

**PENNSYLVANIA BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**24 February 2004**  
**PA Fish & Boat Commission Headquarters, Harrisburg, PA**

**Board Attendees:** Charles Bier (for Larry Schweiger), Tom Buzby, Tom Ford, Randy Gray, Michael Hampton, Paulette Johnson, Sally Just, Tom Kerr, Doug Kuntz, John Rawlins, Tim Schaeffer (for Andrew McElwaine), Sue Thompson. **Others:** Jim Drager, Frank Felbaum, Jean Fike, Ken Klemow. **Excused:** Jacqui Bonomo, Michelle Cohen, Cal DuBrock, Laurie Goodrich, Dessie Severson, Richard Whiteford

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

On behalf of the Nominations Committee, Randy Gray presented the slate for renomination to the PBP Board of Directors. Paulette Johnson motioned that the slate be approved (seconded by Doug Kuntz); the motion was accepted by a unanimous vote. Gray pointed out that presently three seats are available on the Board and that the by-laws do not require that all seats be filled. The minutes of the 9 December 2003 meeting were approved.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Sue Thompson updated members on the search to hire a new Executive Administrator. Thompson also reported on various outreach and information gathering efforts, including focus groups, exhibits at conferences, and presentations.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

A full financial report was unavailable due to a back-log in receiving financial statements from the Tides Center, however Thompson reported that funding for PBP was secure through the end of 2004. A Finance Committee (Tom Kerr, Chair; Randy Gray and Sally Just, members) was formed to assist in reviewing PBP's financial matters. Gray requested that other members interested in serving on this committee contact him.

**TASK FORCE, AGENCY, and PARTNERS REPORTS**

**Bioinformatics** – Chair Ken Klemow presented an update on the PABIODIV listserve, including samples of rejected messages. Approximately 35-50% of all messages he receives as moderator are rejected or emended. The consensus of the Board is to continue applying the present guidelines.

**Education** – Co-Chair Paulette Johnson announced that DEP had terminated funding for the PA Center for Environmental Education (PCEE) and that the PCEE website, including the biodiversity resources gathered by PBP, is slated to go off-line at end of May. After discussion of PBP's interest in maintaining accessibility to biodiversity education resources and the role of education in biodiversity conservation, the Board approved that a letter be drafted with input from members of the Education Task Force and sent to DEP regarding this situation.

**Policy** – As requested at the December Board meeting, the Policy Task Force reviewed HR2002/2003 via a conference call. While the task force supports the intent of these bills, they had several unresolved questions, including what is the scientific evidence for ATV impact on biodiversity and the role of PBP in bringing science to the table in promoting responsible ATV use. The task force recommended that PBP not take any stand on this issue at present and the Board concurred. Tim Schaeffer announced his resignation as Chair of the Policy Task Force due to conflicting demands on his time, effective as of this meeting.

**DCNR** – Sally Just discussed DCNR's new Draft Action Plan, which expands on the department's core mission of protecting DCNR lands by advocating statewide for natural resources, promoting environmental education and a stewardship ethic, and positioning state parks as a venue for outdoor experiences. She also reported on changes to the Wild Resource Conservation Program and the online PNDI system. DCNR has formed an Invasive Species Management Committee to develop its internal plan in response to the

Governor's Invasive Species Task Force. Updates to the Wild Plant Act pertaining to ginseng and the status of listed plants are in progress. Just distributed a handout on the new Growing Greener II Quality of Life Initiative.

***PA Fish and Boat Commission*** – Tom Ford discussed PFBC funding issues and requested a letter of support from PBP for House Bill 2155, which proposes increased user fees; this request was referred to the Policy Task Force. He also distributed the new PFBC pocket guide.

***Allegheny National Forest*** – Michael Hampton announced that drafts of portions of the ANF Forest Plan, including ecological context and species viability will be available in March and that those interested in copies should contact him. ANF is asking other groups to assist in hosting workshops around ANF issues. It was suggested that PBP should explore hosting / co-hosting a workshop on biodiversity and habitat.

***Hammersley Wild Area*** – Doug Kuntz and Sally Just distributed a joint DCNR/PPL/PGE press release on DCNR's acquisition of mineral rights beneath the Hammersley Wild Area. This transaction, which involved both a gift and bargain sale on the part of PPL and PGE, was viewed as a good example of industry-government partnership. Members commented on how these types of models could be promoted and marketed with the suggestion of sending the press release to the PABIODIV listserv at the minimum.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Jim Drager facilitated a continuation of the morning's discussion on the timeline for the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Conservation Plan, including assignment of various tasks.

*approved 2 June 2004*