

Summary of Advocacy Committee Meeting
July 3, 2025 1 pm Eastern

1. Welcome and Introductions

Steve Arms, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Attendance is recorded in Attachment 1 – 8 Voting members (Quorum) and 1 Associate members. The agenda was approved by unanimous consent with the addition of an update on the meeting with CANNRA (see Attachment 2). No objections.

A motion was made by Mike to approve the June 5, 2025, minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Sharon. There was no further discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Updates

- Meeting with CANNRA (Cannabis Regulators Association) on 6/23/25

Jerry and Sharon provided an update. It was a good call that included their Executive Director, a contractor and three or four people from their committee that work with lab issues. They talked about ways TNI can help - training and language on data integrity. They were receptive to these ideas and wished that more NELAP ABs accredited for cannabis. They had some frustrations with 17025 accreditations because they are government.

The Committee discussed whether this information should be shared with the NELAP AC. If states have separated cannabis from the lab accreditation programs, perhaps there is an opportunity for NELAP ABs to help. For example, NY and CA have separate departments. Jerry noted that Victoria Pretti and Steve Jetter both work with cannabis.

Ilona will add Jerry to the NELAP AC agenda on July 7, 2025, at 1:30pm Eastern.

Though there are states like Texas that do not allow cannabis it to be sold, it still has regulations regarding cannabis derivative oils (like CBD) and hemp. Most states have some sort of regulations related to cannabis. 42 states approve cannabis for medical use.

Steve asked if CANNRA wants to see uniformity nationwide? Jerry responded that they do and that they have a lot of documents available. They have committees that work on best practices.

There are environmental concerns – sampling issues and pesticides for example. There may be parts of our standards that may be more applicable than originally thought.

There are examples of issues like samples for testing being taken from a row of cannabis where no pesticides are sprayed or samples being spiked with THC before being tested for THC if the submitter wants to pay more and get a higher value.

NEFAP might be a good standard to share with them.

There are no current plans for another call because they need to think about the conversation. They do have a meeting in Atlanta in December.

The Committee agreed that it is appropriate to send them a copy of the Training Course Catalog and current DRAFT data integrity language and/or data integrity language in the new Volume 1 Field Standard.

- Update on Summer Meeting – St. Louis

The hotel is 92% sold out and there are currently 450 registrations for the meeting.

3. Update on NELAP Vision and Outreach Plan

Jerry provided information related to his action items from the last meeting:

- Discussion with Dan Hautman

Dan has retired. William Adams (a chemist) has taken his place. Greg Carrol (Dan's boss) has also retired.

This is what Jerry could find about the current structure:

- OGWDW Organization
Jennifer McLain, Director
Yu-Ting Guilaran, Deputy Director
- The Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water includes:
 - Drinking Water Capacity and Compliance Assistance Division
Marietta Echeverria, Director
 - Drinking Water Infrastructure Development Division
Anita Maria Thompson, Director
 - Standards and Risk Management Division
Eric Burneson, Director
 - Water Infrastructure and Cyber Resilience Division
David Travers, Director

Perhaps TNI should go out to Cincinnati and meet with the leadership. Lem Walker, Michella and Laura are still there. Jennifer was assigned to another division. Jerry will reach out to Michella to look into this possibility.

- Survey of Non-NELAP Laboratories

Jerry provided a table with Non-NELAP Laboratories by State (Attachment 3). There are 1434 possible laboratories without including Pennsylvania. Most have small scopes.

Pennsylvania looks like an outlier with 5252 “registered” labs. They have about 100 labs in LAMS and 20 of those are primary. Marlene noted there are a lot of utility labs where every site has to be registered. They don’t need to be accredited but need to be registered. There are also accredited labs that are only PA accredited – not NELAP.

It was suggested to pick a few states and talk to them about options. Nevada, Colorado, and Vermont were discussed. Colorado and Hawaii already do what Georgia and New Mexico do and Nevada has looked at becoming a NELAP AB.

Perhaps work on this with the Ambassadors who know who to talk to.

Possibly talk to ASDWA - Association of State Drinking Water Administrators. Jerry has a 2024 document that can be used to reach out to them. Jerry will do this.

Jerry will generate a list of state people attending the conference. He will look at the possibility of setting up a meeting with states attending and the NELAP AC. He has a briefing package he can turn into something appropriate for this type of meeting. It would be focused on DW programs.

The Committee continued to review the list of states, the programs they offer and whether they might work with contract labs.

The Committee agreed that it needs to work with EPA first before some states might be OK to consider other options. A meeting could still be set-up in St. Louis to share some ideas and get some feedback. Devon will reach out to Nevada and this topic can be discussed at the TNI Ambassador’s meeting next Tuesday.

- NGAB capacity

Jerry reported:

- ANAB is eager to support TNI in this effort; however, we will need to coordinate with EPA first to either arrange additional drinking water training sessions for our assessors or determine if TNI is permitted to provide the necessary training.
- IAS looks forward to supporting TNI on this. TNI training/certification will result in an increase in the frequency of trainings provided. This move will potentially increase the availability of DW and non-DW assessors in the market for NGABs to deploy.
- PJLA. The biggest problem is getting enough drinking water assessors approved to take the class. If we can somehow relook at this process, I think this would help us all. I think we need to start there and if we can pass that obstacle PJLA would be more than willing to assist with the accreditation process. If it is non DW we would just need support from TNI to offer the classes more frequently so we

can add to our assessor pool or allow us to teach the class similar to how we handle our 17025 lead assessor courses internally.

The biggest concern is the DW course. It is once a year and preference is given to states. It was noted that NGABs doing state assessments do get some priority. NGABs hire people with experience.

4. New Business

There will be a TNI Ambassadors meeting next Tuesday on July 8, 2025, at 2pm Eastern.

(Addition: Please find a copy of the TNI Ambassador's meeting minutes in Attachment 4.)

5. Next Meeting

The next scheduled teleconference is planned for **Thursday, August 14, 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 2pm Eastern.

Minutes prepared by Ilona Taunton

Attachment 1 – Meeting Attendance

	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	Present
7.	Sharon Mertens, Vice Chair	Lab	Present
8.	William Lipps	Other	Absent
9.	Devon Morgan	Lab/TNI Ambassador	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
	Lily Sanchez	TNI Ambassador	Absent
	Aurora Shields	Other	Absent
	Elizabeth Turner	Lab	Absent
	Staff		
	Jerry Parr	TNI ED	Present
	Ilona Taunton	TNI Stand-in PA	Present

Attachment 2 – Agenda, July 3, 2025

- Welcome and Roll Call
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of June Minutes
- Update on Upcoming Conference
- Continue discussion on 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
 - NGAB capacity
 - EPAs interest in assistance on training – webcasts and tracking
 - Number of labs accredited through Department of Health
- Update on New Business, if any
- Adjourn

Attachment 3 - Non-NELAP Laboratories by State

AB	#Labs	# NELAP	DW	NPW	SCM	Air
Alabama Dept of Environmental Management	9	1	x			
Alaska Dept of Environmental Conservation: DW	5	0	x			
Alaska Dept of Environmental Conservation: CS ¹	0	0		x	x	x
Arizona Dept of Health Services	79	4	x	x	x	x
Arkansas Dept of Environmental Quality	30	5		x	x	x
Arkansas Dept of Health	0	1	x			
Colorado Dept of Public Health	33	6	x			
Connecticut Dept of Public Health	22	12	x	x	x	
Connecticut Dept of Public Health	4	3	x			
Georgia Dept of Natural Resources ²	5	7	x			
Hawaii Dept of Health	8	1	x			
Iowa Dept of Natural Resources	124	5	x	x		
Idaho Dept of Health and Welfare	6	4	x			
Indiana State Dept of Health	39	5	x			
Kentucky Dept of Environmental Protection	?	8	x	x		
Louisiana Dept of Health	4	4	x			
Massachusetts Dept of Environmental Protection	11	6	x	x		
Michigan Dept of Environmental Quality	58	9	x			
Missouri Dept of Natural Resources	2	4	x			
Mississippi State Dept of Health	2	0	x			
Montana Dept of Public Health	8	1	x			
New Jersey Dept of Env. Protection - Certification	>50	20	x	x	x	x
North Carolina Dept of Public Health	48	11	x			
North Carolina Dept of Environmental Quality	164	18		x	x	
North Dakota Environmental Laboratory Certification	?	1	x	x	x	
Nebraska Dept of Health and Human Services	2	2	x			
New Mexico Environment Dept ³	?	2	x			
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection	12	5	x	x		
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	20	7	x			
Ohio EPA Voluntary Action Program ⁴	16	16		x	x	x
Pennsylvania Dept of Environmental Protection - State	5252	0				
Virgin Islands Dept of Planning and Natural Resources	?	0	x			
Rhode Island Dept of Health	25	3	x	x		
South Carolina Dept of Health and Environmental	39	6	x	x	x	
South Dakota Dept of Environment & Natural Resources	4	0	x			

Tennessee Dept of Environment and Conservation	14	6	x			
Vermont Dept of Health ⁵	4	8	x			
Virginia Dept of General Services - State	71	0				
Washington State Dept of Ecology	346	18	x	x	x	x
Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources - Certified	90	5	x	x	x	
Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources - Registered	182	0	x	x	x	
West Virginia Bureau of Public Health	?	1	x			
West Virginia Dept of Environmental Protection	20	2		x	x	
U.S. EPA Region 8/Wyoming	?	2	x			
Puerto Rico Dept of Health	?	0	x			

Notes

1. Approval based on NELAP or DOD/ELAP accreditation.
2. Laboratories seeking reciprocity must have certification or accreditation from one of the following authorities:
 - a. U.S. EPA
 - b. Primacy State
 - c. National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP)
 - d. American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)
 - e. NSF International Inc.
 - f. Canadian Association for Laboratory Accreditation (CALA)
 - g. Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation (PJLA)
 - h. ANAB
3. Currently, the DWB only certifies microbiological laboratories located in New Mexico through this process. DWB also accepts reciprocity certification applications from A2LA, The NELAC Institute (TNI), or EPA accredited drinking water laboratories.
4. An accredited laboratory is defined in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) rule 3745-300-01(A)(2) as a laboratory that is accredited as follows:

For analysis of asbestos, valid accreditation by one of the following:

- a) The American industrial hygiene association, asbestos analysts registry;
- b) The national institute of standards technology, national voluntary laboratory accreditation program for asbestos fiber analysis;
- c) An accreditation body recognized by "The NELAC Institute" (TNI).

For analysis of any constituent other than asbestos, valid accreditation by an accreditation body recognized by "The NELAC Institute" (TNI).

5. Laboratories applying for drinking water certification from Vermont need to be accredited to the TNI standards currently in effect by the National Environmental Laboratory Accrediting Program (NELAP) before the department will consider issuing a drinking water certification to the laboratory.

Summary of TNI Ambassadors Meeting
July 8, 2025 – 2 pm Eastern

1. Roll Call

Steve Arms (Advocacy Chair), Paul Junio (scribe/Ambassador), Jerry Parr (staff), as well as Ambassadors Sheela Agrawal, Devon Morgan, and Lily Sanchez (joined after the meeting had started) were present. Steve called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM Eastern.

2. Reports from Ambassadors

Paul Junio, Wisconsin

Nothing new in terms of laboratory accreditation – the program is in a stable state at the moment. Paul forwarded the Proposed Revision of FoPT Tables regarding Chlordane to Wisconsin DNR to make sure they were aware of the issue. The issue might be a good one to use to start a conversation, if needed. The link is - <https://www.nelac-institute.org/news.php?id=5697>

Paul added details on the size/status of the Wisconsin program. Certified (commercial) labs are at slightly over 100, while Registered (not for contract testing) labs are slightly over 200. Audits are on a roughly every three year schedule. The program has lost its 2 most experienced auditors in the last year, and is facing a hiring backlog to replace the most recent departure.

Devon Morgan, Nevada

There's no regular contact with Nevada, mostly during audits or at the conference. They are building their staffing levels. Staff is young and will need training. Currently, audits are on about a 2.5 year cycle and they're supposed to be every 2 years. They are very open to discussions on methods. They've broached a cost increase, but small labs have expression opposition.

Sheela Agrawal, Ohio

Not much is new. She does have periodic contact with OH EPA. She sends the Newsletters as they are released, but doesn't get many questions. In-state DW labs are certified, not wastewater labs. Out of state labs are allowed. Ohio VAP is the hazardous waste program, which was in a different Department. There no longer is accreditation – TNI or other accreditations are accepted.

Lily Sanchez, California

Other than the “-2”, ELAP is up to par with TNI. What else is there to do? An assessor said that smaller labs in state are in need of help to comply. Should that go to ELAP and/or is that a correct assessment? Jerry mentioned the Mentor Program, which has mostly gone defunct. Sheela asked who gets notifications if a request were made. Jerry

will look into that so that there's not information that is lost. Potentially it would fall on staff (Jerry and Paul) in a starting point.

3. Jerry presented the following from the draft TNI Strategic Plan as items that would affect Advocacy:

- | | | | |
|-------|---|----------|--------|
| 1.2.5 | Encourage NELAP ABs to accept an assessment conducted by a TNI-recognized third party assessor body and/or NGAB as appropriate. | Advocacy | Medium |
| 1.2.6 | Explore implementing the updated vision for NELAP. * | Advocacy | High |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Investigate why there are two-tier programs in NELAP states and seek consensus on a new approach.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Identify those items in TNI standard that do not add value.○ Educate assessors on how to implement the requirements “rachet down the insanity”– Work with NELAP ABs to require accreditation for all laboratories.– Work with EPA OGWDW to amend Part 142 to allow for NGABs. Improve DW certification class to increase assessor pool.– Work with non-NELAP states to encourage them to become an AB. How many labs | | |

As it relates to Advocacy, if a push or suggestion were made to let 'someone else' handle laboratory accreditation, how would it affect TNI? NGABs all offered that they don't have sufficient DW accreditation resources due to EPA's handling of the Certification Officer Training, as it may not be easy to get into and is only offered once per year. This is a difficult item for TNI to deal with at the moment as many of the contacts that we have have retired due to Government buy-outs. Devon asked what would happen if a program decided to leave it up to someone else – what about staff? Jerry pointed out that EPA requires that each state have a DW Certification Officer, nothing more than that. There's nothing to be done yet, but this is information for the future (possibly).

4. Adjourn / Next Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 2:43 PM Eastern. The next regular quarterly meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 2:00 PM Eastern time.**

TNI Ambassadors

Alabama

TNI Ambassador: Heather Morgan

heather.morgan@allianceTG.com

California

TNI Ambassador: Lily Sanchez

Lsanchez@ocwd.com

Kentucky

TNI Ambassador: Zonetta English

zonetta.english@louisvillemsd.org

Missouri

TNI Ambassador: Ashley Larssen

Ashley.Larssen@pacelabs.com

Nevada

TNI Ambassador: Devon Morgan

dmorgan@cleanwaterteam.com

Northeast Region

TNI Ambassador: Mike Delaney

mike@mikedelaney.org

Ohio

TNI Ambassador: Sheela Agrawal

agrawals@neorsd.org

Tennessee

TNI Ambassador: Judy Morgan

judy.morgan@pacelabs.com

Wisconsin

TNI Ambassador: Paul Junio

paul.junio@pacelabs.com