

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
June 5, 2025 1 pm Eastern

1. Welcome and Introductions

Steve Arms, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1 – 6 Voting members (Quorum) and 2 Associate members. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent (see Attachment 2).

A motion was made by Mike to approve the May 1, 2025, minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Janice. There was no further discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Membership Application

Devon Morgan turned in a voting member application and introduced himself. A motion was made by Sharon to add Devon as a voting member to the Committee. The motion was seconded by Mike and there was no further discussion. The motion was unanimously approved. Devon will be added to the voting member roster.

3. Updates

- Newsletter Status
 - The Newsletter was distributed.
 - It contained lots of information about the meeting Jacksonville, FL.
 - The Expert Committee openings article was missing, but will be included in the next issue.
 - A picture of Jack Farrel was included with his article.
 - Sharon was thanked for doing the editor duties.
- Update on Summer Meeting – St. Louis
 - Everything is on schedule – 160 - 170 registrations to date.
 - The exhibit program is sold out with 60 exhibits - two or three tables. This adds another 120-140 people. There are new vendors this year.
 - The Committee will not meet in St. Louis. The Committee will meet the following week by teleconference.
 - The deadline for rooms is mid-July. Early bird registration ends
 - Most federal employees are not able to travel, so the Thursday morning meeting has been reorganized. Troy will still speak on SW-846. Jerry will speak on Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. William Lipp's will talk about Standard Methods.
 - Jerry is working on the list of federal people that can be listed in the Program.
- Need for New Committee Members in Advocacy.
 - One new member added today.
 - Need to continue to talk to associates about adding as voting members.
- Cannabis Regulators Association (CANN-RA.org)
 - A meeting will be held later this month (6/23/25).

4. Updated NELAP Vision and Outreach Plan

Continue discussion of how TNI might assist EPA's Drinking Water Lab Certification efforts if Agency staffing/funding gets drastically reduced.

- Perhaps the Committee should consider an outreach to states about using NGABs for assessments. Must consider if the resources are available to take on all these additional certifications if five or six states decided to drop their drinking water program?
- NGABs are going through the same DW class that state assessors go through.
- Jerry reminded people: What Georgia and New Mexico have done is they still have a certification officer that makes the decision, but it's essentially a rubber stamp of the assessment done by a NELAP AB or an NGAB. EPA is OK with this as long as there is a certification officer in the state making decisions. States need to know this is an option.
- A state where the certification program is within the public health department, is more dependent on CDC funding and may be more vulnerable. Marlene agreed.
- Ilona shared a discussion on the last NELAP AC call where it was noted that it is difficult for people to get into the drinking water classes. This could be a problem for NGABs.
- Jerry will plan to reach out to Dan Hautman to discuss EPA's comment to move towards online training, different state models and use of NGABs. Jerry will also check-in with the NGABs to see what availability they have.
- In the past, EPA has been interested in finding out more about the database that William designed to track training that has been done. Perhaps times have changed, and they may be interested in what TNI can do to record their training and provide webcasts for portions of the training. They can do the hands-on portions. Perhaps there is now more interest in outsourcing.
- Jerry reviewed numerous states that have certification in their Department of Health. Need to get a handle on how many labs are accredited this way. This will be discussed further next month.

5. New Business

There was no new business offered.

6. Next Meeting

The next scheduled teleconference is planned for **Thursday, July 3, 2025, at 1 pm Eastern.** An agenda and any needed documents will be provided prior to the meeting.

The next TNI Ambassadors quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, July 8, 2025, at 2 pm Eastern.**

Steve adjourned the meeting at 1:53pm Eastern.

Minutes prepared by Ilona Taunton

Attachment 1

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

Attachment 2 – Agenda, June 3, 2025

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of May Minutes
- Vote on membership application from Devon Morgan
- Updates
 - Newsletter Status
 - Update on Summer Meeting – St. Louis
 - Need for New Committee Members in Advocacy
- Updated NELAP Vision and Outreach Plan (continue discussion of how TNI might assist EPA's drinking water lab certification efforts if Agency staffing/funding gets drastically reduced)
- New Business, if any