

Community Advisory Council
March 10, 2016
Action Items/Notes

Final

These notes are in the following order:

1. Attendance
2. Correspondence and Handouts
3. Administrative Items
4. Peconic River Optimization Plan
5. Agenda Setting
6. Community Comment
7. CAC Discussion and Recommendation
8. Natural Resources Management Update

1. Attendance

Members/Alternates Present: See Attached Sheets.

Others Present: S. Bogart, J. Carter, B. Dorsch, M. Dikeakos, P. Genzer, D. Gibbs, T. Green, J. Harrington, B. Howe, B. Jankauskas, M. Maraviglia, G. Mattson, M. McCann, R. McKay, J. Mollin, A. Nunziata, D. Paquette, D. Pocze, V. Racaniello, R. Reeder, J. Remien, N. Sundin, R. Tribble

2. Correspondence and Handouts

Items numbered one through three were mailed to Members with a cover letter dated March 3, 2016. Items numbered four and five were available as handouts at the meeting.

1. Draft agenda for March 10, 2016
2. Draft notes from the January 14 meeting
3. Response to Action Item
4. Copies of Peconic River Optimization Plan presentation
5. Copies of Natural Resources Update presentation

3. Administrative Items

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Reed Hodgins, facilitator, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He reviewed the ground rules and draft agenda and those present introduced themselves.

Nora Sundin, liaison to the CAC, said that Member Talbot has resigned from the CAC due to health issues. Member Malloy will continue as the alternate for the Middle Island Civic Association. They are currently searching for someone to replace Member Talbot.

Member Sprintzen said the CAC should send him a card thanking him for his years of service. Sundin said she will bring a card next month and each member can write something in it.

Member Sprintzen suggested the Laboratory host a forum for the public to ask the question, "How we can deal with our energy future". He said it could be held possible at a local library.

Speakers could be invited to talk about nuclear power or renewables as part of our future and they could discuss the dangers of low level radiation. It would be good if the CAC could provide this service to the public.

Hodgin said we will discuss it during the Administrative portion of next month's meeting. This will give everyone time to think it over and come up with thoughts.

Member Sprintzen suggested putting the discussion off for two months because he is unable to attend the next meeting.

Member Doroski seconded the motion.

Approval of Minutes

Member Peskin said his comment on page three should read; 'In general a new research program or facility should be introduced to the CAC first, followed by the presentation of its environmental issues, assessments, etc.'

The January notes were approved as amended with four abstentions.

4. Peconic River Optimization Plan, Tim Green – Environmental Protection Group

Tim Green spoke about the cleanup of the Peconic River, the extent of contamination, the remedy optimization plan, and the path forward. He showed many maps detailing the areas and explained that since 2010/11, three supplemental cleanup areas have been monitored annually. In June 2014, elevated mercury levels were detected in the sediment at PR-WC-06. In September 2014, the discharge from the Sewage Treatment Plant was diverted from the River to groundwater discharge. In November 2014, the regulators agreed with a plan to collect four samples to delineate the area. This process continued through October 2015 with 140 samples collected. The maximum mercury detection was 23 mg/kg with an average of 2.7 mg/kg. The proposed cleanup of the higher mercury concentrations is an area of approximately 1350 sq ft. The cleanup approach will be to excavate to a depth of approximately 6 to 18 inches with roughly 50 cubic yards of material being removed. The material will be transported by dump truck on existing roads to drying beds and then loaded on to trucks and carted to an approved disposal facility. Confirmatory samples will be taken every 100 sq ft to ensure concentrations are less than 2.0 mg/kg. Vegetation will be allowed to recover naturally. This optimization plan was submitted to the regulators in February 2016 with a conference call on 3/8/16 to discuss feedback. The Lab is looking for feedback from the CAC and then will apply for equivalency permits, determine the appropriate waste disposal facility and conduct the cleanup, preferably under dry conditions.

Member Pratka asked what the rate of degradation is for mercury.

Green said it degrades very slowly. There is a constant source in rainwater so it will never be totally gone.

Member Krupski asked if the mercury is bound to the sediment since the area is dry.

Green said yes and we plan to excavate when the river is dry.

Member Pratka asked how mercury is extracted from the sediment.

Green said there is no way to extract it. The soil is disposed of in a Title D landfill.

Member Madigan said there is a small portion on the bottom of the map that is not slated for excavation. How much more would it be to include that area? Also, what about the roots of trees, wont they be damaged during excavation?

Green said we will have to cut the roots, but the red maples are hearty and will rebound.

Member Mack said why not just include the additional area on the bottom rather than having to come back in at a later date and do that area. She asked if this will clean up all the mercury.

Green said the regulators suggested including that portion and we are looking into it. We hope this will take care of all of the remaining contamination.

Hodgin said cleaning up the additional area is something the CAC could recommend.

Member Sicignano asked if the regulators use their own people to do the sampling or if the Lab supplies them with their data.

Green said the Lab takes samples and sends them to a third party laboratory. We have done some co-sampling with SCDOH (Suffolk County Department of Health).

Member Doroski asked why the area is still showing contamination after being cleaned up.

Green said this is an ecologically sensitive area so we did not go all the way to the mineral soil during the original cleanup. We also think the contamination spread when they were smoothing out the river bottom. Our goal is less than 1 mg/kg average and nothing over 2 mg/kg.

Hodgin said the Lab is seeking your advice. After the break, we will continue the discussion. You can identify issues with the proposed plan and discuss any concerns you have while the regulators are here.

5. Agenda Setting

Nora Sundin said Les Hill is available next month for a presentation on the NSLS closure of Bldg. 725. Also, Tim Green can continue his natural resources update if more time is needed after tonight. We plan to have a presentation on the AGS and medical isotopes, but we will have a "Radiation 101" presentation first to prepare you.

6. Community Comment

Hodgin asked for comments from the community. There were none.

7. CAC Discussion and Recommendation

Hodgin asked if there are any issues regarding the proposed Peconic River Optimization plan that need to be discussed.

Member Keenan said the lower section indicated on the map should be addressed along with the rest of the area.

Member Madigan said he seconds that remark.

Member Sicignano agreed and asked about monitoring afterward.

Green said after confirmatory samples have been taken, we will be done. Surveillance monitoring will continue.

Hodgin said there will be no additional monitoring of water or sediment, but fish monitoring will continue. Are there any other comments other than to remediate the section to the south?

Member Sprintzen said it seems obvious to include that area.

Member Krupski said do the whole job and be done with it.

Member Doroski asked if there is a concern the mercury will move downstream.

Green said we want to do it when the whole area is dry.

Hodgin said you can do a consensus recommendation; that you support the Peconic River Optimization plan as proposed with the additional area to the south being included as suggested by the regulators. Is there anyone whose interest is not being met? Are there any more comments?

There were none. The CAC's recommendation is as follows:

“The Community Advisory Council supports the Peconic River Optimization plan with the inclusion of the section South of the proposed cleanup area, noted as the last transect (SP553-SP554) on the supplemental sediment sample map, as recommended by the regulators.”

8. Natural Resource Management Update – Tim Green, Environmental Protection Division

Tim Green gave the CAC a recap and update on deer management and an update on the 4-poster system. He spoke about forest management and the Southern Pine Beetle. He gave an update on the LISF (Long Island Solar Farm) research project and spoke about threatened and endangered species. He also provided information about the Lab's natural and cultural resources, expanding on flora and fauna monitoring, and cultural resource management.

Green reviewed the deer cull performed at the Lab in February 2015. He said the population estimate was ~830 deer; that number was reduced by 300 as a result of the cull. The deer meat was tested for Cs-137 and found to be safe for consumption. The meat was then donated to "Hunters for the Hungry" for distribution to food pantries. The next deer survey will be done in the Spring of 2016 after which plans will be made for another cull in the Fall of 2016.

Member Doroski asked how the Cesium got into the deer originally.

Green said years ago, equipment from the reactor was taken to the Former Hazardous Waste Management Facility to be cleaned up and at some point that dirt was used in landscape soils.

Member Bohon asked why more deer aren't taken to reduce the numbers to the ideal 10-30 per square mile.

Green said cost is a factor. We are targeting does to reduce reproduction, but during the original cull in the fall, the deer had already dropped their antlers so it was hard to tell male from female.

Member Madigan asked what the historic numbers of deer were.

Green said in 1967 there were 265 deer. The highest number we have estimated was 1200 at one point.

Green then spoke about tick management. He said there were 16 4-Poster devices put up around the Lab in 2015 and there has been a decrease in the number of ticks found on deer onsite.

Green said the Southern Pine Beetle is found throughout the central Pine Barrens and elsewhere on Long Island. They are very destructive and can kill pine trees in two to four months. They are difficult to manage and eradication is impossible. The Lab is monitoring the

situation with aerial surveys and pheromone traps have been installed in two locations. There is currently no budget for this. We will continue to monitor and track infestations. Forest thinning needs to be done in conjunction with a prescribed fire.

Member Doroski asked why the Lab doesn't just let the beetle run its course.

Green said they will destroy the entire forest. We would lose all the pines. We need to have a prescribed burn to allow the pines to regenerate.

Member Mack asked if there are any chemicals that can be used to kill the beetles.

Green said that would have to be done very early on and it is costly.

Green said data collection on the Long Island Solar Farm research is nearly complete. We hope to bring in Jennifer Higbie to give the CAC a presentation in the future.

Green then spoke about the threatened and endangered species; the tiger salamander, the banded sunfish, and the northern long-eared bat.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 PM.

Next meeting: April 14, 2016.

CAC Agenda Setting – November 12, 2015

TOPICS

Advances in Renewable Energy Technologies – 10

Update on Fukushima – 9

NASA Research – 8

Holographic Principles of Quantum Mechanics – 7

Gamma Forest & Tour – 7

Medical Research at BNL – 7

DOE Funding & Research Priorities & Impact on BNL - 7

Update & Advances on Battery Storage – 6

Discussion of Neutrino Projects at BNL – 6

Global Warming & Sea Level Rise – 6

Nanotechnology Research at BNL – 5

Capturing the COSMOS LSST – 4

Groundwater Monitoring Around New Facilities – 4

Advances in Solar Energy – residential & commercial – 4

Climate Science & White House Report (Steve Schwartz) – 4

Economic Impact of Lab – 3

Peak Oil (peak of World's ability to produce oil) - 3

Non-proliferation – 2

Progress on Strategic Plan Update (Discovery Park) – 1

Long-Term Vision for BNL – 1

More Lab History – 1

Status, Progress, Production Report on LI Solar Array – 1

NSLS-II Research – 1

				Jan	Feb Info session only	Mar	Apr	May	June	July No mtg	Aug No mtg	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
P = Present	2015	Affiliation		First Name	Last Name										
		ABCO – Civic (Garber - 04/02) (Bevington – 6/14) (Keenan-10/14)	Member	Ray	Keenan	P		P							
		(Madigan -10/10)	Alternate	Michael	Madigan	P									
		American Physical Society – Business & Labor	Member	Reinhart	Schuhmann	P		P							
		(Schuhmann 1/14, member 9/15)	Alternate	Donavan	Hall										
		Brookhaven Coalition of Chambers of Commerce – Bus & Labor (added 6/15)	Member	Ron	Trotta			P							
		Brookhaven Retired Employees Association- BNL (Peskin - 09/09)	Member	Arnie	Peskin	P		P							
		(Franz - 12/09)	Alternate	Eena-Mai	Franz	P									
		(Shapiro-1/13)	Alternate	Steve	Shapiro										
		Citizens Campaign for the Environment – Advocacy & Environment	Member	Adrienne	Esposito	P									
			Alternate												
		Colonial Woods Whispering Pines – Civic (Birben - 06/09) (O'Neal 01/15, removed 10/15)	Member												
		(Rehbein -11/10)	Alternate	Eric	Rehbein										
		Coram Civic Association (Ziems - 06/12)	Member	Paul	Ziems	P		P							
		(Meade – 06/12, Jim M 10/12, Turk 1/16)	Alternate	Rosa	Turk	P		P							
		East Yaphank Civic Association	Member	Michael	Giacomaro	P		P							
		(Feinman - 02/09 – 11/15)(Mack 11/15)	Alternate	Catherine	Mack			P							
		Emeritus (changed 3/8/12)	Member	Jean	Mannhaupt										
		Foundation for Economic Education – Ed, Sci, & Tech (5/14)(Martin – 10/14)	Member	Bruce	Martin			P							
		(Edwards – 10/14)	Alternate	Estelle	Edwards										
		(Pratka – 10/14)	Alternate	Craig	Pratka			P							
		Friends of Brookhaven- BNL (Kaplan 07/01–11/15)(Bowerman 11/15)	Member	Biays	Bowerman	P		P							
		(Schwartz - 11/02) (Ocko added 11/15)	Alternate	Steve	Schwartz			P							
			Alternate2	Ben	Ocko										
		Huntington Breast Cancer Coalition – Health-Based Rep	Member	Mary Joan	Shea	P									
			Alternate	Scott	Carlin										
		Individual (changed 3/12)	Member	Karen	Blumer										
		(added 6/12)	Alternate	Michael	Madigan	P		P							
		Individual	Member	Jane	Corrarino	P									
		Individual	Member	Blumer	Karen										
		Individual	Alternate	Michael	Madigan			P							
		L.I. Pine Barrens Society – Advoc & Env	Member	Richard	Amper										

				Jan	Feb Info session only	Mar	Apr	May	June	July No mtg	Aug No mtg	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
P = Present	2015	Affiliation	First Name	Last Name											
		(Murdocco - 04/11, deleted 6/12) (Muller added – 8/12)(Katie Rose Leonard added – 6/13)(Muether added – 5/15)	Alternate	Katie	Muether			P							
		L.I. Progressive Coalition – Advoc & Env	Member	David	Sprintzen	P		P							
			Alternate												
		Lake Panamoka Civic Association (Biss - 04/02)	Member	Rita	Biss	P		P							
		(Grandal - 10/10)	Alternate	Bonita	Grandal	P		P							
		Longwood Central School Dist. – Ed, Sci, & Tech (Castro -06/09)(Adams 9/15)	Member	Tracy	Adams										
		(Gerstenlauer removed & Sterne added 5/14 removed 9/15)	Alternate												
		Mastic Park Civic Association (Sicignano – 6/12)	Member	John	Sicignano			P							
			Alternate	Clara	McManus										
			Alternate	Joe	May										
		Middle Island Civic Association	Member												
		(Nowak 01/15 – 5/15)(Malloy 9/15)	Alternate	Margaret	Malloy			P							
		NSLS-II User Committee – BNL	Member	Jean	Jordan-Sweet	P									
		(Ravel -02/11-9/15)(Bohon added 11/15)	Alternate	Jen	Bohon			P							
		Ridge Civic Association (Henagan removed 9/15)(Chattaway added 10/15)	Member	Wesley	Chattaway	P		P							
		Suffolk County Legislature 1st Dist. - Government (added 6/15)	Member	Al	Krupski			P							
			Alternate	John	Stype										
		Teachers Federal Credit Union – Bus & Labor (Murdocco 3/15)	Member	Richard	Murdocco										
			Alternate	Suzanne	Gillan										
		Town of Brookhaven (Graves – 06/06)-(removed 1/2015)	Member												
			Alternate												
		Town of Brookhaven, Senior Citizens Office - Government	Member	James	Heil	P									
			Alternate												
		Town of Riverhead - Government (Doroski - 04/11)	Member	Isidore	Doroski	P		P							
		(Hulme - 04/11 - 4/14)	Alternate												
		Wading River Civic Association	Member	Helga	Guthy	P		P							
			Alternate	Sid	Bail										