

Community Advisory Council
April 14, 2022
Action Items/Notes

Final

Note: This meeting was held virtually. A video recording of the Zoom meeting is available.

These notes are in the following order:

1. Attendance
2. Correspondence and Handouts
3. Administrative Items
4. Environmental Updates
5. Climate Science Solutions
6. Discussion of Natural Resource Management
7. CAC Membership Updates
8. Agenda Setting
9. Community Comment

1. Attendance

Members/Alternates Present: See Attached Sheets.

Others Present: J. Anderson, A. Engel, S. Coleman, C. Fraccalvieri, E. Freeman, P. Genzer, D. Gibbs, S. Gonzalez, R. Gordon, T. Green, S. Hartzell, R. Hodgins, R. Howe, D. Manning, A. McComiskey, R. McKay, A. Morocho, D. Paquette, D. Pocze, C. Polanish, J. Remien, K. Schwager, R. Tribble, J. Wanless

2. Correspondence and Handouts

Items numbered one through three were e-mailed to Members on April 7, 2022. Items numbered four through six were e-mailed to Members on April 14, 2022

1. Draft agenda for April 2022 meeting
2. Draft notes from the March 2022 meeting
3. Action Item follow-up: Link to the Stack Removal Time-Lapse video
4. Copy of presentation: Environmental Updates
5. Copy of presentation: Climate Science to Solutions
6. Copy of presentation: Natural Resource Management

3. Administrative Items

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. Reed Hodgins, facilitator, welcomed everyone to the Zoom virtual meeting. He reviewed the ground rules and draft agenda.

Doon Gibbs, Laboratory Director, welcomed everyone and said things are going well at the Lab. More than 50% of the staff is reporting to site daily. Suffolk County is still considered low risk for community transmission of COVID at this time, although infection rates are starting to pick up a bit.

David Manning, Director - Stakeholder Relations, said next month the laboratory will attempt an in-person CAC meeting onsite at the Lab. It will be a hybrid meeting, so those that prefer to attend via Zoom are welcome to do so. A welcome back reception is planned for those that attend in person.

Robert Gordon, Brookhaven Site Office manager, said the US EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) sent a letter today informing the Lab that the final closeout report for the HFBR (High Flux Beam Reactor) D & D (Decommissioning & Demolition) is acceptable. Gordon stated that this is good news. The link to the closeout report is posted on the Lab's website and below:

Link to closeout report: <https://www.bnl.gov/hfbr/documents.php>

Approval of notes:

The March 2022 Action Items and Notes were approved as written with none opposed and two abstentions.

4. Environmental Updates - Jason Remien, Manager, Environmental Protection Division

Jason Remien showed the CAC a timelapse video of the HFBR Stack D & D.

Remien said that Sharon Hartzel, the Lab's current EPA project manager, is leaving her current role and will be working in EPA headquarters. The new EPA remedial project manager for the Lab will be Adriana Morocho Torres, and we look forward to working with her.

Remien then updated the CAC on the PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) Time Critical Removal Action. He said 83 permanent monitoring wells have been installed and the Lab is currently working on the ninth of twelve planned extraction wells.

Remien said all waste generated during the HFBR D & D operations has been safely disposed of at Energy Solutions, Utah.

Member Blumer congratulated the Lab on the reuse of the granulated carbon system.

Member Esposito asked if the Lab is remediating to the Federal standard of 70ppt, or the NYS standard of 10ppt.

Remien said the capture goal of the treatment systems is 100ppt. The goal is to get below NYS drinking water standard, which is 10ppt.

5. Climate Science Solutions - Allison McComiskey, Chair, Environmental and Climate Sciences Department

David Manning introduced Allison McComiskey, and said she is leading a number of interesting projects at the Lab. The Environmental and Climate Sciences Department also operates the Climate Truck, a sensor-equipped truck that drives around and collects atmospheric data, which will be on display at Jones Beach Nature Center for Earth Day on April 22nd. This year the Summer Sunday program was not ready to be open to the public, so the Department is taking the Climate Truck on the road.

McComiskey spoke about the US plans for climate change, clean energy, and environmental justice. She talked about BNL's clean energy and climate initiative, wildfire impacts on climate and solar power

Member Blumer asked if other DOE laboratories or research institutes are doing this same type of research.

McComiskey said there are several labs involved in climate science, each having their own unique focus. BNL is focused on observations. PNNL is known for their expertise in modeling.

Member Jordan Sweet said about 20 years ago there was a big project called FACE (Free-Air CO₂ Enrichment) technology. She asked if there was a summary report from the FACE experiments.

McComiskey said she does not know if there was a summary report but can find out.

ACTION ITEM:

Find out if there is a summary report from the FACE experiments.

James Freeman asked about controlled burns and if there are any studies being done on the Sirocco winds out of Northern Africa which impact the environment.

McComiskey said using the controlled burn approach could be quite useful and would be great if we had the opportunity. She said she is not familiar with any studies being done regarding the Sirocco winds.

Bob Tribble, Deputy Director for Science and Technology, said that one time while in Africa he got caught in a severe dust storm and the rain was coming down as mud. That particular storm ended up impacting all the way up to London.

McComiskey said imagine all that dust falling down on solar panels and the damage that could be done.

Hodgin said the CAC looks forward to having McComiskey back for more updates in the future.

6. Discussion of Natural Resource Management - Kathy Schwager, Natural and Cultural Resources

Jason Remien introduced Kathy Schwager. He said she is an ecologist with the Lab's Environmental Protection Division and has been with the Lab almost twelve years.

Schwager spoke about the Lab's deer management over the last two years. She said after this year's removal of 134 individuals, the current population is estimated at 200-220 deer which is the upper end of the acceptable population range and we are thus entering the maintenance phase of deer management. With a 60% birth rate and the fact that deer become harder to find as the population decreases, management is becoming more challenging.

Member Schuhmann asked if there is any data regarding results of the COVID and Lyme disease testing on the deer.

Schwager said the Lab doesn't have any of those results yet.

Schwager then spoke about fire management and the CWPP (community wildfire protection plan). She spoke about prescribed fires and BNL's planned burns for 2022. She said there is increasing risk of fires in the Long Island Pine Barrens. She said because of the increase of white nose syndrome in the northern long eared bat, they are being put on the endangered species list which could impact the Lab's ability to conduct forest management activities.

Schwager then spoke about BNL's no-mow areas. She said these are areas that were once turf grass requiring frequent mowing. In 2019, the area was prepared and seeded with native wildflowers.

Member Blumer asked how many acres the no-mow areas cover and if there are plans to expand that.

Schwager said about 14 acres. The Lab hopes to create more meadows like this.

Member Blumer asked if the Lab would take contributions of native plants from growers in the area.

Schwager said that hasn't been considered but, yes, that's a great idea.

Hodgin thanked Schwager and said the CAC would like to invite her back when she have more information to share.

7. CAC Membership updates

Hodgin introduced potential new CAC member, James Freeman from Gordon Heights Civic Association.

Freeman, president of Gordon Heights Civic Association, spoke about himself and his interest in being part of the CAC.

Hodgin asked if any CAC members had any questions or comments for Freeman. There were none. He then said since Freeman has now attended two CAC meetings, the CAC will take action on his request for membership.

Hodgin said the next meeting on May 12th will be a hybrid meeting. We will have an in-person meeting in Berkner Hall, room B and a Zoom meeting, so members can attend whichever way suits them. He asked for members to vote via poll how they plan to attend so the Lab can prepare for it. There were 17 parties interested in attending in-person.

Member Blumer asked if main members and alternates attend, one virtual and one in person, is there an order as to who goes first.

Hodgin said if there is one representative in-person, that person will be the primary for that meeting.

8. Agenda Setting

Amy Engel, Stakeholder Relations office, said next month the CAC will have Chuck Black from the Center for Functional Nanomaterials present on invisible glass, as well as a presentation on strategic partnerships and tech transfer office. A presentation on sustainability is planned for the fall. Presenters will be in-person at the May meeting.

9. Community Comment

Tim Green told the CAC that the Lab has been working with the Long Island Museum. The Museum will be having a six month exhibit on the history of BNL, which opens on April 22nd and will run through mid-October. He encouraged everyone to go and check it out.

Peter Genzer put the link to the press release in the chat for all to access.

Link to Press Release: <https://www.bnl.gov/newsroom/news.php?a=219544>

Member Israel asked when BNL retirees will be permitted back on site. And whether BREA can begin meeting onsite again.

Jack Anderson, Deputy Director for Operations, said the Lab is using a staged approach to the resumption of operations. The next groups we are planning to welcome back are retirees and family members. The plan for BREA is not decided yet. Stay tuned.

Hodgin said the May CAC meeting will be in person in Berkner B. It has been over two years since the CAC has had a face-to-face meeting. Everyone will get to make their own choice how they would like to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM

Next meeting: May 12, 2022

| X = Present | 2022 | Affiliation | | First Name | Last Name | Jan No mtg | Feb No mtg | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------------|-------------|--|------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | ABCO – Civic | Member | Ray | Keenan | | | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate | Michael | Madigan | | | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| | | American Physical Society – Business & Labor | Member | Reinhardt | Schuhmann | | | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate | Donavan | Hall | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Brookhaven Coalition of Chambers of Commerce – Business & Labor | Member | Ron | Trotta | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate | Carmine | Inserra | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Brookhaven Retired Employees Association- BNL Affiliation | Member | Mark | Israel | | | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate | Eena-Mai | Franz | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate2 | Steve | Shapiro | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Citizens Campaign for the Environment – Advocacy & Environment | Member | Adrienne | Esposito | | | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Colonial Woods Whispering Pines – Civic | Member | Jane | Koropsak | | | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Coram Civic Association - Civic | Member | Paul | Ziems | | | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate | Rosa | Turk | | | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| | | East Yaphank Civic Association - Civic | Member | Robert | Feinman | | | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate | Catherine | Mack | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Emeritus | Member | David | Sprintzen | | | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| | | FOREST - Advocacy & Environment | Member | John | Pavacic | | | | X | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Foundation for Economic Education – Education, Science & Technology | Member | Bruce | Martin | | | | X | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate | Craig | Pratka | | | X | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Friends of Brookhaven- BNL Affiliation | Member | Biays | Bowerman | | | | X | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate | Steve | Schwartz | | | X | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate2 | Ben | Ocko | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Individual | Member | Jane | Corrarino | | | X | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Individual | Member | Karen | Blumer | | | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| | | Individual | Alternate | Michael | Madigan | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | L.I. Pine Barrens Society – Advocacy & Environment | Member | Richard | Amper | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate | Kaitlyn | Sherman | | | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| | | Longwood Central School Dist. – Education, Science & Technology | Member | Tracy | Adams | | | X | | | | | | | | | |

| X = Present | 2022 | Affiliation | | First Name | Last Name | Jan No mtg | Feb No mtg | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
|--------------------|-------------|---|-----------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | | | Alternate | Paul | Infranco | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Middle Island Civic Association - Civic | Member | Martin | Filler | | | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate | Margaret | Malloy | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | NSLS-II User Committee – BNL Affiliation | Member | Jean | Jordan-Sweet | | | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Ridge Civic Association - Civic | Member | Ken | Casanova | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Suffolk County Legislature 1st Dist. - Government | Member | Al | Krupski | | | X | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate | John | Stype | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Teachers Federal Credit Union – Business & Labor | Member | Sandra | Santos-Keel | | | X | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate | Alexa | Keough | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Town of Brookhaven, Senior Citizens Office - Government | Member | James | Heil | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Town of Riverhead - Government | Member | Dan | McCormick | | | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | Wading River Civic Association - Civic | Member | Henry | Perez | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Alternate | Linda | Rundlett | | | | | | | | | | | | |