

**NEFAP Executive Committee (NEFAP EC)
Field Activities Expert Committee (FAC)
Meeting Summary
January 9, 2023**

1. Roll call:

Tracy Szerszen, NEFAP EC Chair, called the combined meeting to order on January 9, 2023, at 1:40pm Central. Attendance is included in Attachment A - there were 9 NEFAP EC voting members present and 9 FAC members present. There were about 20 conference attendees present in the room.

NEFAP Voting Members Present: Patrick Selig, Tracy Szerszen (Chair)

On Webex: David Fricker, Justin Brown, Katie Strothman, Kevin Holbrooks, Kim Watson, Paul Bergeron (Vice-Chair), Jeremy Driver

FAC Voting Members Present: Patrick Selig, Jack Denby

On Webex: David Fricker, Jeremy Driver, Marlene Moore (Vice-Chair), Scott Haas (Chair), Tyler Sullens, Shannon Swantek, Elizabeth West

2. Field Standards Update

Scott provided an information on the status of the Field Standards update. Volume 2 is just about done. Sampling is a very important part of testing results. Without a good sample, you can't produce a good result.

The AB portion of the TNI Lab Standard was used to help prepare Volume 2 (AB Standard) of the Field Standard.

Ilona summarized the process for updating TNI Standards.

There have been comments that the Standard may not have enough substance. Tracy introduced the concept of modules.

- Comment: All geographic areas are different, so this impacts how samples are taken. They need to be performance based when collecting representative samples. She reviewed Quality Assurance Plans - they required that all records in the field be done in indelible ink. Wisconsin said they have to use pencil. Ink freezes in Wisconsin. Need to be sure you don't get into so much detail they can't be used.
- Marlene: One thing added to the Volume 1 Standard is a Sampling Plan. It is different across the country for the same medium. Need to develop sampling events. We have tried to include this in the Standard.

- Modules were discussed - there are no two states that do things the same way. It would be difficult to implement something like this. Difficult like method checklists. There are differences.
- ISO is coming out with lots of documents. EPA is also coming out with new sampling documents.
- The Standards need to get completed and then the Committee can look at other things to work on.
- GW, DW, WW, Soil, Tissue, etc ...
- Jerry Parr gave FL examples
- Cleaning decontamination procedures
Detergents can cause problems, etc ...
- Generic requirements.
Equipment needs to be cleaned.
- Marlene re-emphasized that the plan is the important. The project will dictate what needs to be done.
- The Committee tried to put SCOPE and certificate procedures together earlier, but backed off of Module at that point because more detail was needed.
- Need to demonstrate to the assessor that you have a process on how you developed the sampling plan. Now this is being required in the Standard.
- Patrick Selig - adding a lot more detail borders on adding methods and that is not appropriate.
- Louisiana recognizes NGAB NEFAP Accreditation. NEFAP helps fill in the gaps.
- Comment: LDEQ does not require NEFAP. Testing can still apply to LDEQ directly. Paul confirmed this. TNI checklist will be used if they apply directly, but they will accept the FSMO accreditation also.
- DoD will not require it. No interest from EPA. No interest from State Agency. Board asking about future of this program. He thinks if you make the Standard different and add value - it will take this to make it viable.
- There didn't used to be driver to environmental labs either. PFAS and other events might help . It has been decades since we have been doing this ... may not be the same? Is it worth the investment of TNI's time and other resources. There have been sampling fiasco's that have not pushed the needle.
- Need to be ready when it is coming. Need will come. It will take one event pointing to Sampling to get things going and we need to get ready.

- Why isn't TNI moving forward in their lab program to do more in sampling. "Sample collection has not been done by an accredited organization". Could you badge samplers? Credentialing and competency badges?
- Continuing to support it is not the problem - but are we spinning our wheels. Is it a viable program? And what can we do to make it a viable program.
- Katie - different sampling programs are different but need back bone. People need help on how to prepare sampling plans.
- Patrick - Instead of a Standard - producing guidelines instead of Standard. Maybe some "you may" instead of "you must".

BREAK

- Action item for FAC to look at modules after the Standard is completed. Pick one topic as a pilot program and see if is doable.

3. Virtual Sampling Conclave

TNI is planning a virtual Sampling Conclave early June and are starting to work on the Agenda. ASTM is looking at doing something similar.

- Maybe split between a few days? Easier for people to attend.
- Kind of hard to do it together, but collaboration would be good too.
- Brainstorm possible speakers:
 - o See if ASTM would give a presentation? Jerry will be the liaison with this group.
 - o Adding USGS to the presenter list - lots of water procedures for sampling.
 - o Florida - feedback
 - o CA - Waterboards - maybe have a
 - o Jerry reach out to DoD and DoE.
 - o Paul Jackson - Pace - Sampling
 - o CA Dept of Public Health
 - o APHL
 - o Covid?

- Shannon - Cannabis
- NCASI - National Council for Air and Stream Improvement - Pulp and paper industry group.
- Gas Processors Association.
- American Association for State Highway
- Joe Grice -
- Petroleum Companies
- What are some of the horror stories - John Moorman
- Lessons learned. - Gary Ward - Cannabis
- Environmental Crimes Page - EPA - Paul Bergeron
- Flint Michigan, University of Virginia broke the story - bad sampling.
- Military bases - Pearl Harbor?
- Engineering Firms
- PFAS Lab Sampling Perspective - Justin. Volunteered.
- Anything involving PFAS has good attendance right now. Michigan would be a good speaker for PFAS day. Wisconsin too.
- ITRC - inter state regulatory technology council
- Interim sampling within the lab. Important to DoD.
- Need to find lead for effort.
- EPA - DW and WW
- Air maybe

Administrative Tasks:

- Put flyer together - invite
- Contact potential speakers.
- Put timing together.
- Pick a week and put afternoons together - 12-3 Eastern?
- Put Agenda together.

Dates: June 6-8, 2023

Staff:

Jan

William

Ilona

Conclave Chair - Tracy Szerszen

Board Approval - 2nd Wed in February.

Possible Vendors

- Geotechnical
- LaMatte
- Cole Parmer
- Carolina Environmental
- Hanna Enviro
- Solinst
- Forestry Supplies
- QED
- YSI
- HACH

Maybe do a Technology Showcase?

4. Upcoming Conferences

FSEA - Asking for presenters this week. Paul, Silky, Mike Shepperd
Tracy will give Paul Junio some slides to add to the back of his NELAP update.
slides to add to the back of the NELAP update.

5. FAC Working Meeting

Scott spent the last 30 minutes summarizing changes that have been worked on in the
FAC Standard (FSMO Volume 1)

Make sure there are no findings related to health and safety.

Be careful about Notes. Notes are not requirements.

Adjourn – 5pm Central