

PENNSYLVANIA NATURAL DIVERSITY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP
Interim Executive Board Meeting
25 May 2000
Olewine Nature Center, Harrisburg, PA

Attendance: Joe Barnard, Jim Boone (alternate for K.C. Kim), Joan Clippinger, Cindy Dunn, Tom Ford, Ron Freed, Laurie Goodrich (minutes), Bob Hill, Paulette Johnson, Tom Kerr, Tom Pauley, Blaine Puller, Ron Ramsey, Ann Rhoads, Sue Thompson (Interim Director), and Dick Whiteford.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Sue Thompson, Interim Executive Director, called the meeting to order. She reported that Caren Glotfelty had sent the letter to DCNR Secretary John Oliver and received a response which was passed out to Board along with the revised Mission and Strategy document.

Minutes – Minutes for 9 March 2000 were emailed to group. Motion to approve passed (Kerr motion, second by Barnard).

Budget – The Wild Resource Conservation Fund (WRCF) has provided \$20,000 for start up expenses. Sue Thompson prepared a budget which was circulated via email. Travel costs were included for task force meetings. The Board discussed the need for guidelines for expenditures from the budget and who gets reimbursed and for what. The Funding Task Force agreed to work on a policy for travel reimbursement as well as overall budget policy. Funds will be administered by the Pennsylvania Biological Survey, and Ann Rhoads received a letter notifying her of grant approval. Joe Barnard made a motion and Joan Clippinger seconded to approve the budget with the understanding that the Funding Task Force will work on budget policy and PABS will handle reimbursements (unanimously approved).

TASK FORCE REPORTS

Board/Task Force Form – Joan Clippinger reported that the committee (herself, K.C. Kim, Paulette Johnson, Sue Thompson) had created a form to gather reports from the task forces as a substitute for minutes. It will be suggested that the form be filled out for each meeting by the task force chair or their designated transcriber, and copies sent to central PNDPCP office. The form will be emailed to task force chairs. Suggested edits included adding email and phone contact number for the transcriber so that the person entering information could contact him for questions. Ron Ramsey suggested the forms be reviewed by task force before submitting to the central board or office. Guidelines on the use of the form should be drafted and sent to chairs. Sue Thompson asked for suggestions to her by May 30th.

Stewardship – Blaine Puller reported that the task force met on April 13th at State College. Greg Eckert agreed to chair task force. They discussed task force composition and agreed to contact representatives from Bureau of Forestry and Game and Fish and Boat commissions as well as oil and gas interests and NRCS. They reviewed mission and priorities. The task force is working on gathering BMPs so they can be accessible in one location. Tasks 3,4,5,8,18 were adopted as a focus.

Science – Ann Rhoads reported for Michelle Cohen. The task force met on April 18 in Harrisburg. John Grehan agreed to chair and scheduled the next meeting for June 13th in State College. Issues and projects discussed included overlap with PABS, the status report on state biodiversity, coordination of inventories, and creating a database of inventory information. The group also committed to compiling a database on what other states are doing with biodiversity information and compilation, and an annotated bibliography of research on state biodiversity. There was discussion of overlap among task forces and a commitment to examine the Science Task Force composition at next meeting.

Public Relations – Richard Whiteford reported the group has not met as yet. Richard drafted a brochure for the partnership and needs input and review. Richard may need to step down as chair

due to his plan to relocate for employment reasons. Cindy Dunn suggested the brochure use images from Pennsylvania. Sue Thompson also expressed the need for a press release on the partnership. Bob Hill said DCNR could help with press release. Tom Ford inquired on how the brochure would be distributed. Bob Hill suggested the website could be starting place. The goal of setting up an office or hiring staff was discussed. Ron Ramsey asked about funding for the brochure, and Sue Thompson stated that large printings could be handled through DCNR currently.

Funding – Tom Ford reported that the task force met March 23rd and appointed Sara Nicholas as chair. They discussed missing partners for the task force, including industry representatives. They discussed the need for short-term and long-term budget and the role of committee as clearinghouse for proposals. The need to cultivate industry support and foundation support was discussed. The task force would like a succinct one-page draft proposal for the partnership to begin their work.

Bob Hill suggested Key 93 money could be source for some initiatives or goals. Tom Kerr mentioned PALTA might be used as model as they raised funds to hire a director recently from foundations, e.g. capacity building grant. The possibility of a Heinz grant was discussed. Sue Thompson reported that Caren Gtofely had requested a letter with a full proposal due in August for the September Heinz board meeting. The budget request may be in range of \$400,000 for a year. Budgets are needed from each task force for further grant writing. Sue Thompson will email task force chairs on deadlines for information.

Policy – The task force met on March 24 and May 4 and selected a chair, Ron Ramsey with Ron Freed as his alternate. They discussed gaps in membership, including agriculture, local government, hunting, etc. and reviewed action steps. The task force discussed strategies and focus and decided to interact with other task forces to start. The policy will derive out of work of other groups. The work of this task force should increase as others pick goals and after we find models from other state biodiversity conservation programs. Ron Freed discussed the need for a review of regulatory issues in other states and how funding works in other states. Ann Rhoads said the Science Task Force was mostly looking at technical and biological information tracking in other states, not regulations. It was recalled that at an earlier meeting Larry Schweiger had discussed the Wild Resource Conservation Fund Act and the need for it to be rewritten. The Board suggested that the Policy Task Force consider what needs to be done in the policy arena and evaluate agency policies as per biodiversity. Agencies may look to the Partnership for guidance on biodiversity issues or policies. The possibility of a Natural Diversity Coordinating Committee being established was discussed. Other suggestions made for the Policy Task Force were to examine state statutes, look for models in federal level, and work actively to be ready when agencies look for information.

Information – Joe Barnard reported that the task force had not met although email traffic has ensued. The group needs to identify their niche in the Partnership and the needs. Bob Hill said there is a need to link data among agencies, and there is a PSU report on this issue that he will send to Joe. Also, Ann R. suggested evaluation of how public gets information. Other needs included website access for Partnership membership and more information on the Partnership itself exchanged among members, such as email list and address list.

Education – Joan Clippinger reported that the group met on March 22nd. The task force would like to pursue research on what has been done on biodiversity education and materials. The Education Task Force has submitted a proposal for a Pennsylvania Team to the National Biodiversity Educational Leadership Institute as partnership among PNDP, Pennsylvania Dept. of Education, PABS, PP&L, and PCEE. Paulette Johnson took the lead on the proposal and the timeframe demanded a quick response. Funding is expected. Ann Rhoads raised the issue of the PABS Education Committee versus the Partnership task force and the need to define roles of each and perhaps expand membership to include more people. For the grant proposal team membership was defined, but the Partnership would take lead on the project with help from agencies and groups. Lack of some agency participation was raised as a concern, but Sue assured people that all members of Partnership are represented. The cost to the Partnership is estimated to be approximately \$200 and Sue Thompson will be team leader. The vote was tallied via email. Tom

Ford expressed interest that future proposals and budgets be required to be sent through the Funding Task Force prior to Board approval. Ron Freed made a motion to accept the draft proposal written by Paulette Johnson and Richard Whiteford seconded, with unanimous approval of motion.

ANNUAL MEETING

A team will meet after the Board meeting to discuss the annual meeting concept, including Blaine Puller, Sue Thompson, Richard Whiteford, Joan Clippinger, and Joe Barnard. The purpose of an annual meeting was raised. Sue suggested that the purpose may be to bring all Partnership members together. Blaine also expressed interest in seeing public outreach be a goal. Report card possible for 2001, not in 2000. Other options suggested included mini-BioBlitz, talks, a tour, canoeing, etc.

PABS AND PNDCP RELATIONSHIP

Ann Rhoads presented a comparison of PABS and the Partnership. Interests and activities do parallel, but not completely. There is overlap in membership and it is important not to duplicate. Ann expressed interest that the PNDCP broaden public involvement and support. Tom Kerr inquired are there other groups the Partnership overlaps? The group discussed this issue. Sue T. suggested we examine what is being done, and that PABS is taxon-based with a mission similar to a biological survey. Paulette Johnson noted that the education committee did have considerable overlap in people and focus and it was a dilemma at times.

BY-LAWS, ETC.

The first draft of bylaws was circulated for review, and will be topic of discussion at the June meeting. Incorporation of the group will require some paperwork and \$100 fee. Tom Kerr made a motion and Tom Pauley seconded that we incorporate (unanimously approved). Sue T. said she would take the lead on the paperwork. The Board will need to review the document before it is submitted. As we need to decide on the official name of the organization before incorporating, there was further discussion of the name, some believing it is fine as is, and others thinking it is too cumbersome. Is the word "Conservation" important to preserve? Some think yes. The Public Relations Task Force was urged to take up the matter. Tom K. moved and Paulette J. seconded a motion to give the PR Task Force this job with the charge that they submit a motion for a new name or keep the old name to the board before the end of the year.

Discussion of the bylaws ensued. Corporate members, voting rights, and the issue of board approval of new members were discussed. Please look over the bylaws draft and email comments Sue Thompson by the next meeting.

Also, for consideration at the next meeting is the issue of other groups to be invited to the Partnership. Bob Hill asked that we all review the make-up of Interim Board and make recommendations at next meeting.

Paulette Johnson moved to adjourn and Blaine seconded (unanimously passed).