

NEFAP Executive Committee (NEFAP EC)
Meeting Summary
December 6, 2022

1. Roll call:

Tracy Szerszen, Chair, called the NEFAP Executive Committee to order on December 6, 2022 at 11:15am Eastern. Attendance is included in Attachment A - there were 5 NEFAP EC committee members present and 1 Associate member.

2. TNI Board Meeting

Tracy met with the TNI Board of Directors during their November meeting and presented an update on NEFAP (see Attachment D).

Tracy and Jerry talked after the Board meeting and Jerry is planning to request the Board provide an increased budget. He would like to have a field conference instead of a workshop/presentation at NEMC. This could be done in the Spring virtually. DoD and EPA people would be asked to do presentations in addition to other speakers. There would be a charge for the conference. Ilona announced this during the FAC meeting yesterday and there was enthusiasm for this. Marlene is willing to help organize the conference.

Jerry wanted Tracy to share this with the NEFAP EC to see if there would be support for a conference/conclave. Patrick agrees it would be a great opportunity and there was general support.

Jerry thinks the Field Standard needs to be expanded. Ilona talked to him yesterday and provided an update on the Field Activities Expert Committee. The FAC is hoping to be voting on a DRAFT Standard in February/March. Then it will be cleaned up for posting as a DRAFT Standard and preparation of a summary of changes.

Initial thoughts are a 6-hour conference. Topics need to be determined and pricing can be discussed.

Tracy asked that people start thinking about speaker and subject ideas. Can possibly have EPA talk about PFAS sampling. Need ideas.

The Committee also needs to be thinking about a white paper on the difference between the Field Standard and ISO/IEC 17025.

3. SOPs

Elizabeth is working on an update to SOP 5-101 (NEFAP Executive Committee General Operations). This SOP needs to be updated because there are some procedures in the Nomination SOP that is being eliminated that need to be transferred to the General Operations SOP. Tracy will check with Elizabeth on progress so this can be finalized, and the Committee can vote on new Committee members.

SOP 1-101 (Operation of TNI Committees) and SOP 1-102 (Voting Rules for TNI Committees) need to be incorporated into SOP 5-101.

4. Input on Module 2 of the Environmental Laboratory Standard

Jerry liked the idea of sending comments to the QMS Expert Committee to add information about NEFAP. Tracy asked if Patrick could help with this language. Language will be drafted and Ilona will help get it to the QMS Expert Committee.

Patrick and Tracy could consider adding language about risk of not using an accredited FSMO or maybe something under the supplier contractor section.

5. New Business

None.

6. Action Items

Action items are maintained in the Action Summary Table.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 9 2023 at 1:30pm Central by teleconference and in person in San Antonio, TX. This will be a joint NEFAP and FAC meeting. *(Addition: The Committee decided to go ahead and have the regularly scheduled meeting on December 21, 2022 at 1pm Eastern.)*

Tracy adjourned the meeting at 11:50 am Eastern.

Attachment A

TNI NEFAP Executive Committee

Members	Affiliation	Balance	Contact Information
Justin Brown (FSMO) (2023*) Absent	EMT	FSMO/Lab	jbrown@emt.com
Tracy Szerszen (AB) Chair Present	PJ Laboratory Accreditation, Inc.	AB	tszerszen@pjlabs.com
Paul Bergeron (2023) Vice-Chair Present	LELAP	Other	Paul.bergeron@la.gov
David Fricker (AB) Absent	A2LA	AB	dfricker@A2LA.org
Kelly Krock (2021*) Absent	EPA	Other	krock.kelly@epa.gov
Elizabeth Turner (2022*) Absent	Pace	Lab/FSMO	Elizabeth.Turner@pacelabs.com
Jeremy Driver (2024) Absent	Alabama Power Company	FSMO	jddriver@southernco.com
Jacob Gruzalski (2024) Present	Environmental Standards Inc./Vitale Scientific Associates, LLC	FSMO	jgruzalski@envstd.com
Pamela Hamlett (2024) Absent	US Air Force/DoD	Other	pamela.hamlett@us.af.mil
Patrick Selig (AB) Present	ANAB	AB	pselig@anab.org
Stephanie Sparkman (2022*) Absent	CS Laboratories, Inc.	FSMO	ssparkman@cslaboratories.com
Ryan Pangelinan (2022*) Absent	Oregon Health Authority	Other	Ryan.pangelinan@dhsola.state.or.us
Kevin Holbrooks Absent	JEA	FSMO	holbke@jea.com
Kim Watson Absent	Consultant	Other	kwatson45@aol.com
Katie Strothman Present	Sanders Labs	Lab-FSMO	katie@sanderslabs.net
Ilona Taunton (Program Administrator) Present	The NELAC Institute		tauntoni@msn.com

Associate Members	Attendance	Contact Information
Marlene Moore		mmoore@advancedsys.com
John Moorman		jmoorma@sfwmd.gov

Scott Haas		shaas@etilab.com
Shannon Swantek		shannon@enlightenedquality.com
Jeff Buystedt	X	jbuystedt@bendoregon.gov
Tyler Sullen		tasullen@southernco.com
Nilda Cox		nildacox@eurofinsus.com
Carl Kircher		Carl.Kircher@flhealth.gov

Attachment B

Action Items – NEFAP Executive Committee

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
39	Give Alternate name to Ilona.	All	Ongoing	Ongoing Continue to give to Ilona.
124	Send Presentation slides to committee members for review and comment. The slides will be used for future presentations about NEFAP.	Kirstin	10/15/13 Ilona forward by 5/2/17	4/10/15: Kim will follow-up on this. 12/11/15: Sent last week. 4/24/17 – Ilona will forward Jerry’s presentation for review to the committee. 6/19/19 – John will send his presentation to Kirstin and this will be discussed in July and possibly shared in Jacksonville.
158	Review new FSMO Tool documents for issues with “should”, “shall”, confirm that additional requirements are not being imposed and look for possible AB conflicts.	Kirstin	3/5/15 TBD	12/11/15: Ilona will resend them to Doug so he can prepare comments by Tulsa. SENT REMINDER 6/19/19: Schedule time to look at these documents.
164	Review White Paper.	Kirstin/Tracy	4/30/15 TBD	12/11/15: Justin will review it and send it to Kim working on for something in 2017.

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
				4/24/17: Kim rewrote it and will send it to Justin for final review before sending to the committee. 9/20: Kim will look for it and send to Kirstin. Kirstin will reach out to Kim. 6/19/19: Kirstin will reach out to Justin to get a copy.
195	Re-do “Why NEFAP?” videos.	Shawn	TBD	Look at Janis video.
207	Call Zaneta and Michelle about need and process for testimonials.	Shawn/ Tracy	TBD	Shawn
217	Update Jerry’s NEFAP presentation and send back to NEFAP EC for final approval as a template.	Kirstin	TBD	Kirstin will look at Jerry’s version and the old presentation. See #124
221	Discuss with Advocacy the possibility of California using the NEFAP Standard for field and mobile lab accreditation.	Shawn	TBD	
223	Update Strategic Plan document for review by committee.	Shawn	10/17/17 9/19 Meeting	6/19/19: Shawn and Justin expect to have a strawman in August.
227	Provide comments on the 2014 Standard to FAC.	TBD	April 2019	In Progress 10/15/19: Scott – How do we make the Standard more value added. Scott will

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
				present status next meeting. Kirstin will add a review of 2014 Standard to December meeting.
244	Update Comments on Scope Guidance Document and resend to FAC.	Kirstin	TBD	In Progress 10/15/19: FAC is waiting for this before they decide how it will fold into the new Standard. Paul will be asking the NEFAP EC to review a spreadsheet on their next call to address Scope – they are coming at it from a different direction. They are moving forward without the input, but would rather have this. Kirstin noted that there has been feedback that we were getting too detailed. Focus during November call. Kirstin will recirculate it before next call.
246	Review possible impact/opportunity of the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 that was signed into law on October 23, 2018.	Norman	June 2020	Kevin – most effective dates are 2020/2021. EPA has to decide how to make it happen. Ilona will send

	Action Item	Who	Expected Completion	Actual Completion
				reminder to Norman.

262	Present Status of New Standard in November. See action item 227.	Scott	11/20/19	
263	Present Scope ideas from the Task Force. Kirstin will distribute current version of Scope document before the next meeting. See action item 244.	Paul, Kirstin	11/19/19	
267	Update SOP 5-103 per Policy Committee comments and addition of vacancy procedure.	Elizabeth Kevin	2022 – 3 rd quarter	2/16/22: Justin is working on this for the next meeting. 5/18/22: Tracy is putting this SOP on hold. She would like Elizabeth and Kevin to update it as they go through the Nomination process this year.
276	Update Policy 7-100.	Ilona	TBD	
284	Conduct email vote to finalize new Charter.	Justin	11-19-21	Done
286	Develop 2022 Nomination Committee and add membership to the Committee.	Elizabeth	TBD	Elizabeth will Chair the Nomination Committee
287	SOP 5-101 needs to be updated to include information that is still needed after the nomination SOP (5-103) is retired.	Elizabeth	9/15/22	
288	Tracy will resend website changes that are being requested to William and Jerry.	Tracy	8/15/22	Done
289	A Strategic Planning meeting will be in Crystal City on Thursday from 12-2pm Eastern.	All		Done.

Attachment C

Backburner / Reminders – NEFAP Executive Committee

	Item	Meeting Reference	Comments
4	Review Charter.	October 2020	
6	Evaluate how to handle adding additional ABs. Impact on committee size.	8-6-12	
9	Determine need for a policy or statement regarding the assessment of sampling.	4-22-13	
11	Form transition plan for implementation of new Field Standard when it is approved.	1-17-18	




TNI National Environmental Field Activities Program-NEFAP-Future

**Tracy Szerszen, NEFAP EC Chair
TNI Board Meeting 11/9/2022**





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Should NEFAP be Dissolved?

- During the October 2022 TNI Board Meeting the NEFAP EC was requested to evaluate what it would like if NEFAP were dissolved
- 11/2 NEFAP EC members met and provided feedback as detailed in this presentation



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History 2022-YTD

- In 2020 NEFAP EC was requested by the TNI Board to develop a strategic plan for growth that included metrics.
- Sub-committees were developed to discuss marketing and training activities
- Training events were developed in 2021-2022
- Multiple marketing efforts were done: website, surveys, white paper, social media, efforts to contact state interest and regulators

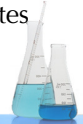


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Other work of NEFAP EC

- The NEFAP EC also worked on new/combined procedures and forms for recognition of NEFAP ABs and PTPAs
- General SOPS –voting and nomination
- Strategic plan, quarterly board updates/metrics
- Feedback to the FAC on standard updates




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NEFAP Facts

- Field sampling and measurement is a critical component of the testing process.
- Having an accreditation program of FSMOs helps to ensure accuracy in test results, data etc.
- FSMOs have no formal accreditation program available to them except state specific, regulator specific except TNI NEFAP
- No formal AB program exists; ILAC does not qualify an AB for sampling; it's included in their testing MRA qualification
- TNI is a leader in this industry




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NEFAP –Feedback from Regulator-LDEQ

- LDEQ utilizes NEFAP and its recognition program to accredit samplers. This recognition program has assisted LDEQ with resource issues and has provided them the assurance that samplers are competent per their requirements.
- LDEQ successfully used accredited data from stack and engine testers to demonstrate that it was in compliance with a consent decree to lower the concentrations of NOx, CO, CO2 and other engine emissions in attainment zones.
- LDEQ may consider with approval of LA Executive Management to join TNI NEFAP as an AB

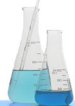


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Concerns with dissolving NEFAP

- TNI and TNI FSMO Standard Use
 - The TNI FSMO Vol 1 standard will not be as valuable
 - TNI FSMO Vol 2 for ABs would be obsolete
 - Promoting the standard would be a harder sell to regulators, industry etc.
 - This would be the only standard TNI offers that would no longer have a recognition program. This may result in questioning whether TNI should have recognition criteria for other programs if NEFAP is dispensable
 - If the program was removed and the need for sampling accreditation is needed; TNI may have to start over




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Concerns with dissolving NEFAP

- Labs/FSMOS/Industry
 - Accredited labs will continue to be blamed for poor sample collection activities
 - NEFAP accredits an organization and not each individual location. In NELAP each location is accredited. Organizations do not get accreditation for lab and sampling.
 - NEFAP serves as a deterrent to improper sampling practices i.e. fraud elimination of NEFAP removes the deterrent.
 - Data of known and documented quality from accredited environmental labs will not ever be possible without a standard for sample collection organizations
 - Provide services requested by clients and govt agencies – No standard of performance for field sampling and testing organizations
 - Reduce litigation of sample collection activities with management requirements for FSMO




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Concerns with dissolving NEFAP

- Accreditation Bodies
 - If recognition for NEFAP is removed, LDEQ will be forced to restrict its accreditation to primary accreditation only and modify its procedures to address the increased workload.
 - May have inconsistency among the accreditation bodies that would continue to use the standard. Inconsistent application of the standards between the ABs and the FSMOS.
 - Customer Driven- if customers want it, the standard will be used; if not ... then 17025 will be utilized or Louisiana Code
 - May have current accreditation bodies no longer use the standard at all and just use ISO/IEC 17025:2017




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Benefits if NEFAP was dissolved

- Less cost for the participating accrediting bodies
- Less cost for TNI regarding administrative expenses – meeting support and AB evaluations
- ABs, NEFAP EC members, and TNI staff resources can be used elsewhere



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Alternative - Shift NEFAP to other Committees

- Board conducts recognition similar to what has been done to date with the TNI Standard Recognition?
- Current NEFAP Marketing members have a spot in Advocacy Committee
- Current NEFAP Training have a spot in TNI Training Committee




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Retain NEFAP

- 2023 focus each meeting on marketing and training
- It must be a goal to get 1-2 regulatory mandates for the standard
- The standard is being updated with specific FSMO criteria. This will assist with promoting the standard to regulators and FSMOS in lieu of 17025 alone and allow for more training events.
- NEFAP EC would like to propose that the TNI Quality System Committee add language requiring NEFAP.

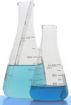


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Summary


- In summary, having an accreditation program with oversight (recognition) is critical. The standards being utilized during assessments must be used in a consistent manner by ABs, otherwise they lose their value. Recognition such as NEFAP guarantees consistency and assurance to regulators.
- The NEFAP EC has made improvements on most goals and work is being done. We want to continue promoting this program. We finally have consistent activity being done and starting to see interest e.g. FL DEP, Chile Gov't Requirements
- In the opinion of the NEFAP EC, the concerns of removing the program outweigh the benefits.



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Question/Comments



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