

Science and Technology Council Meeting

June 20, 2008

Meeting Report

Below are the decisions and actions resulting from the June 20th meeting.

Strategic Plan

- The Council approved the “Draft” plan, which will become the first ‘non-draft’ version of the document to be used as the focus of the process by which we will develop and deploy our science and technology assets. A number of upgrades proposed by DSU at the meeting will be incorporated into this version.
- The Council agreed that two new subcommittees be established. A Subcommittee on Cyberinfrastructure under the leadership of Karl Steiner and a Subcommittee on the Environment under the leadership of Steve Borleske.
- The Council requested that DTCC develop a proposal to establish a Subcommittee on Workforce Development and DSU develop a proposal to establish a Subcommittee on National Homeland Security.
- The decision to establish an Education Subcommittee will be made at a future date.
- A program will be developed to build awareness and use of the Plan by the relevant decision-makers and stakeholders throughout the State and the region. A web-based component of the program is a priority. The Office of Economic and Innovation Partnerships will develop a proposed program with input from the network.
- DSU submitted a number of proposals which the Council recommended be processed through the appropriate subcommittees for action. These were:

Human Health

- Rename the Human Health and Biomedical Research subcommittee to the Human Health, Health Disparities and Biomedical Research Subcommittee.
- Pilot telemedicine technologies.
- Develop an inter-institutional Center for Brain Disease and Translational Neuroscience and a Center for Health Disparities Research.

Melissa Harrington, the DSU representative on the Subcommittee, has responsibility to bring these to the Subcommittee for action.

Alternative Energy

- Expand hydrogen storage and fuel cell research

Andrew Goudy, the DSU representative on the Subcommittee, has responsibility to bring this proposal to the Subcommittee for action.

Nanotechnology

- Establish a Delaware Nanoscience Consortium modeled the Delaware Neuroscience Consortium.

Beverly Hartline, the DSU representative on the Subcommittee, has responsibility to bring this proposal to the Subcommittee for action.

Subcommittee updates (presentations attached)

Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan is to develop strong biomedical research capability in Delaware. Nick Petrelli presented the Human Health/Biomedical Research update. Highlights include:

The NIH-INBRE grant renewal (\$17.5M for 5 years) will be submitted in July 2008. Anticipated grant start will be July 2009. The Grant focuses on Cancer, Cardiovascular and Neuroscience.

The Council adopted a resolution requesting that Governor Ruth Ann Minner recommend that \$1MM per year, over the five year period of the INBRE grant, be included in the State's 2010 Capital Budget proposal as a contribution from the State in support of the \$17M INBRE grant proposal.

A dialogue needs to begin to examine ways to strengthen the research component in nursing programs across the State and to

increase collaborations among various nursing programs underway in the State.

Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan is to develop and promote the adoption of technologies that enhance agricultural systems and improve the profitability and sustainable development of Delaware agriculture. Robin Morgan presented an update on carbon sequestration and the solar cell poultry house project. Highlights include:

The carbon sequestration process is focusing on key issues such as clarification of the opportunity for tapping into credits, progress on State legislation etc. Consideration should be given to collaboration with the Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement (EASI) to work with farmers to fill out the Federal Application form.

The valuation of the Solar Powered Poultry House Pilot will closely monitor financial benefit measurements. Also, an effort will be made to find ways to leverage the technology to other areas of agriculture.

Irrigation assistance cost share is a new opportunity for Agriculture and Natural Resources. Konrad Kmetz outlined the program that will be initiated this Fall and launched in the 2009 crop year.

Goal 5 of the Strategic Plan is to develop a comprehensive cyberinfrastructure in the State by 2012. Karl Steiner introduced the Council to activities in the area including the NIH–North East Network Initiative that is being led by the Delaware INBRE and is aimed at establishing a cyberinfrastructure in the NIH’s northeast region that includes Delaware, Rhode Island, Vermont and Maine. Learnings from this initiative will be used in Delaware. The Council agreed to establish a Cyberinfrastructure Subcommittee to oversee the initiative.

Goal 4 of the Strategic Plan is to progress toward a sustainable environment while ensuring a prosperous economy by developing a statewide, comprehensive and coordinated research, education, work force training and economic development capability. Steve Borlseke reviewed activities currently underway regarding the EPSCoR proposal that was submitted to the NSF in January 2008. The goal of the grant is to contribute toward achieving a sustainable environment in Delaware. The expectation is that Delaware will receive an award within the next two months. Consequently, the Council approved a motion to establish an Environmental Subcommittee.

Other Business (presentations attached)

Goal 6 of the Strategic Plan is to foster innovation, creativity and entrepreneurialism leading to science and technology-based economic development. Mike Bowman reported on progress of the Information Assurance Task Force's program to adopt electronic notarization in Delaware.

Goal 3 of the Strategic Plan is to position Delaware as a leader in sustainable energy and a cleaner environment through development and adoption of new technologies. Mike Bowman presented a key initiative of the Alternative Energy subcommittee involving the Energy Business Community Work Group that has been established to develop recommendations to the Delaware Energy Council's next generation Energy Plan and is conducting meetings and workshops throughout 2008.

Engagement in the process of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) impacting the relocation from Fort Monmouth, New Jersey to the Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland is an important academic and economic development opportunity. Joe DiPinto presented the current activities of the DEDO Working Group and UD Task Force to assess, prepare for and participate in the economic development opportunities presented by this BRAC initiative. A coordinated plan of action is being developed.