

BREA Zoom Meeting Minutes 05/14/2024

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, B. Elder, A. Feldman, L. Hanson, M. Israel, J. Lemley, B. Leonhardt, L. Miller, S. Musolino, S. Perino, M. Rowe, S. Shapiro, D. Sievers, B. Siskind, E Sperry, G. Williams,

Guest: Laura Buscemi-Robles

Officers 2024-2026: President: Arnold Moodenbaugh, Vice President: Andy Feldman, Secretary: Laura Miller, Treasurer: Louise Hanson

1. Call to Order. Arnie Moodenbaugh

Meeting called to order at 1:02 pm

2. Minutes of April meeting. Laura Miller

Minutes were approved after further discussion and changes this morning.

Action: Laura will post the April minutes by Friday.

3. Treasurer's Report. Louise Hanson. Update of BREA account at TFCU to meet new banking standards. Discuss CD maturation timing to ease paperwork problems caused by a change of officers.

Louise is still not getting on-line access to the various aspects of the accounts. Things are progressing, but slowly. The April numbers are the same as the March numbers. She then gave a report on the accounts and the 3 CDs. We will also look into money market accounts.

We will open a new cd or money market, using the funds from the matured cds.

Motion: Management of accounts will be left to the Treasurer with input from the other board members. Louise will open a new money market / cd / savings account with approximately \$6000. Motion to approve made by Laura, seconded by Andy, approved with no objection.

Action: Louise will open whichever type of account is offering the best interest rate.

Action: Arnie will make a list to decide when to meet at the BNL TFCU and put Laura on the accounts.

Motion to open up a 9-mo cd made by Andy, approved by Mark, passed with no opposition.

4. Membership Report. Beth Yu Lin. **We are looking for a successor to Beth. This person will maintain the membership rolls. The BREA-owned PC**

computer used for this work is old and outdated and should be replaced with a more modern model.

The number of paid members since the last meeting: 222, members providing email addresses: 205. Beth received three dues payments since the meeting on 4/9/24.

Laura volunteered B. Elder as a successor for Beth. Arnie described the responsibilities and Betty said she would talk to Beth. The MS Access database program is no longer being supported by Microsoft. It's possible the Membership Chair could migrate to a different relational database. The Membership Chair will receive a new computer for this work.

Louise made a motion to accept the Membership Report, seconded by Mark, passed unanimously.

Action: Ed Sperry will send Mona an email with his email address, and she will send him a membership form. Ed's next luncheon is June 12.

Action: Arnie will go to the June luncheon with forms and other information.

5. Newsletter. Mona Rowe. Plans for July/Aug. newsletter.

This newsletter will carry the compensation program and list of eligible cancers for compensation and an update on the medical screening program. Laura B-Robles said that they are ready.

Action: Laura Buscemi-Robles will reach out to Jonathan Corban, Co-Director of the Worker Health Protection Program, for more comprehensive material to include in the newsletter.

Mark gave Mona the name of Ian Balentine for cybersecurity / scams / phishing, etc. including personal cybersecurity.

Action: Andy will send Mona photos from the Air Force Museum of lower Manhattan that he took while in the plane after 9/11/01.

6. BNL Health Benefits for retirees. Arnie.

Dave Cox, Steve Shapiro, Gretchen Cisco, and others have revised the letter that is being submitted to HR that discusses possible clarifications and improvements in the BNL retiree health benefits, including a request to increase the stipend.

Arnie has received some comments on his letter. He will revise and send the letter to HR both electronically and by US postal service. The paper version will be signed, the electronic version will not. He will email them to Renate, cc'ing, Melissa, Adam and the head of HR.

7. BREa contributions. Arnie and S. Shapiro

a. S. Shapiro has reached out to TESLA museum's board several times with no response. He will see Jane Alcorn and try to bring it up.

8. CAC Meeting. Mark Israel. April and May 9 meeting.

Two months of reports: April and May. Next meeting is September 12.

Action: Mark will send Laura his notes from both meetings. The notes will be included at the end of these minutes.

9. New Business

- a. S. Musolino will give a presentation at the June meeting. His email is: svpm54@outlook.com. He mentioned that there are a number of BNL staff who were responders. He will discuss this during his presentation.
- b. BREA luncheon? Possibly the Drifters Inn, or an informal meeting at BNL cafeteria or the Pastaria. Both Drifters and Pastaria have a maximum of fifty people. Maybe try something this summer.

Motion to adjourn made by D. Sievers, seconded by Mona, passed unanimously by voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 2:27 pm.

The next meeting will be held June 11 via Zoom.

~~~~~

CAC April and May meetings– Notes from Mark Israel

April 14 Meeting:

Environmental updates, Jason Remien, Manager – Environmental Protection Division, provided an environmental update which included the following:

- Drinking water standards for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
  - The EPA finalized new limits.
  - NYS already had standards and the Lab has already taken action.
  - BNL's drinking water supply wells have treatment in place, as necessary, and effluent concentrations are non-detect for regulated PFAS.
  - We are continuing to monitor.

Sustainable Purchasing & The GreenBuy Award Program - Debbie Bauer and Suhani Gandhi  
Topics covered:

- Sustainable purchasing
- EPA Comprehensive Procurement guidelines
- Construction design considerations & Process
- Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle
  - Lab's Pollution Prevention Program
- Awards and Accomplishments
  - GreenBuy Award
  - GreenSpace Award

- EPEAT Purchaser Award
- BNL Award winning purchases
- Future Goals

#### Small Businesses and Procurement Opportunities at Brookhaven National Laboratory

– Mary Rogers

Topics covered:

- BNL's engagement with small businesses in FY23
- BNL's overall small business engagement
- Small business eligibility requirements
- What the Lab buys and does not buy
- Small business reward & recognition initiative
- How you can help

The passing of William (Skip) Medeiros, former BNL employee and frequent presenter to the CAC, who was instrumental in the success of the Peconic River cleanup. Member Jordan Sweet said he was one of the favored presenters to the CAC. He had an infinite amount of patience.

#### May 9 Meeting:

Ken White, as moderator, welcomed everyone to the CAC meeting, and reviewed the ground rules.

Kristyn Noren, Chief Protocol Officer, Stakeholder Relations presented the upcoming BNL programs for Open House Tours of the Lab, and other community events. These included:

- June 30 - Family Fun at the Science Learning Center
- July 21 - Dazzling Discoveries at the NSLS II
- August 4 - Innovation and the Environment at the Center for Functional Nanomaterials, and the National Weather Service
- September 15 - Fascinating Physics at the Superconducting Magnet and Tandem Van de Graaff facilities
- External community events will include:
  - May 21 - "Entering the Quantum Realm" - The Village Idiot, Lake Grove at 7:00PM
  - June 1 - Scientists from BNL discuss the wonders of the universe - Vanderbilt Museum and Reichert Planetarium, Centerport, NY from 9:30AM - 2:00PM
  - June 12 - Dr. Sara E. Mason from BNL will discuss the superpowers of some very, very small things, and the showing of the film "Ant-Man" at the Cinema Arts Center, Huntington, NY at 7:00PM (\$15 non-members; \$10 members)

Environmental Update - Jason Remien - Manager, Environmental Protection Division

- Jason discussed the planned demolition and mercury remediation of Building 197 High

Bay concrete block, steel and wood building that had been used by the Nuclear Engineering Department to conduct liquid metals including mercury. The demolition and cleanup will take place from May through September/October 2024.

- Brian Barth of the Groundwater Protection Group then discussed the "Operable Unit III Building 96 (AOC 26B)" Source Area Optimazation. This entailed considering an active remediation technology to reduce concentrations near source operating well 085-379 using liquid carbon injection and zero valent iron (ZVI).

#### Natural Resource Update - Kathy Schwager, Natural Resource Manager

- Kathy provided an overview and update of the Deer Management Program for 2023 and 2024. In order to keep the population as close to acceptable levels as possible, 106 deer were taken in 2003, and 123 in 2024. The current population is now estimated at 225 - 250 deer. The deer meat was sample tested for Cs-137, and all was well below acceptable levels. 1,788 lbs. of meat were donated to Island Harvest & STAR Foundation in 2023, and 2,623 lbs. in 2024.
- Kathy also talked about Fire Management utilizing a combination of Mechanical Treatment and Prescribed Burns. She also described the success of the "NO-Mow Areas" and the planting of wildflowers that has attracted butterflies and bees.
- Ms. Schwager then discussed the Southern Pine Beetle impact, and the need for large-scale forest management. And, finally, Kathy talked about the Federally endangered bats such as the northern long-eared bat, tri-colored bat, and the little brown bat, and several joint projects with the USFWS.

#### Cultural Resource Update - Tim Green, Cultural Service Manager

- Tim discussed the various BNL Outreach programs including:
  - Talks to local libraries (Sayville May 28th, Middle Country June 26th) on the History of Camp Upton, and the Smithtown Library (April 30th) presentation on the History of BNL.
  - He also highlighted the loans of historic items to the Bellport-Brookhaven Historical Society, and an August 3rd presentation by Ann Emrick and Sean McSweeney on "How Brookhaven Lab has been inventing and innovating in research that drives advancements in medical technology."
  - Tim discussed the regulatory activities of documenting the 32 buildings and structures eligible for the National Registry of Historic Places, plus the Gamma Forest, WW I trenches and foundations, and two archeological sites. Many of these sites will be marked with kiosks documenting their history.

#### Science Presentation - BNL Strategy in Biopreparedness: A New Direction within DOE-Office of Science - Martin A. Schoonen, Associate Laboratory Director

- The purpose of this DOE project is to utilize the unique capabilities and facilities of the National Laboratories to address future biological crises, and revolutionize our understanding of the science underlying range of potential biological events and transform the nation's ability to prepare for, and respond to, future biological threats. BNL's leadership role in this undertaking is leveraging expertise in bioscience, materials science, computational science, atmospheric science, and facilities (NSLS II, CFN) to transition the nation to large-scale bioenergy crop deployment. Then, conduct an exploratory study on diseases affecting energy crops, and develop capability to study

cells in plant tissue, and build a proto-type of a computer platform to support a data-intensive, distributed, virtual center. The priorities are to:

- focus on bioenergy crops that will be deployed at a scale to support the U.S. bioeconomy.
- Improve predictability of disease spread in a changing climate across spatial scales.
- Provide scientific basis for earlier remote detection of disease.
- Advance understanding of bioenergy crop/pathogen/vector systems and their dynamics.
- Understand how bioengineering of bioenergy crops may affect susceptibility to pathogen and progression of disease.
- Develop a foundational understanding of the combined effects of biotic and abiotic stresses on bioenergy crops, and
- Develop and demonstrate novel mitigation strategies to improve disease resistance.