

Community Advisory Council
June 14, 2001
Action Items/Notes

FINAL

These notes are in the following order:

1. Attendance
2. Quorum
3. Correspondence and handouts
4. Administrative
5. Energy and Environment Forum Discussion
6. Historical Emissions Report
7. Community comment
8. Presentation on the RHIC, Tim Hallman, Physics Department
9. Overview of Cleanup Activities, Les Hill, Director, Environmental Management
10. SCDHS Discussion
11. July agenda

1. Attendance:

Present:

Members- R. Amper, R. Clipperton, B. Conklin, S. Cullen, A. Esposito, N. Essel, J. Gibbons, H. Guthy, J. Heil, J. Hurst, J. Mannhaupt, G. Proios, D. Spritzen, T. Talbot, M. Walker.

Alternates- R. Biss, A. Graves, A. Martin, J. McLoughlin.

Others- P. Bond, J. Clodius, F. Crescenzo, L. Cunniff, T. Hallman, B. Howe, W. Lieneck, C. Lilimpakis, M. Lilimpakis, M. Lynch, J. H. Marburger, S. Medeiros, G. Penny, F. Petschauer, A. Rapiejko, J. Rohlf, G. VanSickle, K. White.

Absent:

Members: M. Barrett, G. Campbell, A. Capozzi, M. Cohn, J. Corrarino, A. Drake, D. Fischler, M. Giacomaro, A. Jones, J. Jordan-Sweet, J. Kassner, C. Kepert, P. Martino, M. Shea, C. Swenson, F. Towle, J. Tripp.

Alternates: S. Bail, S. Carlin, A. Cooley, K. Crowley, W. Evanzia, J. Gindrod, T. Guglielmo, B. Henigin, L. Jacobson, R. Johannesen, E. Kaplan, G. Miglino, J. Minasi, J. Pannullo, P. Pizzo, W. Prospect, K. Skinner, L. Snead, P. Stephens, K. Timmins.

2. Quorum

The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was established when 18 of the 32 member organizations were present.

3. Correspondence and Handouts: (Items 1 – 5 were mailed with a cover letter dated June 8, 2001. Items 6 – 9 were included in the folders, item 10 was available as a handout.)

1. Draft agenda for June;
2. Final approved notes of the April 12, 2001 meeting;
3. Draft May notes;

4. Proceedings Summary – Peconic River Remedial Alternatives Workshop, dated May 24, 2001;
5. Resumes for the candidates for the SCDHS scientific expert panel;
6. Draft agenda June, Revision 1;
7. Overview of Cleanup Activities, presentation by Les Hill, Director, Environmental Management;
8. Memo to CAC members from Jim Hurst re: Change of representative;
9. Action Item 99-51, letter of May 26, 2001 from Barry Allen, Chairman, Clean Cities of Greater Long Island approving award under Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality program;
10. Radiological Emissions and Environmental Monitoring for BNL, 1947 – 1961, Final Report May 2001.

4. Administrative

A request was made to move the discussion on the Energy and Environment Forum to the beginning of the agenda.

The notes of the May 10 meeting were approved with the following corrections: the discussion of the SCDHS grant request should include mention that the BER had taken a vote and were writing a letter of support, the request for an earlier community comment period should be moved to the discussion of the June agenda, and absent members and alternates should be listed. There was one abstention.

Richard Amper announced that the Governor signed a bill into law on June 14 that clarifies the ambiguous language in the last referendum on purchasing land under the County's Drinking Water Protection program. He said that the issue on borrowing against the revenue stream was resolved by the new legislation and that purchases will continue and acquisitions will now proceed as they did from 1988 to 1999.

Jeanne D'Ascoli directed the CAC's attention to the Memo in their folders concerning the departure of member Jim Hurst. He was acknowledged for his contribution and wished well. Ed Kaplan will replace him as the Friends of Brookhaven representative beginning with July's meeting.

Reed Hodgin reminded the CAC that they did not have a quorum last August and asked if they wanted to eliminate the meeting for that month this year. It was agreed that there would be no meeting in August. The motion was made by A. Esposito and seconded by D. Spritzen.

5. Energy Forum Discussion

Kathleen Whitley summarized the progress and goals of the Energy and Environment subcommittee. She discussed the direction they hoped to take and outlined the basis for this decision. She outlined plans to follow up with the speakers from the forums and ask them to make a master list of their recommendations. The recommendations would then be used to create an energy plan proposal. The subcommittee will edit and review the recommendations, and hope to introduce them to the Lab, local, county, and state officials and industry and public educators. She discussed seeking the support of legislators, issuing a press release, and holding a press conference sometime in the next 30 to 60 days.

Dr. Marburger suggested that the document should be called something other than an energy plan. He said calling it an energy plan raises the level of expectations about what it is too high

and expressed concern about advertising it as more than it is. He cautioned the CAC on moving out beyond their advisory role to the Lab. He stated that the Laboratory is not a policy making body. He recommended taking what was learned from the series and relating it to things that the Laboratory could do.

CAC member Proios talked about the need for the Laboratory to disseminate the information it gets from its research. He talked about bridging the gap between the Laboratory work and getting information to decision-makers. Since the CAC represents the community, he said he thought this was a logical beginning to an alternate approach to working with the Laboratory in future areas once the cleanup was complete.

Dr. Marburger thought there might be many activities of that sort that are appropriate for the CAC and for the Laboratory, but stated that care must be taken not to cross the boundary between what the Laboratory can do and what its real mission is, which is research.

Member Amper raised the issue of where the CAC goes from here. He stated the CAC has been a useful forum for the Lab and the community, but that he thought a worth while extension of the CAC was to focus on energy, which is critical to the future of Long Island. Additionally, he suggested the need for monthly meetings be reviewed.

Creating some type of energy committee was suggested and Dr. Marburger stated that the Laboratory would be very interested in working with the group including, supporting, providing input, expert advice, and being part of any effort to help with the Long Island energy picture.

Member Graves stated that he would be happy to carry any kind of proposal or presentation resulting from the forums back to Brookhaven. Member Mannhaupt stated that she didn't think that working on the energy issue would cause the CAC to lose focus and saw it as an opportunity to use a DOE site as a good solid resource.

It was announced that the Town of Brookhaven would be having an Energy Summit on July 12 in Town Hall and that all CAC members were invited. Details on the summit will be sent to the CAC.

6. Historical Emissions Report 1947 – 1961, Lori Cunniff, Manager, Environmental Services Division

Lori Cunniff explained the background issues relative to the Historical Emissions Report. She said that air emissions were broken into routine (standard) and non-routine (fuel failures) and liquid discharges, and that early monitoring focused on radiation. Historical records such as facility operating records, monthly reports, off-normal incidents reports, reactor health physics logbooks, and reactor control room logbooks were used to compile the report which completes the Lab's environmental reporting. The facilities covered include: the BGRR from 1950 to 1969; the Medical Research Reactor; the Cosmotron from 1953 to 1966; the AGS; and the Hot Lab.

Ms. Cunniff discussed the types of fuel used during this period and number and location of the monitoring stations. She also explained the BGRR fuel element failures that occurred and she described how the fuel failure releases were calculated.

Copies of the reports were distributed to those interested. The next Site Environmental Report comes out in October 2001 and will contain the data from the year 2000.

Action Item: Motion to write a letter to the ATSDR to inquire when they will have the final Health Assessment plus the Groundwater Assessment completed now that the data gap is filled. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Community Comment

None.

8. Presentation of RHIC, Tim Hallman, Physics Department

Tim Hallman presented on RHIC, (relativistic meaning to work with things going very fast [nearly the speed of light], heavy ion means the work is done using heavy nuclei [in this case, gold ions], and collider means making them come into collision). Hallman explained RHIC, how it operates, and discussed the function of the particle detectors located around the RHIC ring. He talked about physics, phase transitions, fundamental research, and described the first data from RHIC and explained its significance. Great interest was shown by some CAC members who requested further opportunities to learn about the science and the machine.

9. Overview of Cleanup Activities, Les Hill, Director, Environmental Management

Les Hill introduced himself and told of his background and experience. He stated that his operating philosophy is “do it right the first time” and that he plans to focus on safety, quality, cost, and schedule. Hill discussed budget, schedule, and gave a program update on OU I, OU III, IV, and VI. He discussed off-site remediation and OU V, which includes the Peconic River and the sewage treatment plant. He stated that they are reviewing solutions to determine the best approach to clean up the river. Hill identified Skip Medeiros as the lead for the OU V Peconic River program. He discussed the BGRR above-ground ducts, which have been removed, current activities that include plans to sample the canal area, and plans to remove filter banks, below grade ducts, and coolers. He also gave updates on the HFBR and the Medical Research Reactor.

Cost and schedule, and increased funding levels were discussed. Hill said he expects to conclude the program by the end of the year 2005. Some CAC members thought cleanup would be completed in 2004, Hill explained additional contingencies needed to be factored into planning and that some projects had additional scope as well.

10. SCDHS Grant Proposal Discussion

It was noted that the resumes of the experts had been sent to the CAC members. Jim Hurst and David Sprintzen stated that their organizations have not changed their outlook on the proposal. There were no other comments and the discussion was closed.

11. July agenda

- Wildland Fire Plan
- Energy discussion
- OU V update
- Science
- BGRR – EECA (Sept)

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:55 p.m.