

PENNSYLVANIA BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP
Board of Directors Meeting
26 May 2005
PA Fish & Boat Commission Headquarters, Harrisburg, PA

Attendees: Charles Bier, Tom Buzby, Lois DeMarco, John Dernbach, Tom Ford, Ken Klemow, Paulette Johnson, Doug Kuntz, Blaine Puller, Ron Stanley (for Sally Just), John Rawlins, Sue Thompson, Melody Zullinger. **Excused:** Julia Anastasio, Jacqui Bonomo, Michelle Cohen, Cliff David, Frank Felbaum, Tim Horner, Tom Kerr, K.C. Kim, Ben Moyer.

Chairman Paulette Johnson called the meeting to order and introduced new board members, Lois DeMarco (Allegheny National Forest) and Melody Zullinger (Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs as well as Ron Stanley, who is representing Sally Just. Secretary John Rawlins presented the minutes of the 18 Feb 2005, which passed unanimously with no discussion (motion by Tom Buzby, seconded by Doug Kuntz)

BOARD COMMITTEES

The Board Development Committee Chair Tom Buzby reported on the election by email of additional board members, Melody Zullinger and Keith Ashley (Pennsylvania Builders Association).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Sue Thompson reported on activities since the prior meeting, including relocating the PBP office to a larger space at the same address. She made presentation on PBP, biodiversity, and the Biodiversity Conservation Plan to the Society of American Foresters Allegheny Chapter Winter Meeting; The Wildlife Society Annual Conference; Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals Annual Conference; Penn State Forest Issues Conference, and the Pennsylvania Academy of Science Annual Meeting, where Ken Klemow and Charles Bier also made presentation on the biodiversity plan. She also attended the Tides Project Gathering in San Francisco (with financial support from Tides); DCNR Advisory Council meetings; Rare Plant Forum; Goddard Forum; Mid-Atlantic Data Node meeting; a tour of the Allegheny National Forest; and a Forest Certification Stakeholders meeting. Thompson completed her work on a review panel for the Environmental Protection Agencies Ecological Research Program. She submitted three abstracts to the Mid-Atlantic Highlands Biodiversity Conference plus proposals to DEP's Watershed Program and DEP's Environmental Education Grants Program.

Thompson passed out PBP notebooks, which she and Executive Administrator Merewyn Boak prepared for board members and task force chairs. These notebooks contain a diversity of information on PBP, current activities, plan development, and outreach.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Thompson presented the treasurer's report for Jacqui Bonomo noting that the differences in Professional Services and Printing between budgeted and spent was due to most of the money budgeted for finishing the plan, which will be expended in the final quarter of 2005.

TASK FORCE, AGENCY, AND OTHER PARTNER ACTIVITIES

Biodiversity Informatics Task Force – Chair Ken Klemow discussed the information needs survey, which was tested done at the PBP conference and the Pennsylvania Academy of Science meeting. Based on comments receive, the survey will modified before being circulated more widely. The PABIODIV listserv continues as a vigorous and active source of information with diversity of people submitting increasing. As moderator, Klemow still rejects a significant percentage of messages submitted. About half of the rejected messages will be edited and re-submitted. About 600 people are subscribed to PABIODIV. The task force is planning a survey of members. Both Thompson and Klemow attended the Mid-Atlantic Node meeting hosted by National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII). NBII has some funding available which Klemow will explore as support for the listserv or information needs survey.

Education Task Force – Johnson reported that the Pennsylvania supplement to Windows on the Wild is almost done. This publication will be sold through PBP and board members will receive a copy. Thompson has submitted proposals for funding to promote this publication.

Allegheny National Forest – Lois DeMarco updated attendees on the ANF forest plan revision and announced two upcoming workshops on 2 June and 4 June. The intent is to have the analysis and draft plan done by next January.

DCNR – Ron Stanley reported on the first Wild Resource Festival to be held on 4 June at Bald Eagle State Park. The program will cover a broad spectrum of biodiversity with activities for children, lay adults, and science topics.

Fish & Boat Commission – Tom Ford thanked attendees for cooperation with the fishing license increase. He also discussed the enabling legislation for Growing Greener II and how that will be important to PFBC as well as the proposed Three Rivers Ecological Center in Pittsburgh. PFBC Executive Director Doug Austen envisions this center as having a diversity of partners and allowing for informed management decisions to be made.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Co-sponsorship of Deer Seminars – PBP was invited to be a sponsor of a series of deer management seminars, sponsored by Audubon PA and others, throughout the state. These seminars result directly from recent report on deer in the state. In particular, that report discussed agency mergers and reorganizations. Ford and Zullinger expressed concern about PBP co-sponsorship given some of the political overtones in the report. There was consensus that PBP's concern for deer-related issues in Pennsylvania was not related to co-sponsorship for this seminar, and that respecting PBP's solidarity is more important than any advocacy (intended or not) that was implied by co-sponsorship. It was noted that several organizations belonging to PBP will be co-sponsors. A motion by Buzby called for a response letter from the President, affirming that PBP was on record for serious concern about deer-related issues, but that it declined co-sponsorship of the upcoming seminar. The motion was seconded by Rawlins and passed unanimously.

Biodiversity Conservation Plan Sponsorships – Thompson presented a draft for comment of sponsorship opportunities for the Biodiversity Conservation Plan as a means of raising funds to help implement the plan. This was well-received and there was discussion about circulation, modes, and methods for communication and advertisement. Thompson will proceed in conjunction with the Funding Task Force on preparing marketing packets for sponsorships.

PBP Funding and Status – Thompson presented an assessment of PBP remaining a project of the Tides Center, including a projected 2006 budget which showed a \$10,000 increase in the budget as a Tides project vs. contracting for the same services with other entities. The pro's and con's were listed and circulated. It was generally agreed that the transition to 501(3)c status, initiated early by PBP, should continue in preparation for filing, and as a necessary precursor to any separation from Tides. Thompson will further investigate board responsibilities and liabilities as a separate 501(c)(3). More explicit action on this topic is anticipated at the August meeting.

Blaine Puller moved to adjourn meeting, which was seconded by Doug Kuntz and passed unanimously.

Approved 25 August 2005