

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting  
September 7, 2023 1 pm Eastern

1. Call to Order

Steve Arms called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm Eastern, Thursday, September 7, 2023. This meeting was rescheduled for after conference week since neither the Chair nor the Vice Chair had planned to attend conference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1.

2. Approval of Minutes

Sharon moved and Stacie seconded that the minutes of August 11 be approved, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

3. Conference Planning

Jerry provided a preliminary schedule and copy of the draft conference brochure. For now, Advocacy is scheduled to meet at conference, on Wednesday afternoon, January 24. He expects that registration will open in early October.

The NEMC Steering Committee has determined not to continue sending paper copies of the preliminary brochure, and the Forum (winter) conferences will do the same. All publicity will be accomplished by email and the TNI website. This change will be a significant savings for TNI.

4. Newsletter Planning

Sharon agreed to be the editor for this fall 2024 newsletter. The due date for articles will be September 25 for publication in early October. The final list of articles (below) was provided to Sharon and she has contacted all prospective authors.

Article Topic	Proposed Author(s)	Author Contact Info
Bad Data White Paper w/ link to document	Jerry Parr	<a href="mailto:Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a>
Conference Session on Ensuring Reliable Data	Jerry Parr	<a href="mailto:Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a>
Member Spotlight – Dorothy Love (retiring soon) to include audio clip of Pacettes from Mentor Session (if possible)	Zoneta English (William Daystrom to provide audio clip)	<a href="mailto:zoneta.english@louisvillemisd.org">zoneta.english@louisvillemisd.org</a> <a href="mailto:William.daystrom@nelac-institute.org">William.daystrom@nelac-institute.org</a>
Article on Mentor Session and Assessment Forum (possible)	Judy Morgan Dorothy Love	<a href="mailto:Judy.morgan@pacelabs.com">Judy.morgan@pacelabs.com</a> <a href="mailto:Dorothy.love@et.eurofinsus.com">Dorothy.love@et.eurofinsus.com</a>
Sidebar: Assessment Forum talk on History of Accreditation (with link to presentation set up as a free on-demand training course)	Jerry Parr Ilona Taunton	<a href="mailto:Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a> <a href="mailto:Ilona.Taunton@nelac-institute.org">Ilona.Taunton@nelac-institute.org</a>
Development of PFAS FoPT for drinking water with mention of future wastewater FoPT to come	Stacie Crandall	<a href="mailto:scrandall@hrsd.com">scrandall@hrsd.com</a>
General article on standards revision, upcoming opportunities for input (4 remaining modules for V1 plus V2, V3 and V4)	Paul Junio	<a href="mailto:Paul.junio@pacelabs.com">Paul.junio@pacelabs.com</a>

Summary of EPA Program Updates from Thursday morning session at conference	Jerry Parr	<a href="mailto:Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a>
NEFAP Sampling Enclave	Ilona/Tracy Szerszen	<a href="mailto:Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org">Ilona.taunton@nelac-institute.org</a> <a href="mailto:tszerszen@pjlabs.com">tszerszen@pjlabs.com</a>
Possibility: Article on Digital Badge Credential Launch	Lynn Bradley Ken Brown	<a href="mailto:Lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org">Lynn.bradley@nelac-institute.org</a> <a href="mailto:kbrown@escondido.org">kbrown@escondido.org</a>
Annual Board Election Article	Sharon Mertens	<a href="mailto:smertens@mmsd.com">smertens@mmsd.com</a>
Preview Article for Columbus conference	Jerry Parr	<a href="mailto:Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a>
Article (or info) on Columbus activity highlights	Paul Junio to contact Susan Wyatt for either ideas or article	<a href="#">Facebook connection is all that's available right now</a>
Recap of Minneapolis conference	Jerry Parr (with Lara?)	<a href="mailto:Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a>
Call for Abstracts for NEMC 2024	Jerry Parr Earl Hansen	<a href="mailto:Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a> <a href="mailto:Papaearl41@hotmail.com">Papaearl41@hotmail.com</a>
Possible Article on PFAS developments (if warranted)	TBD (Jerry if methods are approved by publication date, otherwise for spring newsletter)	?
Reflections from the Chair	Alfredo Sotomayor	<a href="mailto:asotomayor@mmsd.com">asotomayor@mmsd.com</a>

## 5. Workplan Review

Both the Advocacy Workplan (last updated in 2022) itemizing our assignments from the 2020 Strategic Plan and the Outreach Plan (approved by the Board earlier this year) were distributed for consideration.

The Outreach Plan was a high priority activity of the Workplan, and several of its initial activities are completed:

White Papers: **Having a Strong Quality Management System Prevents Faulty Results** (July 6, 2023) and **Laboratory Accreditation Makes a Difference -- Data You Can Rely On**, October 14, 2020.

The first of those white papers was presented to the Environmental Monitoring Council with a request for its endorsement, but several of the involved parties are hesitant to do so. Negotiations are underway with various people to see if minor wording changes (referring to "accreditation" rather than the TNI Standard) might allow for their endorsement. TNI can and will continue to use that document for our outreach regardless of the outcome of this request.

Two outreach targets were discussed in more detail – how can we identify state program personnel to target them for outreach and how can we use the TNI Ambassadors more effectively than has been done so far. A list of websites for identifying state program personnel or how to access their associations is in the Outreach Plan Appendix.

Steve asked that everyone look over the plans before the October meeting and bring any ideas forward. Discussion of both plans will continue at the October meeting.

## 6. New Business

There were no new business items.

## 7. Next Meeting

The next Advocacy Committee meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, October 5, 2023, at 1 pm Eastern.** An agenda and any needed documents will be provided prior to the meeting.

The **TNI Ambassadors** will meet on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 2 pm Eastern. An agenda and any needed documents will be provided prior to the meeting. If you are an Ambassador, please try to participate, so that we can have a meaningful discussion of how Advocacy can help your efforts in reaching out to our state partners, but if you are unable to attend, please send Lynn your update on activities?

## Attachment 1

	Name	Stakeholder Group	Present/Absent
1.	Steve Arms, Chair	Other	Present
2.	Stacie Crandall	Lab	Present
3.	Mike Delaney	Other	Present
4.	Zonetta English	Lab	Present
5.	Marlene Moore	Other and NEFAP	Absent
6.	Janice Willey	Federal	Present
7.	Trinity O'Neal	Lab	Present
8.	Robin Cook	Lab	Absent
9.	Sharon Mertens, Vice Chair	Lab	Present
10.	William Lipps	Other	Present
	<b>Associate Members</b>		
	Kirstin Daigle	Lab	Absent
	Judy Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	JoAnn Boyd	Lab and FAC	Absent
	Keith Chapman	Other	Absent
	Erin Consuegra	Lab	Absent
	Celeste Crowley	Other	Absent
	Stephanie Drier	AB	Absent
	Paul Junio	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Silky Labie	Other	Absent
	Ian McBride	Lab	Absent
	Devon Morgan	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Lara Phelps	EPA (Other)	Absent
	Bob Pullano	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Lily Sanchez	TNI Ambassador	Present
	Aurora Shields	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Elizabeth Turner	Lab	Absent
	Lee Wolf	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	<b>Staff</b>		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Lynn Bradley	TNI PA	Present