

**Community Advisory Council
May 8, 2025
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. Natural Resources Update
6. Cultural Resources Update
7. Center For Nanomaterials Update
8. Community Comment
9. Agenda Setting
10. New Member discussion and vote (closed session, Members only)

1. Attendance

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

Others Present: D. Bauer, C. Black, D. Carlson, F. Craner, X. Chen, A. Engel, P. Genzer, S. Gonzalez, K. Green, J. Hewett, J. Hill, A. Juchatz, A. McGovern, R. McKay, J. Milligan, A. Morocho, C. Ogeka, G. Olson, A. Ozelis, C. Polanish, V. Racaniello, A. Rapiejko, J. Remien, K. Schwager, M. Sweet, K. White, J. Williams

2. Correspondence and Handouts

Items numbered one and two were e-mailed to Members on April 3, 2025. Items numbered three through five were e-mailed to Members on April 10, 2025.

1. Draft agenda for the May 2025 meeting
2. Draft notes from the April 2025 meeting
3. Copy of presentation: Natural Resources Update
4. Copy of presentation: Cultural Resources Update
5. Copy of presentation: Center for Functional Nanomaterials Update

3. Administrative Items

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

Laboratory Director, JoAnne Hewett, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation. She said, the President's budget contains a 15% cut for the Office of Science so some programs might not be funded, but the Lab is still in good shape. It is early in the process.

She said the Lab's employees are insulated from other Federal institutions because the Lab is a GOCO (Government owned, Contractor operated) facility.

Member Israel asked if the Lab's funding comes from grants and work for others.

Hewett said funding is program dependent. Right now, the Lab is doing fine.

Member Esposito said if things get worse, the CAC can compose a letter of support to send to Washington DC on behalf of the Lab. We have done this before and can do it again.

Hewett thanked Member Esposito and the CAC for their offer.

Ken White, Facilitator, welcomed everyone and went over the ground rules. He asked everyone present in the room to introduce themselves.

Amy Engel then asked the online audience to introduce themselves and said quorum has been established.

The April 2025 CAC Action Items and Notes were approved as written.

4. Environmental Updates, Jason Remien – Manager, Environmental

Topics covered:

- Building 197 Demolition and Mercury Remediation
 - A lot of waste has been safely and compliantly processed by Waste Management personnel and has been shipped offsite for disposal
 - There is no visual elemental mercury at the surface
 - While we have addressed a significant amount of the contamination, we are not done but do have to pause work because funding is almost out for this project
 - The remediation process is a lot more complicated and expensive.
 - The Lab is working with the regulators to come up with a stabilization plan until additional funds are identified
 - BSA and DOE are actively seeking funding
- Member Esposito asked what percentage of the project has been completed and how much more money is needed.
 - Remien said that is a hard question and he really can't give an exact number
 - Chris Ogeka said \$3.5M has been spent so far on this project.
- Member Esposito said this project was supposed to be completed this year.
 - Remien there were delays due to the weather and what was found. We don't want to pause but can't continue without funding.
 - Hewett said this took longer and was more difficult than expected.
- Member Esposito asked if in the future, the CAC can see more slides with more information. She said the CAC can help advocate for the funds, but we can't help without the information.
 - Remien said he understands.
- Member Keenan asked if the CAC could get another update before September.

***ACTION ITEM: Update CAC Members on funding status of cleanup before the September meeting.**

- Member Esposto asked how much additional funding was requested.
 - Ogeka said \$2M

- Member Jordan Sweet asked if most of the cost is in getting the waste stored offsite and if it is possible to store it onsite.
 - Remien said we cannot store the waste onsite.
- Member Esposito asked if the cleanup can be started back up right away again once funding is available.
 - Remien said yes
- Remien then said there was a release of about 225 gallons of tritiated water on the roof of Bldg 911 in April. The concentration was less than Drinking Water Standards (DWS). The area is being inspected twice daily. This event occurred at night. The insulation was removed, and corrosion was found. The area was fixed, but some had soaked up in the insulation and some was on the roof so some could have made it to a roof drain that leads to a stormwater outfall. Even though it was below DWS, samples were taken. All samples at the outfall were non-detect for tritium.
 - Member Esposito asked how the leak was detected.
- Remien said the water level is monitored and if there is a big makeup, they shut it down and go look for a leak.
 - Member Schuhmann asked if notifications happened right away.
- Remien said yes.
- Hewett said last fall, I gave the CAC a list of action plans and each one has been executed.
- Member Esposito said it would be a good idea for the CAC to write a letter of support for the \$2M requested. She asked if someone could send her some bullet points to include and she would compose the letter.
- White said there is a process outlined in the CAC Guidelines that can be followed.

5. Natural Resources update, Kathy Schwager – Natural Resource Manager (see presentation)

Topics covered:

- **Deer Management**
- Member Kern asked who is doing the deer cull
 - Schwager said the USDA Wildlife Services comes in with sharp shooters
- Member Esposito asked if there will be a bigger cull next year.
 - Schwager said we cannot take more than 250 deer.
- Member Esposito asked if there has been a decrease in the number of pine beetle.
 - Schwager said they have already done so much damage. The population is headed for a decline once the fuel runs out.
- Member Jordan Sweet asked if there are any trees that are resistant.
 - Schwager said no, they attack all pine trees. We are currently in the epidemic phase.
- **Forest Management**
 - Mechanical treatments
 - Prescribed fires
- Member Pratka asked about the tick problem
 - Schwager said ticks are not getting any better, but the controlled fires reduce the population.

6. Cultural Resources update, Allison McGovern – Cultural Resource Manager (see presentation)

McGovern spoke about her background.

Topics covered:

- Camp Upton trenches
- Archaeology at BNL
- Cultural Resource management at BNL
- Installation of Kiosks
- Historic Architecture at BNL
- Balancing Mission with Historic preservation
- Goals for Cultural Resource program

7. Center for Functional Nanomaterials (CFN) update – Chuck Black - Director and Senior Scientist, Center for Functional

Chuck Black said the CFN aspires to accelerate the most important nanomaterial discoveries of the 21st century and we must “Seize the Day”.

Topics covered:

- Why is nanoscience interesting
- Deep dive podcast about the CFN
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Building a trustworthy nanoscience Chatbot
- An AI virtual scientific companion
- AI is an Energy Guzzler
- Neuromorphic computing

Questions:

- Member Jordan Sweet asked if AI will be our downfall
 - Black said our vision does not replace the person. The person comes first.
- Member Trotta asked if the Lab is working on neurochips.
 - Black said yes, brain-like chips to be able to do brain-like things.
- Member Schuhmann asked how you balance the risk.
 - Black said we have our experts here. We take it very seriously.
- Member Freeman asked if AI experiments are closed. What about safety protocols?
 - Black said there are safeguards in place. This is a closed system with multiple checks.

8. Community Comment

There were no comments from the community.

9. Agenda Setting

- Amy Engel said there will be a recap of the RHIC run and an update on the EIC in the Fall, as well as an update on mercury remediation.
- Chuck Black suggested a presentation by Kevin Yager and Esther Tsai.
- John Hill suggested an update on the Science User Support Center (SUSC).
- Ken White said perhaps there could be a tour of the facility.

10. New Member Discussion and Vote (closed session)

Engel said Jeff Williams, a BNL retiree, has expressed interest in joining the CAC representing Country Point Meadows, the community across the street from the Lab. He has attended the mandatory two meetings, so it is time for CAC members to discuss and vote on this request.

Several members said they knew Williams and expressed their support.

Some other members said they were concerned about too many BNL employees and retirees on the CAC and said that is not the intent of the CAC.

A vote was held, and Williams membership request was unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

Next meeting: September 11, 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	X	X							
	Alternate	Michael	Madigan					X									
Brookhaven Coalition of Chambers of Commerce – Business & Labor	Member	Ron	Trotta					X	X	X							
	Alternate	Carmine	Inserra														
Brookhaven Retired Employees Association- BNL Affiliation	Member	Mark	Israel						X	X							
	Alternate	Eena-Mai	Franz														
	Alternate	Arnold	Moodenbaugh					X									
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	Christina	Lizzo					X									
Cornell Cooperative Extension – Health based	Member	Chris	Pickerell														
	Alternate	Lorne	Brousseau						X								
East Yaphank Civic Association - Civic	Member	Robert	Feinman														
	Alternate	Laura	Reid														
Emeritus	Member	David	Sprintzen						X	X							
FOREST - Advocacy & Environment	Member	Tim	Green					X		X							
	Alternate								X								
Foundation for Economic Education – Education, Science & Technology	Member	Craig	Pratka					X	X	X							
	Alternate																
Individual	Member	James	Freeman					X		X							
Individual	Member	Jane	Corrarino														
Individual	Member	Karen	Blumer					X									
	Alternate	Michael	Madigan														
L.I. Pine Barrens Society – Advocacy & Environment	Member	Nina	Leonhardt														
	Alternate	Travis	Cutter					X	X	X							
Longwood Central School Dist. – Education, Science & Technology	Member	James	Crenshaw														

	Alternate																		
Middle Island Civic Association – Civic	Member	Martin	Filler			X	X	X											
	Alternate	Margaret	Malloy																
National Grid – Business & Labor	Member	Brian	Sapp			X													
	Alternate																		
New York League of Conservation Voters – Advocacy & Environment	Member	Casey	Petrashek			X		X											
	Alternate	Lea	Gibbins																
NSLS-II User Committee – BNL Affiliation	Member	Jean	Jordan-Sweet			X	X	X											
	Alternate	Matthew	Whitaker				X	X											
Ridge Civic Association – Civic	Member	Scott	Wood			X													
	Alternate	Barbara	Royce				X	X											
Stony Brook Hospital – Health based	Member	Erika	Karp			X	X	X											
	Alternate	Kristin	Cuomo																
Suffolk County Legislature 1st Dist. – Government	Member																		
	Alternate																		
Teachers Federal Credit Union – Business & Labor	Member	Jashmin	Futch			X	X	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	X	X											
	Alternate	Frank	Mancini																
Wading River Civic Association - Civic	Member	Henry	Perez					X											
	Alternate	Linda	Rundlett																