

PENNSYLVANIA BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP
Board of Directors Meeting
2 November 2005
Stackhouse School, Fisherman's Paradise, Bellefonte, PA

Attendees: Charles Bier, Jacqui Bonomo, Tom Buzby, Michelle Cohen, Cliff David, Tom Ford, Ken Klemow, Paulette Johnson, Paul Lyskava, Ben Moyer, Brad Myers (for PGC), Blaine Puller, John Rawlins, Sue Thompson. **Excused:** Lois DeMarco, John Dernbach, Frank Felbaum, Laurie Goodrich, Sally Just, Doug Kuntz, Tom Kerr.

WELCOME AND GENERAL BUSINESS

Chairman Paulette Johnson called the meeting to order and introduced Brad Myers, who is representing the Pennsylvania Game Commission. She also announced the resignation of K.C. Kim, due to other commitments, primarily with the International Peace Park in the Korean DMZ. Secretary John Rawlins presented the minutes of the 25 August 2005 meeting, which passed unanimously with no discussion (motion by Tom Buzby, seconded by Michelle Cohen).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Based on the vote at the August 2005 board meeting that PBP pursue a 501(c)(3) status, President Sue Thompson sent a letter to The Tides Center (PA) notifying them of PBP's intention to leave Tides with a projected date of fall 2006. She also had discussions with two organizations that provide a slate of back-office services to nonprofits. Thompson led a field trip for Paulette Johnson's class at Slippery Rock University and gave a presentation to the Allegheny Chapter of the Sierra Club. Merewyn Boak represented PBP with an exhibit at the Wild Outdoors Festival in Williamsport. Thompson also attended the organizational meeting of the Governor's Invasive Species Council. Boak attended a 2-day course in Access databases and created a membership database for PBP. Thompson asked for volunteers to help complete a survey on standards to be used for the pilot FSC certification assessment project of the Allegheny National Forest; Tom Ford, Paul Lyskava, Ben Moyer, Brad Myers, and Blaine Puller volunteered to review the standards and comment.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Jacqui Bonomo presented the treasurer's report noting that the differences in Professional Services and Printing between budgeted and actual spent as of 30 September 2005 was due to most of the money budgeted for finishing the plan, which will be expended later in 2005. She also presented the proposed operating budget for 2006, which includes a 5% salary increase for staff (Thompson has never had a raise and Boak's salary is at the minimum level allowed by federal law for exempt employees). After discussion about the proposed budget, the motion that the budget be accepted, with the caveat that no deficit spending occur, passed unanimously (motion by Buzby, seconded by Rawlins).

BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Buzby (chair) presented a fairly detailed written report on filling board vacancies, including delimitation of bylaw restrictions and requirements. Three current board members (Cohen, Johnson, and Andrew McElwaine) can be elected to another term and there are two vacancies to fill (K.C. Kim and Laurie Goodrich). Several names were suggested. The committee will continue efforts to fill positions and will bring forward nominees at the February board meeting.

TASK FORCE, AGENCY, AND OTHER PARTNER ACTIVITIES

Funding Task Force – Jacqui Bonomo, Funding Task Force Chair, presented the sponsorship flyer prepared by Thompson. Board members made several improvements, including adding PBP memberships as one of the premiums and changing the Forest Floor level to Seedling Layer.

Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education – Johnson reported that PCEE is in the process of hiring a new Executive Director and had conducted a national search. Applications are currently being reviewed.

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission – Tom Ford presented the proposed changes to regulations affecting amphibians and reptiles and asked for comments to be submitted by PBP. After much discussion about the appropriate PBP response, a motion was made (motion by Ben Moyer; seconded by Rawlins) that PBP should send a concise letter to PFBC stating that appropriate regulatory and protective action on these species should be taken with due consideration of current valid data on conservation status, demographic trends, and population viability (i.e., science-based decision making for conservation) without explicit recommendation for any given action. The motion passed unanimously. Thompson will draft a letter and circulate for email approval before sending. Individuals and PBP member organizations were encouraged to express their positions on this matter directly to PFBC before the 15 January 2006 deadline. Members asked that an update on this topic be put on the agenda for the February 2006 board meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Thompson circulated a schedule for gathering written materials for preparation of the final Biodiversity Conservation Plan and led a discussion on the strategy for releasing the plan, a timeline, and assignment of responsibilities for various stages of final plan production. Ken Klemow handed out the section on “Sharing Biodiversity Information,” which is in the final draft form. There was considerable discussion on how to have a rigorous, science-based tone in the plan without intimidating some of the general public. The consensus was that unlike *Snapshot 2002*, the audience for the plan is primarily stakeholders who are already involved in biodiversity conservation. The plan needs to be understandable to such volunteer organizations. There was a consensus of the need for an executive summary in addition to the full plan. As part of PBP’s continuing role, Buzby suggested that task forces create informational sheets on how to implement recommendations in the plan. It was also suggested that each task force select two to three highest priority recommendations as well as easy recommendations (e.g., “low-hanging fruit”) to prioritize for 2006 and indicate for each (1) the next steps, (2) estimated cost and potential funding sources, and (3) a list of major players/collaborators.

The next PBP board meeting was set for 8 February 2006 with additional dates for 2006 to be determined at that meeting. Buzby moved to adjourn (seconded by Cliff David); motion passed unanimously with no discussion.

approved 8 February 2006