

**TNI Credentials Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, September 24, 2025**

**1. Roll Call and Review of Agenda**

See Attachment 1. Agenda approved by Unanimous Consent

**2. Approval of August minutes**

Motion to approve: David  
Second: Theresa  
Vote: Unanimous

**3. Approval of Mei Beth Shephard as a Voting Member**

Mei Beth was approved as a voting member by Unanimous Consent.

**4. Review of Class Survey from the exam in St. Louis**

The committee reviewed the survey which is appended to these minutes.

**5. Review of St. Louis Exam Results**

The committee reviewed the information in Attachment 3.

**6. Planning for the QMS Exam in Boston on January 15, 2026**

The committee agreed the second exam should use the roughly 750-800 questions that have not been used previously in either the exam prep class or the exam in St. Louis. This new exam of 150 questions should be reviewed by volunteers from the committee or possibly by the 16 currently certified individuals.

**7. Continue with KSAs for Metals**

Using information generated by AI, the committee reviewed the KSAs to be included in Section 5.2.3. Since this information was not provided in the standard template, Jerry volunteered to take the document and reformat it for the October call

**Attachment 1  
Credentials Committee Roster**

NAME		EMAIL	AFFILIATION	CATEGORY	Present?
Paul	Banfer	<a href="mailto:paul.banfer@eisc.net">paul.banfer@eisc.net</a>	EISC	Other	
Kenneth	Brown	<a href="mailto:Kenneth.brown@escondido.gov">Kenneth.brown@escondido.gov</a>	City of Escondido	Lab	Yes
Paul	Canevero	<a href="mailto:PCanevaro@Republicservices.com">PCanevaro@Republicservices.com</a>	US Ecology Inc./ Republic Services	Lab	
Patricia	Carvajal	<a href="mailto:pmcarvajal@sariverauthority.org">pmcarvajal@sariverauthority.org</a>	San Antonio River Authority	Lab	Yes
Steve	Drielak	<a href="mailto:drielak-associates@usa.net">drielak-associates@usa.net</a>	Drielak & Associates	Other	
Stacey	Fry	<a href="mailto:Stacey.fry@cannabis.ca.gov">Stacey.fry@cannabis.ca.gov</a>	CA Dept. of Cannabis Control	Other	
Salima	Haniff	<a href="mailto:Salima.haniff@bvlabs.com">Salima.haniff@bvlabs.com</a>	Bureau Veritas Labs	Lab	
Harold	Longbaugh	<a href="mailto:Harold.Longbaugh@houston.tx.gov">Harold.Longbaugh@houston.tx.gov</a>	City of Houston	Lab	Yes
Theresa	Johnson	<a href="mailto:Theresa.Johnson@mccampbell.com">Theresa.Johnson@mccampbell.com</a>	McCampbell Analytical, Inc.	Lab	Yes
Melanie	Roshu	<a href="mailto:melanie.roshu@gmail.com">melanie.roshu@gmail.com</a>	Matrix Sciences International, Inc.	Lab	
Mei Beth	Shepherd	<a href="mailto:mbshep@sheptechserv.com">mbshep@sheptechserv.com</a>	Shepherd Technical Services	Other	
Joann	Slavin	<a href="mailto:joann.slavin@health.ny.gov">joann.slavin@health.ny.gov</a>	NY DOH	AB	
David	Smith	<a href="mailto:david.smith@antylia.com">david.smith@antylia.com</a>	Environmental Express	Other	
Alfredo	Sotomayor	<a href="mailto:asotomayor@mmsd.com">asotomayor@mmsd.com</a>	Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewer District	Lab	Yes
Elizabeth	Turner	<a href="mailto:Elizabeth.turner@pacelabs.com">Elizabeth.turner@pacelabs.com</a>	Pace Labs, Inc.	Lab	
<b>Staff:</b>					
Jerry	Parr	<a href="mailto:Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org">Jerry.parr@nelac-institute.org</a>	Program Administrator		Yes
<b>Guest:</b>					
Mei Beth	Shepherd	<a href="mailto:mbshep@sheptechserv.com">mbshep@sheptechserv.com</a>	Shepherd Technical Services	Other	

## **8. Attachment 2. Class Survey from the exam in St. Louis**

### **Do you think the exam was fair? 4.3/5**

- Some questions a bit ambiguous, but within acceptable limits for first time exam/

### **Did the questions fully cover the role of a QMS Professional? 4.4/5**

### **Did the proctor act professionally? 4.9/5**

- Ken was great!

### **Why did you sign up for this exam?**

1. Find value in having credentials
2. To become certified as a QMS professional for career advancement and professional development.
3. Many reasons, mainly to prove to myself I am qualified for my role & can excel in all situations.
4. I feel this is a valuable credential and demonstrates a commitment to function as a quality professional to the highest standard.
5. Mostly curiosity.
6. To see what areas I need to work on.
7. To confirm my knowledge of the standards and have it documented by someone other than my opinion.
8. To broaden horizons and expand career opportunities.
9. My manager encouraged me for professional development.
10. Professional development and knowledge/skills test.
11. To develop myself professionally.
12. I am a lab tech pursuing a QA officer position and would like to have this credential to show my capability to fulfill that position.
13. To further develop my skills, add the weight of certification to my position, and become more involved.
14. Professional development.
15. Boost my resume; my work was willing to pay for it. I like taking tests!
16. Knowledge.

### **What suggestions do you have for improving the exam process?**

1. Remove the ambiguity/conditionality in some of the questions.
2. Make it online so that physical presence at the TNI meeting is not required. (ABs do not approve all travel requests, especially out of state.) Having a fee for the exam is a given and acceptable.
3. A simple study guide.
4. This would be difficult to implement, would provide a structural? sectional? judgment questions (similar to SHRM certification) for robust qualifications assessment.
5. Able to start subject matter immediately after Part II.

6. 10-15 questions in microbiology impossible to be representative of the scope.
7. There were several questions that could have different answers based on the matrix (e.g., drinking water) and the matrix was not specified.
8. Check for typos and make sure words make sense in questions.
9. Some of the questions were not clear or fair – these seemed to be multiple answers possible for some questions.
10. Some questions could be worded better.
11. Re-read questions in bank for clarity, grammar, and spelling. Review the formatting of the exam. One question had one answer on another page.
12. Need to be able to clarify questions. Some were not worded the best. Need more power outlets to charge laptops.

More thorough review of the questions. Some did not have unequivocal answers and some were worded strangely. Have larger margin at the top so staple does not obscure question. Let attendees take exam in one chunk so they do not have to sit and wait for others to finish. Tell attendees they cannot use a search engine since AI provides the top results.

### **Attachment 3- Certified Environmental Laboratory Quality Management System Professionals**

The individuals listed below all passed a comprehensive examination on August 8, 2025 and have earned the right to be considered a certified professional for environmental laboratory quality management systems for the scientific areas delineated in the table. Of the 150+ questions in the exam, the average score was 88% and the range 76-94%. These individuals have an average of 21 years of experience in environmental analyses and quality assurance. 15 of the 16 had college degrees in science, but one individual with only a high school degree scored very well.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Certified for</b>
Jennifer Bauman	City of Olathe	Chemistry and Microbiology
Alison Boren	Vermont Department of Health	Chemistry and Microbiology
Jenny Cahoon	Legend Technical Services	Chemistry and Microbiology
Alexander Chieh	San Jose-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater	Chemistry, Microbiology and Whole Effluent Toxicity
Scott Giatpaiboon	Irvine Ranch Water District	Chemistry
Salima Haniff	Bureau Veritas Laboratories	Chemistry and Microbiology
Ashley Jesernik	MWRDGC	Chemistry
Bina Kapoor	Las Virgenes Municipal Water District	Chemistry and Microbiology
Ashley Malchow	Microbac Laboratories	Microbiology
Heather Morgan	Alliance Technical Group	Chemistry
Charles Morrow	SPL Laboratories	Chemistry and Microbiology
Fred Norris	City of Garland	Chemistry and Microbiology
Matt Sowards	ACZ Laboratories, Inc.	Chemistry and Radiochemistry
Prasad Subbanna	Tennessee DEC	Chemistry, Microbiology, and

Kate Verbeten  
Virginia Zusman

NEW Water  
Metiri Group

Radiochemistry  
Chemistry and Microbiology  
Chemistry and Microbiology

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