

**FLC WASHINGTON METRO PLANNING TEAM
FEBRUARY 12, 2008**

Nine individuals participated in this meeting at the Rockville R.E.D.I.'s office.

One of the items agreed on was to send to the planning team each member's name, organization, e-mail address and phone number, which will be sent shortly.

The intent of the meeting was to further define specific initiatives within the Washington Metro area that the FLC can play a direct role in fostering, beyond its present efforts such as supporting TEDCO showcase events, the Post-Doc seminar, and encouraging participation in the Mid-Atlantic Region annual conference (this year September 15-17 at Rocky Gap, Maryland).

Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

Web Site Collaboration: There was some discussion on FLC collaborating to have a link to www.invenioip.org to foster greater exposure of federal lab technology to other clearing-house web sites. It was also mentioned that other web sites are out there to connect with, such as an entrepreneur web site in Frederick, Frederick County Office of Economic Development.

We need to take a closer look at the FLC Mid-Atlantic Region web site and highlight our region network initiatives, including more visibility for economic development groups which are a key link between businesses and academia in the region and federal labs/FLC, and to explore direct links to technology showcases. We will bring forward specific ideas in the next meeting, and in the meantime welcome highlights to place on our web site for upcoming events, success stories, etc.

Focus Group and Survey:

It was determined the Washington Metro planning team itself represents a focus group, linking several economic development organizations in Maryland, DC (Washington Technology Transfer Society) and northern Virginia ; academia (University of Maryland); and federal labs. The one area that could use more involvement would be from private sector entities, though we do have a few as planning team members.

- It was determined that there should be a well-designed survey developed, vetted by the planning team along with others who may comment on the survey instrument, and sent to various groups for their feedback. The survey could be part of material provided to the FLC Mid-Atlantic Region attendees in September.

Enhanced Training for Tech Transfer Professionals

The meeting re-iterated the importance of tech transfer training. This has both an internal and external focus:

- Internal, to foster consistent levels of quality tech transfer training across agencies. This would be in addition to the training offered by the FLC during the annual FLC conference. It was suggested to use the influence of the FLC to foster training classes/training forums to benefit the federal tech transfer professionals.
- External, to provide a wide range of communities with diverse levels of familiarity with federal technology transfer resources, capabilities and requirements (for bringing technology in, or infusion). Recent networking with various community groups underscores the importance of effective training resources as part of outreach. Again, there may be a training forum designed for the external community to help them establish mutually productive ties with federal labs.

Prior to the next meeting there will be discussion with the FLC Training Committee to discuss ways in which the FLC Mid-Atlantic Region can make better use of training resources, both for internal agency training and for outreach purposes. Given the importance of outreach to a broad spectrum of groups, there will also be a discussion with the State/Local Government Committee and the Communication Committee. Your comments, suggestions, concerns are welcome for us to bring into these discussions.

Young Professionals/New Career Forum

Several suggestions were discussed as a way to foster interaction between technical and business professionals early on in their overall career or in their new career:

- Use the database of Post-Doc attendees to foster a forum on young professionals, with speakers on topics of interest and a networking social. The intent would be to have both the technical community and the business community represented from both the speaker perspective and the perspective of attendees.
- Explore established forums such as BIO and encourage a segment for young professionals/new career individuals to be able to take part. There should be specific examples identified for the next meeting. Two versions of this:
 - Provide within an existing forum a segment designed for young professionals/new career individuals.
 - For organizations providing several events per year, designate 1 event per year as a young professionals/new career forum, with minimal or no charge for these individuals to participate.

There should be specific targets discussed in the next meeting.

Lab Open Houses

It was noted that in Maryland, TEDCO is already actively conducting, in collaboration with federal agencies, open houses to combine technology overviews with lab tours. Mid-Atlantic Region FLC has supported a number of these events. Two aspects to explore:

- **Maryland:** Assess current level of collaboration with TEDCO as well as explore other possibilities such as with Rockville R.E.D.I. and MONTCO, to enhance the level of current FLC support to such events.
- **Virginia:** Explore the present status of technology showcases with northern Virginia organizations such as Fairfax Economic Development, C.I.T., etc. to see if there is a comparable level of support from the FLC for similar technology showcases in northern Virginia. In the near future, a telecom will be set up with C.I.T. to discuss the current status and potential future direction of technology showcases involving federal labs and northern Virginia. This would also be an opportunity to highlight activities or initiatives that northern Virginia is undertaking which other areas may emulate.

Resource Materials/Matrix

This group, and others, has stressed the need for better “packaging” of critical information to attain and sustain partnerships:

- Network of contacts for specific groups, a “phone tree” that provides names and contact information (e-mail, phone)
- Technology from both the standpoint of technology resources as well as technology needs
- Organization network system
 - Economic Development groups
 - Federal Labs
 - University Systems
 - Companies, Trade Association
- Tools such as “Science Facebook” and Johns Hopkins Community of Science Database

The bottom line is that there exists a substantial amount of information from a wide variety of resources; the challenge is to be able to cluster the information to make the information more effectively utilized and user-friendly.

Prior to the next meeting there should be some strawman examples of information matrices to review and comment on. Once a format is determined, the discussion can focus on implementation and maintenance of this information matrix.

Chesapeake Crescent Initiative (www.thechesapeakecrescent.com)

The final topic was a new region initiative, Chesapeake Crescent, linking Maryland, Washington DC and Virginia along the Chesapeake Bay. The initiative recognizes the challenges and opportunities spanning the region, with three primary areas as the core of the Chesapeake Crescent Initiative:

- Technology innovation, using technology as a major factor in economic growth
- Energy and Environment
- Transportation and sustainable growth

Organizations based on Maryland, Washington DC and Virginia can play roles as stakeholders and resources in this region initiative.

Next Meeting:

Suggested timeframe for next meeting: early to mid-April to explore progress on several areas identified.