

Community Advisory Council
September 9, 2010
Action Items/Notes

FINAL

These notes are in the following order:

1. Attendance
2. Correspondence and Handouts
3. Administrative Items
4. Update on FHWMF Perimeter Soils, Robert Lee
5. Update on Bldg. 96 Remediation, William Dorsch
6. Update on Stack Demolition, Chuck Armitage
7. Additional Peconic River Work, Skip Medeiros
8. Community Comment
9. Agenda Setting
10. Five-Year Review, Robert Howe
11. Membership Proposal, Jeanne D'Ascoli

1. Attendance

Members/Alternates Present:
See Attached Sheets.

Others Present:

M. Arens, C. Armitage, M. Bebon, S. Bogart, P. Bond, F. Carlson, H. Carrano, J. D'Ascoli, N. Detweiler, B. Dorsch, S. Feinberg, P. Genzer, D. Gibbs, G. Goode, J. Green, T. Green, B. Howe, S. Johnson, S. Kumar, B. Lee, M. Lynch, L. Lyons, M. Madigan, M. Maraviglia, R. McKay, D. Peter, V. Racaniello, A. Rapiejko, J. Remien,

2. Correspondence and Handouts

Items one through six were mailed with a cover letter dated September 2, 2010. Items seven through eleven were available as handouts at the meeting.

1. Draft agenda for September 9
2. Draft notes for June 9
3. EM Five-Year Review Survey Questions
4. EM Background Information
5. Pre-paid envelope
6. Copy of CAC SPDES recommendation correspondence
7. Presentation on FHWMF Perimeter Soils
8. Presentation on Bldg. 96 Remediation
9. Presentation on Addition Peconic River Work
10. Presentation on Five-Year Review
11. Copy of Membership Proposal

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.

Approval of Minutes

Hodgkin asked for corrections, additions, or deletions to the June 9, 2010 draft notes. Member Sprintzen said that on page 12 the word "with" should be "will". The notes were approved as amended with none opposed and 4 abstentions.

Doon Gibbs, Deputy Director for Science and Technology, told the CAC that the decision on the NASA Space Radiation Laboratory (NSRL) project is pending. High level discussions between NASA and DOE are currently taking place.

Member Blumer said she was concerned about vegetation restoration at the proposed solar array. She has had discussions with Richard Chandler from BP and asked if there is interest in pursuing CAC input.

Reed said this can be discussed at agenda setting.

Member Esposito said this is a legitimate issue. She would like to see the restoration plan that BNL and BP have agreed on. Then the CAC can give official comment.

Reed said let's ask to get the restoration plan, have time to look at it, and put it on the agenda. Then the CAC can determine what advice they would like to give the Laboratory.

ACTION ITEM: Request copy of the Long Island Solar Farm vegetation restoration plan for the CAC.

4. Update on FHWMF Perimeter Soils, Robert Lee, Environmental Protection Division

Bob Lee, EPD, said that Cesium-137 contamination was found outside the Former Hazardous Waste Management Facility (FHWMF) fence line in late 2005. The American Reinvestment Recovery Act (ARRA) funded cleanup of the areas northeast and southeast of the FHWMF in 2009. The Close Out Report for the cleanup identified additional areas of dispersed contamination southeast of the FHWMF outside the scope of the targeted cleanup. Characterization of the area continues with current emphasis placed on the area to be used for the Long Island Solar Farm (LISF). He said the discrete areas of contamination within the LISF have been cleaned up and a final status survey and confirmatory sampling is ongoing. ORISE verification sampling is set to be performed in late September. The property will be turned over for LISF construction in November. Efforts to address the remaining contaminants in the perimeter area outside the LISF construction area will continue in 2011 and beyond. There were nine spots identified, several of which were rocks with naturally occurring radioactive materials that were above background levels.

Member Esposito asked if all the contamination was coming from rocks.

Lee said not all. He said most of the contamination was recovered with a bucket and a shovel full of dirt. There was one spot that required more of the soil be removed, so a backhoe was brought in to address that area.

Member Blumer asked if this is part of the 200 acres of solar panels.

Lee said it's a small piece of it, about 11 acres.

Member Talbot asked what ORISE stands for.

Reed said Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education.

Member Esposito said this is vague. What were you testing for and what were the depths? She also asked what the concentrations were.

Lee said all of it was within the top 6 inches of soil except for one which was about 3 feet wide and 1-foot deep. The concentrations when first discovered were about 40 picocuries per gram of Cesium-137.

George Goode said meters were used to detect radioactivity that was emanating from the ground. They found there was nothing below 6 inches deep except for the one area. The source is likely the FHWMF, where extensive cleanup was conducted in 2005. Some was caused by storm water runoff and some, we feel, is due to wind deposition.

Member Shea said it seems strange that storm water runoff could cause a few spots.

Lee said open burning in the early days at the Waste Management Facility is suspected and wind deposition could have caused those few spots of contamination.

Member Blumer asked what if there is still contamination.

Lee said the area has been cleaned up and walkover surveys are being done with good results. ORISE will also be conducting surveys to determine that the area has been cleaned up.

5. Update on the Bldg. 96 Remediation, William Dorsch, Groundwater Protection Division

Bill Dorsch explained that Bldg. 96 previously was used for motor vehicle repairs, washing and drum storage. He said perchloroethylene (PCE) was identified in the soil in 2007. An excavation plan was submitted to the regulators in September 2009 and cleanup work began in early August 2010. The area is being excavated and the soil is being sent offsite for disposal. Twenty roll-off containers have been filled and another 20 are expected to arrive onsite next week. Excavation should be completed by the end of September 2010.

Member Blumer asked how far south the plume has migrated.

Dorsch said it has reached the Moriches- Middle Island Road groundwater treatment systems.

Member Esposito asked if the plume is behaving as predicted in 2007.

Dorsch said yes, but we have found that we have a source that has not been cut off. Now that we have found that source and removed it, we expect to achieve our capture goal.

Member Esposito asked for the size of the source area.

Dorsch said it is about 25 feet by 25 feet by 15 feet deep.

Member Heil asked if the Laboratory will excavate to groundwater.

Dorsch said no, the bulk of the contamination is 6 or 7 feet to 10 – 12 feet deep. Whatever migrates out is captured by the treatment system.

Member Esposito asked how long it takes to excavate an area that size.

Dorsch said about a week.

Reed asked if different plumes could mix together.

Dorsch said they are at different depths.

6. Update on Stack Demolition, Chuck Armitage, Environmental Restoration Projects

Chuck Armitage said that the Laboratory is on track to demolish the BGRR stack in late October to early November of this year. He explained that a mast climber system will be used to demolish the stack. The material will be dropped inside the stack and removed from the bottom. Approximately six feet per day will come down. A fixative will be sprayed to contain airborne material and a ventilation system will pull everything down through a HEPA filter system. It will all be contained inside the stack.

Member Blumer asked if there is any toxicity and if any of the material can be recycled.

Armitage said there is no toxicity. He said nothing is recycled because some of the contamination is in the wall and it is too difficult to separate it; it is all considered contaminated waste.

Member Shea asked what type of contamination was in the stack and if any of it was high level waste.

Armitage said there is a variety of material, mainly cesium, but all the levels are low. None of it is considered high level waste.

7. Additional Peconic River Cleanup & Sediment Trap Removal, Skip Medeiros, Groundwater Protection Group

Skip Medeiros briefly went over the 2009 sediment, fish, and surface water sampling highlights. He said surface water mercury concentrations generally trended downwards (with occasional increases) with increasing distance downstream from the Sewage Treatment Plant. The average concentration for mercury in fish for 2009 was .27. PCB concentration was mostly non-detect. Cesium-137 was extremely low.

Medeiros reported on two areas of concern where supplemental sampling had been completed, PR-WC-06 and PR-SS-15. It has been decided that additional sediment removal will begin in these two areas this fall to remove .36 acres of contaminated sediment. The sediment trap will be removed after the two areas are cleaned up. He explained the process and said one haul path used for the previous cleanup will be used again for each area. The flow of the river will be diverted around the excavation areas. Sump pumps will be used to dewater the excavation areas. The discharge water from the sump pumps will be filtered before being returned to the Peconic River. The difference with this cleanup is that a vacuum process will be used to remove the sediment from among the trees and vegetation in the two areas. The sediment will be transported to a drying pad within a sealed spill-proof vacuum box. The sediment will be dried in a rock box and stockpiled in covered drying beds for loading into nine rail cars and transported offsite for disposal. Post excavation samples will be done to confirm the effectiveness of meeting cleanup goals specified in the Record of Decision (ROD). Monitoring will continue through the Five Year Review in 2011.

Member Talbot asked if the CAC could observe the operations that will take place this fall.

Medeiros said yes. We will let you know when we are in production mode and I will be happy to lead a group out there.

Member Blumer said the techniques you are using for deforestation and access to the site are excellent and asked if BP had consulted with him about using a similar technique for the solar array.

Medeiros said he is not involved in the solar project.

Tim Green said this is a very discrete area while the BP Project covers 200 acres.

Member Chaudhry asked if there is a limit on the ability of the sediment box. Can all the sediment coming in be treated?

Medeiros said the vacuum system is very strong; it pumps at 5300 cubic feet per minute. It is capable of much greater excavation than what we need it for.

Member Chaudhry asked if there could be heavier concentrations in the mud.

Medeiros said excavating to one foot is enough for the vast majority. There is enough suction to pull it out.

Member Ormand asked what precautions are taken to protect wildlife.

Medeiros said there is a small screen to keep out fish, etc. Turtles can be moved. Wildlife of concern, tiger salamander and sunfish, have already been removed during the initial cleanup. They were placed in a reservoir system that is not part of the river. They have not been reintroduced back into this area. There will be a wildlife sweep prior to the cleanup.

ACTION ITEM: Arrange for CAC to visit site.

8. Community Comment

There were no comments.

9. Agenda Setting

Jeanne D'Ascoli said the Lab would like to give a presentation on the next RHIC run, a more complete update by Chuck Armitage, and a brief presentation on SER. She also said she was hoping to give the CAC a tour of NSLS-II construction site next month if everyone would like to come in early. In addition, there will be a discussion on membership and the solar project. She said she will e-mail members after speaking to the staff at NSLS-II regarding the tour. She asked how many members are interested in attending; fourteen members expressed interested in the tour.

D'Ascoli recommended the RHIC presentation, the HFBR and BGRR presentation, and the tour for next month's agenda.

Member Sprintzen asked how long the tour would be.

D'Ascoli said if we could start at 5:00 we should have enough time before the meeting starts. The November meeting will be the first Thursday of the month due to a Lab holiday on November 11. We will celebrate the CAC's anniversary and the holidays in December.

Member Talbot said the Lab was given money for Superconducting Magnetic Energy Storage (SMES) research and asked for details.

Doon Gibbs said this is an exciting time. This money is dedicated to high capacity energy storage.

Reed said, let's put that on the agenda.

Member Blumer asked if nanotechnology could also go on the agenda.

10. 2010 Five-Year Review/CAC Survey Questions, Robert Howe, Groundwater Protection Group

Bob Howe explained that a five-year review is required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) under CERCLA. He said that the CAC was briefed five years ago on the last review. The findings were that the soil cleanup objectives were met, the groundwater systems were functioning as intended to meet cleanup goals, and exposure pathways were being controlled. The health and safety focus of workers during BGRR pile/bioshield removal will continue and the remaining work at BGRR and select g-2/BLI/UST will be completed.

This will be the second site-wide review. All of the remedies that have been selected so far will be looked at, including nine decision documents or RODs. These will include groundwater, soil, the Peconic River, BGRR and HFBR, and g-2 Tritium Plume, BLIP and USTs. It's important that this review evaluate the implementation of the remedies and how well they are performing and determine whether or not they will continue to be protective of human health and the environment.

A protectiveness assessment is part of the Five-Year Review and answers three questions: is the remedy functioning as intended by the decision documents; are the exposure assumptions, toxicity data, cleanup levels, and remedial action objectives used at the time of the remedy still valid; and has any other information come to light that could call into question the protectiveness of the remedy?

The next steps are to poll the CAC, perform interviews, conduct site inspections, complete technical assessments for each Operable Unit and ROD, make recommendations for change, regulator review, update the CAC, and make information available to public. The report should be prepared and made available for DOE review in the fall of 2010. The CAC will be updated and a draft report sent to regulators in the winter of 2010/2011. The information will be available to the public in the summer of 2011.

Member Talbot asked if the CAC will get an overview before the draft report goes to the regulators.

Howe said yes we will brief you on the findings and conclusions.

Member Blumer asked how many people are on the review committee and if there are any ecologists. She also asked if there are recommendations made for future actions.

Howe said it is a team effort. It's all integrated. Information is shared so things like this don't happen again. This is all in the report.

George Goode, Manager, Environmental Protection Division, said a lot has been learned from the past and put into the work planning process. The Lab has a work permit process that was started in the 90's and has continued to grow. He said 75% less hazardous waste is generated today.

Member Esposito asked if another bullet could be added to the three questions for the protective assessment stating that based on performance of the selected remedy, can the cleanup be expedited.

Howe said that is very important and a very good comment.

CAC Five-Year Review Survey

Reed said that anyone who completed the written survey that was mailed and would like to submit it should hand it in at the end of the meeting.

He then asked the CAC the following questions:

1. What is your overall impression of BNL's cleanup and do you feel well informed about the cleanup activities and progress?

Member Sprintzen: He is astounded at the care and attention of cleanup at the Peconic River. The Laboratory's effort to attend to and success at it is impressive.

Member Talbot commented on the responsiveness to questions and concerns of a diverse audience.

Member Shea: The quality of charts and graphs in presentations are helpful to us in understanding what's going on.

Member Sprintzen: The progress over the last 12 years has been a remarkable success and is rare. He said there has been a transformation of culture and the contribution of knowledgeable people shows that the Lab is very responsive to the concerns of the community. The Lab has responded constructively to our comments.

Member Henagan: He would add that the Lab is open and pro-active. He commended the Laboratory on being a good neighbor.

Member Chaudhry: The work the Lab is doing on cleanup is very good and the work at keeping the CAC informed is excellent, but he would like to see the sampling at some point to see the accuracy of the information.

Member Blumer: I am impressed with the speed and responsiveness of the Lab. She sees change due to the CAC's efforts.

Member Biss: Usually the follow-up is good, but sometimes it is missed. She asked what happened to the information on the HFBR. She suggested the Lab occasionally write a letter to the general public with updated information on different topics. Perhaps the Lab could submit articles to the newspapers to get information out to the public.

Member Esposito: Overall things have been very good, she feels well informed. Her organization was looking for cleanup of existing contamination, preventing future contamination, and changing the culture at the Lab. She feels all three have been accomplished. Culture change is the most important. She said always keep transparency and an engaged stakeholder, such as the CAC. She said you need to have checks and balances. Be vigilant.

Member Shea: I would like to follow up on the idea of keeping the public informed. She said broad communication with full disclosure builds confidence.

Member Sprintzen: It is very helpful to have Reed, as the facilitator, here to find common ground and articulate what is said.

Member Guthy agreed and said the CAC and the Lab have come so far.

2. Are there any specific aspects of the cleanup that you feel should be of particular focus during the review? (e.g. Records of Decision, cleanup goals, community input, etc.)

Member Esposito: The timelines should be expedited. Particularly the 50 and 70 year timelines for both groundwater and soil remediation, when and where it can be expedited; it should be.

Member Talbot: Skip Medeiros said some places need to be remediated and they are using a new approach. It's important to pursue emerging technologies.

3. Do you feel confident in BNL and DOE's management of the long-term cleanup operations of the site?

Reed said this topic has been covered thoroughly already and asked if anyone had further comment.

4. Do you have any comments, suggestions, or recommendations regarding BNL/DOE's management and communications of the cleanup?

Member Esposito: Keep an educated stakeholder entity so you don't become complacent.

Member Heil: Continue to seek monetary support from Washington D.C. It is important to continue to fund the cleanup effort.

Member Talbot: There has been a nice transition of different Lab Directors. He said site level management is moving forward consistently.

Member Chaudhry: Some community members feel that BNL has spread contamination. He would like more detailed involvement so he would be in a better place to spread accurate information to the public. Perhaps more site visits to see the actual work being done.

Member Henagan: It is important to educate the public. Summer Sundays are great, but some avenues are being missed. Perhaps half hour science shows on TV to keep the public informed and push science education from BNL.

Member Blumer: She will send her responses through the mail. She said her experience has been that many things happen that are not coordinated. She was given a chart, but still couldn't figure out how decisions are made. She is an ecologist and feels that some of the decisions lack a certain amount of concern or knowledge of the environment.

Reed said there may be some benefit in making sure there is an integration of all the perspectives that count into these projects.

Member Shea asked if it is possible to have a brief summary of the last CERCLA review emailed to the members.

Howe said yes.

ACTION ITEM: E-mail copy of last CERCLA review to CAC members

10. Membership Proposal

Jeanne D'Ascoli said since membership has declined, the Laboratory is interested in getting new CAC members. She said she would like each present member to find an alternate if they do not already have one. The Lab would like to place an ad in local newspapers asking interested parties to submit an application for CAC membership.

Member Esposito asked if they would represent themselves as individuals.

D'Ascoli said hopefully they would represent an organization. There are civic organizations and colleges that are possibilities. I would recommend that the CAC host a meeting with the interested parties so they can talk to the potential new members. Then they can attend a few meetings and decide if they want to participate. The CAC would then decide if they meet their needs.

Member Sprintzen suggested inviting them to the NSLS-II tour.

Member Birben said you might have quite a lot of interested people.

Member Esposito said she likes the idea of an open call. Perhaps you can look wider than the surrounding area. Maybe invite some members of academic institutions. She said she will speak to others that might be interested.

D'Ascoli said if anyone knows of any organizations or groups that might be interested and you do not have the time to make the call; the Lab will reach out and invite them. She said she encourages everyone else to do the same.

Member Esposito said the context in the ad is important. It's important that it sound interesting and engaging.

Member Biss said on Sundays there is calendar of events and perhaps if you list the meeting night with the topic being discussed, you might get a few people.

D'Ascoli said if anyone is interested in taking a tour or going out to speak to researchers, we have someone here that can organize that for your group.

Member Birben asked how the attendance was for Summer Sundays.

D'Ascoli said there were 7,200 attendees during the five weeks of Summer Sundays, which was a record breaker.

Member Blumer suggested members e-mail the ad to their contacts to see if there is interest.

Member Henagan suggested contacting Grant Parpan, editor of North Shore Sun. They do an excellent job of communicating information to the community.

Member Esposito suggested issuing a press release. Then local newspapers can do a story if they choose on the search for new CAC members.

Member Biss said if they had a letter with the upcoming agenda to show interested people it might be helpful for getting alternates.

D'Ascoli said the charter for the CAC was never finalized. There is no end to the time commitment.

Member Esposito asked if she was referring to term limits.

D'Ascoli said you can always re-up.

Member Talbot said quorum was just met this evening. Some organizations have not attended at all this year. Should we ask them to drop out or send someone else?

Reed said there is a process that has been used in previous years and we can apply that again.

The meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

				Jan	Feb (cancelled)	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
P = Present	2010	Affiliation	First Name	Last Name											
ABCO	(Garber added on 4/10/02)	Member	Don	Garber	P		P	P	P	P					
ABCO		Alternate													
Brookhaven Retired Employees Association (Peskin replaced Campbell 09/09)		Member	Arnie	Peskin			P	P	P	P					
Brookhaven Retired Employees Association (L. Jacobson new alternate as of 4/99)(A. Peskin 5/04)(Franz 12/09)		Alternate	Eena-Mai	Franz				P	P	P		P			
CHEC (Community Health & Environment Coalition (added 10/04)		Member	Sarah	Anker	P		P	P	P	P					
(added 12/08) (R. Andrejkovics removed 9/09)		Alternate													
Citizens Campaign for the Environment		Member	Adrienne	Esposito	P		P	P	P	P		P			
Citizens Campaign for the Environment (Ottney added 4/02-taken off 1/05 Mahoney put on)(7/06 add Kasey Jacobs)(K. Jacobs off 1/08)		Alternate													
Colonial Woods Whispering Pines (added 06/09)		Member	Christine	Birben	P		P	P	P	P		P			
Colonial Woods Whispering Pines (added 09/09)		Alternate	Joan	Milner											
E. Yaphank Civic Association		Member	Michael	Giacomaro	P		P	P	P	P					
E. Yaphank Civic Association (J. Minasi new alternate as of 3/99) (M. Triber 11/05) (Munson 6/06) (Feinman 2/09)		Alternate	Bob	Feinman	P		P	P	P	P					
Educator (changed 7/2006)(Bush member 5/10)		Member	Greg	Bush			P	P	P						
Educator (B. Martin - 9/01)		Alternate	Bruce	Martin											
Educator (A. Martin new alternate 2/00) (Adam to college 8/01)(add. alternate 9/02) (changed 7/2006)(Bush 5/09)		Alternate	Adam	Martin											
Fire Rescue and Emergency Services		Member	Joe	Williams											
Fire Rescue and Emergency Services		Alternate	Don	Lynch											
Fire Rescue and Emergency Services		Alternate	James	McLoughlin											
Friends of Brookhaven (E.Kaplan changed to become member 7/1/01)		Member	Ed	Kaplan			P								
Friends of Brookhaven (E.Kaplan changed to become member 7/1/01)(Schwartz added 11/18/02)		Alternate	Steve	Schwartz					P	P					
Health Care		Member	Jane	Corrarino											
Health Care		Alternate													
Huntington Breast Cancer Coalition		Member	Mary Joan	Shea			P	P	P	P		P			
Huntington Breast Cancer Coalition		Alternate	Scott	Carlin											
Intl. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers/Local 2230 (S.Krsnak replaced M. Walker 1/11/07)		Member	Scott	Krsnak				P	P	P					

P = Present	2010	Affiliation	First Name	Last Name	Jan	Feb (cancelled)	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
		IBEW/Local 2230	Alternate	Philip	Pizzo											
		L.I. Pine Barrens Society	Member	Richard	Amper	P										
		L.I. Pine Barrens Society (added P. Loris 6/05)(Alayeva off 6/08) (Itriyeva 02/09) (Motschenbacher 6/09)	Alternate	Beth	Motschenbacher			P	P	P			P			
		L.I. Pine Barrens Society	Alternate	Susie	Husted											
		L.I. Progressive Coalition	Member	David	Sprintzen	P			P	P				P		
		L.I. Progressive Coalition	Alternate	None	None											
		Lake Panamoka Civic Association (Biss as of 4/02)	Member	Rita	Biss	P		P	P	P				P		
		Lake Panamoka Civic Association (Rita Biss new alternate as of 3/99) (Gibbons off 1/10)	Alternate													
		Long Island Association (Groneman replace 10/05)	Member													
		Long Island Association	Alternate	William	Evanzia											
		Longwood Alliance	Member	Tom	Talbot	P		P	P	P	P			P		
		Longwood Alliance	Alternate	Kevin	Crowley											
		Longwood Central School Dist. (switched 11/02)(Castro replaced Henigin 6/09)	Member	Maria	Castro	P		P	P	P	P					
		Longwood Central School Dist.	Alternate	Allan	Gerstenlauer											
		NEAR	Member	Jean	Mannhaupt			P	P	P	P					
		NEAR (prospect taken off ¾) (Blumer added 10/04)	Alternate	Karen	Blumer			P						P		
		NSLS User	Member	Jean	Jordan-Sweet	P			P	P	P					
		NSLS User	Alternate	Peter	Stephens											
		Ridge Civic Association	Member	Pat	Henagan	P		P	P					P		
		Science & Technology (added 1/13/05)	Member	Iqbal	Chaudhry			P	P	P	P			P		
		Town of Brookhaven (Graves made member 6/06)	Member	Anthony	Graves	P		P	P	P	P					
		Town of Brookhaven (Ormond 9/10)	Alternate	Luke	Ormand									P		
		Town of Brookhaven, Senior Citizens	Member	James	Heil	P		P	P		P			P		
		Town of Brookhaven, Senior Citizens (open slot as of 4/99)	Alternate													
		Town of Riverhead	Member													
		Town of Riverhead (K. Skinner alternate as of 4/99)	Alternate	Kim	Skinner											
		Wading River Civic Association	Member	Helga	Guthy	P		P	P	P				P		
		Wading River Civic Association	Alternate	Sid	Bail											