

# TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

**May 16, 2019**

## 1. Roll call, approval of minutes and overview:

Chair, Maria Friedman, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order at 1:01pm Eastern on May 16, 2019. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 9 members present. Associate members in attendance: Jennifer Best, Nicole Cairns, Tim Miller, Mike Blades, and Craig Huff.

Maria confirmed that everyone received the meeting information she sent on 5/15/19.

The meeting minutes for April 18, 2019 were distributed by email. Andy voted “For” by phone for the March minutes and this vote needs to be added to the March minutes. The meeting time started at 1pm Eastern. Fred made a motion to accept the 4/18/19 meeting minutes with the addition of Andy’s vote and the correct meeting start time. The motion was seconded by Dixie and unanimously approved.

## 2. Update

- The PTPA/PT Provider letter was sent. A posting was also placed on the TNI website.
- The NELAP AC voted on May 6, 2019 to not approve the updated Micro FoPT table (MPN ARA). Jennifer Best is disappointed with the vote and asked about next steps. Michella noted that other states that are not members of TNI think the FoPT tables are still supposed to accommodate them. This NELAP AC decision makes it difficult for other DW systems if the PTPEC does not make the Micro FoPT table available because of the NELAP AC vote. This would make it difficult for EPA to recognize this table for the national DW program. Is it a program of 14 states? This takes a choice away from the DW systems.

Jennifer thinks there may be some misunderstandings that resulted in the table not being approved by the NELAP AC. She would like to see something in writing so the concerns can be addressed by the Micro FoPT Subcommittee. Maria noted that they (NELAP AC) don’t want the limits to be wider because labs with poor performance might now pass the PTs and they are concerned about adding an analyte code for specific MPN- tube and MPN-well is similar to adding methods. Maria said Aaren noted that if this is done it would need to be done for all the FoPT tables.

There is more to this because it affects how EPA views the TNI tables. EPA expects labs are certified by method and analyte ... not just analyte.

Jennifer asked why weren't these concerns stated when the ARA was first submitted? The two methods are very different. 9221 is not a method EPA wants to take off the books.

Jennifer questions the value of the PT Program if it does not meet the needs. One PT Provider is accommodating PTs to meet these needs and she will direct labs to this provider, but this is not how it should work.

Iлона noted that this issue can be submitted to TNI as a formal complaint. This way EPA's concerns can be clearly described and addressed. Iлона will make Jerry aware of the issue.

Michella has another issue with PCBs. There is no appropriate PT for 525.3. This may not be the only place where this happens.

Carl has a few questions/comments:

1. Is there anything in the CFR requiring microbiology PTs? Michella responded no. Carl noted that this is why the NELAP AC voted as they did.
2. The ARA was originally submitted in response to EPA region 10 failing a PT for 9221B. This is only one study. Have there been problems with other EPA regions? Jennifer responded that EPA region 10 was the first group to come forward and talk to her about it. Other labs weren't willing to be spotlighted. Since then, Region 10 has failed another, and they have been made aware that two other regions have failed. There have been numerous other labs that have talked to Jennifer about failure. 22% of the labs using 9221 are failing the PTs according to the data the subcommittee received.
3. The only reason Total Coliform, E.Coli, and Fecal Coliform are separated was because the argument was made and accepted at that time, that membrane filtration is an enumerative method and that couldn't be compared to quantal microbiology methods. This is why the FoPT were split at that time. He is questioning the need to split up MPN methods because they are still quantal. Jennifer commented that she doesn't understand the relevance of this info to the question at hand, but is willing to talk offline about this.

Carl also noted if you only have 7 participants in a PT study, you will never fail a PT study based on mean plus or minus 2 standard deviations. The 7 participants will always be within the mean plus or minus 2 standard deviations. Jennifer said TNI does not disallow small studies and this is not a good reason to not approve the new table.

Carl asked if EPAs point behind WS and WP PTs is to look for method improvement or to evaluate labs? He said this was part of the old criteria document. Jennifer can't speak to that. She asked if Carl could forward this.

Carl asked if EPA waved a magic wand and put in the CFR that microbiology PTs are required, what would be the acceptance requirement? She cannot give a quick response to this. She would need input. Carl suggested that maybe there should just be presence/absence PTs.

Jennifer reminded everyone that at state level they don't have to require or accept all the methods EPA approves.

### 3. Old Business

- Analyte Request Application regarding Isomeric Compounds. Aaron wants to bring it back to the NELAP AC. This committee will not talk about the ARA again until we receive feedback from the NELAP AC.
- Implementation of Volume 3 and 4. Back on January 19, 2017 the PTPEC approved Volume 3 and 4. There was no implementation date set. There are SOPs needed to fully implement Volume 3 and 4.
  - o What is needed to fully implement the 2016 Standard.
    - The PTPAs need to assess the PT Providers to the 2016 Standard.
    - Do the PTPAs need to be approved by TNI before they can audit the PT Provider to the 2016 Standard? There was agreement the answer is no.
      - Matt does not think a PT Provider can do any part of the 2016 Standard until they are evaluated to the new Standard. ANAB will not do a desk audit to change to a new Standard.
      - Nicole asked for clarification. Matt thinks a dual system would need to be in place until they become accredited to the 2016 Standard.
      - Matt noted that if ANAB decouples the ISO 17043 and TNI certificates this might give them more flexibility.
    - Maria is concerned that the PTPAs have different procedures for how they will accredit the PT Providers, but Ilona noted that the PTPEC cannot tell the PTPAs how to run their business. What ANAB is planning to do is different than how labs move to new Standards.
    - It is difficult to set an implementation date until the PTPEC knows what SOPs are needed and the timing on completing them.
    - PTPA evaluations probably won't start until the first half of 2020. Ilona noted the TNI Board may ask that the NGAB Environmental Laboratory Standard evaluations be done at the same time as the NEFAP and PT evaluations, but it will be covered under a different SOP.

Maria will talk to Shawn to see what SOPs need to be developed and updated.

Carl asked if there is a requirement in Volume 3 that the states can have additional requirements. *(Addition: After the meeting, Jerry Parr compared the requirements Carl was concerned about and Carl determined there is no issue.)*

#### 4. FoPT Tables – Access vs Excel

Eric submitted a request for the PTPEC to look at the idea of using Access instead of Excel. Maria forwarded William's opinion on making this change.

Mike Blades commented that switching the format is not an issue. Craig also agreed. Carl has had negative experience with Access and PT data. Scott would rather not use Access. He thinks there are better choices for other databases. Maria is using MS Access in California and they are putting in a new database. Andy agrees with Williams's discussion.

Maria will let Eric know that TNI will stick with Excel and not move to Access.

#### 5. Subcommittee Reports

##### Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee

The Subcommittee will be meeting next Tuesday, 5-21-19 at noon Eastern. Maria will send Carl a list of tasks.

##### PT Program SOP Subcommittee

Email on 5/15/18 from Eric Smith:

SOP 4-107 draft update is done and currently out for an email vote on a motion to consider the draft "finalized" by subcommittee members (those who were unable to attend the last meeting). The three of us on the call voted to approve the motion. Once everyone gets the opportunity to reply with their vote and assuming everyone approves the motion, the SOP should be ready to submit to the PTPEC by the first week of June.

SOP 4-102 – Draft update is nearing completion. We will review further at the next meeting. It's possible we might wrap up draft updates of this document in June or July.

SOP 4-101 – The SOP subcommittee has started its review of this document against the "FoPT Updates Next Round SOP Outline draft" document and the "PT ExecComm-Minutes-8-9-16" document. There is one item that came up during discussions regarding the last slide (slide 10) in the "PT ExecComm-Minutes-8-9-16" document, that the PTPEC may want to discuss as a committee.

Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee

See above for discussion.

FoPT Table Update Subcommittee

Craig is waiting for a response back from Rami (Chair, WET Expert Committee) and Dan Hickman. He will be reaching out tomorrow to set-up a call with both.

Breakdown Analytes Subcommittee

Maria will be sending an email to the subcommittee to select a Chair so the data can be submitted to the Subcommittee. Mike Blades will be added to the Subcommittee. Maria has all data from the PT Providers, but she needs a Chair to send it to.

6. New Business.

None.

7. Action Items

The action items can be found in Attachment B. Updates were made directly into the table.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on 6/20/19, Thursday, at 1pm Eastern by teleconference.

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

Maria adjourned the meeting at 2:29pm Eastern. (Motion: Fred Second: Scott Unanimously approved.)

## Attachment A

### Participants

#### TNI

#### Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

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

**Rachel- Absent**

## 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: 5/31/19	In Progress (will use 2016 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: 4/30/19	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. 3/21/19: Stacie asked if the group should be working on this while ELAB is working through this.
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	All	2/20/14	TBD (see #350)  <i>350: Prepare formal request to SOP Subcommittee regarding updating</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

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Date Added</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
	<p>new limits? This lends to the TSS discussion a few months ago.</p> <p>Patrick commented that it would make sense to look at 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.</p>			<i>FoPT tables and applicable backburner items just moved to the Action Items table (#352, 353)</i>	completion date will be given at July meeting.
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	<p>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. 2/28/19 – Eric will take a look and touch base by email.</p> <p>Complete</p>
361	Analyte Code changes needed in LAMS. (TKN)	Maria Dan Hickman	7/20/17	9/30/17	<p>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.</p>
363	Discuss procedural change in how changes are made to LAMS. Consider notifying PTPEC before relevant changes are made and provide a summary of			1/31/17	<p>Will talk to IT about getting this in an SOP. 12/21/17: Maria will follow-up on this.</p>



	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Date Added</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
	changes at some frequency.				3/20/18: Maria will check this week. 6/21/18 – still being worked on. 2/28/19 – Maria will follow-up.
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. (April PTPEC meeting.)
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
389	Present recommended LAMS updates to Dan Hickman.	Maria	5/17/18	5/20/18	FoPT format subcommittee provided recommendations.
397	Discuss Vol 3 and 4 implementation with NELAP AC.	Maria	10/18/18	11/15/18	In progress.
400	Follow-up on subcommittee reports from WET and the FoPT Table Format Subcommittee.	Maria	11/15/18	12/18/18	In Progress – combine with 349.

	<b>Action Item</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Date Added</b>	<b>Expected Completion</b>	<b>Actual Completion</b>
410	Review SOPs 4-102 and 7-101 to make sure there are no conflicts in the appeals process.	Eric	2/28/19	TBD	In Progress
411	Follow-up on two preliminary complaints on Hardness.	Maria	2/28/19	3/20/19	3/21/19: Did talk to lab, but waiting for follow-up. Still working with NELAP AC. Lab did not respond, so this is being closed. They need to file a formal complaint. Complete
412	Maria will talk to Craig about holding off on more work on the WET FoPT Table until ELAB provides guidance.	Maria	3/21/19	4/17/19	
413	Update Charter for Analyte Breakdown Subcommittee.	Maria	3/21/19	4/17/19	Complete
414	Request Endrin data from PT Providers.	Maria	3/21/19	4/17/19	Complete
415	Send formal request to Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee to work on footnote issue raised by Shawn regarding Footnotes 5 and 6.	Maria	3/21/19	4/17/19	Complete, but will resend to Carl.
416	Look at past PTPEC minutes to see if an implementation date was set for Volumes 3 and 4.	Maria/Ilona	4/18/19	5/16/19	Complete



**Attachment C**

**Backburner / Reminders – TNI PT Executive Committee**

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Meeting Reference</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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	