

Community Advisory Council
April 12, 2012
Action Items/Notes

Final

These notes are in the following order:

1. Attendance
2. Correspondence and Handouts
3. Administrative Items
4. SPDES/Waste Treatment Modifications Update
5. Brookhaven National Laboratory Smarter Grid Centers
6. Agenda Setting
7. Community Comment & Comments from Organizations interested in joining the CAC
8. Four poster tick management and white-tailed deer management

1. Attendance

Members/Alternates Present: See Attached Sheets.

Others Present: L. Bates, M. Bebon, S. Bogart, J. D'Ascoli, N. Detweiler, L. Garber, K. Geiger, P. Genzer, G. Goode, T. Green, S. Hamilton, M. Israel, S. Johnson, C. Kessler, B. Lee, L. Lyons, M. Maraviglia, R. McKay, A. Nunziata, A. Rapiejko, J. Remien, D. Rocco, J. Sicignano

2. Correspondence and Handouts

Items numbered one through three were mailed to Members with a cover letter dated April 5, 2012. Items numbered four through six were available as handouts at the meeting.

1. Draft agenda for April 12, 2012
2. Draft notes for March 8, 2012
3. Response to Action Item: Provide website for Natural Resources Defense Council
4. Revised draft agenda
5. Sewage Treatment Plant Design Modifications presentation
6. Brookhaven National Laboratory Smarter Grid Centers presentation

3. Administrative Items

The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. Reed Hodgins, facilitator, reviewed the ground rules and the agenda. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

Michael Bebon, Deputy Director for Operations, updated the CAC on the recent brush fire at the north central boundary of the Lab. He said there were many fire departments that responded and he commended them on how quickly they got the fire under control.

Member Jordan-Sweet asked how many acres were affected.

Bebon said the estimate is 290 acres on-site and 1,150 acres off-site that were burned.

Member Peskin asked how far out the Lab's water mains extend.

Bebon said the water mains are only in the built up areas, the furthest one out toward our boundary would be at the Sewage Treatment Plant.

Member Guthy asked if the cause of the fire is known.

Bebon said not yet, there is an ongoing investigation.

Hodgin said this was a model response from the firefighters.

Approval of Minutes

The notes were not approved because quorum was not met.

4. Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) Design Modifications Update, Jason Remien – Environmental Protection Division

Jason Remien, Environmental Protection Division, gave the CAC some background information and then explained the modifications to the Sewage Treatment Plant SPDES (State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit. He said BNL has submitted responses to the comments received by NYSDEC (New York State Department of Environmental Conservation) and SCDHS (Suffolk County Department of Health Services) on the Title I design report. The Lab will ensure the tertiary filters are designed to handle the full SPDES Permit Flow (2.3 MGD) with one unit out of service, provide clarification on the amount and location of groundwater monitoring wells, confirm that appropriate permitting will be completed prior to the start of construction, and the wetlands are clearly delineated in the design plans. He said the SPDES permit modification process will be initiated this month and includes a description of the new treatment process and will recognize discharge to groundwater. He said disc cloth filters will replace the old sand filter beds. He will come back in a few months with more information.

Member Esposito asked if there are any CSOs (Combined Sewage Overflows) and how does the rate flow influence what is going into the STP.

Remien said years ago, we had much higher flows. We no longer have CSOs and we also have had a reduction in water use on-site.

Bob Lee, Manager Environmental Protection Division, said there are some very small increases in water flow. The sand filter beds are outside and every time it rains they collect water and contribute to the flow.

Remien said the peak flow can be 1.5 to 1.8MGD.

Remien said we will have eight monitoring wells. Four existing and four new wells will be installed as part of the upgrade.

Member Jordan-Sweet asked if the capacity of the filters is designed so they will never be overburdened.

Remien said if the filters ever can't handle the flow, there will be a direct line to a holding pond. No water will go into the recharge basin that did not go through the filter.

Member Jordan-Sweet asked if the changing of the filter is automated and how often will that happen.

Remien said it is automated, but he does not know how often it will occur.

Lee said this is clarified water. We don't expect it to fill often, maybe several times a month.

Remien said these filters are very easy to maintain. They can be removed easily.

Member Esposito asked if this system will use ultra-violet radiation instead of chlorination.

Remien said this system won't be using either one.

Member Esposito asked if the Lab has a sludge management plan.

Remien said the Lab's sludge gets shipped to Bergin Point, as it has since 2008.

Member Talbot asked if there will be a continuous flow.

Remien said it will be gravity fed continuous flow.

A member of the audience asked if the water is all sewage or if there is some chemical waste mixed in.

Remien said it is all sanitary waste from the Lab.

Member Garber asked if the Lab will continue to add the leftovers from the cafeteria.

Remien said yes, we will continue to add the leftover food.

5. Brookhaven National Laboratory Smarter Grid Centers, Stephanie Hamilton – Global and Regional Solutions

Stephanie Hamilton, Research and Development Manager, Electric Grid Systems, explained DOE's smarter grid, spoke about BNL's strategic plans for energy research, and explained SGRID³ (Smarter Electric Grid Research, Innovation, Development, Demonstration, Deployment Center). She said the two big changes for the smart grid are a two way system of information and electricity and the basis for making smart grid a success is the cost benefit.

Member Sprintzen asked for an explanation of sustainable chemical conversion.

Hamilton said that is a presentation on its own, she is not an expert on that topic. A good example would be biofuels replacing fossil fuels.

Hodgin said we will get someone in to talk about it.

Member Talbot asked if the goal of the smart grid is to eliminate or coordinate what's being done by regional system operators.

Hamilton said we will look at automating the distribution circuits first, that's where the losses are greatest and that's where the loss from storm outages can be improved.

Member Talbot asked if your first focus is distribution, will the next one be transmission.

Hamilton said we will be submitting a proposal that looks at doing research and development for the transmission system as well as integrating with the natural gas system in the state of NY.

Member Garber asked if this has to work with the equipment you already have and how will you integrate with renewables?

Hodgin rephrased the question to ask if, as renewables come online, will you be able to take off the fossil fuels that are already online.

Hamilton said the system is not designed for that. This shows the need for storage

Member Sprintzen said he would like further discussion with more details. He'd like more information on the proposed national integration, SGRID³, and financing the operations.

Detweiler said Dr. Gerry Stokes is planning on coming in for a more detailed presentation on SGRID³.

6. Agenda Setting

Nora Detweiler, liaison to the CAC, said that since quorum is not met this evening the membership discussion will not take place; instead Tim Green will give his deer presentation. Next month, Mike Holland will give a presentation on DOE's role at BNL. Reinhold Mann will talk about his Directorate, Environmental Life Sciences. She asked if there were any suggestions for June.

Member Sprintzen said he would like an update on Joanna Fowler's research.

Member Sprintzen also said there is a contradiction in last month's minutes. He said Karen Blumer should be in the individual category.

Hodgin said we will discuss that during the executive session. He suggested listening to the civic organizations here tonight and then inviting them to come back in May for a vote.

7. Community Comment & Comments from Organizations interested in joining the CAC

Hodgin reminded the CAC that the Earth Summit will be held April 17th at the Lab.

Member Esposito said the solar tours are currently overbooked. The workshops start at 1pm, a panel discussion at 3pm, and the keynote speaker will be at 4pm.

Hodgin said there are two openings on the CAC for civic organizations.

Detweiler said we have two interested groups here tonight; Mastic Park Civic Association and Coram Civic Association, as well as Michael Madigan, who is interested in joining under the environmental category.

John Sicignano, President of the Mastic Park Civic Association for 28 years, said he is interested in being more connected with BNL. He said his organization used to have a representative from the Lab occasionally speak at their meetings, but they have lost contact with the Lab. Since they are south of the Lab, they are interested in what goes on here. He thinks it is important to get younger people more involved.

Member Heil asked him to describe where his organization is located geographically.

Sicignano said they go from the sign on Mastic Road that says Mastic Beach to Forge River and from the Southport shopping center to the airport.

Member Sprintzen asked for a map.

Member Esposito asked how many members belong to his organization.

Sicignano said they have a mailing list of about 80 people and typically 30-40 show up at meetings.

Paul Ziems, Coram Civic, said he has been Treasurer for three years. There are 19 rental communities in the Coram area and he is very interested in the environment. He has attended and enjoys the CAC meetings. He said he is not sure how he can help the CAC, but he would like to bring information back to his Civic organization. There are between 40 and 100 people at their meetings. Membership last year was 151.

Member Sprintzen asked if he has a map of his community.

Hodgin asked if both of them could bring back maps.

Detweiler said the Lab can get a map, highlight the areas and email it to everyone.

ACTION ITEM: Email map with Civic Organization areas highlighted.

Member Madigan said he belongs to the Open Space Council that was started in the mid-to-early 80's by environmentalists. They ran an advocacy group for open space. He is interested in joining under the environmental category.

Hodgin asked what he can bring to the CAC.

Madigan said his interest is in protecting open space and he can bring information back to his organization. If selected to be a CAC member under this new heading, ABCO would have to find another alternate to replace him.

Member Sprintzen asked for some of the issues or campaigns he has been involved in.

Madigan said the transfer of development rights concept, to save land by transferring it. Right now, we are involved in a campaign regarding the AVR property. We are not opposed to development; just not such a large development and we are looking for them to give back to the Pine Barrens.

Member Jordan-Sweet asked if his organization has scheduled meetings.

Madigan said yes, but they are not always the same time. There is regular communication between the board members and we send a newsletter out to our regular members.

Member Guthy asked what he expects to get from the Lab to help his organization.

Madigan said land preservation efforts. It's important to bring information back and to give our perspective.

Member Birben asked if this group is the same as the Open Space Preservation Trust.

Madigan said we are a sister organization, that is not financially linked. We have two board members that are on both organizations.

Member Birben asked if they have a website with the board members listed.

Madigan said we are working on it. He said the board members are: Marilyn England, Karen Blumer, Karen Johnson, Eric Burke, Jack Finkenberg, and himself.

Member Peskin asked what at BNL is of interest to the Open Space Council.

Madigan said there was a recent issue with the Lab promoting a developer. We were able to tell our group that the Lab was not promoting development. We can bring back the correct information.

Hodgin invited the potential members to come back next month. He said we will have an executive session and make some decisions about membership.

8. 4 - Poster Tick Management and White-Tailed Deer Management, Tim Green – Environmental Protection Division

Tim Green explained that the 4-poster tick management system is a delivery system to kill ticks on deer with permethrin. He said BNL is ready to order 14 of these devices, but first has to file an "Authorization to Feed Deer" with the NYSDEC. This requires additional SEQRA review and a Deer Management Plan and may require that BNL wait a year.

Member Guthy asked what affect permethrin has on small animals.

Green said they are not affected; permethrin is derived from chrysanthemums, so it's a natural pesticide.

Member Jordan-Sweet asked how other states are handling the deer problem.

Green said 47 states have licensed this device.

Member Heil asked how you determine if a reduction in the number of ticks has taken place.

Green said the method is to take a white sheet and run it through the woods and see how many ticks are picked up.

Member Esposito said permethrin is not a natural pesticide. It is synthetically created, and it is a neurotoxin. The DEC is concerned about the groundwater contamination. It is effective. You have to make a choice. My organization is supportive of using it.

Green said the alternatives are not good.

Member Henagan said his sources at the DEC say they are not going to permit its use. Civic organizations should write letters of support.

Member Esposito said this spring the DEC will release for public comment a pesticide use management plan for Long Island.

Member Talbot suggested the CAC contact the DEC on BNL's behalf.

Hodgin said we can ask the Lab if that would be beneficial. Next month we will question Lab management.

Member Guthy said everyone in her neighborhood has had Lyme disease, and other tick borne illnesses, and now we all spray our yards with chemicals.

Hodgin said the CAC can get involved.

Member Henagan said the University of Virginia did a study east of the Mississippi and found that 100% of the deer ticks tested on Long Island are infected with Lyme disease.

Member Guthy asked if people can use the 4-Poster system in their own yards.

Green said you are allowed to use one per 40 acres and it must be managed by a licensed pesticide applicator. This is not a simple device to maintain.

Member Birben asked if it's true that guinea hens eat ticks.

Green said he does not know.

Member Esposito said Suffolk Community College uses the guinea hens and they work well for the lone star tick.

Green said guinea hens usually like the open areas, not wooded areas.

Green said the Lab realizes the need to reduce the number of deer on-site and has been working toward deer management since 1998, but actions have been on hold until the present time. We hope to have an Environmental Assessment done for Deer Management in June 2012 and to start planning for deer removal in the fall of 2012.

Member Garber asked what population of deer per square mile would be ideal.

Green said 10-30 per square mile, so that would mean a total of 80 on-site.

Member Garber asked if the County butchers the deer in Yaphank.

Green said that program never got off the ground.

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 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
LISF 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								
		ABCO (Madigan -10/10)	Alternate	Michael	Madigan	P		P	P								
		American Physical Society	Member	Margaret	Malloy	P	P	P									
		American Physical Society	Alternate														
		Brookhaven Retired Employees Association (Peskin - 09/09)	Member	Arnie	Peskin		P	P	P								
		Brookhaven Retired Employees Association (Franz - 12/09)	Alternate	Eena-Mai	Franz	P	P	P									
		Citizens Campaign for the Environment	Member	Adrienne	Esposito	P	P	P	P								
		Citizens Campaign for the Environment	Alternate														
		Colonial Woods Whispering Pines (Birben - 06/09)	Member	Christine	Birben	P	P	P	P								
		Colonial Woods Whispering Pines (Rehbein -11/10)	Alternate	Eric	Rehbein	P	P	P	P								
		E. Yaphank Civic Association	Member	Michael	Giacomaro	P	P	P									
		E. Yaphank Civic Association (Feinman - 02/09)	Alternate	Bob	Feinman	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											
		Huntington Breast Cancer Coalition	Member	Mary Joan	Shea	P											
		Huntington Breast Cancer Coalition	Alternate	Scott	Carlin												
		IBEW/Local 2230 (Krsnak 01/07)	Member	Scott	Krsnak	P	P		P								
		IBEW/Local 2230	Alternate														
		Individual (changed 3/12)	Member	Karen	Blumer	P		P									
			Alternate														
		Individual – (changed 3/12)	Member	Greg	Bush	P		P									
			Alternate	Adam	Martin	P											
			Alternate	Bruce	Martin	P											
		Individual – (changed 3/12)	Member	Jane	Corrarino		P										
			Alternate														
		Individual – (changed 3/12)	Member	Iqbal	Chaudhry		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								
		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								
		Lake Panamoka Civic Association (Grandal - 10/10)	Alternate	Bonita	Grandal		P										
		Longwood Alliance	Member	Tom	Talbot			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								
		NSLS User (Ravel -02/11)	Alternate	Bruce	Ravel	P		P									
		Ridge Civic Association	Member	Pat	Henagan		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										
		Town of Riverhead (Hulme - 04/11)	Alternate	Suzanne	Hulme	P	P	P									
		Wading River Civic Association	Member	Helga	Guthy	P	P	P	P								
		Wading River Civic Association	Alternate	Sid	Bail												