

## **BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 06/14/2022**

Minutes recorded by L. Miller

Contact Information:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA

BNL Bldg. 400A

BERA Recreation/ Attention BREA Meeting

Upton, NY 11973

**Present:** A. Moodenbaugh, P. Bond, C. Conrad, D. Cox, A. Feldman, L. Fishbone, V. Ghosh, B. Hackenburg, M. Israel, L. Kouchinsky, J. Lemley, B. Lin, L. Miller, S. Shapiro, D. Sievers, B. Siskind, G. Williams

**Officers 2022-2024:** President: Arnold Moodenbaugh, Vice President: Vinita Ghosh, Secretary: Laura Miller, Treasurer: Les Fishbone, Membership Chair: Beth Lin, Newsletter Editor: Mona Rowe

**1. Call to Order. Arnie Moodenbaugh.**

Meeting called to order: 1:04 pm

**2. Minutes of May meeting. Laura Miller.**

Laura added a sentence from Mark Israel saying he would provide a report of the April and May CAC meetings at today's meeting. Barry Suskind motioned to approve, seconded by Don Sievers. Motion passed with two abstaining.

**3. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin.**

Since May 15 Beth has received 4 more dues payments. The number of current paid: 269 [corrected on 7/13/22 after confirming email from Beth that 269 is the correct number], current email addresses: 244. Beth sent checks for \$160 to Les, who has received them. Beth has received four payments for dues since then. Dieter Schneider is a new member. She will send his email to anyone who would like to correspond with him. Motion to approve by Don Sievers, seconded by Cheryl Conrad. Approved by all.

**4. CAC Meeting Reports – April 14<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup> 2022. Mark Israel.**

**April 14<sup>th</sup>:** Doon Gibbs reported that about 50%, or 1400+ people are currently present on site, and the Lab continues to monitor the situation. The 2022 Budget for the Lab has passed. There are a few bumps being worked out, but the Lab is in good shape.

David Manning reported that, hopefully, the CAC would be meeting on site, in person soon. The usual meeting room in Berkner Hall has been substantially upgraded. The site has had somewhat of a soft opening for certain tours.

Robert Gordon (DOE Site Office Director) announced that they had received a letter from the EPA accepting the closeout report of the HFBR Stack removal. He thanked

everyone for their efforts.

#### Jason Remien - Environmental Update

The time-lapse video of the stack removal, and the full closeout report is available on the CAC website.

PFAS Removal Action Project - The granulated carbon filter tanks from the tritium and BLT cleanup have been refitted and revamped with a foundation and building around them. 83 monitoring wells have been completed. Construction has begun on 12 extraction wells.

Bldg. 650 Demolition Project - 17 additional truckloads shipped to Energy Solutions, Utah./

#### Science Presentation: Climate Science to Solutions

Allison McComiskey, Chair, Environment & Climate Science Department

The Long-Term Strategy of the United States is the pathway to net zero greenhouse emissions by 2050. There is a cross-laboratory effort to address the nation's solutions. It includes urban infrastructure, alternative energy, and climate intervention. This includes measuring atmospheric conditions with the assistance of the Instrumentation Division. Data is fed into central DOE models. Climate intervention includes Geo Engineering, and Carbon Removal. There are several risks and challenges in accomplishing these initiatives. Allison discussed wildfire emissions, and the fact that fires are increasing due to increasing temperatures. Plumes of black carbon are entering the atmosphere. Aerosols from various processes also enter the atmosphere. These carbon emissions impact solar power...monitored by the BNL solar base station that is linked to the solar farm.

#### Natural Resource Management

Kathy Schwager, Natural and Cultural Resources Group

Deer Management - Target population 250; current level 325-350; culled 81 in 2021; goal is 134 in 2022

Discussed importance of controlled burns and fire management.

Discussed the increase in "no-mow," natural growth areas at BNL, and the profusion of wildflowers.

**May 12<sup>th</sup>:** Jason Remien, Manager of the Environmental Protection Division, discussed the plans for demolition of the Brookhaven Medical Research Reactor (BMRR) Stack. After analyzing the alternative methods, the "manned hydraulic machinery/tools" method was selected, and proposals were distributed. The contract was awarded to International Chimney Corp. (ICC), the same subcontractor the demolished the HFBR Stack. The actual work will begin in August, 2022 and continue through October, 2022.

Charles (Chuck) Black, Director of the Center for Functional Nanomaterials (CFN), gave a presentation entitled "Dare Mighty Things," which addressed the mission of "advancing nanoscience." The presentation covered stories of successful CFN research including Invisible Glass, Catching Radioactive Gases, and Nanoscience Based Home COVID Tests. Black also discussed two promising discoveries that were lost:

Superhydrophobic sponges for environmental remediation, and "Always Dry Surfaces" that completely repel water. These were lost because there were no external partners expressing any interest for commercial development. Even though these projects were not funded, they succeeded in helping the CFN staff know where to go next.

Ivar Strand., Manager of the Office of Research Partnerships, discussed the structure of his office, and the various types of partnering agreements: Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA); Funds-In Agreement Strategic Partnership Project (SPP); Technical Service Agreement (TSA); Interagency Agreement (IAA); Agreements for Commercializing Technology (ACT); and Non-disclosure Agreements (NDA). Risk assessments need to be prepared, and these are followed up with Proposal Information Questionnaires that are entered into the Proposal Information Management System (PIMS). Ivar's office handles all funding projects coming from NYS, all contract activity for the use of NSRL, Tandem and Cryo-EM facilities, and other research partnerships.

Poorni Upadhyya, Manager of Technology Transfer, discussed the process by which existing knowledge, facilities, or capabilities developed under federal research and development (R&D) funding are utilized to fulfil public and private needs. This is part of the DOE mission and includes various types of intellectual property (IP): Utility Patents; Design Patents; Copyrights; Trademarks; and Trade Secrets. The process cycle begins with Research, but then moves into the phases of Invention Disclosure, Assessment, IP Protection, Marketing, Licensing, Productization, and, ultimately, Royalties. Two successful examples of this process are: (1) the Bacteriophage T7 Protein Expression System that shaped the field of DNA technology; and (2) Technetium (Tc)-99m, a radioisotope tracer used in medical diagnosis.

The next CAC meeting will be in September. Motion to accept by A. Feldman, seconded by D. Sievers. Approved unanimously.

**5. Newsletter. Mona Rowe**

Mona isn't participating today. Arnie shared a screen with what she has so far as articles for the next newsletter: 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of BNL and 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of BREA; Energy Employees Occupation Illness Program; Free Medical Screening for Former BNL Workers.

**6. Treasurer's Report. Les Fishbone.**

Les presented a detailed Treasurer's Report as a screen share within Zoom. The grand total for the checking and savings accounts and the three certificates of deposit (CD) is \$25,833.08. Mark motioned to accept Treasurer's Report, Gwyn Williams seconded, passed unanimously.

Les asked a teller at TFCU if someone can deposit checks even if they don't have signature authority. The answer was yes. Beth prefers to continue to send checks to Les and Les agreed to continue to deposit checks she sends him. M. Israel motioned to approve, Cheryl Conrad seconded, motion passed unanimously.

7. **Status of BNL.**

The BNL BERA webpages will have updated information. On-site BREA meetings will be reconsidered as BNL returns to normal operation.

Retirees are now allowed on site, and rules on masking have been put in place. In general, you must be prepared to provide yourself with a mask when inside buildings onsite and sometimes outside if near other people. At this time, while employees must be vaccinated, it is not clear what the protocol is for guests and visitors; Arnie thinks vaccines might be optional. Surgical masks are ok. Gym facilities are open to retirees for one hour/day. Pool is not open, it's being renovated. C. Carter encouraged us not to schedule meetings on site yet.

8. **Follow up to Dr. Michael Sivertz talk to BREA May meeting. Status of talk posting on BREA's BNL website. Thank you letter to Dr. Sivertz.**

Arnie sent Dr. Sivertz' slides in to see if it's possible to post them on our website and he hasn't heard back yet, so as of this meeting they haven't been posted. He has finalized his thank you letter. He will change date and send it.

9. **Speakers for BREA Zoom meetings.**

Two potential speakers have agreed, in principle, to give presentations. We will notify members with speaker and topic when schedules are confirmed.

No movement on other future speakers. Marty Fallier's name was brought up regarding a talk on Discovery Park. Don Sievers has emailed him a few times, with no response and wondered about calling him. Don has learned who the current project lead for Discovery Park is and he will contact him to see if he will agree to a presentation on Discovery Park.

**Action:** Before the next meeting, Don will contact Ogeka to see if he will give a presentation.

10. **Annual Luncheon.**

Any planning for a BREA luncheon (or any other in-person event) would depend on current BNL COVID policies. Should we begin some pre-planning to decide on the scope of a lunch event?

Discussion set aside for time being. If we hold it outside, it might be easy to do.

**Action:** Arnie suggests we look for possible venues and bring them up at the next meeting.

11. **Worker Health Protection Program.**

The WHPP office at Queens College is planning a presentation to the BREA at our July BREA Zoom meeting and will take comments and discuss issues we'd like to have covered. There will also be an article about the WHPP in the July/ Aug. News.

**Action:** send Arnie a note with your questions/concerns and he will send it on. Their talk will be at 1:00, our regular meeting will be after that.

12. **Preliminary discussion of intricacies of Medicare Advantage plans offered through SelectQuoteSenior.**

Les found some advice online. Arnie wants to speak to SQS for a later newsletter about open enrollment. Advantage Plans need to be thoroughly vetted because they are

complicated. Also, it can be difficult to switch back is you change your mind. You must wait until open enrollment unless there are certain conditions/problems. There doesn't seem to be anyone in BNL HR who knows the entire gamut of the intricacies of all the plans. An AARP bulletin arrived in homes recently that targets Medicare Advantage Plans. Many people have been denied treatment. Arnie might try to find some info from SQS to see what they offer in this location and ask about how they move people around to the various plans.

**13. New Business**

- a. BREA might consider contributing to the Long Island Science Center. It's being built in Riverhead. They are currently located at the Tanger Outlets in Riverhead.
- b. No updates on Tesla Center.
- c. Paul Tischler died a couple of weeks ago, he worked at the reactor. Liz Seubert also passed away in the last few weeks. Arnie has asked Dr. Bishai for a bio, etc. of Liz. Another departure: Denise DiMeglio is leaving BNL next week and being replaced by Melissa Schuchman.
- d. Vision Coverage with EyeMed: retirees can buy into it for Cobra price. Look at BNL website to see what it covers. This will be available during open enrollment.
- e. As of midnight June 12, people no longer must have a negative Covid test to enter this country from anywhere in the world.
- f. Peter Bond joined us today. His book will be published in October.  
**Action:** Peter will notify Peter and or Mona when its available so that something can be put in the newsletter.

Motion to adjourn made by Cheryl Conrad, seconded by Mark Israel, passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 2:17 pm.

Next BREA meeting will be held July 12<sup>th</sup> via Zoom.