about getting this in an SOP.

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
	PTPEC before relevant changes are made and provide a summary of changes at some frequency.				12/21/17: Maria will follow-up on this. 3/20/18: Maria will check this week. 6/21/18 – still being worked on.
368	Forward Jerry's question to Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee. (Analyte code change for the non-polar extractable materials.)	Maria	8/24/17	9/1/17	Maria will resend to Carl. 6/21/18 – Maria will send to Ilona. 10/18/18: Maria will send Dan's new info. 11/15/18 – Ilona received the info and needs to review it.
373	Carl will notify the PTPEC when Bob and Keith complete their comparison table to the Radiochemistry FoPT work the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee has already prepared.	Carl	12-21-17	3-31-18	In Progress
384	Meet with Dan Hickman to get Analyte Codes and then prepare final DRAFT of Micro DW and WW tables. Send to Jennifer for review.	Maria	4/19/18	5/15/18	Still in Progress
385	Send Micro DW and WW tables to PTPEC for review and vote at next meeting.	Maria	4/19/18	5/15/18	Still in Progress

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
389	Present recommended LAMS updates to Dan Hickman.	Maria	5/17/18	5/20/18	Agenda item for November.
395	Let Shawn Kassner and Ilona know whether to use 2009 or 2016 Standard for combined evaluation checklist.	PTPEC	9/20/18	10/31/18	
396	Jennifer to talk to Keith Ward and Maria regarding FoPT tables. She will also look at completing a new vote on the Microbiology FoPT table in it final form.	Jennifer Best Keith Ward Maria	10/18/18	11/15/18	In Progress
397	Discuss Vol 3 and 4 implementation with NELAP AC.	Maria	10/18/18	11/15/18	Add to December Agenda
398	Pull previous discussions on DBT breakdown and send to committee.	Ilona	11/15/18	12/18/18	
399	Discuss 2016 Standard Implementation options with NELAP AC.	Jerry Parr	11/15/18	12/18/18	
400	Follow-up on subcommittee reports from WET and the FoPT Table Format Subcommittee.	Maria	11/15/18	12/18/18	
401	Send DW table to William for posting.	Maria	12-20-18	1/16/19	
402	Update Microbiology FoPT Table with MPN additions and send to Committee for final review.	Maria	12-20-18	1/16/19	

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
403	Work on new committee membership for next meeting discussion.	Maria/Ilona	12-20-18	1/16/19	
404	Prepare slides for Annual Presentation.	Maria/Ilona	12-20-19	1/21/19 – Due to Jerry Parr.	

Attachment C

Backburner / Reminders – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
7	Add the Field PT Subcommittee to the limit update SOP during its next update.	3/4/10	In Progress
11	Evaluate how labs are accredited for analytes that co-elute.	5-19-11	
13	Charter needs to be reviewed/updated in November.	Ongoing	
18	Shawn noted that PTPEC should have some specific measurements. This should be passed along to the PTP SOP Subcommittee. Nicole noted that we need to determine which items to measure.	6-29-17	