

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
June 27, 2024 1 pm Eastern

1. Welcome and Introductions

Steve Arms welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1. Without a quorum, the agenda was declared approved by unanimous consent (see Attachment 2), and the minutes from June 6 will be presented for approval at the next meeting, scheduled for August 16, 2024.

2. Newsletter Update

The newsletter was published on June 20. A pdf copy was included with the meeting reminder for the Ambassadors (Tuesday, July 9, 2 pm) for convenience if they wish to share it with their state contacts.

3. Summer NEMC Conference

Jerry reported that about 500 registrations have already been made, including exhibitors. Again, please remember that Friday night rooms are not available.

Steve will not be at conference. Sharon, as Vice Chair, will present the Advocacy portion of the Thursday afternoon General Session.

4. Revising TNI's Vision for NELAP

A revised version of the Vision PowerPoint was not available, so participants worked with Jerry to revise the framework in accordance with the views discussed at the June 6 meeting. That portion of the June 6 minutes is repeated here for convenient access.

- Reframe as an effort to address the challenges that have kept us from the original vision while also showing newcomers to the industry how we got to the current seemingly chaotic arrangements.
- Not all states need to be NELAP but after 30-plus years, we have strong evidence that incorporation of QMS into lab certification/accreditation programs improves data quality.
- Seek to establish a national dialogue with state and federal regulatory programs (data users) in making laboratory QMS the norm (rather than method/technical certification), as we recognize that such an upgrade for non-NELAP certification programs is beyond what the certification/accreditation group can accomplish, as they can only provide what the program offices ask for.
- Note that we have an existing Outreach to Data Users Plan, as basis for beginning.
- Explore pushing boundaries of current restrictions on acceptance of recognitions by non-NELAP certification/accreditation programs (including NGABs) when assessment of QMSs in labs becomes more widely used.
- Join field sampling and measurements with lab analyses as needing QMS.
- Update the NELAP map, as needed.
- At some point, we should investigate a product certification program for devices used as in-line monitors and continuous sampling.

The biggest shift in the accomplishing the vision, which does remain an eventual national program, is adapting the focus of TNI's outreach efforts to the state and federal programs that determine what the NELAP ABs are required to accredit. The state ABs themselves do not make those decisions, but rather serve the state program offices in meeting the regulations of the state programs.

One item that arose for particular consideration is that, of the states having a two-tier program with the “second tier” being for in-state labs only, those programs have not been updated since the NELAC 2003 Standard. Doing so would require rulemaking, which would need to be done either by or in conjunction with the state program office overseeing that area of testing.

The revised presentation as given to the NELAP Accreditation Council on July 1 is being distributed to committee members with these minutes. Please **DO NOT DISTRIBUTE FURTHER**, as additional changes will be made before the presentation for discussion during the General Session at conference.

5. New Business

There was no new business.

6. Next Meeting

There will not be a working meeting of the Advocacy Committee at conference in California. The next teleconference is scheduled for **Friday, August 16, 2024, at 1 pm Eastern** to do the things we would normally accomplish at conference – reviewing the sessions for potential Advocacy involvement and planning the next newsletter. 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	Absent
4.	Zonetta English	Lab	Absent
5.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Absent
6.	Janice Willey	Federal	Present
7.	Robin Cook	Lab	Absent
8.	Sharon Mertens, Vice Chair	Lab	Present
9.	William Lipps	Other	Absent
	Associate Members		
	Sheela Agrawal	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Celeste Crowley	Other	Absent
	Stephanie Drier	AB	Absent
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Silky Labie	Other	Absent
	Ashley Larssen	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Ian McBride	Lab	Absent
	Judy Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Devon Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Lily Sanchez	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Aurora Shields	Other	Absent
	Elizabeth Turner	Lab	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Lynn Bradley	TNI PA	Present

Attachment 2 – Agenda as approved, June 27, 2024

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes (June 6 minutes attached)
- Brief Updates
 - Newsletter
 - Conference
- Resume Review of Updated NELAP Vision (updated presentation to be provided by Jerry before the meeting)
- New Business, if any
- Adjourn