

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
May 2, 2024 1 pm Eastern

1. Welcome and Introductions

Steve Arms welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1. The agenda was declared approved since there were no comments (see Attachment 2), and the minutes from April 4 were unanimously approved mid-meeting, once there was a quorum, after a motion by Robin, seconded by Sharon.

2. Updates

Newsletter – April 15 was the due date for articles. The Robert's Rules article will be held until the fall newsletter, but others are ready. Due to other priorities, actual publication will be delayed several weeks, but Jerry assured the group that it will be published prior to the early registration deadline.

Ambassadors meeting – Steve noted that we had only two Ambassadors present for this meeting but several reports had been provided at the April Advocacy meeting. Sheela Agrawal from Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District has accepted the Ambassador role for Ohio, and Ashley Larssen will become the Ambassador to Missouri. Steve requested that the recent newsletters be posted to the website so that Ambassadors can share them with their contacts.

3. Summer NEMC Conference

Jerry noted that 90 attendees have already registered, and 150 exhibitor personnel will be staffing the sold-out exhibit hall (72 tables, 65 exhibitors). The Friday August 9, "California session" agenda has been set, as follows:

8:15 – 9:00 Keynote Address

A California Perspective on Laboratory Data to Protect Public Health and the Environment, Sean Maguire, California State Water Resources Control Board

9:00 – 10:10 The Evolving Compliance Landscape in the California Laboratory Community

Session Moderator: Stacie Crandall, The NELAC Institute

9:00 An Update on California ELAP, Christine Sotelo, California ELAP

9:30 How the Florida Society on Environmental Analysts Improved the Professionalism of the Florida Laboratory Community, Robin Cook, City of Daytona Beach

9:50 How the California Society on Environmental Analysts Plans to Improve the Professionalism of the California Laboratory Community, Carolyn Ruttan, CSEA

10:10 BREAK

10:30 – 12:00 Mastering the TNI Standard

Session Moderator: Bob Wyeth, The NELAC Institute

10:30 Using TNI Resources to Be Better, Kelvin Yuen, Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts

11:00 How Accreditation Bodies Ensure Consistency, Katelyn Hilty, California ELAP

11:30 Comments and Suggestions from Attendees

12:00 Lunch Provided

Consistency of Assessments

Session Moderator: Paul Junio, The NELAC Institute

1:00 – 3:00 Determining What is Really Important in Laboratory Assessments

1:00 – 2:00 Panel Presentations (15 minutes each)

Accreditation Body Perspective, Maria Friedman, California ELAP

Laboratory Perspective, Prem Parmar, Orange County Water District

Third Party Assessor Perspective, Tony Francis, SAW Environmental

Laboratory Consultant Perspective, Aaren Alger, Alger Consulting and Training

2:00 – 3:00 Comments and Suggestions from Laboratories, Accreditation Bodies, and Consultants

4. Revising TNI's Vision for NELAP

Jerry explained that, at conference in Ohio, EPA drinking water personnel expressed a concern that as many as 44 states have issued certifications for one laboratory, based on the assessment by one NELAP AB, and that this prompted him to consider updating the original NELAC vision. That original vision was for all 50 states to participate in NELAP, but as the program has evolved, there are only 14 states fully participating, with many other states using some pieces of the program – either accepting NELAP accreditation for certification or using the TNI Standard, and all states rely on TNI's PT Program.

The draft PowerPoint shared with the committee summarizes the history of laboratory accreditation, going back 35 years to its origins, and shows the evolution from technical systems audits to quality management systems. Jerry envisions future evolution in a final slide, which he seeks to discuss with the Advocacy Committee and then preview for the NELAP Accreditation Council prior to presenting the updated vision at conference this summer for discussion by the entire laboratory community. Based on the discussion at this May 2 meeting, Jerry will revise the presentation and bring it back for the June 6 meeting. He expressed a desire to get NELAP representation on the Advocacy Committee also, and does plan to preview the updated vision with the Council in July, prior to conference.

5. New Business

Steve asked whether Sharon would be available to moderate the June 6 meeting, as he is likely to be unavailable; Sharon is available, and that meeting will be 90 minutes, to ensure that the entire PowerPoint about the vision can be discussed.

The July meeting would normally fall on July 4, and a rescheduling to July 11 was discussed but not confirmed. This will be settled at the June meeting.

6. Next Meeting

The next Advocacy Committee teleconference is scheduled for **Thursday, June 6, 2024, at 1 pm Eastern**. This meeting will be planned for 90 minutes. An agenda and any needed documents will be provided prior to the meeting.

Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Steve Arms, Chair	Other	Present
2.	Stacie Crandall	Lab	Absent
3.	Mike Delaney	Other	Present
4.	Zonetta English	Lab	Present
5.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Absent
6.	Janice Willey	Federal	Absent
7.	Robin Cook	Lab	Present
8.	Sharon Mertens, Vice Chair	Lab	Present
9.	William Lipps	Other	Absent
	Associate Members		
	Sheela Agrawal	TNI Ambassador	Present
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Celeste Crowley	Other	Absent
	Stephanie Drier	AB	Absent
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Silky Labie	Other	Absent
	Ashley Larssen	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Ian McBride	Lab	Absent
	Judy Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Devon Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Lily Sanchez	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Aurora Shields	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Elizabeth Turner	Lab	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Lynn Bradley	TNI PA	Present

Attachment 2 – Agenda as approved

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes (April minutes attached)
- Updates
 - Newsletter
 - Ambassadors meeting (summary attached)
- Issues or Updates for Summer NEMC Conference
- Discuss the Revising TNI's Vision for NELAP PowerPoint (see attached PowerPoint file, especially slide 26)
- New Business, if any
- Adjourn