

**Community Advisory Council
May 9, 2024
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. Environmental updates
5. Summer Sunday Open House tours
6. Natural and Cultural Resource update
7. BNL Strategy in Biopreparedness
8. Community comment
9. Agenda setting

1. Attendance

Members/Alternates Present: See Attached Sheets.

Others Present: B Barth, B Dorsch, A Emrick, A Engel, P Genzer, S Gonzalez, K Green, T Green, A Klein, R McKay, J Milligan, A Morocho, K Noren, D Paquette, A Perez, V Racaniello, J Remien, M Schoonen, K Schwager, J Wanless, K White

2. Correspondence and Handouts

Items numbered one through three were e-mailed to Members on May 2, 2024. Items numbered four through seven were e-mailed to Members on May 9, 2024. Items eight and nine were available as handouts to the in-person members.

1. Draft agenda for the May 2024 meeting
2. Draft notes from the April 2024 meeting
3. Open House 2024 flyer
4. Copy of presentation: Environmental updates
5. Copy of presentation: Summer Sunday Open House tours
6. Copy of presentation: Natural and Cultural Resources update
7. Copy of presentation: BNL Strategy in Biopreparedness
8. Flyer listing upcoming events
9. Open House 2024 flyer

3. Administrative Items

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Ken White, facilitator, welcomed everyone. He reviewed the ground rules, draft agenda, and meeting logistics.

All those present, both in-person and virtual, introduced themselves.

Amy Engel, Manager – Community Involvement, explained that those participating online can either raise their virtual hand, and wait to be called on, or they can enter their questions into the chat. She will call on online participants and read questions from the chat.

Member Sprintzen asked if the pictures of the online participants could be enlarged, so their faces can be visible. He also commented that the Lab director has not been at the recent CAC meetings. He said, in the past, the director always attended these meetings and he hopes this is not a pattern and the CAC will see the director here at future meetings.

Engel said the leadership team has been represented at every meeting. She said tonight we have the Deputy Director of Operations with us.

Leadership Update:

Ann Emrick, Deputy Director for Operations, welcomed everyone to the CAC meeting. She said Laboratory Director, Joann Hewett, and Deputy Director for Science, John Hill, are both on official BNL travel at CERN in Geneva Switzerland this evening and were unable to make it to the CAC meeting. They are both committed to the CAC and want to be here. She then said the RHIC run has started and the Electron Ion Collider project received Critical Decision 3. She also said on April 24th, the Lab hosted Take your Child to Work Day. The Lab also recently hosted a family friendly Earth Day event at Jones Beach.

Engel mentioned a few upcoming events:

- May 21 – Pub Sci
- June 1 – Science in the Community
- June 12 – Science on Screen

Approval of minutes:

The April 2024 CAC Action Items and Notes were approved as written with none opposed and two abstentions.

4. Environmental updates – Jason Remien and Brian Barth (See presentation)

Jason Remien, Manager – Environmental Protection Division, provided an environmental update which included the following:

- Demolition and mercury remediation of Bldg 197
 - Background
 - Demolition activities
 - Project scope
 - Project schedule

Questions/Answers:

- Member Esposito asked what the source of mercury was in Bldg. 197 and what were the levels. She also asked what landfill the debris is being sent to.
 - Remien said the origin of the mercury is from research that was performed between 1952 and 1977 that included the use of mercury as part of the experiments. He said the highest level detected during the recent investigation was approximately 30,000 micrograms/kilogram (µg/kg). The construction and demolition (C&D) waste from the building demolition is being sent to the Brookhaven landfill. Waste from the mercury cleanup will be shipped via rail to a permitted disposal facility.

- Member Schuhmann asked what happens to the mercury when it gets into sandy soil. He asked if it migrates and what about rainfall.
 - Remien said this area of contamination was in a covered area (i.e., crawl space underneath a building) so there was no risk of rainfall driving it down into the soil. Also, the groundwater hydraulically down gradient of the building was tested, and no mercury was found.

Brian Barth, Groundwater Protection Group, provided an update which included:

- Operable Unit III Building 96 source area optimization.

Questions/Answers:

- Member Esposito said the remediation that was done at the time went 16' below ground level. Since then, the groundwater table dropped, we have had record rainfall and some areas have a higher groundwater table
 - Barth said we have seen an increase of about 4 feet. He said we are not seeing exceedingly high concentrations.
- Esposito said for the record, this is now the 2nd time where contamination was left in place because it was thought the groundwater would not rise and become an issue. We need to be mindful in the future that the groundwater fluctuates a great deal. We need to clean it up in the first place.
 - Barth said we do monitor groundwater elevation and watch for when it reaches certain levels.
 - Remien said you make a good point. However, the contamination was not left in place because we did not think the groundwater would rise, but because the elevation of groundwater at the time limited the depth of excavation. Based on the data since that effort, it is apparent that additional action is necessary, and the selected technology should address the residual contamination.
- Member Esposito asked for an update in the future

5. Summer Sunday Open House tours – Kristyn Noren (See presentation)

Topics covered:

- Purpose & History
- Dates and daily schedules
- Changes for 2024 – 1 Sunday each month from June through September instead of 4 consecutive Sundays.
- Themes for each Sunday: Family fun day, NSLS II, CFN and NWS, RHIC and SMD and Tandem Van DeGraff,

6. Natural and Cultural Resources update – Kathy Schwager and Tim Green (See presentation)

Natural Resources topics covered:

- Deer Management
- Fire Management
- Forest Management
 - Mechanical Treatments & Prescribed Fires
- No Mow areas and pollinators
- Southern Pine Beetle devastation
- Bats

Cultural Resources topics covered:

- Outreach

- Regulatory Activities
- Recent Actions
- Camp Upton
- The Water Tower then and now
- The Brookhaven Medical Research Reactor

Questions/Answers:

- Member Schuhmann asked if NYS or the county is doing anything about the Southern Pine Beetle (SPB) devastation. This is not just a Lab issue. What will the end result be?
 - Schwager said there is not much that can be done about it at this point. The state has been doing some management through suppression of smaller infestations, thinning and ultimately burning. We don't have a definitive answer. We are losing the pine barrens, and you can't just replace the pine trees with something else. We need to actively manage the forest.
- Member Freeman asked if the areas would be replanted. Have other areas around the country had the same problem and what was their cure.
 - Schwager said the SPB is native to the southeast but has been moving north. They actively manage their forest in the southeast. We don't do that here and our forests are not healthy. The only way to mitigate is forest management via thinning, and prescribed fire. The Pine Barrens Commission has been collecting pinecones so some of the genetic diversity can be retained and replanting may be a consideration in the future. Right now, we are trying to manage the forest.
- Member Sprintzen asked what decimates the bat population
 - Schwager said white nose syndrome.
- Member Freeman asked if the deer onsite have depleted indigenous plants
 - Schwager said deer populations have been high for so long that we don't know exactly what we've lost, but it's highly likely we have lost some species.
- Member Keenan asked about the gamma forest
 - Green said it was an area in the northeast corner of lab where scientists looked at the impacts of gamma radiation on the local ecosystem. There is no contamination left behind, but they learned a lot from that experiment.

7. BNL Strategy in Biopreparedness – Martin Schoonen (see presentation)

BNL Strategy in Biopreparedness: A New Direction within DOE-Office of Science topics included:

- What is biopreparedness and why DOE
- BNL's position in NVBL (National Virtual Biotechnology Laboratory) and BRaVE (Biopreparedness Research and Virtual Environment)
- Biological and Environmental Research (BER) funding and objectives
- Community input and vision
- Research priorities
- Objectives
- Long term outlook

Questions/Answers:

- Member Freeman asked if there is an executive order that allows Labs to work together in times of crisis.
 - Schoonen said it is natural to try to work together. There is money on the table for people to respond so its an opportunity that presents itself.
- Member Freeman asked who holds the intellectual property on this.
 - Schoonen said that can be difficult. If BNL employees are involved they will be part of the intellectual property. Good question.
- Member Israel asked if these plants will be grown on federal land.

- Schoonen said some land is kept in a different category and these crops could be planted on that land. There is a class of land that's available if the economic advantages are presented.
- Member Freeman asked if any techniques used by native tribes have been used in this research
 - Schoonen said we are at the very early stages, perhaps down the line during the demonstration and development there might be opportunities for them to weigh in.
- Adriana Morocho asked if anyone has considered the ecological effects.
 - Schoonen said as a country we need to be concerned about that. There is a long way to go before this is implemented so there is a lot to consider.

8. Community Comment

There was no community comment

9. Agenda Setting

Engel said the CAC will break for the summer during the next three months. The next meeting will be in September. She said in August a survey will be sent out to the CAC asking for feedback on the use of an internal facilitator since the last three months has been on a trial basis. We will also be looking for input on potential changes to the CAC Guidelines. The Lab plans to have the following presentations in the fall of 2024: an update on the Site Environmental Report, a presentation on the remedial investigation feasibility study for PFAS at Operable Unit 10, nanoscience, Artificial Intelligence, BNL's HR department and hiring, battery research and sodium ion batteries, and garbage solutions. She said if anyone has any other ideas, please let her know.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52

Next meeting: September 12, 2024

X = Present	2024	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 No mtg
ABCO – Civic		Member	Ray	Keenan				X	X	X							
		Alternate	Michael	Madigan				X									
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	X							
		Alternate	Eena-Mai	Franz													
Brookhaven Village Association – Civic		Member	Reinhardt	Schuhmann				X	X	X							
		Alternate	Chris	Ciervo													
Citizens Campaign for the Environment – Advocacy & Environment		Member	Adrienne	Esposito				X		X							
		Alternate	Maureen	Dolan-Murphy													
Colonial Woods Whispering Pines – Civic		Member	Jane	Koropsak				X									
		Alternate															
Cornell Cooperative Extension – Health based		Member	Chris	Pickerell				X		X							
		Alternate	Lorne	Brousseau													
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – BNL Affiliation		Member	Noel	Blackburn				X	X	X							
		Alternate	Menzel	Smith-Jones													
East Yaphank Civic Association - Civic		Member	Robert	Feinman				X	X	X							
		Alternate	Laura	Reid													
Emeritus		Member	David	Sprintzen				X	X	X							
FOREST - Advocacy & Environment		Member	John	Pavacic				X	X	X							
		Alternate															
Foundation for Economic Education – Education, Science & Technology		Member	Craig	Pratka				X	X	X							
		Alternate						X									
Gordon Heights Civic Assoc. - Civic		Member															
		Alternate															
Individual		Member	James	Freeman				X		X							
Individual		Member	Jane	Corrarino					X								
Individual		Member	Karen	Blumer				X	X								
		Alternate	Michael	Madigan					X	X							
L.I. Pine Barrens Society – Advocacy & Environment		Member	Richard	Amper				X	X	X							
		Alternate	Travis	Cutter				X	X	X							
Longwood Central School Dist. – Education, Science & Technology		Member	James	Crenshaw				X									

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			Alternate														
		Middle Island Civic Association – Civic	Member	Martin	Filler			X	X	X							
			Alternate	Margaret	Malloy												
		National Grid – Business & Labor	Member	Brian	Sapp			X	X	X							
			Alternate														
		New York League of Conservation Voters – Advocacy & Environment	Member	Casey	Petrashek				X	X							
			Alternate 1	Alexis	Hidalgo												
			Alternate 2	Lea	Gibbins			X									
		NSLS-II User Committee – BNL Affiliation	Member	Jean	Jordan-Sweet			X	X								
			Alternate	Matthew	Whitaker			X	X	X							
		Ridge Civic Association – Civic	Member	Scott	Wood				X								
			Alternate														
		Stony Brook Hospital – Health based	Member	Erika	Karp				X	X							
			Alternate														
		Suffolk County Legislature 1 st Dist. – Government	Member														
			Alternate														
		Teachers Federal Credit Union – Business & Labor	Member	Jashmin	Futch			X									
			Alternate	Sandra	Young												
		Town of Brookhaven – Government	Member	Karen	Dunne Kesnig												
			Alternate 1	Patricia	Kaloski				X								
			Alternate 2	Kathryn	Kollegger			X									
		Town of Riverhead - Government	Member	Bob	Kern			X	X	X							
			Alternate	Frank	Mancini												
		Wading River Civic Association - Civic	Member	Henry	Perez			X	X								
			Alternate	Linda	Rundlett					X							