

**Community Advisory Council
March 13, 2025
Action Items/Notes**

Final

Note: This was a hybrid meeting, held virtually through Zoom and in-person in Physics Building 510.

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. MTA/LIRR update on Yaphank Station
5. Environmental Updates
6. Overview of Discovery Technologies
7. Introduction of potential New Member
8. Community Comment
9. Agenda setting

1. Attendance

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

Others Present: B. Barth, G. Carini, X. Chen, F. Craner, R. Dineen, W. Doyle, A. Emrick, A. Engel, W. Fischer, R. Filler, S. Gonzalez, K. Green, A. Juchatz, A. Klein, S. Kohler, D. Manning, R. McKay, J. Michaels, J. Milligan, A. Morocho, A. Ozelis, D. Paquette, C. Polanish, V. Racaniello, A. Rapiejko, J. Remien, L. Singh, M. Sweet, J. Wanless, K. White, J. Williams, K. Zegel.

2. Correspondence and Handouts

Items numbered one and two were e-mailed to Members on March 6, 2025. Items numbered three and four were e-mailed to Members on March 13, 2025. Item number five was too large to email so copies were available at the meeting.

1. Draft agenda for the March 2025 meeting
2. Draft notes from the November 2024 meeting
3. Copy of presentation: MTA/LIRR update on Yaphank Station
4. Copy of presentation: Environmental Update
5. Copy of presentation: Overview of new Discovery Technologies directorate

3. Administrative Items

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Ken White, Facilitator, welcomed everyone. He explained that the administrative section will be covered later in the meeting due to time constraints of some of the speakers.

4. MTA/ Long Island Railroad New Station Construction, Nick Fasano (see presentation)

Topics covered:

- Schedule and milestones
- Existing Yaphank station
- New station plans
- Construction
- New station renderings

Question and Answers for LIRR

Director Hewett asked:

- Q - Will there be more parking?
- A - As of now LIRR thinks that 50 will be adequate, but if it's not, more can be added.
- Q - Will there be parking specifically for the shuttle.
- A - That would be part of the bus loop. There will be a part for buses and shuttles to pull up and unload or load passengers
- Q - Has a name been chosen for the station yet?
- A - Not yet, but they are considering the input they've received and will be deciding soon.

Member Freeman asked:

- Q - How long will the ride be from the new station to NYC?
- A - Approximately 75 minutes but it's not exact.
- Q - How often will the train run?
- A - We won't be changing the number of times the train runs

Member Jordan-Sweet asked:

- Q - Is it electrified from Ronkonkoma to the new station?
- A - No, it's diesel, but long-term plans hope to electrify it.

Member Freeman asked:

- Q - How often will the train go to the new station?
- A - The schedule is not changing, so he will have to check and get back to us.

Member Schuhmann asked:

- Q - How many train cars will open on the platform?
- A - Fasano said he will have to check and get back to us.

***ACTION ITEM:**

Find out and let the CAC know how often the train will go to the new station and how many cars will open on the platform

5. Discovery Technologies, Gabriella Carini (see presentation)

Member Freeman asked:

- Q - Is the technology being used for the conductor using silicon?
- A - It's similar but different. They've developed tools, future micro-electronics, that are very small, and they're evolving.

Member Jordan-Sweet asked:

- Q - Is there a timeline for this Centric?
- A - Currently it is an idea. Many things are needed for it to come together. The building is needed. We need to understand how it aligns with the Light Source, and what tools

are needed to work with? Some tools are prohibitively expensive. But it leverages the investment from New York State.

Administrative Items postponed from earlier in the meeting:

White explained that the meeting went out of order this evening so we will address the administrative items now. He asked everyone in the audience in person to introduce themselves, which they did.

Amy Engel then asked the online audience to introduce themselves, which they did.

White asked if there was a quorum. Engel indicated yes.

The November 2024 CAC Action Items and Notes were approved as written.

JoAnne Hewett, Lab Director, provided an update. She explained that the Lab is a Government Owned, Contractor Operated (GOCO) entity. This distinction is important because it means not all Executive Orders that are promulgated from the White House affect the Lab. Only those orders that specifically flow down to BNL and are incorporated into our prime contract affect the Lab. To date, there are only three that have been included in BNL's prime contract:

- All Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion activities have been ceased.
- There are new restrictions on what flags can be flown onsite. Only the U.S. flag and the Department of Energy flag can be flown on BNL property. All other flags had to be removed.
- Certain words that reference climate science have had to be removed from the website.

Member Keenan asked:

- Q – Did the DEI executive order result in any firings?
- A – There were 6 people that had worked in that office. Some were affected by a Reduction in Force, some found other positions at the Lab, and some are actively applying for other positions.

Member Sapp asked:

- Q – Is the Lab still continuing battery research and hydrogen research?
- A – Yes. There has been no stop to the Lab's grants or energy science. Energy resilience and energy security are still priorities of the new Administration. The Secretary of Energy met with the Lab directors. He was engaged, thoughtful, and indicated that all forms of energy are important.

Member Freeman asked:

- Q – New York State Governor has a CDO that meets quarterly. Has anything at the state level impacted the Lab?
- A – There has been no impact from New York State. Brookhaven is a federal lab, and a federal enclave so it is not impacted.

Member Pavacic asked:

- Q - How will DOE and more specifically national labs and BNL fare under current iterations of the proposed federal budget?
- A – There is a lot of uncertainty, however, a Continuing Resolution (CR) until the end of the fiscal year will actually be good for the Lab. It will be what is considered a flat/flat budget and maintain 2024 levels. The only thing that hurts BNL with a flat/flat budget is that we are counting on an increase in funding levels to be able to keep the EIC construction on track. In a flat/flat budget the timeframe for EIC construction would slip a little.

Hewett added that the DOE had to submit a proposed restructuring plan to the White House which was due today. She also said that many DOE employees from the Brookhaven Site Office, including long-time site manager Bob Gordon, took the early retirement package.

Hewett also shared that things are going well with the Electron Ion Collider (EIC). The long-lead procurement is moving forward. RHIC is starting its 25th and final run of operation.

6. Environmental Updates, Jason Remien – Manager, Environmental Protection and Brian Barth (see presentation)

Topics covered:

- Building 197 Demolition and Mercury Remediation
- Tritiated Cooling Water Systems Status/Improvement Efforts
- Routine Sampling of Private Wells
- Building 96 Optimization Update
- Community Involvement Plan (CIP)

- Questions/Answers:

With regard to the Building 197 demolition and mercury remediation the following questions were asked:

Member Esposito asked:

- Q – Is the Lab monitoring for more than just mercury? Specifically, are they monitoring for VOC's?
- A – No, we're just monitoring for dust and mercury.
- Q – Weren't you concerned there was more mercury when you saw it leaking?
- A – Yes, that's why we're proceeding very carefully and have hired a professional mercury removal contractor to come in.
- Q - Were there any exceedances of mercury?
- A - No there were none.

Member Freeman asked:

- Q- How are workers protected? Are they tested?
- A – They are well protected. They wear safety gear and masks for dust and mercury. They are monitored and have had no exposure.

Member Jordan--Sweet asked:

- Q - Was the ground-penetrating radar used to detect mercury?
- A – No, it was not used to detect mercury, it was used to try to identify if there were pipes going through the cement or anywhere else.

With regard to the DEC sending the Lab a letter about a homeowner that needs to be hooked up to an Alternate Water Supply, the following questions came up:

- Member Keenan said it seemed like one of the locations on the map was by his house.
- Remien assured him that the stars to denote locations were purposely made very big to conceal specific addresses. However, Member Keenan did confirm he is hooked up to public water supply and does not use well water.
- NYS DEC representative Alex Klein explained that there is a DEC locator tool on their website where anyone can enter an address to find out about relevant sampling near them. Klein will share the website resources with BNL to share with CAC members.

***ACTION ITEM:**

Send CAC link to website to locate sampling being conducted at their locations.

Member Esposito asked:

Q – What was the highest level of PFAS found in that area?

A – Doug Paquette, Environmental Protection, said over 1,000 ng/L but we'll check and follow up.

***ACTION ITEM:**

Find out and report back the highest level of PFAS found in testing locations south of the Lab.

6. Discussion of new member applicant, Jeff Williams

Engel introduced Jeff Williams representing Country Point Meadows. Williams would like to be considered as a new member of the CAC. Engel explained that the process is for Williams to attend two meetings and then be considered by a vote of the CAC.

Williams said that he worked at the Lab for 33 years in the Environmental Protection Division and specifically in air quality. He currently is retired and lives across the street from the Lab in the Country Point Meadows condos.

7. Community Comment

There were no comments from the community.

8. Agenda Setting

Engel said that the Lab is working on previous requests from the CAC to have updates on batteries and nanotechnology. She also asked Jason Remien to give some background information on new employee Allison McGovern.

Remien explained that Allison McGovern took over the Cultural Resources responsibilities at the Lab following Tim Green's retirement. McGovern is an archaeologist and is excited to share her vision for cultural resources at the May CAC meeting.

Member Freeman would like an update on solar panels for homes.

Member Madigan would like to know if the Lab is researching iron batteries. Engel said we'll make sure this is addressed at the meeting about battery research.

Member Esposito requested that the more data-dense environmental presentations take place at the beginning of the meetings going forward.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Next meeting: April 10, 2025.

X = Present	2025	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									
	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														
	Alternate	Eena-Mai	Franz														
	Alternate	Arnold	Moodenbaugh					X									
Brookhaven Village Association – Civic	Member	Reinhardt	Schuhmann					X									
	Alternate	Chris	Ciervo														
Citizens Campaign for the Environment – Advocacy & Environment	Member	Adrienne	Esposito					X									
	Alternate	Christina	Lizzo					X									
Cornell Cooperative Extension – Health based	Member	Chris	Pickerell														
	Alternate	Lorne	Brousseau														
East Yaphank Civic Association - Civic	Member	Robert	Feinman														
	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																
	Alternate																
Individual	Member	James	Freeman					X									
Individual	Member	Jane	Corrarino														
Individual	Member	Karen	Blumer					X									
	Alternate	Michael	Madigan														
L.I. Pine Barrens Society – Advocacy & Environment	Member	Richard	Amper														

	Alternate	Travis	Cutter			X													
Longwood Central School Dist. – Education, Science & Technology	Member	James	Crenshaw																
	Alternate																		
Middle Island Civic Association – Civic	Member	Martin	Filler			X													
	Alternate	Margaret	Malloy																
National Grid – Business & Labor	Member	Brian	Sapp			X													
	Alternate																		
New York League of Conservation Voters – Advocacy & Environment	Member	Casey	Petrashak			X													
	Alternate 1	Alexis	Hidalgo																
	Alternate 2	Lea	Gibbins																
NSLS-II User Committee – BNL Affiliation	Member	Jean	Jordan-Sweet			X													
	Alternate	Matthew	Whitaker																
Ridge Civic Association – Civic	Member	Scott	Wood			X													
	Alternate	Barbara	Royce																
Stony Brook Hospital – Health based	Member	Erika	Karp			X													
	Alternate																		
Suffolk County Legislature 1st Dist. – Government	Member																		
	Alternate																		
Teachers Federal Credit Union – Business & Labor	Member	Jashmin	Futch			X													
	Alternate	Kathleen	Misiano			X													
Town of Brookhaven – Government	Member	Karen	Dunne Kesnig																
	Alternate 1	Patricia	Kaloski																
	Alternate 2	Julia	Norris																
Town of Riverhead - Government	Member	Bob	Kern			X													
	Alternate	Frank	Mancini																
Wading River Civic Association - Civic	Member	Henry	Perez																
	Alternate	Linda	Rundlett																