NSF 49 Steering committee meeting minutes for October 18, 2022

Location: ABSA Conference at the Milwaukee Conference Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

In attendance: Leah Pollard (Chairman), Cary Binder, Bill Peters, David S. Phillips (Phone), Dennis Miller (phone), Marc Miller, Todd Urton (phone), Kyle Mulder, Brent Griffith, Stephen Dahl, Eduardo Gomez-Saladin (phone).

Meeting came to order at 12:15 PM CDT on October 18th with Leah Pollard (L.P.) from NSF reading the NSF Antitrust statement. All attendees verbally agreed to abide by the Antitrust statement.

Leah announced the availability of NSF Connect for everyone that is NSF Accredited. NSF Connect offers field certifiers the option to pay online, access the current version of NSF/ANSI 49 and the accreditation policies. L.P. announced that payments via credit card can be made using the link provided on the agenda. The link to NSF Bill trust is: https://secure2.billtrust.com/nsfinternational/ig/one-time-payment.

Personal introductions were made by each attendee.

L.P. announced the addition of a program new hire, Eliza Nejad, who took over most of the responsibilities of her predecessor. Eliza is on the product certification side of the program.

L.P. announced a new Practical exam testing site, Ace Labs Systems in St. Louis MO.

Bill Peters (B.P.) asked about the Decon test status. C.B. answered that only the paraformaldehyde method was approved for the exam and no choice is given to the examinees. S.D. is the chair of the committee and said it could not move forward based on legal liabilities. C.B. will check with the NSF Legal department for their opinion.

Marc Miller (M.M) asked why formaldehyde decon was chosen, and the general answer was that it represented all types of decons based the sealing of the BSC.

S.D. said his committee will wait on the response from the NSF Legal department.

B.P. asked about any practical exam changes and T.U. responded “none at this time”.

C.B. stated that the written exam is currently being revised and asked the attendees if they would like to volunteer by sending questions for NSF and Steering Committee members to review. Questions can be sent to L.P at lpollard@nsf.org.

K.M. asked if analytics were available in Questionmark which is the software NSF uses to generate and grade written examinations. L.P responded and said that Questionmark does offer analytics.

M.M. asked how to ask questions from the industry and L.P. replied to have questions sent to her or C.B.

M.M. and D.M. asked if the Field Certifier Accreditation program is also ANSI. C.B. and L.P. will inquire.

S.D. mentioned that NSF needs to do more advertising about the Field Certifier Accreditation Programs and education involving end users. B.P. suggested a QR code being placed on all new BSCs with a link to the NSF field certifier page on nsf.org. The link to the Enhanced Field Certifier webpage is: https://www.nsf.org/testing/health/biosafety-cabinetry/biosafety-cabinet-field-certifier-accreditation.

S.D. requested updates from the following be sent to the Steering Committee:
1) Updates made to the latest revision of NSF 49

2) NSF 49 Joint Committee minutes

3) Proctor meeting notes and to hold regular proctor meetings

C.B. and L.P. gave a verbal list of proctors for the Enhanced Program:

1. Cary Binder
2. Bob Jones
3. Y.K. Wan (Hong Kong)
4. Ron Bolesta
5. Todd Urton
6. Mark Lenart
7. Kimberly Coughlin (in training)

T.U. brought up concerns about a company offering a bounty of $10K to currently NSF Accredited field certifiers. C.B. said that this is not something that can be regulated by NSF and that it is beyond the responsibility of the Steering Committee.

D.M. responded that it is a free world but cares about the investment made in an employee for training and would like to be reimbursed by the companies for its poaching. C.B. and B.P. responded that it is up to the certification companies to have a contract with their employees detailing expected reimbursement for training if they don’t remain with the company for a period of time.

There was a general discussion on how to report complaints and the procedure involved. L.P. explained that NSF can’t do anything if an incident or complaint is not filed. Complaints should include evidence such as photos, videos, test reports, etc. The more evidence NSF has the better Quality Assurance (QA) can investigate claims. All complaints by field certifiers and end users can be sent to lpollard@nsf.org.

It was suggested that perhaps all accredited certifiers be required to put an NSF Mark with the accredited certifier’s unique number onto each certification sticker. C.B. said he would look into it.

B.P. motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:49 PM CDT, D.M. seconded, motion carried with no objections.

I respectfully submit these minutes for acceptance by the Steering Committee:

Signature: _______________________ Name/Affiliation: Cary R Binder / NSF Date 21-Oct-2022______