

MINUTES
NATURAL DIVERSITY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP MEETING
24 FEBRUARY 2000
Harrisburg, PA

The meeting began with welcomes and introduction. A review of "How we got to this point" was done using a timeline. After discussions the following items were agreed upon:

1. An Interim Executive Board for the Natural Diversity Conservation Partnership (NDCP) was selected.
2. The Interim Executive Board was constituted upon conditions:
 - It will be ephemeral for 1 year. Members' terms will end February 24, 2001.
 - The Interim Executive Board will incorporate and execute bylaws.
 - By the end of its term, the Executive Board will have selected a final board based on the representation and mix recommended in the bylaws with help from the task forces.
 - In selection of a final Executive Board, a balanced representation is mandated.

The question of balance and representation was raised. It was decided that keywords for the final board would be: Balance/Private Sector Leadership/Task Force representation. Concern was raised that "plain vanilla" landowners were not well represented. It was stated that "A principle of our existence will be to continuously ask others for balance." Holes in the Executive Board were identified as tri-county and multi-county planning agencies; local government; the Allegheny National Forest; and private landowners.

The Task Force member lists were examined and revised.

It was suggested that the NDCP Executive Board convene a yearly conference in conjunction with one of the Executive Board's meetings. The Board will determine dates and a theme for the first conference. After each conference, a State Natural Diversity Report Card could be published, containing highlights of the conference and reports from each of the task forces.

A revised NDCP STRUCTURE was ratified. One correction was made to the previous organizational chart: the arrow from the box "Partnership Executive Board" will now originate in the box "Final Recommendations & Actions." It will point to the Public/Private oval at the top of the chart.

ACTIONS AGREED UPON

- Between February and the end of June 2000, the task forces will individually meet to (1) select leadership and alternates for final representation on the Executive Board; (2) begin to address non-partner action steps for natural diversity conservation; and (3) identify weaknesses in representation and make invitations in order to achieve balance.
- The Interim Board will need to set numerous and frequent meetings in the beginning to accomplish tasks.
- Sue Thompson agreed to revise the Mission Statement for the March 9, 2000 meeting.
- Sue Thompson was appointed as provisional administrator of the NDCP.
- Joan Clippinger offered interim space for an office at the Wildlife Federation.
- Bob Hill agreed to organize the March 6, 2000 meeting of the Interim Executive Board.
- Sue Thompson agreed to draft an agenda and forward it to Bob Hill for distribution.
- Caren Glotfelty agreed to draft a letter for distribution to the agencies before March 19, 2000. Jim Brett reminded us that time is critical.
- Frank Felbaum agreed to check with Larry Williamson about grant possibilities for a "planning grant" to develop a long-range framework for natural diversity conservation in PA.