

# BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 06/13/2023

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, G. Cisco, C. Conrad, D. Cox, AJ Feldman, L. Fishbone, R. Hackenburg, J. Hurst, M. Israel, J. Lemley, E. Lewis, B. Lin, S. McCorkle, L. Miller, M. Rowe, 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
  - a. Meeting called to order at 1:02 pm
2. Presentation: MAGIC project by Ernie Lewis (BNL Env. & Climate Dept)

Ernie R. Lewis is an atmospheric scientist in the Environmental and Climate Sciences Department. He started at BNL in 1994 with the Oceanography Department and participated in nearly a dozen research cruises around the world. In 1998 he joined the Atmospheric Sciences Department, where he co-authored (with Steven E. Schwartz) the book Sea Salt Aerosol Production – Mechanisms, Methods, Measurements, and Models, published in 2004. His research has focused mainly on aerosols, specifically how their behavior depends on relative humidity and how they interact with light.

The MAGIC field campaign, which took place on a container ship making regular passages between Los Angeles, CA and Honolulu, HI, measured properties of clouds and precipitation, aerosols, radiation, and atmospheric, meteorological, and oceanic conditions with the goal of obtaining statistics of these properties to achieve better understanding of the transition between stratocumulus and cumulus cloud regimes that occur in this region. MAGIC consisted of 20 round trips between Los Angeles and Honolulu, and thus over three dozen transects through the transition, totaling nearly 200 days at sea between September 2012 and October 2013. During this time MAGIC collected a unique and unprecedented data set, including more than 550 successful radiosonde launches. The presentation will describe the field campaign and some of the challenging aspects of making measurements at sea.
3. Minutes of May meeting. Laura Miller
  - a. Revised May minutes were provided to BREA board before today's meeting. Arnie will send Laura his comments, if any.

**Action:** Laura will post after receiving Arnie's comments.
4. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin.
  - a. Current members: 246. Current members with email: 227. Since last meeting, Beth received 3 checks for dues. Motion to approve report made by Don Sievers, Laura seconded, none opposed.

[Suggestion: going forward, ask if any are opposed rather than asking for approvals.]

5. CAC Meeting Report from May 11 Meeting. Mark Israel.

The meeting was held on May 11, and held as a hybrid, in Berkner B. Since there were a few new CAC member organizations, plus some changes in representatives for existing organizations, we had an option to attend a guided tour beginning at 4:00pm that included the following BNL facilities: CFN, NSLS-II, and the repurposed/refurbished PFAS pumping filtration station. There was a quick buffet dinner and then the formal CAC meeting was called to order.

David Manning spoke about BNL's participation with Stony Brook University in the Governor's Island "Living Laboratory for Climate Solutions" project. The \$250 million contract was awarded to a consortium of universities, with SBU as a lead university, and BNL as an advisory partner. A high school has already been constructed at the site on Governor's Island. Stay tuned for more to come.

J. Remein and Tim Green presented the environmental update. They confirmed that 150 deer had been successfully culled at the BNL site.

As a result of the Crescent Bow Fire in 2012, "Mechanical Treatment" had been used to clear destroyed trees and brush. On May 9, 2023, a prescribed burn was used to clear remaining underbrush.

The next presentation was by Deborah Bauer, EMS Coordinator, regarding opportunities for reducing single-use plastics at BNL. Current efforts at the Lab include placing water bottle refill stations (water coolers), educating staff, conducting research into available reduction options. Near term future plans are to negotiate a "no plastic utensils and dishware" clause in any new cafeteria contract; place a "garbage-free lunch" display in BERA store; work with scientists to establish pilot reduction programs; and continue doing periodic dumpster dives to determine types of plastics being discarded. Future opportunities include utilizing bio-based pipettes; returning to the use of glassware in the experimental labs; and looking into the potential use of plastic-eating bacteria.

The next presentation was an Update on Stakeholder Relations Office initiatives provided by: Ken White, Manager, Office of Educational Program

Aleida Perez, Manager, University Relations & DOE Programs, and  
Bernadette Uzzi, Manager K – 12 Programs

They spoke about growing the STEM Pipeline to external entities with the Laboratory for the purpose of preparing the next generation of scientists, engineers, technicians and teachers using the unique intellectual resources of BNL. This is accomplished through:

- Early exposure/engagement
- Internships and specialized programs for students and educators
- Expanding outreach through workshops, meetings and conferences
- Developing college relationships to promote research and engineering collaborations
- Develop user candidates for BNL facilities
- Being a Workforce Development Leader in the DOE-WDTS Program

Amy Engel, Manager, Environmental & Community Engagement discussed BNL's public outreach programs including PUB-SCI, collaboration with the Cinema Arts Center in

Huntington for Movie/Lecture events (Note: June 21 Movie “Dr. Strangelove” and lecture/discussion by BNL’s Susan Pepper), Community Science Events at the Vanderbilt Planetarium, and Earth Day at the Jones Beach Nature Center. Amy also discussed the BNL Speaker’s Bureau, and the Volunteer Outreach Program.

Daniel Ponteiri, Stakeholder Relations, discussed the resumption of the Laboratory’s Summer Sundays Program this year with the following dates planned:

- July 9<sup>th</sup> – Family Fun Science Learning Center
- July 16<sup>th</sup> – Small Scale Science at the Center for Nanomaterials
- July 23<sup>rd</sup> – Dazzling Discoveries at NSLS II
- July 30<sup>th</sup> – Fascinating Physics

The CAC then concluded its business meeting with its voting on final new and renewal memberships, and other administrative matters.

**Action:** Mark will share a full list of organizations and representatives once it’s available.

**Action:** Mark will ask Ken about funding, also possible future presentation to BREA.

6. Newsletter. Mona Rowe. The July/August newsletter will feature the previously scheduled article discussing the use of social media.
  - a. Social media, use it or not. How people use it, why they use it. A graphic of what BNL uses and how.

7. Treasurer’s Report. Les Fishbone. New requirements for changing authorized persons on TFCU accounts.

Les presented details as a screen share within Zoom. As is generally the case, this report is based on the amounts in the statement from TFCU for the previous month, May in this case. (If the statement has not yet arrived by the day of the BREA meeting, the report is based on the next earlier statement, known transactions, and estimates of interest when applicable.). The grand total for the checking and savings accounts and the three certificates of deposit (CD) is \$26,337.34. TFCU is offering a bonus of \$100 for anyone who keeps a minimum of \$25k in the account for 90 days. No further details. Suggestion: if there’s no risk, just do it. Bonuses go up with the amount kept on deposit.

Arnie: Received settlement from Zoom for \$55 deposit in his checking account which he will forward to Les.

Motion to accept by Mona, seconded by Arnie. None opposed.

8. Donations. Les Fishbone to report on status of Books for Africa project. Steve Shapiro will describe progress of Tesla Center and status of BREA's planned support.
  - a. Nothing new to report on the Books for Africa project.
  - b. Tesla Center: They are still doing construction on TESLA. Steve will meet with Jane Alcorn and discuss BREA’s window donation. Steve will have the information for us at the September meeting. Tesla recently received \$4.5 million in grants. This amount, along with previous donations, will provide half of what Tesla Science Center needs to complete the project and will cover the first stage of the \$4.5 million restoration.
9. Future speakers for BREA Zoom meetings. Suggestions welcome.
  - a. Email Arnie with your suggestions.
10. Future meetings of BREA. We expect to host the July 11 meeting at BNL with ZOOM participation. Long Islanders can attend in person; we will have a ZOOM meeting set up for

remote members. Thanks to Christine Carter for bringing this about.

- a. July 11 meeting will be held at Berkner B. Chris Carter will host it for us, Arnie's computer can't get access to BNL systems. They will use Arnie's Zoom account.
11. Issues with BNL retiree health benefit and SelectQuote Senior to be brought to the attention of BNL Human Resources with white paper and meeting. The white paper is essentially finished, and we should move ahead with scheduling the meeting. We should probably forward our paper to the BNL participants before the meeting.
    - a. Letter to BNL's HR is completed. Arnie will arrange a meeting to discuss.
    - b. BNL employees will still lose their benefit if they don't go through the lab's connection to SelectQuoteSenior. Advertisements on television are different.
  12. Plan for fall 2023 election for new officers. We seek volunteers and/or nominees for BREA offices.
    - a. Arnie suggested that current officers think about continuing and all others think about volunteering for one of the positions.
  13. New Business
    - a. None.

Motion to end meeting by Laura, seconded by Les. None opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:44 pm.