

PENNSYLVANIA BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP
Board of Directors Meeting
28 September 2004
PA Fish & Boat Commission Headquarters, Harrisburg, PA

Board Attendees: Jacqui Bonomo, Tom Buzby, Tom Ford, Randy Gray, Michael Hampton, Sally Just, K.C. Kim, Andrew McElwaine, Robb Miller, John Rawlins, Sue Thompson. **Others:** Charles Bier, Jim Drager, Frank Felbaum, Ken Klemow, Paul Lyskava. **Excused:** Michelle Cohen, Nick DiPasquale, Cal DuBrock, Laurie Goodrich, Paulette Johnson, Cliff Jones, Tom Kerr, Doug Kuntz, Blaine Puller.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chair Randy Gray requested volunteers to serve on the Board Development Committee to develop a slate of nominees for the Board to be voted on at the first meeting in 2005. Tom Buzby was appointed chairman of the committee with Jacqui Bonomo, Sally Just, and an additional person from the academic community (John Rawlins later appointed) as committee members. Gray announced that he was resigning his position as State Director of The Nature Conservancy, effective 15 October 2004. Given that his future plans do not include involvement in biodiversity conservation in Pennsylvania, he also announced his resignation from the PBP Board of Directors, effective the same day. The minutes of the 2 June 2004 meeting were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sue Thompson reported on various outreach and information gathering efforts, including two lectures for Penn State's Conservation Leadership School; exhibits at Ag Progress Days (interactions with over 5,000 people), PA Association of Environmental Professionals Annual Conference, County Commissioners Association of PA Annual Conference, and additional public comment forms from high school and college students. One proposal was submitted to the Wild Resource Conservation Program. She also discussed a potential opportunity for PBP to work on organizational capacity building with the Institute for Conservation Leadership through a grant from the William Penn Foundation. The consensus was to put this on hold until new board members and officers are in place and to revisit this question in mid-2005. Thompson summarized the morning's discussion on the upcoming PBP conference.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thompson presented the treasurer's report for Tom Kerr and noted that PBP's finances were sufficient through most of 2005 and up to final production of the BCP.

TASK FORCE, AGENCY, and PARTNERS REPORTS

Bioinformatics – Chair Ken Klemow discussed questionable messages on PABIODIV and board members again supported the existing guidelines. He also presented a proposed Biodiversity Needs Assessment Survey, which will be tested at the conference, and flyers promoting PABIODIV and the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Data Inventory (PBDI). Klemow requested input on target audiences and the materials presented. The task force will move forward on these topics in 2005.

Education – Thompson reported for co-Chair Paulette Johnson that the PA Center for Environmental Education (PCEE) was funded for 2005 and that two joint projects with PBP on biodiversity education (a natural history series and a biodiversity tutorial) were in the planning stages.

Funding – Chair Jacqui Bonomo encouraged Board members to participate in the various fund-raising opportunities in conjunction with the PBP conference, including conference sponsorships at various levels; contributions for the raffle; and donations of books for the "Build Your Biodiversity Library" event.

Science – Chair Charles Bier reported on the updated science issues document for the conference.

Allegheny National Forest –Michael Hampton announced that he has accepted a job in a western national forest and was resigning his position on the PBP Board. He expressed a desire on the part of ANF for continued representation on the PBP Board.

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources – Sally Just discussed DCNR's individual action plans and progress on their new strategic action plan.

Department of Environmental Protection – Nick DiPasquale announced via an email to Thompson that he was leaving DEP, effective this week and would try to identify a replacement alternate for the agency.

Fish and Boat Commission – Tom Ford stated that there was good support from the legislature for the proposed license fee increases and that Growing Greener II, if enacted, would assist with PFBC infrastructure needs.

Governor's Advisor for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation – Robb Miller also reported on the bill to increase license fees and that the Council will be working with PFBC to support this bill as well as Growing Greener II.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jim Drager, who is assisting PBP with the public input process including facilitating the focus groups and compiling the public comment forms, presented a summary on the public input in preparation for his presentation on this topic at the November conference.

approved 18 Feb 2005