

PENNSYLVANIA NATURAL DIVERSITY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP
Executive Board Meeting Minutes
25 July 2000
Harrisburg, PA

Board Members Present: Joe Barnard, Tom Buzby (also alternate for Blaine Puller), Joan Clippinger, Michelle Cohen, Cal DuBrock, Tom Ford, Ron Freed, Laurie Goodrich, Bob Hill, Paulette Johnson, Tom Kerr, K.C. Kim, Ron Ramsey (alternate for Randy Gray), Larry Schweiger, Sue Thompson, and Richard Whiteford. **Other Partnership Members Present:** Jacqui Bonomo, Josh First, and Sara Nicholas (minutes). **Board Members Excused:** Tom Pauley, Blaine Puller, Ann Rhoads, and Wilbur Wolf

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A small office for the Partnership had been established in the CCI Building in Pittsburgh's South Side with a telephone and fax number. This building houses several environmental organizations. The address and phone are: PNDPC, P.O. Box 60071, Pittsburgh, PA 15211-0671, telephone 412-431-4449, ext. 241, fax 412-431-4558.

Several new members have joined PNDPC, including Dr. Steve Tonsor, University of Pittsburgh Biology Dept. (Information Management); Lisa Williams, PA Fish & Boat Commission (Policy); Andrew McElwaine, PEC (Policy); Josh First, Conservation Fund (Policy). Task force chairs need to check lists of members and let Sue know of any errors or additions. She has e-mail lists available if anyone wishes copies.

DCNR policy coordinator Rick Carlson was given a copy of the draft bylaws to review and said that he would also ask DCNR's legal counsel office to review them.

A proposal for \$30,000 to WRCF was submitted in July and will be voted on in November at the public meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Minutes: Minutes of the last two executive board meetings, May 25 and June 28, were approved by unanimous votes.

Reimbursement Policy: The Funding Task Force presented its draft reimbursement policy for travel for members attending board and task force meetings. Sara and Tom F. described the policy as encouraging members to limit requests for reimbursement when possible, and limiting reimbursement to mileage (and pre-approved plane and train travel by the executive director) and out-of-pocket expenses, such as parking and tolls. Mileage will be reimbursed at the current federal rate for volunteer mileage reimbursement. Meals will not be reimbursed. The group approved the policy with no dissenting votes.

Executive Board Meetings: The group then discussed dates for the future executive board meetings, and a date and venue for the annual meeting. Executive board meeting dates were approved as follows: September 26, November 30, and January 23. All meetings will be held at the Rachel Carson building in Harrisburg, first floor conference room, 2-5 pm.

Annual Meeting: The group spent a great deal of time debating the purpose and timing of an annual meeting. Tom K. asked what the basic point of the annual meeting was to be. Jacqui asked whether the annual meeting should be a large, flashy event to get the general public excited and engaged in biodiversity issues. K.C. suggested there were two avenues to an annual meeting: to raise interest and visibility for the group and the issues and to strengthen the group internally.

Three options emerged from the discussion: (1) hold no meeting this year and instead concentrate on launching the Partnership; (2) hold a series of smaller regional meetings to recruit new task force members; or (3) hold a big annual meeting as a publicity event and Partnership meeting. A fourth suggestion to simply

write letters recruiting new members was added. Bob H. reminded the group that the original purposes for the annual meeting, as discussed during formulation of the Partnership, were to allow each task force to make a presentation on goals and accomplishments and present work plans for coming year and to present a "State of the State of Biodiversity in PA" report. The group took a vote, and option 1 - no annual meeting - was overwhelmingly approved; however, each option received some votes.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

Education: Joan reported that she, Paulette, and Sue planned to attend the National Biodiversity Education Leadership Institute in Orlando in August. Pennsylvania is sending a team of six members.

Fundraising: Sue led a discussion on the grant proposal that will be submitted to the Heinz Endowments to fund the development of a strategic plan for biodiversity in PA. Six steps were discussed as possible elements of a proposal:

- 1) inventory existing information and legislation
- 2) assess what other states are doing
- 3) produce documents
- 4) hold facilitated meetings across the state with invited stakeholders
- 5) hold regional and statewide public meetings
- 6) produce a final document

The group voted to write a proposal for one year of funding to include steps 1-3 only, and develop a three-year plan that included steps 1-6. The group discussed how to approach each step, and what staffing and budget were needed to do the first three steps. Sue agreed to pull the proposal together in the next few days with assistance from the Funding Task Force.