

BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 05/09/2023

Minutes recorded by Laura Miller

Contact Information:

Brookhaven Retired Employees Association BREA

BNL Bldg. 400A

BERA Recreation/ Attention BREA Meeting

Upton, NY 11973

Present: A. Moodenbaugh, R. Backofen, R. Clark, D. Cox, A.J. Feldman, L. Feierabend, L. Fishbone, V. Ghosh, B. Hackenburg, M. Israel, J. Lemley, B. Lin, Y. Makdisi, L. Miller, M. Rowe, S. Shapiro, D. Sievers, B. Siskind, L. Stiegler, 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
 - a. Meeting called to order at 1:04 pm.
2. **Minutes of April meeting.** Laura Miller
 - a. April meeting minutes were approved. Laura will post them after today's meeting.
 - b. Will
3. **Membership Report.** Beth Yu Lin.
 - a. Current number of paid members is 246, members with known email is 227. In April Beth received one person's dues. The updated paying member list has been posted on BREA's website. The site should be updated monthly. Motion to accept by Don Sievers, seconded by Laura. Motion passed.
4. **CAC Meeting Report, April 13, 2023.** Mark Israel.
 - a. The most recent meeting took place two days after the April meeting. The next meeting will be held on May 11. It will be a hybrid meeting (in person and electronic), and because there are new members, it will begin at 4:00 with a tour of the site.
 - b. Mark provided detailed notes of the April CAC meeting, and they are included at the end of these minutes.
5. **Newsletter.** Mona Rowe. The May/June newsletter will feature an article introducing the recently appointed BNL director, JoAnne Hewitt. The previously scheduled article discussing the use of social media will appear in a future issue.
 - a. The next newsletter (July-August) will be on social media. Mona is collecting some screen captures. BNL uses various social media sites, including LinkedIn. P. Genzer will provide wording on why and how Lab uses social media. The article will touch on some current scams. There are some government sites that give information on current scams, which Mona will include.
 - b. On Thursday, May 18th there will be a BERA clubs promotion. Arnie will attend and give a presentation. Les will join him. Arnie will print out copies recent newsletters and also the current BREA info letter that retirees are given.
6. **Treasurer's Report.** Les Fishbone
 - a. Les presented details as a screen share within Zoom. This report is based on February

and March data. The grand total for the checking and savings accounts and the three certificates of deposit (CD) is \$26,337.02. We've heard that BSA may be supporting newsletter expenses in the future. If so, we'll have no recurring expenses. We should explore what this means for us. The likely request for Adopt-A-Platoon for next month, when added to what we've already given them, will exceed the original \$600 allotment. Linda Feierabend asked that we provide the \$75 for this month's mailing. She also suggested we let them know if we aren't going to continue to contribute. Les would like us to donate another \$600. Arnie: if we have alternate meetings at the lab, there is a potential for expenses for those meetings. Arnie will talk to Christine to see what support will be needed.

- b. Mark made a motion to extend approval of another \$600 above the previous \$600. Seconded by Arnie. Motion passed unanimously. Adopt-A-Platoon sends items to BNL family members, and is no longer associated with BVA. Operation Veronica is doing the same as Adopt-A-Platoon and is also looking for donations.
 - c. Mark motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Don. None opposed.
7. **Donations.** Les Fishbone to report on the status of the Books for Africa project. Steve Shapiro will describe progress at the Tesla Center and status of BREAs planned support.
- a. Les heard from Dr. Ketevi Assamagan, who also sent a photo of the books recently brought to Africa.
 - b. Tesla hit a major milestone. They have started construction to demolish building and then will refurbish the Sanford White building. At one time we agreed to donate \$10k for one of the windows. Mark asked what they expect the museum will have when finished. Answer: A meeting center and museum. Website: Teslasciencecenter@Wardencliff.
8. **Future speakers for BREAs Zoom meetings.** Suggestions welcome. The June meeting will have a Zoom talk by BNL environmental scientist Ernie Lewis on his on-location research into the atmospheric environment.
- a. Suggestion: Have Kathy Cutler present to BREAs .
9. **Covid status at BNL.** In-person / hybrid Zoom meetings in the future?
- a. Hybrid Zoom meeting scheduled for July.
10. **SelectQuote Senior Issues:** Issues with BNL retiree health benefit and SelectQuote Senior to be brought to the attention of BNL Human Resources with white paper and meeting.
- a. Arnie present BREAs with a paper last month and received some comments, which he tried to incorporate. Today he showed us the revised version. Jim Lemley suggested Arnie speak about the policy of the lifetime ban if someone mistakenly uses a company other than SelectQuoteSenior.
11. **New Business**
- a. BNL has more upcoming events. PubSci is tomorrow night at Painters in Brookhaven Hamlet, just south of Montauk Highway. Our speaker for the June meeting will be there, talking about "Do Wildfires Affect Climate Change".
 - b. Don Sievers: Medicare Part D is now imposing an annual deductible on his premium plan as of April 1 and he had no prior notice. The additional amount is \$500. SilverScript through Aetna. They have several different plans. One has no deductible at all, but the monthly charge is \$61. Does he have to go through Select Quote to pick his Prescription Part D. Answer is no. Mark suggested Don check into "WellCare".

- c. Worker Health Protection Plan (WHPP): we all worked at BNL. We are all entitled to this. People who left lab before retirement didn't know about it. Does the Lab give people information about this when they leave?
- d. Beth: May is the Asian Pacific American Association month. Tomorrow is Asian Food Tasting in Bldg. 400. Most food is homemade. The charge is \$10.

Motion to adjourn by Don, seconded by Mark.

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.

The next BREa meeting will be held June 13th at 1:00 pm via Zoom.

CAC April Meeting Notes by Mark Israel

Administrative Discussions:

David Manning, Director – Stakeholder Relations Office

The Lab is planning a hybrid CAC meeting next month, May 11, 2003. All CAC members and alternates will be invited for a site tour, followed by refreshments, and the in-person meeting for those attending. Zoom link will be available for those wishing to join virtually. David then introduced Doon Gibbs, stating that this will be his last meeting since he will be retiring. Doon has attended 86 CAC meetings since 2006. He conveyed thanks to Doon for his leadership.

Doon Gibbs, Director – Brookhaven National Lab

Doon stated that working at BNL has been a privilege. The Lab's broad mission is to use science and technology to make the world a better place, and the CAC is a key part of the Lab's agenda and success. The Council has made important contributions, and the Lab is better because of the CAC.

Jack Anderson, Deputy Director for Operations at BNL

Jack discussed the Leadership Transition. The new Director, JoAnne Hewett, has been selected, and will be joining Brookhaven this summer. Jack has been appointed Interim Director until Hewett's arrival. Tom Daniels will be filling in as Deputy Director for Operations, and Michele McQueen will serve as Interim ALD for Facilities and Operations in Tom Daniels' role. The search for Bob Tribble's replacement is nearing completion, and Director Hewett will participate in the final hiring decision for the Deputy Director for Science and Technology. The search for the next ALD for Environment, Safety and Health, previously held by Steve Coleman, is also in final stages.

David Manning and various members of the CAC expressed their thanks to Doon Gibbs for his dedication to the group.

Environmental Update:

Jason Remien, Manager, Environmental Protection Division

Jason Remien stated that the Lab had completed its deer management efforts during two weekends in March. It was successful, and 106 were taken. All of the tested deer meat was well below the Lab's administrative limits and was approved to be distributed to various food pantries. The reproduction rate for the deer is estimated at 53%, so the Lab needs to continue this program.

Remien said there is a project being planned at Bldg. 870-, where mixed waste was previously managed. This building has been used for general storage over the past few years because it is no longer needed for mixed waste. The Lab is looking into utilizing that building to increase production of radio pharmaceuticals using Actinium-225. The project is called CARP, Clinical Alpha Radionuclide Producer. DOE BHSO deemed that an Environmental Assessment (EA) was necessary, and it is currently being prepared.

Doug Paquette, Environmental Protection Division

Doug provided an update on PFAS. Since the CAC had a number of new member representatives, he provided an overview and background information about PFAS. (This has been provided to BREA in previous meeting notes on the subject.) Doug said that, to date, 20 different PFAS have been detected in groundwater samples, some at very low concentrations. Detection limits for most PFAS are about 2 ng/L. Doug spoke about establishment of new CERCLA Operable Unit X, which addresses PFAS, PFOA, and 1,4 Dioxane contamination at BNL. The Lab has seen concentrations of 1,4 Dioxane as high as 24 micrograms per liter (ug/L), but most detections are below 5 ug/L. The NYS standard for 1,4 Dioxane is 1 ug/L. The Lab's two new treatment systems for PFAS contaminated groundwater have been completed, and are currently operating. They treat 750 gallons per minute using granulated activated charcoal filters. Paquette stated that the NYS effluent limits for those systems for PFOS and PFOA are lower than the 10- ng/L drinking water standard. The Lab has now installed 95 additional monitoring wells that will be used to verify the long-term effectiveness of the PFAS treatment systems.

Presentations were made by proposed new members, and the CAC went into closed session to discuss the proposals before voting.

(Note from Mark Israel: After the May 11th CAC meeting, I will provide BREA with the updated listing of the CAC membership.)