Community Advisory Council February 9, 2006 Action Items/Notes

Final

These notes are in the following order:

- 1. Attendance
- 2. Correspondence and handouts
- 3. Administrative Items
- 4. BNL Budget Status, John Hauser
- 5. Main Gate Investigation, James Tarpinian
- 6. Community Comment
- 7. Low-level Radiological Contamination Along Brookhaven Ave., B. Lee
- 8. 4-Poster Tick Management System, Tim Green
- 9. Agenda Setting

1. Attendance

<u>Members/Alternates Present:</u> See Attached Sheets.

Others Present:

J. Armstrong, M. Bebon, P. Bond, J. Carter, P. Chaudhari, H. Carrano, J. D'Ascoli, B. Desmarais, B. Dorsch, K. Geiger, P. Geiger, P. Genzer, G. Goode, T. Green, J. Hauser, P. Hauser, L. Hill, M. Holland, B. Hooda, M. Israel, S. Kumar, R. Lee, M. Lynch, A. McNerney, D. Paquette, M. Parsons, A. Radiejko, J. Remien, R. Rimando, C. Schaefer, J. Tarpinian

2. Correspondence and Handouts

Items one through three were mailed with a cover letter dated February 3, 2006. Items four through eleven were provided in the member's folders and item 12 was available as a handout.

- 1. Draft agenda for February 9, 2006
- 2. Draft notes for January 12, 2006
- 3. Draft notes for December 8, 2005
- 4. Revised agenda
- 5. Presentation on the BNL Budget
- 6. Presentation on Main Gate Investigation
- 7. Presentation on Brookhaven Avenue Contamination
- 8. Presentation of the 4-poster tick management system
- 9. Copy of ATSDR comments
- 10. Copy of the Economic Report
- 11. Copies of various news articles
- 12. Color copies of Newsday's full page RHIC diagram

3. Administrative

The meeting began at 6:35 p.m. Reed Hodgin went over the ground rules and the draft agenda. Those present introduced themselves.

Jeanne D'Ascoli said that the original draft agenda had included a presentation on g-2, but because of the other topics, that it would be on the agenda next month. She also mentioned how pleased the Lab was with the efforts of Senators Schumer and Clinton and Representative 06/19/2006 – final notes Feb. 9, 2006 meeting 1

Bishop and recent articles in Newsday in support of the Laboratory and science. Some of the articles were included in the member's folders. She also indicated that color copies of a recent *Newsday* article and diagram on RHIC were available.

D'Ascoli said that Community Relations was updating its web pages and she would like to have pictures of the CAC members to put up next to their organization links. She explained how the photographs would be taken. A group picture would be taken later in the evening. Meanwhile, members who would like to have their pictures taken could go one at a time out to Room D.

D'Ascoli also indicated that John Turner would be attending meetings as Brookhaven Town's representative instead of Anthony Graves.

Dr. Praveen Chaudhari briefed the CAC on funding issues. He told them that Jim Simons, of Renaissance Technologies Corporation, contacted him and offered funds to run RHIC. Simons agreed to raise \$13 million from himself and his colleagues and he also approached the BSA partners and Board. There is now a group that will contribute the funding to the Lab. He said some people are positive and some are irritate. They are debating private donations supporting what should be government obligations. Chaudhari said that private funding in science is historical. Astronomy is one where private donors have given for decades. Money always pours into medicine and that has never stopped the NIH budget from going up. He doesn't think giving money to nuclear physics means that the government will not fund it in the future. He said there is only one RHIC and only one Jim Simons, he doesn't think it will happen again.

Chaudhari said the Lab has also gotten help from New York State. The state has helped with electric power for many years and for the first time, the state is going to put a \$30 million building on the Lab site. The building, which the governor is proposing, is an incentive to attract the NSLS-II to the Lab. The governor sent a letter to Secretary Bodman and to the head of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) stating that the state will provide \$30 million for a building for the scientists that will use the NSLS-II facility if the NSLS-II is located here at the Laboratory.

Chaudhari described the support the Lab has gotten from its federal representatives, Clinton, Schumer, and Bishop. They had met with the Office of Science Director before Simons stepped forward. There was no more money because the Office of Science (OS) budget had been cut but Chaudhari thought the fact that they asked was significant as they are genuinely interested in the well being of the Laboratory. They also met with Secretary Bodman. And although no additional funding is available they did discuss the importance of NSLS-II. He said this is the first time there has been such a demonstration of support for the Laboratory.

Member Garber asked about Steven Dewey's imaging research. Dr. Chaudhari said the Lab will provide the funding that's missing in FY06 and 07. He also told the CAC that there is still a funding issue between DOE and NIH over who should fund that type of work. The National Academy of Sciences has been asked to do a study. He believes that the budget will stay flat until that study comes out. He is hoping that it gets sorted out in the next two years. The Lab has provided what they need this year and next so they will be fully funded.

Member Campbell asked if there has been any DOE reaction to the private funding. Dr. Chaudhari said Jim Simons and Ray Orbach of the Office of Science have spoken many times. There are no difficulties that he is aware of. The difficulty has been how to get the money into the Lab.

Reed wondered if the CAC should write a letter of thanks to the federal officials. Member Giacomaro thought a letter should be sent to Jim Simons. The CAC thought that sounded reasonable. Reed indicated that someone offered to draft the letters (my notes say it was Jean Jordan-Sweet).

Reed noted that the elected officials and the state had done a lot of work on behalf of the Lab and asked if the CAC would like to acknowledge that. Member Guthy wondered if it was necessary as they weren't successful. Member Jordan-Sweet thought their effort should be applauded because they were motivated and if they were thanked maybe they would continue to support the Lab. Member Henagan said it could be worded to thank them for their continued efforts. Member Walker said it would be nice to send them a letter that wasn't asking for something. Member Jordan-Sweet agreed to draft this letter also. It was agreed that the drafts would be gotten to Jeanne D'Ascoli so they could go out in the next mailing.

4. BNL Budget Status

John Hauser gave the CAC an update on the FY06 and FY07 budgets. He last spoke to them in May. Hauser said that 85% of BNL's budget comes from DOE funds appropriated under the Energy & Water Bill. Annually, the Lab submits 170 research and facility operations proposals. The submission for FY08 is in process. The remaining 15% of the budget comes from other federal and nonfederal bills and agencies. Hauser explained the DOE operating, DOE capital and construction, and Work for Others funding and described FY06 funding and expenses.

The Lab received the President's 2007 budget on February 6. There is an increase of 14.1% that is part of the American Competitiveness Initiative. The American Competitiveness Initiative is a bi-partisan effort by members of Congress and the Administration to recognize that America has to stay competitive globally and one way to do that is to be a world leader in science and technology. As a result, Secretary Bodman reprioritized the funding for the Office of Science, increasing their budget. That's good news, the Lab will benefit from that. The Center for Functional Nanomaterials (CFN) will be finished, there is a \$45 million increase to the budget for basis energy sciences, \$20 million for R&D for the NSLS-II, and \$25 million for the preliminary engineering and design for NSLS-II next year.

Hauser concluded that FY06 is coming together with minimal staff reductions, RHIC is operating, and CFN is moving ahead. FY07 looks promising with NSLS-II and some growth in funding. He also mentioned the Economic Report by Pearl Kamer.

Member Evaniza asked if the Lab operated on a fiscal or calendar year. Hauser said a fiscal year, from October 1 to September 30.

Member Campbell asked about Lab population. Dr. Chaudhari explained that the Lab population has been declining but should start to grow in 2007 and should continue to grow for the next decade.

Member Garber asked if funding for rebuilding New Orleans levies was in the Energy & Water Bill, and if it impacted the Lab. Hauser said that the Energy & Water Bill does fund the Army Corps of Engineers. He said that this year there was a one percent rescission across the board in the federal budget to help pay for Katrina relief. If we can use this year as an example, they will look at the whole federal budget and have a general reduction across the board to minimize deficit impact from such things as Katrina.

Member Chaudhary asked for an explanation of Work for Others. It is work for other federal and nonfederal agencies such as NASA, NIH, public grants, biomedical research, and intralaboratory work.

Member Giacomaro asked if inflation was covered in the budget. Hauser said that every year is different; it changes depending on what the focus is. The focus now is to increase the Office of Science and to keep it healthy. There is no line in the budget that says x amount is going to be given for inflation.

Member Sprintzen asked Dr. Chaudhari about the growth of the Lab. Chaudhari said for the past two years the Lab has been focusing on what is needed for growth. The two initiatives are the replacement of the Light Source and the other is the QCD Laboratory, which is combining RHIC with the Computing Center here. We need to upgrade RHIC to do that. That upgrade will kick in as the NSLS-II construction is over. So if we can accomplish NSLS-II and then the goal is to make sure we get the QCD Lab.

Member Sprintzen asked if the CAC could have a presentation on the QCD Lab.

5. Main Gate Investigation, James Tarpinian

Jim Tarpinian said that the Lab was investigating an elevated radiation level instrument reading that was picked up at the end of West Princeton Avenue just before the William Floyd Parkway. Technicians noticed a difference in background levels on their equipment as they were leaving the Lab.

Further measurements were taken with portable instruments designed to measure dose. The measurements were very low and comparable to background levels found on Long Island. Tarpinian described the locations of the readings and explained that the sets of two numbers were readings taken a few inches above the ground and at one meter above the ground. The area appears to be about two to three yards wide by 60 yards long and the initial measurements show levels two to three times background. The measurements range up to 9 μ rem (micro rem) per hour. That compares to the average background radiation range on Long Island of 5 to 10 μ rem per hour.

Tarpinian said confirmatory measurements were taken, the health risk is comparable to average background radiation, and regulators, employees, and elected officials were notified. Historical information was reviewed to find out what might be there. Nothing has been identified yet. Areas of frequent public occupancy such as the Post Office, the Berkner Hall parking lot, the Daycare Center, and the Science Education Center were rechecked. A sampling and analysis plan has been developed to get the information needed to find out what is there. Core borings will be done to look at the asphalt and what's underneath. This has been coordinated with the regulators, the county has been invited to split samples if they'd like to. The sample results will be expedited. The next steps will be determined by the results.

Member Jordan-Sweet asked who did preparation for the road and could fill from the Lab have been used. Tarpinian said they haven't identified who built the roadbed yet. There's a possibility that they could have used fill from the Lab, we don't know. The sampling will help to determine that.

Member Campbell asked for clarification on the dose rate measurements. This area is typically below the average on Long Island and due to whatever this is, it brings it up to about the average background? Tarpinian said that was correct.

Member Talbot said he knows the Lab is very concerned about these kinds of events not only for public health and safety but also for publicity. The levels here are almost immeasurable. He said he hopes this doesn't get escalated as an event. This is a nonevent. Tarpinian said that it's important for the Lab to do diligence.

6. Community Comment

There were no comments from the community.

The CAC members present posed for a group photo.

7. Low-level Radiological Contamination Along Brookhaven Avenue

Bob Lee reported on new information that was shared with the regulators last Thursday at the IAG conference call. The information was on an area of interest near the Former Hazardous Waste Management Facility (FHWMF). He reminded the CAC the remediation at the FHWMF had been completed in September 2005. He described the timeline of events that has taken place.

Lee said that in October there were 22 inches of rain. During surveillance, significant runoff was noticed from the FHWMF. The inside of the facility and the perimeter were looked at. In several adjacent areas storm water runoff was noted. Most of the areas in the perimeter survey showed no contamination detected. Everything was at background levels or at levels expected for that area. However, a sample in the wooded area to the north of the facility was found to contain Cesium-137. Concentrations that later were learned to be about 48 pCi/g. In December, a follow up grid survey looking at that area and areas all around the Waste Management facility as well as up and down Brookhaven Avenue was done. Some soil sampling was done in January, and a sample that measured about 786 pCi/g of Cesium-137 was found when the results were returned in February. This was the highest point that was found. The spot is very small and very localized, about a foot in diameter and has since been recovered.

Lee reminded the CAC that all the storage facilities and structures at the FHWMF were gone. He said the area has been backfilled and pointed out the location of the initial soil sample that showed 48 pCi/g. A survey of the area was done and a localized area of elevated backgrounds was found. To put it in terms used in the previous presentation, it is in the range of 5 to 20 µrem, with some localized higher spots of about 30 µrem. To the east, a general area of higher density spot contamination and a one very small higher spot were found. Several locations were found during a walk along Brookhaven Avenue. Lee pointed out the one spot that measured 786 pCi/g. He said that they have since gone back and removed that spot as well as the spot that was in the generalized area that measured about 120 pCi/g.

Member Giacomaro asked if these measurements were done immediately after the rain?

Lee said some sampling was done immediately after the rain. The one spot was found and they've been going back in and following up with additional sampling as well as surveys, but not right after rainstorms.

Lee said that in this area there are general background levels 2 to 3 times what we typically see. He indicated locations and levels of soil contamination levels on the maps in his presentation.

The actions taken to date include notifying the regulators during last week's conference call. A summary document that's been submitted to DOE for their review has been prepared and the two higher spots have been removed. A lot of the area has been mapped and surveyed, historical data has been reviewed to see what could have contributed to the findings, and additional soil samples were obtained.

The research to date has identified a couple of potential sources for why we see this. We've pretty much determined that the contamination is not from current operations. It's not associated with the cleanup activities that were conducted. It's possible it could be due to historical storm water runoff in the area. The Waste Management yard had very high concentrations of contaminants prior to remediation and it could be from storm water runoff. We also know that there were some transportation incidents.

Member Giacomaro: You said there was cleanup. So what were the readings when the cleanup was completed for those areas before you did this?

Lee said the area of cleanup was pretty much bounded within the fence line of the Former Waste Management Facility.

Member Giacomaro asked if there was historical data for the areas where the higher numbers are seen now when the cleanup was done?

Lee said that based on the historical data that's been looked at the Waste Management Facility had a very high dose rate associated with it that went beyond the fence line and kind of masked the other areas around the facility. The smaller areas, the low dose areas weren't found because of the high doses exhibited here. The area that had been cleaned up was within the fence line so after the cleanup they did not go outside the fence.

Member Giacomaro asked what prompted the investigation?

Lee said the engineering controls were implemented. There was a cover put in place. He reminded the CAC that the agreed upon cleanup criteria for the yard was about 67 pCi/g. To ensure that the cover wasn't comprised and that materials from the yard weren't running out, and that the berms and soil cover remained in place, staff went out and did surveillance. Lee indicated the two areas where runoff was observed. He described the findings. There was nothing detected in soil samples in one area and it wasn't until we went back into this area we found one sample that came in at 48 pCi/g and we expanded the investigation at that point.

Member Giacomaro asked for clarification.

Lee said that because there was runoff coming out of the fence line and moving up into that area (indicates on map), that's what prompted us to go look. Other areas were also looked at. We looked at runoff down in this section here and runoff across the street, there was nothing.

Member Mahoney asked if other areas have been checked where there's been cleanup done where you might not have been able to tell that there was radiation outside the perimeter because of the high levels in the middle.

Lee said that a lot of the cleanups that have been done around site focused on landscape soils. And they were much longer and level areas. Confirmatory sampling was done around those areas. The FHWMF is the largest area that we've cleaned up.

Member Garber asked if the locations of the two higher points are areas where there's puddling; where runoff water will pool and sink into the ground and concentrate. He also asked about the drainage and contours of the area.

Lee indicated on the map where some puddles occur in a low spot and where the runoff collects. He said that nothing was located in the low spot. Because of the proximity of the old entrance to the Waste Management Facility, what is suspected is that an incident could have occurred during the transfer of waste from the BGRR. He said that a historical record was found that indicated there were some traffic incidents involving spills. This is only speculation at this point and it won't be known until there is a more detailed investigation, but it is possible that some of these small spots are a result of that. He reiterated that the spots at the surface are tiny. They're about 12 inches in diameter.

Member Giacomaro asked if the topography of the area was that the old Waste Management Facility is higher then the ground where the higher levels were found. Lee said historically the majority of runoff from this active portion was into the wetland area in the back. But yes it is a little higher than the surrounding area.

The next steps are to continue to investigate the area. The Lab is preparing a much more extensive sampling and analysis plan to look back at those more generalized contaminated areas to the north and east. We are working with regulators to put together a path forward and will provide the regulators as well as the CAC with updates.

Member Sprintzen asked if this is just simply part of the operating expenditures. This is a previous cleanup problem, is it part of the normal budgeting allocations for your department or is there special money that has to be allocated for this. Is this and the Main Gate investigation any kind of drain on the economics of the Lab?

Tarpinian said that this amount of expenditure isn't very large and ...(full response not picked up on the tape).

Member Jordan-Sweet asked how far down they had to go when they remediated the two sites.

Lee said for the higher concentration spot they had to go down to a depth of about four feet to get it all and for the other about a foot. There is some lower level contamination just around that spot.

Member Giacomaro asked if he understood correctly that the background level was 60?

Lee said the FHWMF site was cleaned up to an average of 67 pCi/g and then a three-inch to six- inch soil cover, which actually in some spots is probably several feet of soil cover, was applied. That soil cover is one of the engineering controls to ensure whatever remained in place would stay there.

Member Giacomaro said the level you had at 48 is still below that, so the only real thing was the 786, that's the one that was really of any...

Lee said that's correct and there was the second spot that was estimated to be about 120 pCi/g.

8. 4-Poster Tick Management System

Tim Green of the Environmental & Waste Services Division told the CAC about a tick management system called the 4-poster system. He said that there was a recent article about the system in the Shelter Island Reporter and there was going to be one in the New York Times. He said the reporter, who is the same for both articles, might elude to the fact that BNL has made the decision to use this system. Green said that the Lab has not made that decision. It is being looked at it for potential use and whether it can actually be implemented here. Green said that the device is being looked at because more than 30 employees were affected by Lyme or other tick-borne diseases and dozens of other employees were affected by bites from Lone Star tick larvae in 2005.

Green described how the system works – a few kernels of corn attract deer and when they put their heads through a pair of rollers containing permethrin, to eat the corn their neck and ears are treated. He said it was developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. They spent about seven years testing it and it shows up to a 98% reduction in the number of ticks over a three-year period. One unit will treat about 40 to 50 acres, and continued use at reduced levels and rotation keeps ticks under control. The concerns associated with the system are the use of the pesticide and feeding deer. The benefits are that very small amounts of pesticide are used, it is applied directly to the deer, and the pesticide treats a specific target – ticks.

The systems are not licensed for use in New York, however, there are groups working to try to get them licensed. The Lab would like to continue to investigate their use on site if licensing is successful.

Member Mahoney asked what other pesticides are used at the Lab, if the Lab sprayed for mosquitoes, and if any research was done on pesticides. Green said he didn't have a list off the top of his head, but it could be provided. Typically it would be for termites, to his knowledge the Lab did not spray for mosquitoes. George Goode, Waste Management said that the Lab does have an Integrated Pest Management Program and the Lab works with Cornell Cooperative Extension. All pesticides are applied by licensed applicators according to pre-determined thresholds. Mahoney asked about thresholds and triggers as Suffolk County Vector Control is currently dealing with those issues.

CAC members asked questions such as why BNL was pursuing use of the system, if the system would work in a residential setting, why a government facility had to abide by state pesticide laws, how the corn is released into the feeding tray, and when is the most effective time to use the system. One CAC member commented that he thought it was a good system and that it should be approved for use in New York.

9. Agenda Setting

<u>March 06 Agenda</u> g-2 Regulators on 5-year Review HFBR Future RHIC research Science presentations

Member Giacomaro suggested having someone from the DEC come to talk about why the 4-Poster System hasn't been approved in New York State.

Member Garber suggested thanking Anthony Graves, Jeanne D'Ascoli said he would be coming to the March meeting to speak to the CAC.

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.!

		First													
2006 Affiliation		Name	Last Name	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	ост	NOV	DEC
Chart Key - P = Present															
ABCO (Garber added on 4/10/02)	Member	Don	Garber	Р	Ρ										
АВСО	Alternate	Doug	Dittko												
Brookhaven Retired Employees Association	Member	Graham	Campbell		Р										
Brookhaven Retired Employees Association (L. Jacobson new alternate as of 4/99)(A. Peskin 5/04)	Alternate	Arnie	Peskin		Р										
CHEC (Community Health & Environment Coalition (added 10/04)	Member	Sarah	Anker	Р											
	Marahar	Advisores													
Citizens Campaign for the Environment (Ottney added 4/02- takenoff 1/05 Mahoney put on)	Member Alternate	Adrienne Brendan	Esposito Mahoney	P	Р										
E. Yaphank Civic Association	Member	Michael	Giacomaro	P	P										
E. Yaphank Civic Association (J. Minasi new alternate as of 3/99) (M. Triber 11/05)	Alternate	Matthew	Triber												
Educator	Member	Audrey	Capozzi												
Educator (B. Martin - 9/01)	Alternate	Bruce	Martin												
Educator (A. Martin new alternate 2/00) (Adam to college 8/01)(add. alternate 9/02)	Alternate	Adam	Martin												
Environmental Economic Roundtable (Berger resigned, Proios became member 1/01)	Member	George	Proios	Р											
Environmental Economic Roundtable (3/99, L. Snead changed to be alternate for EDF)	Alternate	None	None												
Fire Rescue and Emergency Services	Member	Joe	Williams							-					ļ
Fire Rescue and Emergency Services	Alternate	Don	Lynch												ļ
Fire Rescue and Emergency Services	Alternate	James	McLoughlin		Р										
Friends of Brookhaven (E.Kaplan changed to become member 7/1/01)	Member	Ed	Kaplan	Р											
Friends of Brookhaven (E.Kaplan changed to become member 7/1/01)(schwartz added 11/18/02)	Alternate	Steve	Schwartz												
Health Care	Member	Jane	Corrarino	Р											
Health Care (as of 10/02 per JD)	Alternate	Mina	Barrett												
Huntington Breast Cancer Coalition	Member	Mary Joan	Shea	Р											L

		First													
2006 Affiliation Huntington Breast Cancer Coalition	Alternate	Name Scott	Last Name	JAN	IFER	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	001	NOV	DEC
Intl. Brotherhood of Electrical Workers/Local 2230	Member	Mark	Walker	Р	Р										
IBEW/Local 2230	Alternate	Philip	Pizzo												
L.I. Pine Barrens Society	Member	Richard	Amper												
L.I. Pine Barrens Society (added P. Loris 6/05)	Alternates	Elina	Alayeva												
L.I. Progressive Coalition	Member	David	Sprintzen	Р	Р										
L.I. Progressive Coalition	Alternate	None	None												
Lake Panamoka Civic Association (Biss as of 4/02)	Member	Rita	Biss	Р	Р										
Lake Panamoka Civic Association (Rita Biss new alternate as of 3/99)	Alternate	Joe	Gibbons												
Long Island Association (Groneman replace 10/05)	Member	Lauren	Hill	Р											
Long Island Association	Alternate	William	Evanzia		Р										
Longwood Alliance	Member	Tom	Talbot	Р	Р										
Longwood Alliance	Alternate	Kevin	Crowley												
Longwood Central School Dist. (switched 11/02)	Member	Barbara	Henigin	Р	Ρ										
Longwood Central School Dist.	Alternate	Allan	Gerstenlauer												
NEAR	Member	Jean	Mannhaupt												ļ
NEAR (prospect taken off ¾)(blumer added 10/04	Alternate	Karen	Blumer												
NSLS User	Member	Jean	Jordan- Sweet	Р	Р										
NSLS User	Alternate	Peter	Stephens												
Peconic River Sportsmen's Club (added 4/8/04)	Member	John	Hall	Р											
Peconic River Sportsmen's Club	Alternate	Jeff	Schneider												
Ridge Civic Association	Member	Pat	Henagan	Р	Р										
Science & Technology (added 1/13/05)	Member	Iqbal	Chaudhry		Р										
Town of Brookhaven	Member	John	Turner												ļ
Town of Brookhaven	Alternate	Anthony	Graves	Р											
Town of Brookhaven, Senior Citizens	Member	James	Heil	Р	Ρ										
Town of Brookhaven, Senior Citizens (open slot as of 4/99)	Alternate	None	None												
Town of Riverhead	Member	Robert	Conklin	Р	Р										
Town of Riverhead (K. Skinner alternate as of 4/99)	Alternate	Kim	Skinner												
Wading River Civic Association	Member	Helga	Guthy	Р	Р										
Wading River Civic Association	Alternate	Sid	Bail												