

**PENNSYLVANIA BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
27 February 2003
PA Fish and Boat Commission, Harrisburg, PA**

Board Attendees: Jacqui Bonomo (alternate for Larry Schweiger), Jim Brett, Tom Buzby, Laurie Goodrich, Tom Ford (alternate for Pete Colangelo), Randy Gray, Paulette Johnson, Michael Hampton, Sally Just (alternate for Michael DiBerardinis), K.C. Kim, Doug Kuntz, Blaine Puller, John Rawlins, Tim Schaeffer (alternate for Andrew McElwaine), Dessie Severson (alternate for Tom Pauley), and Dick Whiteford. **Others:** Charles Bier, Frank Felbaum, MaryLinda Gangewere, Ken Klemow, Ed Schroth, and Sue Thompson. **Excused:** William Adams, Michelle Cohen, Cindy Dunn, Cliff Jones, and Tom Kerr.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order. He announced the 2003 schedule of board meetings: 29 May in Harrisburg, 18 September in Warren in conjunction with a tour of oil and gas drilling sites and elk watching and 9 December in Harrisburg. The annual board/all-PBP meeting is being rescheduled from December to early 2004 at the request of board members to avoid conflicts with deer season. The minutes of the 4 December, 2002 meeting were approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

In the absence of the Treasurer, Gray presented the expense report ending 31 December 2002 which was approved as submitted. Gray pointed out that no income statement was included in the report since grants to the PBP involve deficit spending.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Sue Thompson reported on interviews with WildNotes, Bay Journal, WYEP, and GreenWorks TV. PBP has done presentations and/or an exhibit at the PA Habitat Alliance Meeting, PABS Steering Committee, Wildlands Conference, Watershed Summit, and the Hollow Oaks Land Trust (on-going exhibit for 4 weeks). PBP has assistance from the Duquesne Law School Clinic in pursuing a 501(c)(3) status and MaryLinda Gangewere is gathering information on costs for various services; the anticipated timeline for bringing this to the Board is the September meeting. She reported that the Task Force Chairs instituted a monthly conference call. Shane Mahoney presented two lectures in the Philadelphia area under the co-sponsorship of PBP and is currently an unpaid advisor to PBP.

AGENCY REPORTS

DCNR – Sally Just reported that biodiversity issues are a priority for DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. The Department is in a holding pattern relative to the staffing of the Office of Biodiversity.

Council on Wildlife Conservation – Jim Brett reported that the Governor's Sportsmen's Advisory Council is now known as the Council on Wildlife Conservation with an emphasis on eco-tourism and the forest and extraction industries. Wildlife watchers will be added to the Council's constituents of hunters, anglers, and trappers.

Fish and Boat Commission – Tom Ford commented on the fiscal challenges being faced by the Commission with particular shortfalls in infrastructure replacement and operating costs. Downsizing and an increase in license fees have been mentioned as ways to respond to the current fiscal dilemma.

Allegheny National Forest – Michael Hampton reported that the 1986 Forest Plan was being revised and that public workshops would be scheduled. He invited the PBP to participate in the process.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

Bioinformatics – Ken Klemow reported that approximately 65 messages are posted monthly on the PA Biodiversity listserv. The Task Force recently completed an overview of its 2002 activities.

Education – Ed Schroth was welcomed by the members. Paulette Johnson reported that the biodiversity concept list is linked to the state education standards and will be posted on the PEER website. An event is being planned with Governor Rendell to introduce PEER. Teacher training workshops are being planned featuring biodiversity issues.

Policy – Tim Schaeffer gave a synopsis of the letters being sent to the Game Commission and Governor Rendell which had been forwarded to members. After brief discussion, the letters were approved to be sent with minor corrections.

Public Relations – Frank Felbaum reported that there is continued interest in *Biodiversity in Pennsylvania: Snapshot 2002*. All requests for bulk mailings should go through MaryLinda Gangewere.

Science – Charles Bier expressed the Task Force members' interest in shared meetings with the Stewardship Task Force. He also is attempting to recruit persons to the Task Force with political science and economics backgrounds.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Gray reported on PBP's relationship with the Tides Center of Western Pennsylvania. He noted that the relationship worked reasonably well. Sue summarized PBP's efforts to obtain its own 501(c)(3) status and that assistance was being provided by the Duquesne University Law Clinic.

Sue encouraged members to meet with local and state legislators and introduce them to *Biodiversity in Pennsylvania: Snapshot 2002*.

Chairman Gray asked the members' opinions on being involved with the League of Conservation Voters Education Fund activities. Such a cooperative effort was not endorsed at this time.

Chairman Gray encouraged members to participate in the Biodiversity Conservation Plan team meeting scheduled for 17 March at the Fish and Boat Commission headquarters.

approved 29 May 2003