

Community Advisory Council
May 10, 2012
Action Items/Notes

Final

These notes are in the following order:

1. Attendance
2. Correspondence and Handouts
3. Administrative Items
4. The US DOE's Brookhaven Site Office at BNL
5. Environmental & Life Sciences at BNL
6. Agenda Setting
7. Community Comment
8. Council Only Session – Membership Discussion & Vote

1. Attendance

Members/Alternates Present: See Attached Sheets.

Others Present: S. Aronson, L. Bates, M. Bebon, C. Bevington, S. Bogart, J. Carter, F. Crescenzo, J. D'Ascoli, N. Detweiler, L. Garber, K. Geiger, M. Israel, S. Johnson, B. Lee, M. Lynch, L. Lyons, R. Mann, M. Maraviglia, R. McKay, A. Nunziata, V. Racaniello, J. Rampe, A. Rapiejko, J. Sicignano, P. Ziems

2. Correspondence and Handouts

Items numbered one through three were mailed to Members with a cover letter dated May 3, 2012. Items numbered four through seven were available as handouts at the meeting.

1. Draft agenda for May 10, 2012
2. Draft notes for April 12, 2012
3. Proposed draft agenda
4. Progress Update, Operable Unit III Groundwater Treatment System – Additional Extraction Well presentation
5. The U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven Site Office at Brookhaven National Laboratory presentation
6. Biological and Environmental Research at Brookhaven National Laboratory presentation
7. Map highlighting locations of current and interested civic organizations

3. Administrative Items

The meeting began at 6:35 p.m. Reed Hodgkin, facilitator, reviewed the ground rules and the agenda. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Member Giacomaro objected to the use of the term Executive Session from the prior months' notes. He feels it sends a message that others are excluded and the use of the term is not a part of the CAC's guidelines. He suggested that perhaps it should say Membership Session.

Hodgkin clarified the use of the term as signifying that members only are meeting and observers are not participating. He said the ability of the organization to hold such a Council Only session for this type of purpose should be added to the guidelines. The CAC agreed.

Member Esposito reported that the Earth Summit was a success with over 200 attendees. She thanked Brookhaven Lab for co-sponsoring the event.

Nora Detweiler, liaison to the CAC, invited the CAC to attend a milestone event at the Brookhaven Graphite Research Reactor on May 17th. She said if anyone is interested in attending, meet in the parking lot of Berkner Hall at 10:30 am.

Update – Groundwater Program

Vinnie Racaniello, Environmental Protection Division – Groundwater Protection Group, gave an update on the additional extraction well for the OU III Southern Boundary groundwater treatment system. He said in 2011 the CERCLA Five-Year Review report recommended adding a deeper extraction well. VOC's were detected up to 1256 ug/L. The primary VOC detected is tetrachloroethylene (PCE) at 210 – 230 feet below land surface. The well is being installed to meet the ROD cleanup objectives for the upper glacial aquifer and is scheduled to begin operating in June 2012. The Magothy aquifer has not been impacted. Two new monitoring wells are also being installed at the south boundary.

Member Esposito asked what the distance is from the source to the south boundary.

Racaniello said the source of the plume is at Bldg. 96, which is 3500 – 4000 feet from the boundary.

Member Giacomaro asked if there are two plumes or one that has split.

Racaniello said there is only one plume; it appears to have split because of the pumping we are doing.

Member Schwartz asked about the source.

Racaniello said the source of this plume is at the Bldg. 96 area. It is from the early 1950's when disposal practices were very different than they are today. He said it used to be a truck wash area and drums were stored there. A lot of contamination was found in that area.

Member Blumer asked if other agencies are monitoring this plume.

Racaniello said all the results are sent to the EPA, NYSDEC, and Suffolk County Health Department for their review. They don't take their own samples.

Approval of Minutes

Hodgin asked for corrections, additions, or deletions to the March 8, 2012 draft notes. Member Jordan-Sweet said she would like some clarification on the unit of measurement used on page three when discussing radiation levels in concrete and water. She also said Member Kaplan's definition of the word proliferation is not in the notes anywhere. The notes were approved as amended with none opposed and two abstentions. (After listening to the recording, it was determined that Member Kaplan did not make a comment on the definition of the word proliferation. Member Garber gave a definition, which was already in the notes, so the notes will stay as reported)

Hodgin asked for corrections, additions, or deletions to the April 10, 2012 draft notes. Member Henagan said on page six, his comment was "100% of deer ticks tested." Member Peskin said his comment on page five should say, "what about BNL is of interest to Open Space Council." Member Jordan-Sweet said on page two her comment should say "filter changing." The notes were approved as amended with none opposed and six abstentions.

4. The US DOE's Brookhaven Site Office at BNL – Frank Crescenzo, Deputy Site Manager, BHSO

Frank Crescenzo told the CAC that Michael Holland is retiring from the Department of Energy (DOE) on June 30, 2012. There are no concrete plans to replace him yet. He said he will keep the CAC posted. He then answered the question, what does the Brookhaven Site Office (BHSO) do and how does it do it? He spoke about the DOE, SC (Office of Science) and BHSO mission and goals, their organizational structure, and their relationships. He said DOE is the landlord and steward of BNL and hires a management-and-operating (M&O) contractor, Brookhaven Science Associates (BSA), to run the Lab. The Brookhaven Site Office is DOE's on-site representative who administers the M&O contract and partners with BNL to optimize performance. BHSO and BSA partner to deliver the science mission at BNL.

Member Doroski asked when the DOE was created.

Crescenzo said 1978.

Member Doroski said DOE was formed because of the energy problems of the United States. Now we import more oil than we did back then. Maybe we need more direction regarding energy security.

Member Jordan-Sweet asked if safety stand-downs at the Lab originate from DOE.

Crescenzo said since he has been at the Lab, he does not know of any safety stand-downs that came from DOE. He said there have been some stand-downs for performance.

Aronson said there have been a few that originated from the Lab Director's office.

Member Peskin said three years ago there was supposed to be a re-solicitation of the M&O contract, but that never happened. There was a one-year extension, but then he never heard anything more about it.

Crescenzo said every five years DOE can compete or extend the contract. Three years ago the contract was extended for the next five years.

Aronson said the current contract will expire in January of 2015. We will begin discussions this summer.

Member Chaudhry asked what portion of the DOE engineers are assigned as contract officers. There seems to be a lot of bureaucracy.

Crescenzo said his office is organized to address that. The contract officers have the responsibility to make sure the contract is executed properly; they don't have the authority to tell us how to do business or to make business choices.

5. Environmental & Life Sciences at BNL – Reinhold Mann, Associate Laboratory Director

Reinhold Mann reported on biology at the national laboratories, biology and energy research, gave a summary of the programs at BNL, and talked about the outlook for the future.

He described his background and explained the history of his directorate. He said that in the late 80's it became difficult for DOE to justify budgets to fund biomedical research after the NIH grew into a multi-million dollar agency so what happened at DOE was an increasing focus on biology for energy and environment. In the final analysis the drivers for the research within the national labs come from two things: to produce enough energy and food for a growing world population.

Member Sprintzen said he would like to get more detailed information on biomass for fuel. He'd like a list of major accomplishments and he'd also like to find out about chem-trails.

Member Schwartz said there is small vocal community that believes the government is deliberately injecting materials into the atmosphere for unknown purposes. We, in the atmospheric science community, have done research and it is just not true.

Member Talbot asked about the Brookhaven Lab Animal Facility. He asked what kinds of animals are used and what kind of research is being done there.

Mann said there are two uses for the Animal Facility. The first is the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, where NIH employees work with our researchers. Rodents are used for behavioral experiments in alcoholism and addiction research. The other use of the Facility is through the NASA Space Radiation Laboratory. There, we have investigators whose proposals that have made it through the approval process at NASA and our Institutional Board, simulate space conditions through the use of heavy ion exposures.

Member Shea said in regard to chem-trails, if we notice grids in the atmosphere, scientists should look into it. These are not clouds and are not from planes.

Hodgin said this is not a topic related to BNL. If the group wants to put it on the agenda, we can bring in a BNL researcher to discuss it at a future meeting; we can bring it up later and vote on it for another time. There is no time tonight.

Member Doroski said what you are doing is critical for our Nation. Energy return – energy invested. Have you done any work on oil from algae?

Mann said we are working on lipid production in plants. It's all about yield. The fuel business is tough because of the scale. We also make other products from fossil feed stock right now, so, if we can displace that, there is a lot of value there.

6. Agenda Setting

Nora Detweiler, liaison to the CAC, said we will look into the topics from tonight. She said she is looking into having Joanna Fowler come in to talk about her research with PET and she has spoken to several people about coming in to talk about RHIC. She asked if anyone had any other ideas.

Member Sprintzen said sustainability and biological and environmental research agendas.

Detweiler said we can break it up into several topics.

Member Shea asked about having someone come in to discuss Fukushima.

Member Doroski asked for a talk on RHIC, the early state of the universe.

Hodgin said we will likely take off for the months of July and August, as we have the last two years.

7. Community Comment

Jeanne D'Ascoli said the Lab was pleased to partner with CCE on the Earth Summit. It was beneficial to both of us.

Charles Bevington, Rocky Point Civic, asked if Brookhaven Town has reached out to the Lab for help with the cleanup at the landfill and if so, has the Lab responded?

Vinnie Racaniello said usually the Lab doesn't get involved in things like that.

John Sicignano, president Mastic Park Civic, said BNL used to come monthly to our civic meetings. We were told the plume had not left the site, now I heard it's at the airport. How much further south will it travel?

Racaniello said the tritium plume never left the BNL site boundary. The plume we are talking about tonight is a chemical (VOC) plume. The leading edge of it is at the airport. We have wells there to stop it. If it kept going, it would end up in the Carman's River. It's on the west side of the airport near the Dowling College entrance.

Member Giacomaro asked how deep it is at the college.

Racaniello said 160-220' deep. The shallowest point is 150-160' below land surface.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm and a Council Only session took place.

8. Council Only Session – Membership Discussion & Vote

The CAC discussed the possible membership of the three organizations who recently requested joining. After deliberating, the CAC voted by Supermajority in favor of having the Mastic Park and Coram Civic Associations join the CAC and failed to approve the membership request of the Open Space Council.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Agenda Topics
February 10, 2011 Poll

Homeland Security – 9
Nanotechnology ~~Developments & Standards~~ – 7 (3/10/2011 - E. Mendez)
Science & Politics – 7
Overview of BNL Land Use Plan – 6
Sustainability – 6
~~Photovoltaics~~ – 6 (3/10/2011 - E. Mendez and R. Lofaro)
PET/MRI Research – 6
~~LISE Tour Prior to Completion~~ – 6 (11/18/11 – ribbon cutting)
~~Business/Lab Integration of New Technologies~~ – 6 (4/14/11 – Walter Copan)
Nano Patterning – 5
~~Natural Resources Management Plan~~ – 5 (12/8/11 – Tim Green)
~~Nuclear Non-Proliferation~~ – 4 (3/8/12 – Carol Kessler)
Nuclear Safety – 4
Catalysis & Super Conducting Magnets – 3
Cosmology – 3
Accelerate Long Island (as information becomes available) - 3
Safety Progress – 2
CRADAS – 2
Radio Isotopes – 2
Nuclear Stewardship - 1
~~Technology Transfer~~ – 0 (4/14/11 – W. Copan)

P = Present	2012	Affiliation		First Name	Last Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		ABCO (Garber - 04/02)	Member	Don	Garber	P	P	P	P	P							
		ABCO (Madigan -10/10)	Alternate	Michael	Madigan	P		P	P	P							
		American Physical Society	Member	Margaret	Malloy	P	P	P		P							
		American Physical Society	Alternate														
		Brookhaven Retired Employees Association (Peskin - 09/09)	Member	Arnie	Peskin		P	P	P	P							
		Brookhaven Retired Employees Association (Franz - 12/09)	Alternate	Eena-Mai	Franz	P	P	P		P							
		Citizens Campaign for the Environment	Member	Adrienne	Esposito	P	P	P	P	P							
		Citizens Campaign for the Environment	Alternate														
		Colonial Woods Whispering Pines (Birben - 06/09)	Member	Christine	Birben	P	P	P	P	P							
		Colonial Woods Whispering Pines (Rehbein -11/10)	Alternate	Eric	Rehbein	P	P	P	P	P							
		E. Yaphank Civic Association	Member	Michael	Giacomaro	P	P	P		P							
		E. Yaphank Civic Association (Feinman - 02/09)	Alternate	Bob	Feinman	P		P	P	P							
		Emeritus (changed 3/8/12)	Member	Jean	Mannhaupt												
		Friends of Brookhaven (Kaplan - 07/01)	Member	Ed	Kaplan			P									
		Friends of Brookhaven (Schwartz - 11/02)	Alternate	Steve	Schwartz	P				P							
		Huntington Breast Cancer Coalition	Member	Mary Joan	Shea	P				P							
		Huntington Breast Cancer Coalition	Alternate	Scott	Carlin												
		IBEW/Local 2230 (Krsnak 01/07)	Member	Scott	Krsnak	P	P		P	P							
		IBEW/Local 2230	Alternate														
		Individual (changed 3/12)	Member	Karen	Blumer	P		P		P							
			Alternate														
		Individual – (changed 3/12)	Member	Greg	Bush	P		P									
			Alternate	Adam	Martin	P											
			Alternate	Bruce	Martin	P				P							
		Individual – (changed 3/12)	Member	Jane	Corrarino		P			P							
			Alternate														
		Individual – (changed 3/12)	Member	Iqbal	Chaudhry		P	P		P							
		L.I. Pine Barrens Society	Member	Richard	Amper												
		L.I. Pine Barrens Society (Murdocco - 04/11)	Alternate	Richard	Murdocco	P	P	P									
		L.I. Progressive Coalition	Member	David	Sprintzen	P	P	P	P	P							
		L.I. Progressive Coalition	Alternate														

P = Present	2012	Affiliation		First Name	Last Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		Lake Panamoka Civic Association (Biss - 04/02)	Member	Rita	Biss		P	P	P	P							
		Lake Panamoka Civic Association (Grandal - 10/10)	Alternate	Bonita	Grandal		P			P							
		Longwood Alliance	Member	Tom	Talbot			P	P	P							
		Longwood Alliance	Alternate	Kevin	Crowley												
		Longwood Central School Dist. (Castro -06/09)	Member	Maria	Castro		P										
		Longwood Central School Dist.	Alternate	Allan	Gerstenlauer												
		NSLS User	Member	Jean	Jordan-Sweet		P	P	P	P							
		NSLS User (Ravel -02/11)	Alternate	Bruce	Ravel	P		P									
		Ridge Civic Association	Member	Pat	Henagan		P	P	P	P							
		Ridge Civic Association	Alternate														
		Town of Brookhaven (Graves - 06/06)	Member	Anthony	Graves												
		Town of Brookhaven	Alternate														
		Town of Brookhaven, Senior Citizens Office	Member	James	Heil	P	P	P	P								
		Town of Brookhaven, Senior Citizens Office	Alternate														
		Town of Riverhead (Doroski - 04/11)	Member	Isidore	Doroski		P			P							
		Town of Riverhead (Hulme - 04/11)	Alternate	Suzanne	Hulme	P	P	P									
		Wading River Civic Association	Member	Helga	Guthy	P	P	P	P	P							
		Wading River Civic Association	Alternate	Sid	Bail												