

**Community Advisory Council
November 14, 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. Site Environmental Report (2nd half)
5. Annual Groundwater update
6. Discussion of CAC Survey results
7. Community Comment
8. Agenda setting

1. Attendance

Members/Alternates Present: **See attendance sheet at the end of the notes**

Others Present: B. Barth, X. Chen, B. Dorsch, R. DeCandida, R. Dineen, A. Engel, S. Gonzalez, K. Green, T. Green, J. Hill, .A. Klein, S. Kohler, D. Manning, R McKay, J. Milligan, R. Minzloff, T. Montauri, A. Morocho, G. Olson, A. Ozelis, D. Paquette, C. Polanish, .G Polonski, .A Rapiejko, J. Remien, J. Wanless, T. Welty, K. White, R. Wilson,

2. Correspondence and Handouts

Items numbered one and two were e-mailed to Members on November 7, 2024. Items numbered three and four were e-mailed to Members on November 14, 2024. Copies of items number five and six were brought to the meeting and handed out to those attending in person. (files were too large to email).

1. Draft agenda for the November 2024 meeting
2. Draft notes from the October 2024 meeting
3. Copy of presentation: Annual Groundwater report
4. Copy of presentation: CAC Survey results
5. Copy of presentation: Annual Lab Plan
6. Copy of CAC Guidelines

3. Administrative Items

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

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

Robert Wilson, representing Local Union 30, and the Lab's cryogenic engineers, spoke briefly to the CAC. He handed out a leaflet with information.

John Hill, Deputy Director for Science and Technology, welcomed everyone to the CAC meeting and said the EIC (Electron Ion Collider) review board is in town this week. He spoke about the quantum computing center and said the contract for a new vendor for the cafeteria has been signed.

Approval of minutes:

The October 2024 CAC Action Items and Notes were approved as written with none opposed.

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

Amy Engel, Manager – Environment and Community Engagement, 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.

Sharon Kohler, Deputy Director for Environment, Safety and Health said the tritium common cause analysis has been completed and there are copies available for anyone interested. These are marked "not for distribution", so we ask that you adhere to that. The short and long-term recommendations are being implemented. The Lab has already begun draining and replacing the tritiated water to bring it below the drinking water standard. There are ongoing conversations with the regulators, and we will update you as more information becomes available.

Member Esposito asked if funding is in place or if this is dependent on the future budget for the long-term remedy.

Kohler said it is dependent on the future budget.

Member Keenan asked if the CAC could get another update in three months.

Kohler said yes.

Member Israel asked if the tritiated water is sent off-site.

Kohler said no, there is a permitted process that the Lab follows to dispose of the water.

Member Esposito asked how much water is involved.

Kohler said roughly 21,000 gallons. She said so far, about 14,000 gallons have been treated. This process takes a while.

Member Esposito asked if the levels of tritium were higher than anticipated and if this measure will control the levels or if it still has to be managed in the future.

Kohler said the short-term actions are to look for leaks. There are stop gap measures.

4. Site Environmental Report (2nd half), Jason Remien – Manager, Environmental Protection (see presentation)

Jason Remien, presented the second half of the Site Environmental Report, beginning where he left off the previous month

Topics covered:

- Chapter three: Inspections and Assessments
- Chapter four: Air Quality (radiological and non-radiological)
- Chapter five: Water Quality (radiological and non-radiological)
- Chapter six: Cultural Resource Management
- Chapter eight: Radiological Dose Assessment

- Questions/Answers:
 - Member Esposito asked if mercury has been seen and if PFAS chemicals are included in the VOC samples that were taken
 - Remien said no mercury above the limits has been seen and PFAS is not included in these VOC samples
 - Member Esposito asked if the dead pine trees are a fire hazard
 - Remien said yes, it's a big concern. The Lab has been working on this issue.
 - Member Esposito asked how many offsite locations have TLDs measuring radiological dose
 - Remien said 17

5. Annual Groundwater Report, Bill Dorsch – Environmental Protection Division (see presentation)

Dorsch spoke about Volume 2 of the Site Environmental Report, Groundwater Status Report. He said the groundwater status report provided comprehensive details on groundwater monitoring and remediation conducted during 2023.

- Questions/Answers:
 - Member Keenan asked what the speed of the migration of the plumes
 - Dorsch said the water travels about .75 to one foot per day.
 - Member Jordan Sweet asked how an advanced oxidation system works
 - Vinnie Racaniello said the water goes in and is treated. It goes through UV lights and then through a carbon treatment system. It is labor intensive. The process is currently being refined.
 - Member Jordan Sweet asked how hard it is to get permission to inject something into the aquifer
 - Dorsch said years ago it would have been a challenge, but this method is commonly used now

6. Discussion of CAC survey results, David Manning – Director, Stakeholder Relations office (see presentation)

A survey was sent to CAC members to get input on various issues. Topics and responses from the CAC are listed below:

Both facilitators, Ken White and Amy Engel, were asked to leave the room so the CAC could talk candidly about their feelings on the in-house facilitator during that portion of the discussion

- Current length of meetings
 - Results:
 - I like the current timing of 2.5 hours – 28%
 - I prefer 1.5 – 2 hours – 50%
 - I prefer 1 – 1.5 hours – 22%

- Feedback on environmental presentations
 - Results:
 - The presentations contain the right amount of detail – 61%
 - The presentations are a bit too detailed – 33%
- Feedback on scientific presentations
 - Results:
 - The presentations contain the right amount of detail – 72%
 - The presentations are a bit too detailed – 22%
- Moderator
 - Results:
 - Most members indicated they were comfortable with an in-house moderator
- Hybrid and in-person meetings
 - Results:
 - I prefer hybrid for all meetings – 39%
 - I prefer all hybrid with one in person meetings – 50%
 - Other – 11%
- Facility tours
 - Results:
 - There is a lot of interest in more facility tours for the CAC

Discussion:

Several Members said the hybrid meetings are not as effective, and they felt that online participants tend to not participate as much in the discussions.

Manning spoke about the new SUSC building and its ability to hold meetings there in the future.

One member suggested keeping to the timeframe listed on the agenda for presentations and capture questions to be addressed at a later time. Another member disagreed and said questions should be answered when they are asked and the topic is being discussed. Another member said the moderator should ask if the CAC wants to continue if it gets late and pick this up at the next meeting.

Manning said based on the results of the survey, we will continue to use the two in house moderators.

7. Community Comment

- Member Pavacic asked if most BNL employees are part of a union. He wondered why a union representative spoke to the CAC at this meeting.
 - White said these meetings are open to the public.

8. Agenda Setting

Manning said the Lab is hoping to have the March CAC meeting in-person with a tour and dinner for all participants.

Engel said we are planning to have a presentation on battery research, nanotechnology, and a tour of RHIC in the spring as well as an update on the EIC.

Meeting adjourned at 9:16.

Next meeting: March 13, 2025.

X = Present	2024	Affiliation				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				X	X	X	
		Alternate	Michael	Madigan				X									
Brookhaven Coalition of Chambers of Commerce – Business & Labor		Member	Ron	Trotta										X	X		
		Alternate	Carmine	Inserra													
Brookhaven Retired Employees Association- BNL Affiliation		Member	Mark	Israel				X	X	X					X	X	
		Alternate1	Eena-Mai	Franz													
		Alternate2	Arnie	Moodenbaug										X			
Brookhaven Village Association – Civic		Member	Reinhardt	Schuhmann				X	X	X				X		X	
		Alternate	Chris	Ciervo													
Citizens Campaign for the Environment – Advocacy & Environment		Member	Adrienne	Esposito				X		X				X	X	X	
		Alternate	Maureen	Dolan-Murphy													
Cornell Cooperative Extension – Health based		Member	Chris	Pickerell				X		X					X		
		Alternate	Lorne	Brousseau										X		X	
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				X	X	X	
FOREST - Advocacy & Environment		Member	John	Pavacic				X	X	X				X		X	
		Alternate															
Foundation for Economic Education – Education, Science & Technology		Member	Craig	Pratka				X	X	X					X	X	
		Alternate						X									
Individual		Member	James	Freeman				X		X					X		
Individual		Member	Jane	Corrarino					X								
Individual		Member	Karen	Blumer				X	X								
		Alternate	Michael	Madigan					X	X				X			
L.I. Pine Barrens Society – Advocacy & Environment		Member	Richard	Amper				X	X	X				X			
		Alternate	Travis	Cutter				X	X	X				X	X	X	
Longwood Central School Dist. – Education, Science & Technology		Member	James	Crenshaw				X									
		Alternate															
Middle Island Civic Association – Civic		Member	Martin	Filler				X	X	X				X	X	X	
		Alternate	Margaret	Malloy													

X = Present	2024	Affiliation				Jan No mtg	Feb No mtg	Mar	Apr	May	June No mtg	July No mtg	Aug No mtg	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec No mtg
National Grid – Business & Labor	Member	Brian	Sapp					X	X	X						X	
	Alternate																
New York League of Conservation Voters – Advocacy & Environment	Member	Casey	Petrashak						X	X				X		X	
	Alternate 1	Alexis	Hidalgo														
	Alternate 2	Lea	Gibbins					X									
NSLS-II User Committee – BNL Affiliation	Member	Jean	Jordan-Sweet					X	X							X	
	Alternate	Matthew	Whitaker					X	X	X				X		X	
Ridge Civic Association – Civic	Member	Scott	Wood						X						X		
	Alternate																
Stony Brook Hospital – Health based	Member	Erika	Karp						X	X				X	X	X	
	Alternate																
Suffolk County Legislature 1 st Dist. – Government	Member																
	Alternate																
Teachers Federal Credit Union – Business & Labor	Member	Jashmin	Futch					X						X	X	X	
	Alternate	Sandra	Young														
Town of Brookhaven – Government	Member	Karen	Dunne Kesnig														
	Alternate 1	Patricia	Kaloski						X								
	Alternate 2	Kathryn	Kollegger					X						X		X	
Town of Riverhead - Government	Member	Bob	Kern					X	X	X					X		
	Alternate	Frank	Mancini											X			
Wading River Civic Association - Civic	Member	Henry	Perez					X	X							X	
	Alternate	Linda	Rundlett							X							