

**Community Advisory Council
February 14, 2002
Action Items/Notes**

Final

These notes are in the following order:

1. Attendance
2. Correspondence and Handouts
3. Quorum
4. Administrative, including budget update
5. Update on BMRR Fuel Shipment, Mark Parsons, Department of Energy
6. Peconic River Subcommittee Report
7. Background Information on Wetlands Remediation Pilot Study, Kevin Shaw, Project Manager OUV
8. Wetlands Restoration, Chris Pickerell, Cornell Cooperative Extension
9. Community Comment
10. Proposal re Quorum, Bruce Martin, CAC member
11. Risk Assessment, Skip Medeiros, Group Manager, OUV
12. March Agenda

1. Attendance:

Present:

Members- G. Campbell, R. Clipperton, B. Conklin, M. Giacomaro, H. Guthy, J. Heil, E. Kaplan, G. Proios, D. Sprintzen, T. Talbot, M. Walker.

Alternates- R. Biss, A. Graves, B. Henigin, J. McLoughlin, B. Martin, J. Minasi, P. Stephens, K. Timmins

Others- A. Carsten, J. Carter, J. Clodius, L. Cunniff, J. D'Ascoli, K. Geiger, P. Genzer, T. Green, K. Grigoletto, L. Hill, R. Hodgins, M. Holland, B. Keeler, M. Koch, S. Kumar, M. Losquadro, M. Lynch, S. Medeiros, L. Nelson, R. Paulsen, G. Penny, A. Queirolo, A. Rapiejko, S. Robbins, K. Shaw, K. White.

Absent:

Members- R. Amper, M. Barrett, A. Capozzi, M. Cohn, J. Corrarino, S. Cullen, A. Esposito, N. Essel, D. Fischler, J. Gibbons, A. Jones, J. Jordon-Sweet, J. Kassner, C. Kepert, J. Mannhaupt, P. Martino, C. Swenson, F. Towle, J. Tripp.

Alternates- S. Bail, S. Carlin, A. Cooley, K. Crowley, W. Evanzia, T. Guglielmo, L. Jacobson, R. Johannesen, G. Miglino, J. Pannullo, P. Pizzo, W. Prospect, K. Skinner, L. Snead.

2. Correspondence and Handouts

(Items 1 – 4 were mailed with a cover letter dated February 8, 2002. Items 5 - 7 were included in the folders, items 8 - 11 were available at the meeting as handouts.)

1. Draft agenda for February.
2. Draft notes for January.
3. Final December notes.

4. Copy of letter from Adrian Drake, Group for the South Fork.
5. Revised Agenda.
6. Copy of presentation by Mark Parsons, Update on BMRR Fuel Shipment.
7. Copy of presentation by Chris Pickerell, Wetlands Restoration.
8. Copy of information on Rauch Foundation grants.
9. Copy of proposed letter to the Rauch Foundation.
10. Presentation on Background Information on Wetlands Remediation Pilot Study by Kevin Shaw, Project Manager.
11. Presentation on Risk Assessment by Skip Medeiros, Group Manager, Peconic River.

3. Quorum

The meeting began at approximately 6:36 p.m. A quorum was not present at this time.

4. Administrative, including budget update.

The agenda was reviewed for changes or additions. Member Sprintzen asked to discuss the Rauch Foundation Grant noting that in the grant application there was a misstatement that he thought needed correcting. He also proposed developing a form to be used for press releases announcing CAC recommendations. These items were added to the end of the agenda for further discussion.

Budget

Mike Holland, Manager, Brookhaven Area Office gave an update on the DOE-EM budget. He said the President's budget request for fiscal year 2003 was made public on February 4. The Department of Energy's overall budget is \$21.9 billion. \$6.7 billion is earmarked for cleanup across the country in all of the DOE complexes. He stated that Secretary Abraham has made it clear that cleanup is a priority and that he believes that the cleanups should be done quicker, smarter, and cheaper. He's challenged the Department and the Office of Environmental Management to do that.

Holland spoke about the top to bottom review that the Office of Environmental Management has been doing for the past year. This review looks at the programs and activities within the Office of Environmental Management to get a sense of what the risks are across the country at all complexes that are involved in cleanup, how those risks can be addressed, and how those cleanup activities can be accomplished. There is a new model for the funding of environmental cleanups whereby sites will be funded at base level. For sites willing to agree to accelerated cleanup schedules, achievable milestones and meaningful performance measures, there will be an expedited cleanup fund of \$800 million available to be tapped into.

Holland thinks the Laboratory is in an excellent position to access the fund - the Laboratory already has a baseline that looks at the risks and puts them in priority as to how they should be addressed. The Lab has an accelerated schedule that completes the cleanup on site in Fiscal Year 2005. The schedule has meaningful and achievable milestones and there are performance measures in the contract with the Department of Energy. He explained that Brookhaven is one of the first sites to be reviewed and that a team would be arriving next week to take a look at the clean up program and baseline, the schedules, and the performance measures. Holland then introduced Matt Koch from the Office of Environmental Management who answered many questions from CAC members on the process, the schedule, and if there was a minimum level of money that could be obtained from the \$800 million. The CAC was encouraged to continue providing input to the budget process.

Deer Issue

Tim Green, Natural Resource Manager, informed the CAC of the sampling results received from the ongoing deer surveillance program for a road-kill deer recently tested. He reported that the deer had a higher than expected level of Cesium-137. The samples were validated for Cesium-137 at 21picocuries per gram, wet weight. He explained that this is approximately 3 times higher than any previously observed level. He said that the Lab is taking this very seriously, an investigation plan is being developed, and that he would return to update the CAC.

Action Item: A CAC member requested a soil map for cesium.

Minutes

The minutes from the January 10 CAC meeting were approved with no changes. Motion was made by member Kaplan and seconded by member Minasi. There were two abstentions.

5. Update on BMRR Fuel Shipment, Mark Parsons, Department of Energy

Mark Parsons, BMRR Project Manager, gave an update on the proposed spent fuel shipment from the Medical Reactor to a national storage site. After giving a brief history of the facility, he discussed the shipment of the remaining spent fuel elements. Parsons described how the shipment will be completed, the casks that will be used, and where the fuel was going. He said that the building would then be put into a transitional phase.

6. Peconic River Subcommittee Report

Subcommittee member Conklin gave a brief report. He said that he had been out in the field and taken a series of pictures that were passed around so the CAC members could see the area that was to be discussed later in the meeting as part of the Wetlands Remediation Pilot Study. He stated that the committee would continue to report back to the CAC on their meetings.

7. Background Information on Wetlands Remediation Pilot Study, Kevin Shaw, Project Manager OUV

Kevin Shaw gave background information on the project. He reported that the comments of the Peconic River Working Group and the subcommittee had been incorporated into the work plans. He said that a re-vegetation plan was being developed, that discussions had taken place with staff members from the DEC Bureau of Habitat, and the requirement that a wetlands equivalency permit be secured in order to do the construction was being complied with. He described how the site would be prepared, how the sediment would be removed, and how it would be handled after it was removed. He stated that the success of the project depended on several key elements including planning and continued input from the contractor and Working Group.

8. Wetlands Restoration, Chris Pickerell, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Chris Pickerell talked about the theories of wetlands restoration. He discussed the four components - wetland hydrology, soil and sediment, vegetation, and wildlife. He described how they are interdependent on one another and how important it is to consider their associations in a restoration project. He talked about establishing goals and using a reference site as a model for designing the restoration and for monitoring success. He said it should be determined if the objective was to just restore the wetland as it was, or to improve the site. He pointed out that aerial photographs could be used to determine what the site historically looked like. He said

that invasive plant species could drive the design because you have to worry about not inviting them back. He discussed the advantages of using local plants and said that in some cases plants had to be protected from wildlife while they became established.

CAC members asked many detailed questions about the time line for the project, the vegetation that was to be removed, the amount of sediment to be removed, the dewatering site and process, the work plan and the re-vegetation plan.

9. Community Comment

There were no comments from the community.

10. Proposal re Quorum, Bruce Martin, CAC member

CAC member Bruce Martin presented a resolution to the group addressing the issue of quorum. The proposed resolution offered was "*Quorums for transacting CAC business at a regular meeting shall be based on the number of members who have been represented either at the current meeting or at any of the three preceding meetings.*" The need to change the existing criteria of 55% of the total membership was debated as well as adjusting the percentage required for a quorum, and requiring different quorums for different types of votes. It was decided that members Biss and Martin would rework the proposal and report back at the next meeting.

Action Item: Distribute copies of the By-Laws to Biss and Martin.

11. Risk Assessment, Skip Medeiros, Group Manager, OUV

Skip gave an overview of the Peconic River Risk Assessment. He discussed the project status, its purpose, and the parameters that are under consideration to be used to determine the risk. Skip explained the role of risk assessment in establishing cleanup goals. He said it is used to achieve cleanup goals within regulatory risk guidelines, as a tool to delineate uncertainties, to provide baseline doses under different scenarios, and to meet regulatory and community expectations and obligations. The risk assessment protocols are expected to be completed in February, the complete report is expected in March/April, and the preliminary remediation goals are expected to be set in March/April. CAC members asked questions about pathways and wildlife.

12. March Agenda

- Counter-terrorism Research (April)
- Update on deer sample
- Review re-vegetation plan
- Letter to the Rauch Foundation
- Update on BGRR
- OUIII
- Environmental Surveillance (April)
- Change in quorum