

TNI PT Program Executive Committee Meeting Summary

May 28, 2020

1. Roll call, approval of minutes and overview:

Chair, Shawn Kassner, called the TNI PT Program Executive Committee (PTPEC) meeting to order at 1pm Eastern on May 28, 2020 by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 8 members present. Associate Members and guests present: Nicole Cairns, Sennett Kim, Prasanth Ramakrishnan, Eric Smith, Craig Huff, Keith Ward, Reggie Morgan, Jennifer Best, Maria Friedman (joined 1:15) and Tim Miller.

The April meeting minutes were distributed by email for review.

A motion was made by Carl to accept the April 16, 2020 minutes as written with a change to the third section – TKN was misspelled, Keljdahl is missing the “j”, and under Update it should be “contact the PT Providers” – not “contract”. The motion was seconded by Dixie and there was no further discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

There were no changes made to the agenda.

2. Chair Update

- ANAB is looking for a replacement for Matt Sica. They will be in touch. Doug Leonard would also like to talk about the PTPA role.
- Maria, Shawn and Ilona met to discuss the action table.
 - o Maria hasn't had a chance to talk to Dan about the table changes. She will send copies of the relevant emails to Shawn and he will follow up on it.
- Shawn brought up the SCM FoPT table discussed last month that needs additional votes for acceptance. The motion was made on 4-16-20 but we were one vote short for approval. The implementation date was confirmed with the PT Providers. An additional vote was provided by Jennifer Duhon. Shawn will send the updated NPW and SCM FoPT tables to the NELAP AC and to William for posting.
- Shawn did reach out to Rami (Chair, WET Expert Committee). He went back to the September 2019 minutes and saw that it is OK for the Expert Committee to work on WET limits. He will work with Rami to see what they need to get things rolling. He will put a list together of what he thinks he needs and invite Rami to the next PTPEC meeting to discuss this. Craig Huff hasn't worked with Rami in awhile. Carl noted

that the Expert Committee would like make the FoPT table clear. Shawn thinks some the changes they need will need to be changes in Volume 3 of the Standard.

- ARA from PA dealing with Xylenes: Shawn will send this to Carl and the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee. It was noted that a resolution was not reached because there is no data for the isomers for Drinking Water (DW) and soil.

3. Analyte Request Application (ARA) for PCB Aroclor Identification

Shawn had a conversation this month with Rachel Ellis and Michelle Potter (NJ). Shawn pulled the ARA up on Webex. The fear is that since the arochlors are only spiked in one sample and labs only do 2 PTs per year, it could be possible for a lab not to fail the PT over multiple years. If an aroclor is misidentified, they want that to be taken into consideration. Shawn got together with Eric to develop a survey to send to ABs to see what their program requires:

Accrediting Body Aroclor Accreditation Survey

- How are you accrediting Aroclors?
 - Individual Aroclors?
 - As an analyte group?
 - Both as individual analytes and group?
- If requested, do you allow accreditation of a lab for a subset of the analytes listed on the TNI FoPT tables (for example a lab request to only be accredited for Aroclor-1260)?
- Do you have different lists of Aroclors based on the program or matrix?
 - Drinking water vs Non -potable water?
 - Ground water?
 - Solid & Chemical Materials?
- How are you accrediting Aroclors with the Proficiency Testing Provider (PTP) evaluations?
 - Accreditation based on individual Aroclor evaluation?
 - Accredite the Aroclors as a group based on the Accept/Not Accept of individual Aroclors
 - May do both depending on the laboratory's accreditation.
- What Aroclors are your accrediting:
 - 1016
 - 1221
 - 1232
 - 1242
 - 1248
 - 1254
 - 1260

- Are there other Aroclors not listed above that you accredit labs for?
- If you accredit a lab for a subset of FoPT table Aroclor analytes (i.e. only Aroclor-1260) is it allowed for the laboratory to report a non-detect for an analyte for a single analyte in the PT sample?
- If the laboratory is only accredited for Aroclor-1260 and that was not spiked into the PT sample, is it necessary to require the laboratory to correctly identify the other Aroclor that was spiked into the PT sample and report a passing value for the spiked Aroclor in the PT sample?

Keith asked if the PTPEC can come up with a statement similar to 3 and 4 Methylphenol that is on the NPW FoPT table? Something like: Laboratories seeking or maintaining NELAP accreditation for PCB Aroclors must report and receive an acceptable evaluation for all accredited Aroclors.

The lab must run all the accredited Aroclors. If they have a subset they would need to pass each of the individual Aroclors. Shawn commented that he and Eric also looked at possible footnotes, but think the due diligence still needs to be done with the Survey to be sure they understand the real issue.

Maria asked if the labs will need to order customized PTs. The PT Providers responded “no”.

There was general agreement with the contents of the survey. Shawn updated question 2 for clarity. Shawn will send an update to the Committee.

The survey will be sent to TNI and non-TNI ABs. Shawn will clean-up the formatting. Jan Wlodarski will be able to help send out the survey. Michella will help with pulling a mailing list together. Her contacts will be related to drinking water. She is interested in the answers related to drinking water too. TNI will be able to help with the list in regards to NPW and SCM.

Survey responses will not be anonymous.

Eric and Shawn suggested a footnote somewhat similar to what Keith suggested above.

To pass a proficiency test for Aroclors/PCBs all the reported analytes must be evaluated as “acceptable”.

or

To pass a proficiency test for Aroclors/PCBs there shall be no “not acceptable” evaluations.

Keith suggested changing “reported” analyte to “accredited” analyte. After further discussion it was decided to leave it as is.

Andy noted that there are other Aroclors that are not on the FoPT tables. Shawn commented that this is why they are checking with all the states to see what they accredit for.

There was more support for the second option.

Shawn will send out the survey. He also plans to meet with Michelle and Rachel to review the second option language to see if it would meet their concerns. There shouldn't be any need for them to resubmit the ARA if the PTPEC goes in a slightly different direction. The PTPEC just needs to let them know how they propose addressing the ARA.

Carl suggests that PCBs are screened. There is an FoPT screen for DW. The regulation is that if a PCB is detected it is quantitated by Method 508A. Because of laboratory request and the fact that some promulgated methods have as target analytes listed it out individually as opposed to a PCB screen, Florida has entered requests for labs to be accredited for the individual Aroclors by the DW methods.

4. Uranium

Shawn received a request to look at the FoPT tables for Uranium for Radiochemistry. It is listed twice on the DW FoPT table. One for the activity of Uranium and one as a mass unit. The analyte number in the table is 3055. In LAMS it is 1184. We need to update the FoPT table for the mass unit to 1184. Shawn will send this information to Carl for the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee to review.

Carl asked if this only an editorial fix. Shawn noted that the Subcommittee is working on new limits for NPW and this might be important there too? Carl agreed it is important.

Andy noted that it is important to leave the two table entries to avoid issues with bias due to conversion factors.

5. SOP 4-107: FoPT Table Management

There were some additional changes found after the PTPEC approved the SOP. It was not sent to the Policy Committee.

A copy of the SOP was sent to the Committee with the changes highlighted in "blue" (the color could be different on different computers). These are the changes since the last approval by the PTPEC. Eric reviewed each change. He emphasized that groups are notified about FoPT changes, but we don't seek approval. The changes made were related to this. This SOP also includes the new name for SOP 4-101 where it is referenced. The PTPEC Voting SOP (4-105) was added as a related document too.

A motion was made by Dixie to approve SOP 4-107 as sent by email with the agenda (changes to Sections 9.3.2, 9.4.2, 10, 12, and 16) and the changes discussed above regarding the addition of SOP 4-105 and the new SOP name for 4-101. The motion was seconded by Fred and unanimously approved.

6. Subcommittee Updates

Microbiology FoPT Subcommittee: The Subcommittee has not met in quite some time. Jennifer Best asked that a final copy of the tables be sent to her. Shawn will send these to her. They may already be on the TNI website. Jennifer also noted that she would like to talk to Shawn about some other items that could be updated.

PT SOP Subcommittee: Shawn noted that SOP 4-101 had to be updated with the new procedure for determining Radiochemistry DW FoPT limits. Carl included this in the DRAFT he sent to the PT SOP Subcommittee. Ilona noted that the SSAS Expert Committee finalized their SOP that is similar to SOP 4-101. There were some changes made to what Carl had previously reviewed. Ilona recommend that Carl and the PT SOP Subcommittee review their update. Eric got a copy through his Policy Committee involvement and Sheri Heldstab (Chair, SSAS Expert Committee) should have sent a copy to Carl. Eric will handle making sure everyone has the correct copy of SASS's SOP for review.

The subcommittee is making good progress on SOP 4-101.

Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee: The Subcommittee is waiting for formal direction. They will be working on the ARA to add NPW Radiochemistry limits. The next meeting will be planned in June. Ilona has the names of the Radiochemistry Expert Committee members that will join in on the next meeting.

Carl asked if it is possible to get PT data from the database regarding residues. He would like to review the data because the PTPA's noted issues during their reports. Ilona noted that this is a new topic and are there other analytes the PTPA's mentioned that should be looked at too? This will be further discussed next month and direction will be given to the Chemistry FoPT Subcommittee. Shawn will also be contacting the PTPA's to do their annual report during the August meeting.

7. New Business.

- Carl has a topic he will send to Shawn for discussion at the next meeting.
- Carl was selected to be part of the workgroup that will be updating ISO/IEC 17043. He let people know that they can send him suggestions. This was put on the Stage 2 level

which is a working draft stage. They won't be starting from scratch and should be done in the next 2 years. Rob Knake is the other US expert invited to help.

8. Action Items

The action items can be found in Attachment B.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be by teleconference on June 19, 2020 at 1pm Eastern. Shawn expects to work on PCB surveys.

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

There was a problem with the sound on FreeConference and the meeting was adjourned at 2:39pm Eastern. (Motion: Fred Second: Carl. Unanimous)

**Attachment A
Participants
TNI**

Proficiency Testing Program Executive Committee

Members	Rep	Affiliation	Contact Information
Shawn Kassner (2023*) (Chair) Present	Lab	Pace	shawn.kassner@pacelabs.com
Dixie Marlin (2021) (Vice-Chair) Present	Other	Marlin Quality Management, LLC	marlinquality@gmail.com
Ilona Taunton, Program Administrator Present		TNI	tauntoni@msn.com
Carl Kircher (2021*) Present	AB	Florida Department of Health	Carl.Kircher@flhealth.gov
Andy Valkenburg (2021*) Present	Other	QASE Inc.	cvalkenbur@aol.com
Jennifer Duhon (2022) Present	Other	Millipore Sigma	jennifer.duhon@sial.com
Patrick Garrity (2022) Absent	AB	Kentucky DEP	patrick.garrity@ky.gov
Michella Karapondo (2022) Present	Other	USEPA	karapondo.michella@epa.gov
Fred Anderson (2020*) Present (1:20pm)	Other	Advanced Analytical Solutions, LLC	Fred@advancedqc.com
Jennifer Bordwell (2020*) Present	Lab	Upper Occoquan Service Authority	jennifer.bordwell@uosa.org
Scott Haas (2020*) Absent	FSMO	Environmental Testing, Inc.	shaas@etilab.com
Rachel Ellis (2022*) Absent	AB	New Jersey DEP	rachel.ellis@dep.nj.gov

Attachment B

Action Items – TNI PT Executive Committee

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Comments/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. Follow-up on subcommittee reports from WET and the FoPT Table Format Subcommittee.	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. 2/20/20- ONGOING - Waiting for WET.
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	All	2/20/14	TBD (see #350) <i>350: Prepare formal request to SOP Subcommittee</i>	In Progress – Update of SOP 4-101 6/21/18: Gil noted that this SOP will be worked on again at the next

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Comments/Actual Completion
	<p>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.</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>regarding updating FoPT tables and applicable backburner items just moved to the Action Items table (#352, 353)</i>	meeting. An expected completion date will be given at July meeting.
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. 2/20/20 – Maria will report next meeting.
363	Discuss procedural change in how changes are made to LAMS. Consider notifying PTPEC before relevant changes are made and provide a summary of changes at some frequency.			1/31/17	Will talk to IT about getting this in an SOP. 12/21/17: Maria will follow-up on this. 3/20/18: Maria will check this week. 6/21/18 – still being worked on. 2/28/19 – Maria will follow-up. 2/20/19 – Maria will take care of.

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Comments/Actual Completion
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.) 2/20/20- Maria working with Dan Hickman on this.
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	MTF version of the analytes have been added to the NPW and DW tables.
389	Present recommended LAMS updates to Dan Hickman.	Maria	5/17/18	5/20/18	FoPT format subcommittee provided recommendations. In Progress. Maria sent him tables this month (2/20/20)
400	Follow up on subcommittee reports from WET and the FoPT Table Format Subcommittee.	Maria	11/15/18	12/18/18	In Progress – combined with 349.
422	Send Isomer ARA data to Carl so Chem FoPT Subcommittee can begin work on this.	Maria	6/20/19	7/17/19	2/20/20 -Pending Needs to still be sent to Subcommittee.
430	Review FoPT Table Titles and website headers to be consistent.	TBD	10/31/19	TBD	2/20/20 - Pending

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Comments/Actual Completion
431	Discuss with IT Committee the need for LAMS updates to be communicated to the PTPEC.	Maria	10/31/19	11/20/19	2/20/20 – Maria will talk to Dan Hickman.
432	DW FoPT Table – Lines 17-26 need to be reviewed with LAMS Administrator. PTPEC is going to use what was originally in the table instead of what is currently in LAMS.	Maria	10/31/19	11/20/19	2/20/20 – Pending. Maria will talk to Dan.
433	Send final version of SOPs 4-102, 4-105, 4-107 and 4-108 to Ilona for finalization and distribution to the Policy Committee.	Maria	1/23/20	2/19/20	2/20/20 – Maria will still do this.
435	Contact PT Providers about new footnote from Degradation Subcommittee. Timing needed for implementation?	Shawn	3/26/20	4/15/20	Complete
436	Update SCM and NPW FoPT tables to include new footnote from Degradation Subcommittee. Note: New SCM table format will need to be reviewed by the Committee when the additional footnote is added.	Shawn	3/26/20	4/15/20	Complete

	Action Item	Who	Date Added	Expected Completion	Comments/Actual Completion
437	Reach out to Sennet Kim and ANAB to confirm there is still an issue related to SCM FoPT table metals footnotes for fixed limits.	Shawn	3/26/20	4/15/20	
438	Reach out to NELAP AC to see if any additional progress has been made in dealing the PCB ARA.	Shawn	3/26/20	4/15/20	
439	Send committee applications to PTPEC Voting Members for review.	Shawn	3/26/20	4/15/20	
440	Invite Rami to next meeting to discuss WET Expert Committee data needs.	Shawn	5/28/20	6/16/20	
441	Send formal requests to Chem FoPT Subcommittee: Xylenes ARA (#422) and Uranium Analyte Number	Shawn	5/28/20	6/6/20	
442	Send out PCB survey.	Shawn	5/28/20	6/17/20	
443	Meet with Michelle Potter and Rachel Ellis to review option 2 language for PCB issue.	Shawn	5/28/20	6/17/20	
444	Request that PTPAs do their annual presentation during the August PTPEC meeting.	Shawn	5/28/20	6/17/20	

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	