

**PENNSYLVANIA BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**25 August 2005**  
**PA Fish & Boat Commission Headquarters, Harrisburg, PA**

**Attendees:** Charles Bier, Jacqui Bonomo, Dan Brauning (for Cal DuBrock), Tom Buzby, Michelle Cohen, Cliff David, John Dernbach, Tom Ford, Tom Kerr, Ken Klemow, Paulette Johnson, Sally Just, Doug Kuntz, Ben Moyer, Blaine Puller, John Rawlins, Sue Thompson, Melody Zullinger. **Excused:** Julia Anastasio, Keith Ashley, Lois DeMarco, Frank Felbaum, Laurie Goodrich, Tim Horner, K.C. Kim, Andrew McElwaine. **Guests:** David Day (PFBC), Bob Pennel (PA Trout), Jeremy Valentine (PFSC).

Chairman Paulette Johnson called the meeting to order and introduced new board members, Cliff David (Heritage Conservancy) and Ben Moyer (Outdoor Writer) as well as Dan Brauning, who is representing Cal DuBrock. Secretary John Rawlins presented the minutes of the 26 May 2005 meeting, which passed unanimously with no discussion (motion by Tom Kerr, seconded by Blaine Puller). Tom Ford introduced Bob Pennel from Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited, who will lead the afternoon field trip to see diversion wells for stream deacidification.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Sue Thompson reported on activities since the prior meeting, including the activities of two volunteers in the PBP office, Chris Steffy and Jessica Barnabei. PBP exhibited at Ag Progress Days; the Wild Resources Conservation Program Festival; Timber 2005; and the BASS Outdoor Expo. PBP received over 6,000 visitors at Ag Progress Days and over 7,000 people at the BASS Outdoor Expo. Thompson was instrumental in working with Dick's Sporting Goods, which sponsored the exhibit space at the Outdoor Expo for six conservation non-profits (including PBP) as well as a stage where several other organizations made presentations.

Thompson attended an Allegheny National Forest Plan workshop; DCNR grants workshop; PA Biological Survey Steering Committee meeting; Nonprofit Marketplace; Pittsburgh Grantmakers Forum; and a short course on Boards and Fundraising. In June, she participated in the DCNR advisory council field trip to the Poconos. A proposal for funding for the listserve was submitted to the Wild Resource Conservation Program (WRCP) and Thompson also had discussions with Heinz Endowments staff about funding in 2006. Final reports were submitted to WRCP and the DEP Environmental Education Grants Program and a progress report was submitted to the Game Commission for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Title VIII grant.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Jacqui Bonomo presented the treasurer's report 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.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Discussion continued from the August meeting on leaving the Tides Center as a fiscal sponsor and seeking an independent 501(c)(3) status, including a discussion of board responsibilities and liabilities (with handouts on those topics). The question was raised of whether government employees can serve on non-profit boards. Thompson stated that Sue Wood, DCNR legal staff, assisted with the incorporation process and reviewed the bylaws, which list government employees as *ex officio* members of the board and that she made no comment on this provision. John Dernbach will check with DEP legal staff, and Sally Just and Tom Ford will also look into this. The motion that PBP actively pursue 501(c)(3) status, with the proviso that this activity be secondary to finishing the plan, was pass unanimously (motion by Cliff David, seconded by Melody Zullinger).

## **TASK FORCE, AGENCY, AND OTHER PARTNER ACTIVITIES**

***Biodiversity Informatics Task Force*** – Chair Ken Klemow proposed a policy change for the PA Biodiversity listserve (PABIODIV) requiring copyright permission for posting published newspaper articles. The reason for this proposed change was an incident in which a newspaper publisher stated that an article forwarded to PABIODIV was copyright material and could not be posted verbatim to the listserve. Dernbach commented that postings to PABIODIV should fall under the fair use exception to the copyright law. He will ask a copyright lawyer about this issue and Sally Just will ask DCNR legal staff. Others felt that a major concern is having an internal policy that the listserve moderator (Klemow at present) is comfortable with enforcing. After some discussion of the pros and cons, including the proviso that this issue could be brought up again in the near future depending on any legal opinions received, the motion passed (motion by Klemow, seconded by John Rawlins; 14 yes, 3 no, 2 abstentions.)

***DCNR*** – Sally Just reported on the first Wild Resource Conservation Program Festival at Bald Eagle State Park. Based on the positive reviews by participants, they decided to host an annual festival in different parks around the state. DCNR launched the online web system for environmental review and planning for projects that are less than two miles in extent.

***Fish & Boat Commission*** – Tom Ford presented the National Fish Habitat Initiative, a very broad national initiative to address aquatic habitat and improve biodiversity, and asked that PBP sign on as a partner (motion by Ford, second by Melody Zullinger). The motion passed with one abstention.

***Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs*** – Melody Zullinger informed those present that the PFSC convention is on 16-18 September.

***Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education*** – Paulette Johnson reported that she is no longer executive director of PCEE and that Slippery Rock University will begin a search to fill that position in September. PCEE submitted a proposal to WRCP to develop a natural history series and started work on doing an update of the public attitudes and knowledge survey that they conducted in 1999.

Tom Kerr moved to adjourn meeting, which passed unanimously. Over lunch, Bob Pennel gave an introduction to the afternoon field trip. Those going on the field trip visited limestone diversion wells on Rausch Creek in the headwaters of Stony Creek. These wells are maintained by Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited members and treat the water for acid mine drainage, thus enabling wild trout populations to exist in the lower reaches of the creek.

*approved 2 November 2005*