

**Community Advisory Council
March 9, 2023
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. New Member Candidates
5. Environmental Updates
6. Natural and Cultural Resources Update
7. Novel Climate-Energy Sector Modeling Framework to Project Energy Demands and Infrastructure Resiliency in Urban Environments
8. Agenda Setting
9. Community Comment
10. Council-only session to vote on Brookhaven Village Association (BVA) application

1. Attendance

Members/Alternates Present: See Attached Sheets.

Others Present: J. Anderson, D. Gibbs, A. Engel, S. Gonzalez, K. Green, T. Green, C. Hodgins, M. Jensen, A. Juchatz, P. Kaloski, B. Kern, D. Manning, R. McKay, B. McNair, J. Milligan, A. Morocho, A. Ozelis, D. Panico, C. Petrashek, C. Pickerell, D. Pocze, A. Rapiekjo, J. Remien, B. Sapp, R. Schuhmann, R. Tribble, J. Wanless

2. Correspondence and Handouts

Items numbered one through three were e-mailed to Members on March 2, 2023. Items numbered four and five were e-mailed to Members on March 9, 2023.

1. Draft agenda for March 2023 meeting
2. Draft notes from the November 2022 meeting
3. Copy of bios for some of the new member candidates
4. Copy of presentation: Natural and Cultural Resource Management update
5. Copy of presentation: A Climate Energy Modeling Framework

3. Administrative Items

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Reed Hodgins, facilitator, welcomed everyone to the Zoom virtual meeting. He reviewed the ground rules and draft agenda.

David Manning - Director, Stakeholder Relations Office, welcomed everyone and said the Lab is considering conducting the May CAC meeting as a hybrid. He said the meeting will remain virtual for April. But in May, the hope is to have an in-person tour and then refreshments for anyone who is interested in attending on-site, followed by a hybrid meeting in Berkner Hall,

room B, with the Zoom link available for anyone interested in attending virtually. He said the Lab is looking for CAC input to determine if there is interest. He asked that CAC members let Amy Engel know their preferences.

Doon Gibbs - Laboratory Director, welcomed the CAC and said with things opening up and COVID restrictions relaxing a bit, the Lab has hosted several interesting visitors recently. The Deputy Secretary of Energy - David Turk, the Undersecretary for Science and Innovation - Geraldine Richmond, the Director of the Office of Science, the SUNY Chancellor, and others. He then said the President's budget came out today. While it looks good for the Office of Science, the Lab realizes it still has to go to the House and Senate where changes will most likely be made.

Jack Anderson - Deputy Director for Operations, said he looks forward to seeing everyone in person at the May meeting. He said if Members have not been to the Lab in a while, they will see there have been a lot of changes and new construction happening on-site, including a new Science and User Support Center (SUSC) located just outside of the main gate.

Manning said the new SUSC building will have a conference center for the Lab's use and it is possible the CAC might get the opportunity to meet in that building.

Robert Tribble - Deputy Director for Science, said there are a lot of new programs at the Lab. There will be exciting new information to present to the CAC in the next few months.

Reinhardt Schuhmann asked if he should refrain from voting this evening because he is in between member groups.

Hodgin agreed that would be a good idea.

Member Keenan said it would be nice to meet the new Members in person.

Member Freeman said he would like to change his Member affiliation because he is no longer with the Gordon Heights Civic Association. Hodgin explained the process for removing his organization and adding another one. Freeman said he was looking to remain on the CAC, possibly in the Individual category. Hodgin asked Freeman to think about it and let the Lab know if that is what he would like to do so the process can be started.

Amy Engel - Manager, Community Involvement, told the CAC that this summer the Lab will be hosting Summer Sundays on-site again. Hodgin said the BNL educational programs are recognized nationally and internationally. Manning said we have a challenge this year with the RHIC Summer Sunday because the experiment will be running this summer, so that location cannot be physically accessed. Other things are being planned in place of the actual visit to the RHIC facility.

Approval of minutes:

The November 2022 CAC Action Items and Notes were approved as written with none opposed and four abstentions.

4. New Member Candidates

Hodgin said before we introduce our new Member candidates, there are a few changes within some existing Member organizations.

Ridge Civic Association has a new alternate Member – Scott Wood.

The Town of Riverhead has a new primary Member - Bob Kern. Kern thanked the Lab for reaching out to him and expressed interest in renewing the five-year membership for the Town of Riverhead.

Jim Heil is no longer with the Town of Brookhaven Senior Citizens, so that group is being re-named the Town of Brookhaven with Councilman Dan Panico as the main Member and Patricia Kaloski as the alternate Member. Panico and Kaloski introduced themselves and expressed intent to serve as representatives to the CAC.

Hodgin said new Member candidates who have indicated interest are required to observe two meetings and then officially request membership. After that, a vote is held on that request.

Hodgin then introduced Chris Pickerell, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE). Pickerell said he has been with CCE for 30 years. He said he is a biologist overseeing marine programs and is very interested in groundwater contamination. He said he looks forward to being involved with the CAC. CCE would be classified in the Health-based category.

Hodgin introduced Brian Sapp, National Grid. Sapp said he has been the government relations manager at National Grid for four years and previously worked for several elected officials. He expressed interest in serving on the CAC. National Grid would be classified in the Business and Labor category.

Hodgin then introduced Casey Petrashek, New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV). Petrashek said he is the Deputy Director of Politics for NYLCV and is looking forward to joining and engaging with the CAC. NYLCV would be classified in the Advocacy and Environment category.

Hodgin introduced Erika Karp, Stony Brook Hospital. Karp said she is the community relations representative for Stony Brook Hospital. She said they are a liaison between Stony Brook University and Stony Brook Hospital. She said she grew up in Miller Place and attended Summer Sundays at the Lab as a child and is looking forward to being a part of the CAC. Stony Brook Hospital would be classified in the Health-based category.

Hodgin said the Lab is interested in hearing feedback from the new Member candidates as they observe tonight and April's CAC meetings.

5. Environmental Updates

Jason Remien - Manager, Environmental Protection Division, said waste from the Brookhaven Medical Research Reactor (BMRR) has left the site and been safely disposed of. He said the two new treatment systems for Per- and Polyfluorinated Substances (PFAS) are up and running. He said next month there will be more details to present on that topic.

Member Esposito said the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is due out with new Maximum Contamination Level (MCL) guidance for PFAS any day now.

Remien said New York State will be adding new limits as well. The Lab will be talking about all of it during the PFAS Update at the April CAC meeting.

6. Natural and Cultural Resources Update

Tim Green - Manager, Environmental Compliance, Environmental Protection Division, spoke about deer management. He gave the CAC some background information on previous Lab efforts at reducing the deer population.

Member Jordan-Sweet asked if certain deer are targeted or if it is random.

Green said the most effective way to control the population is to take the females. But after hunting season, which is when the Lab is permitted to conduct a cull, they drop their antlers, so it is hard to tell male from female. It usually ends up being about 50% male to female ratio.

Member Jordan-Sweet asked if the Lab tests the deer for diseases, like prion disease. She said she would assume that meat would be unhealthy to eat.

Green said New York State, not the Lab, does a lot of that type of testing. Chronic wasting disease has been mostly eradicated in New York, but they continue to test for it. He said the meat is still edible, however, hunters are encouraged to do a very clean dressing and not include any of the nervous system.

Reinhardt Schuhmann asked who does the actual shooting of the deer.

Green said the USDA wildlife services.

Member Krupski asked if the Lab is looking at the understory regarding destruction to the trees caused by the deer.

Green said yes; it takes a very long time for recovery. The Lab is working with the Pine Barrens Commission on that.

Green then spoke about tick-borne diseases and fire management.

Member Blumer asked why an area that was already burned would be burned again.

Green said previously burned areas have a lot of fuel in them, so it is done to reduce the chance of a bad wildfire.

Green then spoke about the Southern Pine Beetle. He said they have impacted hundreds of acres on the Lab site.

Member Krupski asked if fire management helps with control of the Southern Pine Beetle.

Green said it is difficult to get the fire hot enough to thin the forest enough to kill them.

Green then spoke about the Northern Long-Eared Bat and white-nose syndrome. He also talked about no-mow areas and said there are 14-15 acres on site that have been designated as no-mow areas and have been planted with wildflowers.

Member Pavacic asked if no-mow areas are ever mowed.

Green said yes, they are mowed about every 2-3 years.

Green then spoke about coyotes. He said they are now on Long Island. Some breeding pairs have been seen in Nassau County and it is thought that there is a pair in the eastern portion of the Island. The Lab is trying to gather information before they get established in the Pine Barrens because they will change the ecosystem.

Member Jordan-Sweet asked if the increase in coyote will affect the deer population.

Green said not much. However, they will have an effect on fox, raccoons and ground hogs.

Green then talked about Cultural Resource Management and the National Historical Preservation Act. He said an archaeological evaluation must be performed before major ground disturbances can be performed, as in the new SUSC building. He talked about the new water tower that will be replacing the current one the Lab has, which is from the 1940s.

7. Novel Climate-Energy Sector Modeling Framework to Project Energy Demands and Infrastructure Resiliency in Urban Environments

Michael Jensen - Meteorologist, Leader, Cloud Processes Group, Environmental and Climate Sciences Department, presented on clean energy and climate initiative at BNL. He said better tools are needed for assessing grid vulnerability and resiliency to hazardous weather and extreme climate. He said the Lab is working to develop an innovative modeling framework that includes urbanized climate/weather model, physical energy infrastructure, and data driven machine learning approaches. He said research is urgently needed that provides a better understanding and a predictive capability of the relationship between climate change driven extreme weather events and the existing and future energy infrastructure.

8. Agenda Setting

Amy Engel - Stakeholder Relations Office, said that in April there will be a presentation on PFAS. She asked CAC Members to email her with any requests for future presentations and any feedback.

Brian Sapp, new Member candidate, said an in-person meeting would be of interest to him.

9. Community Comment

Reinhardt Schuhmann said the Bellport Brookhaven Historical Society has an exhibit called The Environmentalists that might be of interest to the CAC. He shared the link below.

[BELLPORT-BROOKHAVEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY \(bbhsmuseum.com\)](http://bbhsmuseum.com)

Manning said the Lab is bringing back the PubSci and Summer Sundays programs this year.

Engel said the Lab will be hosting its' first "Science in the Community" at the Jones Beach Nature Center on Earth Day, April 22 from 10 AM – 2 PM. The second one will be at the Vanderbilt Planetarium on June 3rd featuring scientists from the NASA Space Radiation Laboratory. PubSci will likely be in May on Climate Science at Painters in Brookhaven. All of this information will be shared with the CAC and available on BNL's website.

Member Freeman said he is considering SONYMA as his new Member organization. He said he is on the Board of Directors and the topics covered by the CAC are of interest to that group.

Hodgin asked Member Freeman to send an email to Amy Engel with a description of that organization so the Lab can see what category it fits into.

Schuhmann said the BVA would be very interested in the topics covered by the CAC. They are an environmentally conscious neighborhood.

Member Keenan said the BVA hosted the new Superintendent of schools recently, that kind of civic engagement with the group is good to see. He would support their request for membership.

Member Esposito said she has worked with the BVA for 15-20 years. They are a smart dedicated contingency. She is excited to see them join the CAC and they have her vote.

Engel thanked the new Member candidates.

Bob Kern, new primary Member for the Town of Riverhead, said Southold has a great deer management program. The Town of Riverhead is trying to get one going and he would like to have a conversation with Tim Green about it.

Green said we can certainly do that; you can get in touch with me through Amy Engel.

Member Jordan-Sweet asked if alternate Members can stay and vote.

Hodgin said both primary and alternate Members can stay for the Council-only session, but only one Member from each group can vote.

Hodgin asked everyone other than Members and Alternates to log off and the CAC will go into Council-only session.

The next CAC meeting will be April 13, 2023.

The full meeting adjourned at 8:56 PM and the Council-only session began.

10. Council-only session to vote on Brookhaven Village Association application

Hodgin said the requirement for a new membership application is 2/3 vote of present Members in favor.

The membership application of Brookhaven Village Association was approved, with none opposed and 1 abstention.

Member Jordan-Sweet asked why Cornell Cooperative Extension is considered a Health-based organization.

Engel said according to their website, most of their leading programs are related to health, wellness, diet, etc. The Lab felt that they are a really good fit for the CAC, there was no more room in the Advocacy and Environment category, and the Lab didn't want to pass them up.

Manning said if anyone has any thoughts on the in-person meeting, please let the Lab know.

Blumer asked why wait until May for an in-person meeting.

Manning said the Lab wanted to give everyone a chance to respond. May is also easier weather-wise. The Lab could reconsider if there is a huge response requesting otherwise.

Member Esposito asked for the date of the May CAC meeting.

Engel said it is May 11.

Member Israel said the topic of this month's publication of the BREA newsletter that is produced by Mona Rowe is PFAS. If anyone is interested in taking a look at it, the link should be available on the BNL retirees' website.

Council-only session adjourned at 9:07 PM

X = Present	2023	Affiliation		First Name	Last Name	Jan No mtg	Feb No mtg	Mar	Apr	May	June No mtg	July No mtg	Aug No mtg	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		ABCO – Civic	Member	Ray	Keenan			X									
			Alternate	Michael	Madigan			X									
		Brookhaven Coalition of Chambers of Commerce – Business & Labor	Member	Ron	Trotta			X									
			Alternate	Carmine	Inserra												
		Brookhaven Retired Employees Association- BNL Affiliation	Member	Mark	Israel			X									
			Alternate	Eena-Mai	Franz												
			Alternate2	Steve	Shapiro												
		Citizens Campaign for the Environment – Advocacy & Environment	Member	Adrienne	Esposito			X									
			Alternate	Maureen	Murphy-Dolan												
		Colonial Woods Whispering Pines – Civic	Member	Jane	Koropsak			X									
			Alternate														
		East Yaphank Civic Association - Civic	Member	Robert	Feinman			X									
			Alternate	Laura	Reid												
		Emeritus	Member	David	Sprintzen												
		FOREST - Advocacy & Environment	Member	John	Pavacic			X									
			Alternate														
		Foundation for Economic Education – Education, Science & Technology	Member	Bruce	Martin												
			Alternate	Craig	Pratka			X									
		Gordon Heights Civic Assoc. - Civic	Member	James	Freeman			X									
			Alternate														
		Individual	Member	Jane	Corrarino			X									
		Individual	Member	Karen	Blumer			X									
			Alternate	Michael	Madigan												
		L.I. Pine Barrens Society – Advocacy & Environment	Member	Richard	Amper												
			Alternate	Andrew	Wong			X									
		Longwood Central School Dist. – Education, Science & Technology	Member	Tracy	Adams												
			Alternate	Paul	Infranco												
		Middle Island Civic Association – Civic	Member	Martin	Filler			X									
			Alternate	Margaret	Malloy												
		NSLS-II User Committee – BNL Affiliation	Member	Jean	Jordan-Sweet			X									
			Alternate	Matthew	Whitaker			X									
		Ridge Civic Association – Civic	Member	Ken	Casanova												

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			Alternate	Scott	Wood										
		Suffolk County Legislature 1st Dist. – Government	Member	Al	Krupski		X								
			Alternate	Gwynn	Schroeder		X								
		Teachers Federal Credit Union – Business & Labor	Member	Sandra	Santos-Keel		X								
			Alternate	Sandra	Young										
		Town of Brookhaven – Government	Member	Dan	Panico		X								
			Alternate	Patricia	Kaloski		X								
		Town of Riverhead - Government	Member	Robert	Kern		X								
			Alternate	Frank	Mancini										
		Wading River Civic Association - Civic	Member	Henry	Perez		X								
			Alternate	Linda	Rundlett										