

Fermilab Community Advisory Board January 28, 2021 meeting

Members attending: Chris Faber, Carrie Garstecki, Jim Gebhardt, Leah Goodman, Tony Inglese, Sydney Jordan, Denis Kania, Britta McKenna, Mike Salazar, Arnolfo Santoro, Alexandra Tsang, Thomas VanCleave, John Watts

Fermilab/DOE personnel attending: Lauren Biron, Jacquie Bucher, Amber Kenney, Nigel Lockyer, Alison Markovitz, Kim Mazur, Lia Merminga, Becky Thompson, Rick Verhaagen

Welcome and Introductions

Rebecca Thompson

News from the Lab

Lauren Biron

Presentation and links to communication highlights are linked in the agenda.

Introduction of the New Fermilab Site Office Manager

Rick Verhaagen

Rick thanked the CAB for the warm welcome and expressed that he is looking forward to working with the CAB.

Rick was most recently deputy manager for technical operations at the DOE National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) Field Office at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), following a period as NNSA senior technical safety advisor. Prior to that he worked for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board and comes to Fermilab with 13 years experience with the DOE. Previously, Rick served as a submarine officer for 13 years. During his last year at LANL he worked with Mike Weiss, who previously held the Fermilab Site Officer Manager position. They talked extensively about the importance of working closely with the community, establish strong relationships, and being open and transparent. Rick appreciates the strong relationship with the CAB and is committed to its continued success.

PIP-II Update

Lia Merminga

Presentation is linked in the agenda.

Q – It is interesting to hear about the collaboration. Is the actual design of each unit done at Fermilab and are the components assembled here?

A – Fermilab owns the requirements and design of every single component. When we receive components from our partners, we have to know how they are designed, how they work, and how they can be reproduced. In many situations we do the designs at Fermilab and in some cases we collaborate because others have experience, but we are always at the table and always present. Some components will be built in UK and some in France and transported here by plane. Tests will be done so we know we can ship them safely. Cryomodule kits are assembled here. There are different procedures with different partners depending on their experience and levels of comfort in order to minimize risk and maximize the contribution to the project.

Q – I congratulate you on the international collaboration. How has the pandemic complicated the collaboration?

A – We learned to work following COVID protocols. It did slow us down for awhile and stopped the beam tests for a few months but we learned how to follow very strict COVID protocols. Protocols include always keeping distance, always wearing PPE, and installing partitions in the control room to enable the team to continue safely. We also learned to do tests at remotely. We have been able to continue very productively while staying safe which is the most important thing.

The pandemic will have lingering effects. We were in the design phase so the impact has not been too great yet. However, we had to reschedule and incorporate all those impacts. It is a complicated situation, but we are managing it very well.

Q – Wondering about when the science gets underway is there a need for new housing for scientists here? Could people just continue working remotely?

A – It's a question of whether the lab grows in terms of staff. Staff level has been flat 5-6 years on purpose and funding goes into the projects we are building for discovery. We could imagine the lab growing in the future, thinking about new incentives such as quantum.

We anticipate more visitors in the future, when we have the need for more international collaborators on site. The current international collaboration is more than 1200 people.

It might be natural transition for more scientists to work remotely but the actual fabrication requires people put their hands-on things. We operate experiments here for Geneva Switzerland and run our own experiments from different parts of the world. It is a new trend, and we are looking at what is the lab of the future and what we will need. It is a very dynamic time.

Lab Response to COVID 19

Amber Kenney

Things are going well and trending in the right direction. Fermilab is in region 8 and currently in Tier 1 mitigation which is the lowest level. In November it was at Tier 3 which is the most restrictive. Cases have been trending down since the holidays and we did not see a post-holiday

blip that many had been expecting. The lab communicated about holiday safety measures. The lab's COVID safety plan has tied closely to the state's plan and the risk matrix helps us to focus on highest priority tasks when we were at tier 3. During that time, we minimized number of people on site with very minimal close contact. Protective measures have been effective. As Lia's slide about the impact of COVID on PIP-II indicated, there was much success in following protocols and we are excited with the results. The new administration has sent a nationwide mask requirement and Fermilab's policies essentially aligned with those. We are working to try to establish Fermilab as vaccine distribution site for our work force. We have had our Fire Dept vaccinated and dispatchers are next. We will update the CAB on progress in the coming months. We are encouraging anyone who is eligible to get their vaccine. It will take some analysis to determine when and how to roll employees back. Our staff has developed good habits and has risen to the challenge.

February Open House Update

Rebecca Thompson

Presentation is linked in the agenda.

Q – Is the virtual art exhibit solely photography?

A – There are currently over 50 submissions based on particle physics and include a wide range of medium, everything from solar prints to sculptures.

Q - Will David Ibbett be included in the Open House? I have enjoyed his work.

A – Yes, David will be part of a panel on the history of art and science at Fermilab.

It was noted that Fermilab leaves a lasting impact. The new Chief of Staff for the DOE, Tarak Shah, is an alumnus of Saturday Morning Physics and profiled that connection in his introductory message to the DOE.

What the lab should know

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Leah provided news from Warrenville that the budget is tight and upcoming events look iffy. The park district was very innovative to find socially distanced ways for kids to participate and is doing its best to move forward. A hot cocoa and holiday lighting event was held that created tremendous traffic jams as it was so much more popular than anticipated. She noted construction in town has not been slowed so new residents will moving in next few years.