

PENNSYLVANIA NATURAL DIVERSITY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP
Interim Executive Board Meeting
28 June 2000
Harrisburg, PA

In attendance: Joe Barnard, Tom Buzby, Joan Clippinger, Tom Ford, Ron Freed, Bob Hill, Paulette Johnson, Tom Kerr, K. C. Kim, Ann Rhoads (minutes), Sue Thompson, Richard Whiteford, and Wilbur Wolf.

The meeting was called to order by Interim Executive Director, Sue Thompson. Minutes from the previous meeting were not available.

Sue distributed a draft directory of the PNDPC membership and requested input to complete listings of current participants in all the task forces. Sue also asked all task forces to send her a calendar of meeting dates and minutes as available.

Ann Rhoads and Tom Kerr volunteered to serve as Secretary and Treasurer respectively for the interim period.

Sue reported that she met with Andrew McElwaine of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council to discuss areas of common interest and possible overlap between PNDPC and PEC. She reported that the two groups should be able to work synergistically.

Funding – Tom Ford, reporting for the Funding Task Force, mentioned that a new proposal will be submitted to the Wild Resources Conservation Fund for operating expenses. A reimbursement policy is being worked on, but is not ready for discussion yet.

Sue Thompson presented an outline for the proposal to the Heinz Endowments, a parallel proposal will be submitted to the William Penn Foundation. The thrust is to develop background research or white papers for use in drafting the biodiversity strategic plan. All task forces are requested to submit proposals complete with cost estimates for components of this initial research to Sue by July 20. The Executive Board will evaluate and prioritize for inclusion in the proposal. Tom Ford recommended that Sue talk with Larry Williamson regarding a process for strategic plan development worked out by the Greenways Project that he felt would provide a good model.

Organization Name – Richard Whiteford, speaking for the Public Relations Task Force, expressed concern that the current name, *Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Conservation Partnership*, is cumbersome and unwieldy in both spoken and written communication. He suggested *Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership* as an alternative, however this recommendation failed to win acceptance by a majority of those present. Likewise a motion to retain the current name did not pass.

Concerns raised in the discussion were low public understanding of the word biodiversity, and threatening connotations attached to the word biodiversity. Bob Hill and others opined that the word biodiversity is becoming mainstream. Ron Freed suggested we should use the word in order to promote wider understanding. Some felt that conservation should not be dropped from the name. All agreed that the word partnership must stay and that Pennsylvania should be in the name. Other suggestions were *Pennsylvania Biodiversity Conservation Partnership* or *Pennsylvania Partnership for Nature*.

An *ad hoc* committee was formed to consider the name and associated logo and bring a recommendation back to the Executive Board. They were instructed to (1) define the purpose of the name, (2) list possibilities, and (3) get professional input from a PR firm, if possible. Committee members are T. Buzby, R. Hill, K.C. Kim, R. Whiteford, and S. Thompson.

Bylaws –There was extensive discussion of several aspects of the draft by-laws including Sec. 6.3 regarding an Advisory Committee. Sue explained that it was a way to involve supporters who might not be interested in participating in a task force. It needs to be made clear that there is no power associated with this committee. The distinction between members and participants was discussed. The corporation will not have members. There was discussion of procedures for electing members of the board of directors with some expressing the concern that the process specified in the draft bylaws would discourage broader participation because of the closed nature.

After further discussion of the draft bylaws, Sue was asked to incorporate recommended revisions, solicit other partnership members for any additional input/comments, and have them reviewed by legal counsel prior to presenting a third draft to the Executive Board.

Next meeting: 25 July 2000, Rachel Carson State Office Building, Harrisburg

Minutes recorded and submitted by Ann Rhoads with input from Tom Ford