

BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 12/13/2022

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, R. Backofen, A. Feldman, L. Fishbone, A. Ghosh, V. Ghosh, R. Hackenburg, J. Hurst, M. Israel, J. Lemley, B. Lin, L. Miller, M. Rowe, B. Schehr, D. Sievers, B. Siskind, E. Sperry

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
 - a. Meeting was called to order at 1:07 pm.
2. Minutes of November meeting. Laura
 - a. **Action:** Laura will get email approval from the board before the next meeting.
3. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin
 - a. Paid members: 280
 - b. Members who have provided email addresses: 255
 - c. Members who have renewed their annual membership: 17
 - d. Beth sent checks totaling \$310 to Les since the November meeting.
 - e. Motion to accept Membership Report made by B. Siskind, seconded by M. Israel. Passed unanimously.
4. CAC November Meeting Report. Mark Israel
 - a. In the administrative session, Robert (Bob) Tribble, Deputy Laboratory Director stated that it has been a banner year for BNL, both in projects, and funding. The Laboratory is doing very well. (No specific details given). This November meeting is the last CAC meeting of the year and is bittersweet for him in that it will be his last meeting. After nine years, he will be stepping down from his position as Deputy Laboratory Director.
 - b. Bill Dorsch, Groundwater Protection Group, Environmental Protection Division, provided a very detailed update of the 2022 Groundwater Status Report, which is Volume 2 of the 2021 Site Environmental Report. (Volume 1 was reported in detail at the last CAC meeting in October). Bill gave an overview of the Laboratory's Remediation Systems, VOC plume remediation progress, and SR-90 plume remediation progress. He also

discussed PFAS Time Critical Removal Action (TCRA) and OU X Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Work Plan Status.

- i. Seven VOC Groundwater Remediation Systems and one Sr-90 System in operation.
 - ii. 23 of 71 extraction wells in operation...one billion gallons of groundwater treated in 2021.
 - iii. 7758 lbs. of VOC's removed from groundwater to date; and 34 mCi Sr-90.
 - iv. (Note: handout available on the CAC website contains many detailed plume status and comparison charts)
 - v. PFAS characterization and remediation status:
 1. Two new systems installed to treat PFAS using granular activated carbon.
 2. Completed electrical and communications wiring and system controls for the treatment system.
 3. Collected initial (baseline) groundwater samples from the 95 new monitoring wells.
 4. System startup testing began October 24 for the Current firehouse/Building 170; former firehouse
 5. System startup expected mid-November.
 6. Draft Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Work Plan under internal review; focus of plan is to fill gaps in understanding of the extent of PFAS and 1,4-dioxane (on-site and off-site); expected to be submitted for regulatory review in early 2023.
- c. Next, the BNL Site Sustainability Plan was presented by Tom Daniels, Associate Laboratory Director F&O; Debbie Bauer, Environmental Protection Division, and Dennis Yuan, Modernization Project Office
- i. The Site Sustainability Plan is prepared annually to set goals and track performance. BNL uses a cross-Laboratory Team approach to ensure all operations are aligned. The DOE oversees compliance with federal laws and requirements as each site reports into their Sustainability Dashboard. The presentation covered details in the areas of (additional detail is available in handout on CAC website): Energy Management / Fleet Management / Water Management / Waste Management / Clean & Renewable Energy / Sustainable Buildings / Acquisition & Procurement / Investments: Improvement Measures, Workforce & Community / Travel and Commute / Fugitives & Refrigerants / Electronic Stewardship & Data Centers / Climate Adaption & Resilience.
 - ii. The Laboratory will adopt a "Net-Zero" mindset for addressing future waste management activities.

- iii. The focus will be on source reduction across a wide range of products starting with replacing products containing PFAS and reducing use of single-use plastics.
 - iv. Dennis Yuan's presentation discussed in detail the fully sustainable design of the new Science and User Support Center that has been funded and is under construction in the Discovery Park section of then Laboratory.
 - d. The CAC will not meet again until March of 2023.
 - e. **Action:** Mark will contact Robyn McKay to see if she has the latest list of CAC board members.
- 5. Newsletter. Mona Rowe
 - a. The main story of the upcoming issue will be about the ballroom dancers. Permission was granted in advance by those whose photos were included.
 - b. There will also be updates about Discovery Park, environmental cleaning and groundwater projects.
 - c. **Action:** Mona will send Arnie a separate email with a draft of the President's message.
- 6. Treasurer's Report. Les Fishbone
 - a. 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) for November is \$25,706.15.
 - b. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by M. Israel, seconded by D. Sievers. Motion carried.
 - c. **Action:** M. Israel will send a separate email to Les reminding him of the 16-month 4.25% CD possibility.
- 7. Books for Africa. Les Fishbone to report on status of project. (At last month's meeting, BREA approved \$500 for shipping, as needed).
 - a. Although six cartons of books have been collected, Dr. Katevi Assamagan could only bring what he could carry in his luggage to the session of the African School of Physics. Les showed pictures taken of the book presentation. A postdoc and student at BNL are figuring out how to ship the remaining books and how much it will cost. This can be a topic for a future President's Message in an upcoming newsletter. Les requested an approval of up to \$1500 for shipping books to Africa, replacing the \$500 we previously approved. M. Israel suggested that before we approve additional costs, we see about the possibility of getting other labs involved. He also suggested talking to S. Shapiro and D. Cox.
 - b. Mark suggested getting the commitment and approval of the cognizant ALD.
 - c. **Action:** Les will provide his presentation for Arnie to post.
 - d. **Action:** Les will look into ways to make the shipment most economically.
 - e. **Action:** Les will send the shipping quote to M. Israel and A.J. Feldman.

- f. **Action:** Mark will check with Shipping and Receiving at BNL to see if the Lab can ship and pay for the books, or if they would ship and pay and BREA reimburse them.
 - g. **Action:** Les will send a paragraph to Arnie about the books.
 - h. **Action:** Arnie will use the photos from Les's presentation.
- 8. Review of Bond talk on "The Leak". Letter of thanks being prepared. Comments please.
 - a. Arnie is still working on the letter of thanks.
 - b. The book is on sale and can be purchased on Amazon.
- 9. Future speakers for BREA Zoom meetings. Suggestions welcome
 - a. Jean Jordan-Sweet: Arnie will get back to her.
 - b. **Action:** Laura will send Arnie Jean's current email address.
- 10. Resumption of in-person meetings? Arnie will discuss with Christine Carter about planning for a meeting at BNL with ZOOM or equivalent remote attendance. Depending on staff availability to support us, possibly shoot for in-person every other month or quarterly.
 - a. As of today's meeting, BNL has raised its COVID response level.
 - b. Arnie will reach out to C. Carter to negotiate the frequency of meetings at BNL once the COVID level is down to acceptable levels for on-site meetings.
- 11. Other in-person events including luncheon.
 - a. We are looking at different sites. We have the potential of anywhere from 25-60 participants.
 - b. Discussion postponed until the January or February meeting.
- 12. Comments on Medicare open enrollment.
 - a. The NY Times ran an article primarily about Advantage plans.:
 - i. <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/05/health/medicare-seniors-health.html?searchResultPosition=1>
 - ii. If non-subscriber members would like to read it, a subscriber can "gift" the article to several people. One issue is that if you switch from B plus Medigap (B supplement) to Advantage but want to switch back, your premiums for Medigap may rise. Only 4 states, one being NY, require Medigap rates to be identical for all enrollees.

L. Miller made a motion to adjourn, L. Fishbone seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:33 pm.

The next BREA meeting will be held January 10th at 1:00 pm via Zoom.