

Community Advisory Council
April 13, 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. Lab Leadership transition
5. Environmental updates
6. PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) update
7. New Member discussion
8. Agenda Setting
9. Community Comment
10. Council-only Session

1. Attendance

Members/Alternates Present: See Attached Sheets.

Others Present: J. Anderson, N. Blackburn, T. Daniels, P. Genzer, D. Gibbs, K. Green, T. Green, A. Engel, S. Gonzalez, C. Hodgins, B. Howe, A. Juchatz, E. Karp, J. Loh, D. Manning, R. McKay, J. Milligan, A. Morocho, C. Petrashek, C. Pickerell, D. Pocze, C. Polanish, J. Remien, B. Sapp, J. Wanless, K. White

2. Correspondence and Handouts

Items numbered one and two were e-mailed to Members on April 6, 2023. Item number three was e-mailed to Members on April 13, 2023.

1. Draft agenda for April 2023 meeting
2. Draft notes from March 2023
3. Copy of presentation: PFAS Update

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.

David Manning, Director - Stakeholder Relations office, welcomed everyone to the CAC meeting. He said the Lab is planning for a hybrid CAC meeting next month on May 11, 2023. All CAC Members and Alternates will be invited to the Lab for a site tour. Following that there will be refreshments and an in-person meeting for anyone interested in attending. The Zoom link will also be available for anyone wishing to join the meeting virtually. He then introduced Dr. Doon Gibbs and said this will be his last meeting since he will be retiring. He said Gibbs has attended 86 CAC meetings since 2006. He conveyed his thanks to Gibbs for his leadership.

Doon Gibbs, Director – Brookhaven National Lab, said working at BNL has been a privilege. The Lab's broad mission is to use science and technology to make the world a better place and the CAC is a key part of the Labs agenda and success. He said he has learned a lot over the years from the CAC. The Council has made important contributions and the Lab is better because of the CAC.

Manning then introduced Jack Anderson, Deputy Director for Operations at BNL, to discuss the upcoming transition in Lab leadership.

4. Lab Leadership transition

Jack Anderson explained that a new Lab Director, JoAnne Hewett, has been selected and will start at Brookhaven this summer. He said Hewett comes to BNL from SLAC National Laboratory. Anderson spoke about her background and qualifications. He said she will also be a professor at the C. N. Yang Institute for theoretical physics at Stony Brook University. Anderson said he has been appointed to serve as interim Director at BNL until Hewett's arrival. Tom Daniels will be filling in as Deputy Director for Operations and Michele McQueen will serve as interim ALD for Facilities and Operations in Tom Daniels' role. Anderson said the search for Bob Tribble's replacement is nearing completion and Director Hewett will participate in the final hiring decision for the Deputy Director for Science and Technology. The search for the next ALD for Environment, Safety and Health, previously held by Steve Coleman, is also in the final stages. Anderson said Gibbs has been an amazing leader for the Lab and has had many accomplishments. Anderson said he would like to personally thank him for his leadership, and he is sure we will be seeing him in the future.

Manning also thanked Gibbs and said he left his previous job to come to the Lab and work for him.

Gibbs thanked everyone and said it is a team effort.

Members of the CAC expressed their thanks to Doon Gibbs for his dedication to the group during his years as Lab Director. They said his presence at meetings and involvement added to the credibility of the CAC. They requested a copy of the Lab leadership transition presentation.

***ACTION ITEM**

Send a copy of the presentation on the Lab Leadership transition to CAC Members.

Approval of minutes:

Member Jordan Sweet asked for an addition to the March meeting notes to include the additional comment made by Tim Green about testing deer for prion disease. He also said there have not been any cases found in NYS. She said that is important information to add.

The March 2023 CAC action items and notes were approved as amended with none opposed and five abstentions.

5. Environmental updates, Jason Remien – Manager, Environmental Protection Division

Jason Remien said the Lab completed its deer management efforts during two weekends in March. It was successful and 106 deer were taken. All results of deer meat tested came back at less than 0.17 pCi/g wet weight for Cs-137, which is well below the Lab's administrative limit of 1.0 pCi/g. All the meat was approved to be distributed to a food pantry. The reproduction rate for deer is estimated at 53%, so that is a reminder that the Lab needs to continue this program.

Member Esposito asked if 53% is a standard amount.

Tim Green said it is a little lower than previous years.

Remien said there is a project being planned at Bldg. 870, which is where mixed waste was previously managed. Building 870 has been used for general storage for the past several years because that much space is no longer needed for mixed waste. The Lab is currently looking to use that building to increase production of radio pharmaceuticals using Actinium-225. The project is called (CARP) Clinical Alpha Radionuclide Producer. He said Dr. Cathy Cutler presented to the CAC on Ac-225 in 2021, and the upgrade to this facility will help with that production. The Lab submitted an environmental evaluation notification form to DOE BHSO to determine if an Environmental Assessment is necessary. It was decided that an EA is necessary, so that is being prepared. The Lab will present more information on this topic to the CAC in the fall.

6. PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) update, Doug Paquette, Environmental Protection Division

Doug Paquette gave the CAC some background information on PFAS and the Lab's efforts to address it. He spoke about what PFAS are, the sources at the Laboratory, the status of the groundwater treatment systems that were installed to address PFAS, and actions taken to ensure the Lab meets NYS drinking water standards.

Paquette said PFAS are a diverse group of chemicals that are resistant to heat, water, oil and grease. There are thousands of them. The Lab is only able to monitor a small subset of those. They are highly persistent and can impact the environment for many years. In August 2020, New York State established drinking water standards of 10 parts per trillion (ng/L). PFAS are used in many consumer products as well as firefighting foam and has been detected in Long Island groundwater in many areas, including BNL. He talked about BNL's effort to understand the source and extent of PFAS in groundwater at BNL.

Member Schuhmann asked if the testing the Lab is doing now covers more than just the two compounds.

Paquette said yes, the Lab is looking at a larger list of PFAS.

Paquette spoke about the use of firefighting foam that contained PFAS at nine on-site areas where foam was released during firefighter training and fire suppression system testing. He said drinking water samples in 2017 were tested for six different PFAS, during 2018-2022, monitoring well samples were tested for 23 different compounds and current analytic methods are testing for 40-47 different PFAS compounds. To date, 20 different PFAS have been detected in groundwater samples, some of them at very low concentrations. Detection limits for most PFAS are about 2 ng/L. He spoke about the establishment of new CERCLA Operable Unit X, which addresses PFAS, PFOA and 1,4 Dioxane contamination at BNL. He said the Lab has seen concentrations of 1,4 Dioxane as high as 24 micrograms per liter (ug/L), but most detections are below 5 ug/L. The NYS drinking water standard for 1,4-Dioxane is 1 ug/L. He said the Lab's two new treatments systems for PFAS contaminated groundwater have been completed and are currently operating. Combined, the two systems can treat 750 gallons per minute (GPM) using granulated activated carbon (GAC) filters. NYS effluent limits for those two systems for PFOS and PFOA are lower than the 10 ng/L drinking water standards. Paquette said the Lab is complying with those discharge standards. He said the Lab installed 95 additional monitoring wells that will be used to verify the long-term effectiveness of the PFAS treatment systems.

Member Esposito asked about the depth of the current firehouse plume.

Paquette said the depth of groundwater is about 50 feet. The highest levels of PFAS in the aquifer near the source areas are detected close to the water table, and the PFAS are found deeper as the plumes migrate further away from the source areas.

Member Esposito asked if the Lab is having problems getting the activated carbon filters.

Vinnie Racaniello said the Lab pre-purchased filters being used for the current firehouse PFAS treatment system, so there has not been an issue. Paquette said the Lab was also able to repurpose filters previously installed for another treatment system. These are now used for the former firehouse PFAS treatment system.

Member Esposito asked if there are monitoring wells south of the recharge basins.

Paquette said yes, there are some, but the Lab could use a few more. The water that is leaving the treatment systems and going into the basins is being monitored. The final effluent from treated water is showing non-detect, so the carbon filters are effectively removing the PFAS. BNL recently prepared a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Work Plan for PFAS and 1,4-Dioxane. The draft work plan was submitted to the regulators on March 30, and a two-month review period is anticipated. The work plan builds upon the extensive groundwater characterization work conducted from 2018-2022.

Paquette said the EPA is expected to finalize new national standards for PFOS, PFOA and several other PFAS chemicals by the end of 2023. With the effectiveness of the GAC filters, BNL's drinking water is already in compliance with the proposed standards.

Member Schuhmann asked about the plume gradients associated with the two fire stations and asked if it is understood why they are so different.

Paquette said there is residual PFAS in the soil above the water table and that PFAS may enter the groundwater at different times (i.e., not continuous), and that some PFAS chemicals appear to migrate in groundwater at different speeds. These factors have an impact on how PFAS migrates through the aquifer, and variations in concentrations observed in the plumes. A lot of researchers are working to try to better understand how PFAS migrate through the soils above the water table and how they migrate once they enter the groundwater.

Manning asked if CAC members can visit that facility on May 11 during the tour portion of CAC meeting.

Paquette said yes.

Esposito asked if the Lab will have enough potable drinking water wells if some of them need to be closed due to the limits being reduced.

Paquette said that the Lab currently has sufficient capacity to meet its needs. Each of the three supply wells that have GAC filters can provide about 1,200 gallons of water per minute. If the proposed national drinking water standards of 4 ng/L for PFOS and PFOA are adopted, the Lab will determine whether additional treatment would be required for the fourth active supply well which doesn't have GAC filters, where trace levels (less than 2 ng/L) of PFOS and PFOA are occasionally detected. The need to install additional supply wells or treatment is still in the early stages of discussion and planning.

James Freeman asked if the Lab tests any soils for PFAS.

Paquette said very little soil sampling has been done to date. BNL has been waiting for the EPA to develop a testing method called EPA method 1633, which can be used for groundwater, soil, sediment and other media. BNL will be conducting extensive testing of soils for PFAS as part of the planned RI/FS.

7. Agenda Setting

Amy Engel, Stakeholder Relations office, said that at the next CAC meeting in May, the Lab will have a site tour for CAC Members and Alternates. A poll will be sent out to see who is interested in attending the onsite meeting and tour. There will also be a presentation on single-use plastics by Debbie Bauer.

Manning said the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) will be operating at that time so we will not be able to visit that facility. He said the Lab is listed as a partner with Stony Brook on a climate environmental center for research on Governor's Island that they are competing for. Stony Brook is a finalist, and it is anticipated that a decision will be made around April 22. If they are successful in their proposal, the Lab might ask Stony Brook or one of the partners at BNL to discuss this initiative with the CAC. Manning said if CAC members have any requests or suggestions for future topics, please reach out to him or Amy Engel.

Hodgin took a poll to see how many people are interested in attending in-person in May so the Lab can plan accordingly.

In person - 21

Virtual - 4

Hodgin took another poll asking who is interested and available for the tour portion, refreshments, and/or the meeting.

Yes – 18

No - 6

Engel said the tour will start at 4:30 and run until 5:30. Refreshments will be served from 5:30-6:15 and then the meeting will follow that.

Most attendees indicated interest in coming in person to the May 11 2023 CAC meeting.

8. Community Comment

There was no community comment.

9. New Member discussion

Hodgin introduced new candidate member Noel Blackburn, BNL Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) council, under the BNL affiliation category. He said this is the first meeting he is attending.

Noel Blackburn, BNL's Chief Diversity officer and Director of the Laboratory's DE&I office, introduced himself. He spoke about his background, his work at the Office of Educational Programs, and his current role as chief diversity officer.

Hodgin said there are six new candidate members as well as one five-year renewal to discuss at the council-only session.

The request for a five-year term renewal comes from the Town of Riverhead, represented by Councilman Bob Kern.

Kern said he has had a few visits to BNL and said he feels it is important as an elected official to learn about BNL and bring that information back to the town.

The CAC has a request for membership from Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE), represented by Chris Pickerell in the health-based category.

Pickerell talked about the CCE. He said he looks forward to representing them on the CAC.

Esposito asked if they could be referred to as Cornell since there is already a CCE on the CAC.

Pickerell agreed that would be a good idea.

The next request for membership came from National Grid, represented by Brian Sapp. National Grid is listed in the business and labor category.

Sapp said he handles government relations at National Grid. He spoke about the work done at National Grid, his role, and some of their initiatives.

The next request is from the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV), represented by Casey Petrashek. The NYLCV falls in the advocacy and environment category.

Petrashek said he is the Deputy Director of politics for the NYLCV. He said he runs the protocol shop and events at NYLCV. He looks forward to learning from the CAC and contributing to the conversation.

The next request for membership comes from Stony Brook hospital, represented by Erika Karp in the health-based category.

Karp said she is the community relations representative at Stony Brook hospital. She said she is looking forward to working with the group and has already learned from the CAC.

The next request is from the State of NY Mortgage Agency (SONYMA), represented by James Freeman under the Government category.

Engel said Freeman has been active on the CAC for over a year and even if the group he currently represents doesn't continue, the Lab would like to keep him as a member.

Sprintzen asked why Freeman isn't representing Gordon Heights Civic Association anymore.

Engel said the Lab is looking to see if they want to send another representative, but it's a better fit for Freeman to change the organization he represents.

Hodgin read the SONYMA mission statement from their website.

Freeman said he was the president of Gordon Heights Civic and affiliated with the organization for ten years, but their bylaws state that a president can only serve for two terms. This will give another group the opportunity to become a member organization. He said last August, he was appointed by the board of directors for SONYMA. He spoke about how SONYMA assists individuals and families with housing, while making sure housing is safe and environmentally conscientious. He said there are six other boards that collaborate with SONYMA.

Hodgin said the full meeting will now adjourn and reconvene as a council-only session to discuss these requests and conduct a vote.

The full meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

10. Council-only Session to vote on Membership Requests

CAC members reconvened in a council-only session to discuss and vote on membership requests.

***ACTION ITEM**

Send a list of all organizations and their categories to the CAC

Quorum was not met but votes of attending members were held and followed up by contacting those members that were present at the full meeting but not the council-only session for their votes/input. Sufficient additional members responded to meet quorum.

The following votes were held:

Town of Riverhead five-year renewal – approved.

New Membership applications:

Cornell Cooperative Extension – approved.

National Grid – approved.

New York League of Conservation Voters – approved.

Stony Brook Hospital – approved.

SONYMA – not approved.

The Council-only session adjourned at 9:32 PM.

Next meeting: May 11, 2023

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	X								
			Alternate	Michael	Madigan			X									
		Brookhaven Coalition of Chambers of Commerce – Business & Labor	Member	Ron	Trotta			X									
			Alternate	Carmine	Inserra				X								
		Brookhaven Retired Employees Association- BNL Affiliation	Member	Mark	Israel			X	X								
			Alternate	Eena-Mai	Franz												
			Alternate2	Steve	Shapiro												
		Brookhaven Village Association – Civic	Member	Reinhardt	Schuhmann				X								
			Alternate	Chris	Ciervo												
		Citizens Campaign for the Environment – Advocacy & Environment	Member	Adrienne	Esposito			X	X								
			Alternate	Maureen	Murphy-Dolan												
		Colonial Woods Whispering Pines – Civic	Member	Jane	Koropsak			X	X								
			Alternate														
		East Yaphank Civic Association - Civic	Member	Robert	Feinman			X	X								
			Alternate	Laura	Reid												
		Emeritus	Member	David	Sprintzen				X								
		FOREST - Advocacy & Environment	Member	John	Pavacic			X	X								
			Alternate														
		Foundation for Economic Education – Education, Science & Technology	Member	Bruce	Martin				X								
			Alternate	Craig	Pratka			X	X								
		Gordon Heights Civic Assoc. - Civic	Member	James	Freeman			X	X								
			Alternate														
		Individual	Member	Jane	Corrarino			X	X								
		Individual	Member	Karen	Blumer			X									
			Alternate	Michael	Madigan												
		L.I. Pine Barrens Society – Advocacy & Environment	Member	Richard	Amper												
			Alternate	Andrew	Wong			X	X								
		Longwood Central School Dist. – Education, Science & Technology	Member	Tracy	Adams												
			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								

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
			Alternate	Matthew	Whitaker			X	X								
		Ridge Civic Association – Civic	Member	Ken	Casanova												
			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	X								
			Alternate	Sandra	Young												
		Town of Brookhaven – Government	Member	Dan	Panico			X									
			Alternate	Patricia	Kaloski			X									
		Town of Riverhead - Government	Member	Bob	Kern			X	X								
			Alternate	Frank	Mancini												
		Wading River Civic Association - Civic	Member	Henry	Perez			X	X								
			Alternate	Linda	Rundlett												