

Life Sciences Discovery Fund Authority

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2006 | 1:00p-4:30p

Senate Majority Caucus Room, Legislative Building, Olympia WA

Trustees Present: Lura Powell (chair), Sen. Lisa Brown, Jim Cook, Sen Bill Finkbeiner, Gov. Gary Locke, Bruce Montgomery, Rep. Jeff Morris, Rep. Skip Priest, and Cheryl Scott

Absent: Rita Colwell

Others Attending: Lee Huntsman (Executive Director), Walt Plosila, Pamela Anderson (Attorney General's Office), Marc Baldwin (Governor's Office), Bill Grinstein, Shan Mullin, DeLee Shoemaker, Brad Jurkovich, Steve Reed, and Alden Jones.

MINUTES

Welcome from the Chair – *Powell*

Lura announced that Tony Hey, Microsoft corporate vice president of technical computing, will join the LSDFA board of trustees.

Approval of Minutes and Election of Officers– *Powell*

Board approved minutes from the December 21, 2005 meeting and elected Rep. Jeff Morris as secretary and Cheryl Scott as treasurer of LSDFA board.

Recent Activities – *Huntsman, Powell*

- *Budget* – Lee reiterated that the Governor's supplemental budget request includes \$992K for fiscal '07 with expectation of \$1M for July '07 to April '08.
- *Fundraising Update* – Discussions continue with potential donors. Strong interest has been expressed but not commitments to date.
- *LSDFA Coalition* – Tom Fritz (CEO, Inland NW Health Service) and Karin Rodland (Scientific Director NIH Programs, PNNL Science Communications) join Shan Mullin (Partner, Perkins Coie) as co-chairs. The Coalition is seeking to raise \$50K this year to support its efforts.

State Support of Life Sciences: A National Perspective

Guest speaker: Walt Plosila, vice president, technology partnership practice, Battelle

Walt presented a nationwide overview of bioscience programs, trends, strategies, entrepreneurship and emerging opportunities. He talked about benchmarks such as federal funding, academic degrees awarded, workforce statistics, performance and ROI measures. He provided models of success and some thoughts on possible LSDFA directions. He advocated leveraging Washington's strong research capacity and positioning LSDFA as a facilitator, catalyst and connector but within a well thought out programmatic framework. He recommends establishing metrics for success early, rather than later. If we do opportunistic grants, he suggests keeping categories open-ended, but the criteria bounded. He concurred with Jim Cook that there are opportunities and health solutions in the plant and animal sciences arena. Pam pointed out that section 1 of the legislation reads "The Fund is also intended to foster improved health care outcomes and improved agricultural production research across this state and the world." Walt noted the growing trend in interdisciplinary work and shared facilities (North Carolina, Michigan and Arizona's "anchor" research site). He advises a

balanced portfolio of projects representing a continuum from basic research through technology commercialization. He noted the value of having a third party reassess the portfolio every few years. Walt cited Maryland, Boston, Georgia as success stories to watch.

Management Plan Update - Huntsman

Lee reviewed the unfolding operational aspects of the LSDFA and noted legislative approval of the supplemental budget and donor contributions will be the triggers to begin ramp up in earnest.

- *Administrative Services* – recommendations regarding the purchase of administrative services will be made once more definitive information re enabling legislation (as it relates to personnel issues) is received.
- *Personnel* – Lee presented proposed milestones related to early hires.
- *Facilities* - Lee presented proposed milestones related to securing a facility.
- *Programs* - Lee presented proposed milestones related to launching grant programs, possibly as early as July if donor funds are received.

Re programs, the trustees made the following observations:

- Caution re a firm July date: trustees would like ample time for board discussion.
- Group suggests organizing listening sessions around the state to better inform the grant process. Consider existing statewide boards and commissions meetings as venues.
- Present at Invest NW forum in late March.
- Involve the Coalition with public engagement.
- Try to make some opportunistic grants before the next full legislative session (2007) to illustrate momentum and community support in favor of the Fund.

Other Business – Powell

- *Progress on Legal Questions* – Pam will send final trustee lobbying guidelines. In short, trustees may lobby, but any in-person interactions must be reported by April 30th. She noted that telephone conversations, email and letters are not considered lobbying. Pam will also check on what constitutes a quorum. Together with Shan, she will continue to research constitutional issues regarding limitations on gifts of public funds; and whether 501 c 3 entity is advised.
- *Progress on Governor's Supplemental Budget Request* – No action to date, but the LSDFA supplemental request will receive more attention as the budget process intensifies in the next few weeks.
- *2006 Meeting Locations* – Lura tabled the discussion on location selection until board looks at days for possible two day retreat and the possibility of listening sessions around the state.
- *Article of Note* – Jim shared NAS pre-pub executive summary entitled, "Rising Above the Gathering Storm." Alden will circulate to trustees.

Meeting adjourned - Powell

Respectfully submitted,
Lee Huntsman