

**Community Advisory Council**  
**May 11, 2023**  
**Action Items/Notes**

*Final*

*Note: This was a hybrid meeting, held virtually through Zoom and in-person in Berkner Hall, room B.*

*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. Governor's Island, Climate Exchange update
5. Environmental Updates
6. Opportunities for Reducing the Use of Single-Use Plastics at BNL
7. Stakeholder Relations Program updates
8. New Member introductions
9. Agenda Setting
10. Community Comment
11. Council-only Session

### **1. Attendance**

Members/Alternates Present: See Attached Sheets.

Others Present: J. Anderson, B. Barth, D. Bauer, N. Blackburn, D. D'Agostino, T. Daniels, B. Dorsch, A. Engel, J. Gettler, S. Gonzalez, T. Green, R. Hodgin, R. Howe, D. Manning, R. McKay, J. Milligan, A. Perez, D. Pontieri, V. Racaniello, A. Rapiejko, J. Remien, R. Tribble, B. Uzzi, K. White, N. Zmich

### **2. Correspondence and Handouts**

Items numbered one through four were e-mailed to Members on May 4, 2023. Items numbered five through seven were e-mailed to Members on May 11, 2023.

1. Draft agenda for May 2023 meeting
2. Draft notes from the April 2023 meeting
3. Amended draft notes from the March 2023 meeting
4. List of CAC Members and their affiliations
5. Copy of presentation: Opportunities for Reducing the use of Single-use Plastics at BNL
6. Copy of presentation: Stakeholder Relations program updates
7. Copy of presentation: Mechanical treatments and fire

### **3. Administrative Items**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Reed Hodgin, facilitator, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reviewed the ground rules and draft agenda. He then explained the process for a hybrid meeting. Hodgin welcomed new members, Chris Pickerell – Cornell Cooperative

Extension, Brian Sapp – National Grid, Casey Petrashek – New York League of Conservation Voters, and Erika Kapp – Stony Brook Hospital.

David Manning, Director – Stakeholder Relations office, welcomed the CAC to the first hybrid meeting. He said this is the last of the three-month Spring CAC meeting session. The Lab will notify members if a need arises to call a meeting before the next scheduled one in September. The plan is to continue having meetings in person. The Lab will also continue offering the Zoom option to join the meetings.

Jack Anderson, Interim Director – Brookhaven National Laboratory, said it is great to see everyone in person after 3 ½ years. He said today the White house declared the public health emergency for COVID is over and he thanked the CAC for sticking with the Lab and adjusting as necessary throughout the pandemic. He said the Lab is currently going through a leadership transition, as mentioned at the last meeting. Dr. JoAnne Hewett will be starting her new role as the Lab Director in July. The CAC will hopefully get the chance to meet her at the September meeting. He said the Lab has recently hosted some important visitors. Anderson said last Monday, he and Bob Tribble were in Washington DC attending meetings. The focus at this time is the FY24 budget.

### **Approval of minutes:**

The April 2023 CAC action items and notes were approved as written with none opposed and three abstentions.

Member Esposito questioned why there are no hard copies of the notes available for the CAC to review.

Engel said since they were sent out electronically, the Lab will no longer be providing hard copies. If members would prefer to have the minutes printed out for them at the meetings, we can do that, but the Lab will no longer be printing out the presentations. Everything is available online. If everyone could review the minutes that are sent out before the meetings going forward, that would be helpful.

### **4. Governor's Island Climate Exchange update, David Manning – Stakeholder Relations office**

David Manning said that Stony Brook University was selected as the anchor institution by NYC for a world-leading climate center on Governors Island. BNL is not a partner, but rather, the Lab is an advisor to Stony Brook on this project. Stony Brook has many core partners, but BNL is not investing financially in this project at this time. He said right now there is regular ferry service from NYC to the island, but the Governor's Island trustees plan to increase the ferry service. Currently, there are no residents living on the island, but that is part of the plan. This is a great educational opportunity.

### **5. Environmental updates, Tim Green – Environmental Protection Division**

Tim Green said the recent deer management effort has been completed and there were 1788 pounds of meat donated. Island Harvest food bank received 1548 pounds and 240 pounds was donated to a local wildlife rehabilitator. He then spoke about mechanical treatment done prior to prescribed fires. He said the Lab has plans for a few more controlled burns this month.

Esposito asked if the mild winter we had will see an increase in deer population.

Green said it doesn't get cold enough to affect the deer population.

## **6. Opportunities for Reducing the Use of Single-Use Plastics at BNL, Deborah Bauer – Environmental Protection Division**

Deborah Bauer said she is the pollution prevention coordinator at the Lab, and she works to promote environmentally friendly purchasing. Plastics are a complicated issue and have become a real environmental problem. In the late 1800s, the first plastics were invented, but they weren't mass produced until the 1960s. There has been a tremendous increase in plastic production and very little legislation to address this issue. Plastic is a man-made material that is very persistent in the environment, but it is also very useful. The EPA estimates that about 300 million tons of plastics are disposed of each year, with only about 9% being recycled. A lot of it is going to landfills and incinerators. Plastics can be found in our soils and oceans.

Member Esposito asked if any food waste is part of the Labs composting plan.

Bauer said not right now since the Lab doesn't have an active cafeteria. In the past, food waste was brought to the sewage treatment plant. At this time, the Lab has food trucks instead of a cafeteria, but there were plans to compost waste from the cafeteria when the Lab had one.

Bauer said federal requirements have set a net zero goal for waste generation. The Lab does get awards for their environmental efforts. She spoke about the source of single-use plastics at the Lab and the reasons for reducing the use of single-use plastic instead of increasing recycling. BNL added water bottle fills to drinking stations and is educating staff. She said plastic waste is an issue now, but there is hope for the future. Plastic eating bacteria could be evolving and it's possible in time it will become biodegradable. This is already starting to happen. The Lab will be doing more work on this issue.

Member Krupski said Riverhead town started a pilot program today on food waste for residential use to compost at home.

Hodgin said the CAC would like an update when one is available.

## **7. Stakeholder Relations Program updates, Ken White, Bernadette Uzzi, Aleida Perez, Amy Engel, Danielle Pontieri – Stakeholder Relations office**

Ken White, Manager – Manager, Office of Educational Programs, welcomed the CAC. He spoke about growing the STEM pipeline at BNL. He said the Lab tries to show students that they can be scientists and he spoke about the pathway to that goal. He said the Lab gives students access to world class scientific facilities and is very involved in the STEM hub. He said the Office of Educational Programs works hard to help young people see opportunity and assist them in their path to greatness.

Bernadette Uzzi, Office of Educational Programs - Manager for Pre-college programs, said the Lab works to get students at a very young age excited about science and then tries to maintain that through their academic career. The programs are integrated because the goal is to get students into internships and then hopefully working for BNL one day. She spoke about field trips, teacher professional development programs, contests, outreach, and engaging diverse communities.

Aleida Perez, Office of Educational Programs - Manager for University Relations, spoke about DOE funded college internships, the High School Research program, and the Suffolk Community College tech program. She explained the Lab's Open Space/Day in the Life of a River program and the Student Partnership for Advanced Research and Knowledge (SPARK). Perez said the Lab has an inclusive and diverse STEM pipeline.

Member Filler asked how students get the information about these programs.

Perez said the information is on the BNL website and the Lab also sends out email notifications to Long Island school districts.

Amy Engel, Manager – Environmental and Community Engagement, said the Community Engagement office seeks to create opportunities for the Lab’s employees to engage with the community. She spoke about PubSci, Science in the Community, Science on Screen, the Speakers’ Bureau program and some of the volunteer activities.

Danielle Pontieri, Protocol office, spoke about the purpose and history of the Lab’s Open House Summer Sundays program. She gave the CAC the dates for this upcoming summer and pointed them to the website.

Member Sapp asked if there are any age restrictions to attend Summer Sundays.

Pontieri said there are no age restrictions. All are welcome.

Member Schuhmann asked what goes on at other DOE labs with regard to open house tours and educational programs?

Pontieri said there are other labs that have open house programs, but not as often or efficient as BNL.

Ken White said many other laboratories have similar types of educational programs, but BNL is the best of the best.

Anderson said he is convinced that Brookhaven has the best outreach programs.

Member Freeman said BNL is doing a great job and it is appreciated.

## **8. Agenda setting**

Amy Engel said if any Members have any requests for topic or speakers, please email her. There will be environmental updates in the fall and the Lab will try to accommodate any of the CAC’s requests.

## **9. Community Comment**

There was no community comment.

## **10. New Member Introductions**

Hodgin said Member Freeman is proposing a change in his membership to the Individual category and Noel Blackburn is requesting membership for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion office under the BNL affiliation category.

Freeman said he previously spoke to the CAC about changing his membership from Gordon Heights to SONYMA, where he is the director. He would like to now be considered for membership in the Individual category instead. He said he is involved with several other organizations and would like to be able to bring any information back to all of those groups.

Member Esposito asked if there was an opening in the Individual category.

Engel said yes, there are two open positions in the Individual category for a total of four.

Member Keenan asked what the status of the membership of Gordon Heights Civic Association is.

Engel said the Lab is reaching out to them to see if they would like to send another representative.

Noel Blackburn, Chief Diversity Officer at BNL gave the CAC background information on himself.

Member Esposito asked how long Blackburn has been at the Lab.

Blackburn said since 1999.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07pm

## **11. Council-only Session**

Quorum was met and two votes were held.

The request for James Freeman to change his representation from Gordon Heights Civic Association to Individual – passed

The request for membership of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the BNL affiliation category, represented by Noel Blackburn – passed

The Council-only session adjourned at 9:17pm

Next meeting: September 14, 2023

<b>X = Present</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>		<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>Jan No mtg</b>	<b>Feb No mtg</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June No mtg</b>	<b>July No mtg</b>	<b>Aug No mtg</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>
		<b>ABCO – Civic</b>	Member	Ray	Keenan			X	X	X							
			Alternate	Michael	Madigan			X		X							
		<b>Brookhaven Coalition of Chambers of Commerce – Business &amp; Labor</b>	Member	Ron	Trotta			X									
			Alternate	Carmine	Inserra				X								
		<b>Brookhaven Retired Employees Association- BNL Affiliation</b>	Member	Mark	Israel			X	X	X							
			Alternate	Eena-Mai	Franz												
		<b>Brookhaven Village Association – Civic</b>	Member	Reinhardt	Schuhmann				X	X							
			Alternate	Chris	Ciervo												
		<b>Citizens Campaign for the Environment – Advocacy &amp; Environment</b>	Member	Adrienne	Esposito			X	X	X							
			Alternate	Maureen	Dolan-Murphy												
		<b>Colonial Woods Whispering Pines – Civic</b>	Member	Jane	Koropsak			X	X	X							
			Alternate														
		<b>Cornell Cooperative Extension – Health based</b>	Member	Chris	Pickerell					X							
			Alternate	Lorne	Brousseau												
		<b>East Yaphank Civic Association - Civic</b>	Member	Robert	Feinman			X	X	X							
			Alternate	Laura	Reid												
		<b>Emeritus</b>	Member	David	Sprintzen				X	X							
		<b>FOREST - Advocacy &amp; Environment</b>	Member	John	Pavacic			X	X	X							
			Alternate														
		<b>Foundation for Economic Education – Education, Science &amp; Technology</b>	Member	Bruce	Martin				X	X							
			Alternate	Craig	Pratka			X	X								
		<b>Gordon Heights Civic Assoc. - Civic</b>	Member	James	Freeman			X	X	X							
			Alternate														
		<b>Individual</b>	Member	Jane	Corrarino			X	X								
		<b>Individual</b>	Member	Karen	Blumer			X		X							
			Alternate	Michael	Madigan												
		<b>L.I. Pine Barrens Society – Advocacy &amp; Environment</b>	Member	Richard	Amper												
			Alternate	Andrew	Wong			X	X	X							
		<b>Longwood Central School Dist. – Education, Science &amp; Technology</b>	Member	Tracy	Adams												
			Alternate	Paul	Infranco												
		<b>Middle Island Civic Association – Civic</b>	Member	Martin	Filler			X	X	X							
			Alternate	Margaret	Malloy												

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		<b>National Grid – Business &amp; Labor</b>	Member	Brian	Sapp					X							
			Alternate														
		<b>New York League of Conservation Voters – Advocacy &amp; Environment</b>	Member	Casey	Petrashak					X							
			Alternate														
		<b>NSLS-II User Committee – BNL Affiliation</b>	Member	Jean	Jordan-Sweet			X	X								
			Alternate	Matthew	Whitaker			X	X	X							
		<b>Ridge Civic Association – Civic</b>	Member	Scott	Wood					X							
			Alternate	Ken	Casanova												
		<b>Stony Brook Hospital – Health based</b>	Member	Erika	Karp					X							
			Alternate														
		<b>Suffolk County Legislature 1<sup>st</sup> Dist. – Government</b>	Member	Al	Krupski			X		X							
			Alternate	Gwynn	Schroeder			X									
		<b>Teachers Federal Credit Union – Business &amp; Labor</b>	Member	Sandra	Santos-Keel			X	X	X							
			Alternate	Sandra	Young												
		<b>Town of Brookhaven – Government</b>	Member	Dan	Panico			X									
			Alternate	Patricia	Kaloski			X									
		<b>Town of Riverhead - Government</b>	Member	Bob	Kern			X	X								
			Alternate	Frank	Mancini					X							
		<b>Wading River Civic Association - Civic</b>	Member	Henry	Perez			X	X	X							
			Alternate	Linda	Rundlett												