

# LEHIGH NANOTECH NETWORK EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**MAY 24, 2006**

## **ATTENDEES:**

Nigel Sanders	Specialty Minerals
Barbara Canfield	NCC
James Gilchrist	Lehigh
Chris Kiely	Lehigh
Gene Lucadamo	Lehigh
Mark Mezger	ARDEC Picatinny

## **ABSENT:**

Jeff Depinto	Air Products
Martin Harmer	Lehigh
Nafiz Karabudak	Lockheed Martin
Keith Kardos	Orasure
Joe Lane	Ben Franklin NEP
Steve Melnick	LVEDC
Shahri Naghshineh	SCD
Chuck Picardi	Nanoblox
Dave Williams	Lehigh
Kelly Wylam	PADCED

## **I – Old Business**

- A. EB minutes from January 18 were approved
- B. The \$500 member fee will be requested shortly via email.
- C. Marketing and Communications
  1. NCC students will work on LNN logo. Barb Canfield will track this.
  2. LNN “business cards” are available on request for member use.
  3. We plan to have an exhibit or brochures available for the PA Nanotech Showcase in Pittsburgh, Sept 18-20, and also for the next CAMN Open House (2007). Member fees will provide funds to do this.

## II – New Business

### A. PA statewide nano investment plan - May 18 BFTDA Board Meeting Outcome

1. The BFTDA Board approved a \$900,000 PA MRSEC continuation for Lehigh CAMN through FY07, from the PA FY07 budget. These funds will:

i. Support PA companies and economic development via KIZ, BFTP, and university programs.

ii. Develop the research base for PA by expanding equipment and lab capabilities.

iii. Promote education and workforce development via remote education, nanotech infusion into pre-college curricula, identifying workforce needs and opportunities, and expanding nanotech minor and certificate programs.

iv. Provide staff support for management of and growing the LNN and the Industrial Liaison Program.

2. An additional grant of \$500,000 was awarded to Lehigh's Center for Optical Technologies for a Nanophotonics Research Initiative to accelerate commercial adoption, education and outreach in emerging nanophotonics technologies.

3. An additional request by Lehigh for funding for a Lehigh Valley Initiative for Growth in Nanotechnology (LiVInG Nano) was not accepted under DCED's revised nano funding strategy. Some of the concepts and support behind this request will be preserved for future funding opportunities.

4. The PA nanotech funding announcement is to be held at Lehigh in the near future. LNN members will be notified of the time and location.

### B. PA Dept of L&I Workforce Development Grant – Lehigh Valley Partnership for a

Nanotechnology Workforce (Lehigh CAMN, LVWIB, LCCC, LNN, LVEDC)

1. This grant (through Sept 2006) was awarded in March 2006. Lehigh's share is approximately \$80,000, of which a small amount will require LNN participation and support some of its activities including:

i. Establishing a Workforce Advisory Council (WAC) comprising a cross-section of LNN members and grant participants. Establish the WAC and hold a formation meeting before July 15.

ii. The WAC will initiate a regional nanotech jobs/skills database by determining content, setting a framework, and gathering initial input from LNN members and others. This will not be a job listing site, but will be geared toward communicating industry connections and skill matching.

iii. First year LNN membership grants (\$500) will be available for about five selected companies. G. Lucadamo will consult with the EB to develop criteria for these awards, and members will be notified.

iv. Associate LNN memberships will be offered to fund attendance of students, teachers, and counselors at the next 1-2 LNN meetings, to strengthen the education component of LNN meetings and activities.

v. Initiate the formation of a Nanotech Expert Group to help mentor and provide information to teachers, students, and others. Solicit interest from industry and academia, and define objectives and mechanism by September 30.

vi. Lehigh will coordinate a workforce development workshop in 2006, with LNN member participation. The EB agreed that this could be separate from a regular LNN meeting, and may be structured around nanotech education. NCC and LCCC are potential locations. G. Lucadamo will propose an agenda and schedule.

vii. The PA L&I grant and PA MRSEC target 10 new LNN members in the next year. This is achievable but will require some marketing, brochures, an active website, etc.

C. Next LNN meeting is planned for an afternoon between September 6-15

1. Speakers / Topics to consider:

i. PSU NMT workforce and training seminar, possibly with live testimonials by some graduates (this may instead be part of the Workforce Development Workshop discussed above).

ii. Lehigh research with NASA Goddard, with a speaker from NASA.

iii. Bio-nanotechnology, etc....

iv. Nanotech in Society (including info on Lehigh course developed under the PA L&I grant above).

D. LNN members will be asked to self-nominate for EB membership. A small number of regular replacements will be considered, so that the EB is kept largely intact year to year.

E. A KIZ intern, Jordan Stitzer, a senior in Mechanical Engineering and Supply Chain Mgt., will begin in June part time to help develop LNN info, improve the website, conduct a member survey, assist in meeting planning and conduct, and other functions

through December 2006.

F. Membership Status

- a. New: Authentix, NanoInk
- b. Changes: Apogee Photonics (former T-Networks), Engelhard (merger with BASF in progress)
- c. Prospects: NASA Goddard, Signatone, Lonza (Larry Hall), St. Gobain?

G. Coming Events of Importance to LNN Members

1. Greater Garden State Nanotech Alliance – Commercializing Nanotechnology for the Life Sciences, Personal Care, and Food Industries. June 21 at Princeton Univ.

**III - Next EB Meeting date is tentatively set for the morning of August 23, with location to be determined.**

**Meeting adjourned at 11:00.**