

**PENNSYLVANIA BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP**  
**Executive Board Minutes**  
**29 November 2001**  
**Atherton Hotel, State College College, PA**

**Attendees:**

**Members:** Steven Balzano, Bob Barkanic, Jacqui Bonomo, Tom Buzby, Joan Clippinger, Cal DuBrock, Tom Ford, Randy Gray, Paulette Johnson, Cliff Jones, Tom Kerr, K.C. Kim, , Andrew McElwaine, Tom Pauley, Blaine Puller, Ann Rhoads, Larry Schweiger, Sue Thompson, Richard Whiteford. **Guests:** Jim Drager, John Grehan, Frank Felbaum, Caren Glotfelty, Shane Mahoney, Ron Ramsey, Dessie Severson

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at approximately 1:25 pm. Minutes of the September 27, 2001 meeting were approved as submitted. A meeting schedule for 2002 was distributed; the board will meet on January 31, April 25, July 25, and October 24.

Tom Kerr presented the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$244,500.94, which was approved.

Gray reported on the search for a president. Of the 15-20 applicants, 4 were interviewed; of those Sue Thompson was selected. The Executive Board unanimously endorsed the search committee's recommendation that Sue Thompson be appointed President of the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Thompson reported that a grant of \$157,000 from the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account has been approved; it will support preparation of the State of the State Report and outreach.

A proposal has been submitted to DCNR for \$229,875 to continue development of the Biodiversity Conservation Plan, including a public attitude survey and an analysis of the impact of biodiversity loss on the economy of Pennsylvania. A proposal to fund preparation of a resource list for teachers and conduct teacher workshops will be submitted to DEP's Environmental Education Grant Program on December 4.

There are 240 registrants for the First Annual Biodiversity Conference to be held on Nov. 30; many others who wanted to register had to be turned away due to a lack of space. We were successful in obtaining a number of sponsors for the conference.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Kerr, reporting for the nominating committee, presented a slate of nominees to fill vacancies on the board. Incumbents to be re-elected to fill full 3-year terms from 2002-2004 are Clifford Jones, Ke Chung Kim, Blaine Puller, and Richard Whiteford. New members to fill 3-year terms from 2002-2004 are Ken Kane and Doug Kuntz; new member to fill a 1-year term from 2001-2002 is Laurie Goodrich; new member to fill a 2-year term 2001-2003 is John Rawlins. The full slate of nominees was unanimously approved. This action brings the board to 25 members with one vacant position remaining.

Kerr recommended that a board development committee be established to take a more strategic approach to the process of selecting board members in the future. There was some discussion of how we can assure that all stakeholder groups are adequately represented on the board. Chairman Gray opined that it was the board's responsibility to see that it remains a broad mix.

## **TASK FORCE REPORTS**

**Public Relations** – Felbaum presented the results of a design competition for a logo for the partnership. A design submitted by ERG, Inc. of Arlington, VA was selected by the task force and unanimously approved by the Board.

**Education** – Clippinger reported that the Earth Day packets are in the final stages of preparation and will be mailed in late January or early February. Johnson requested any last minute additions to a list of teacher resources that was circulated for review. A list of recent books and manuals of the flora and fauna of Pennsylvania will be provided by Rhoads and others. Kim asked whether the educational materials are evaluated, and Johnson replied that the Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education does not evaluate materials, but does provide criteria for evaluation on its website.

**Science** – Grehan reported that the task force would meet early next year to solicit proposals for research to fill gaps in our knowledge of the biota of Pennsylvania.

**Bioinformatics** – Pauley reported that Ken Klemow would assume the chairmanship of the task force.

## **MEMBER AND STAKEHOLDER ASSESSMENT**

Jim Drager of TWI presented the results of a survey of 46 partnership "members" and 44 non-members stakeholders. Results of the survey indicated a high level of support for the Partnership and its goals among this pre-selected group of respondents.

Respectively submitted,  
Ann F. Rhoads, Secretary