

**PENNSYLVANIA BIODIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
4 December 2002
Days Inn, State College, PA**

Board Attendees: Bill Adams, Tom Buzby, Michelle Cohen, Cal DuBrock, Cindy Dunn, Frank Felbaum, Laurie Goodrich, Randy Gray, Paulette Johnson, Sally Just, Tom Kerr, K.C. Kim, Tom Pauley, John Rawlins, Tim Schaeffer, Dick Whiteford. **Others:** Michael Hampton, Sue Thompson and MaryLinda Gangewere.

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order and introduced Michael Hampton, Ecosystem Management and Planning Staff Officer of Allegheny National Forest.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tom Kerr gave the Treasurer's report for the period January 1 through October 30, 2002 showing total operating and program expenses of \$189,847.55 noting that the Partnership's cash flow is not reflected in the report. Sue Thompson responded that a clearly defined cash flow is complicated by grant reimbursable costs. The report was approved as submitted. The proposed basic operating budget of \$180,000 for 2003 was approved. Kerr noted that the PBP Board is an advisory board while the organization is a project of Tides Center of Western Pennsylvania. The PBP board will assume more oversight in financial matters when the organization is granted its own tax-exempt status.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Minutes of the July 18, 2002 meeting were approved as presented. Chairman Gray presented a slate of officers for 2003, noting that Ann Rhoads had resigned as a Board member. Paulette Johnson agreed to assume that position. Michael Hampton's name was submitted as a board member nominee. The slate of nominees, continuing board members, ex-officio directors and officers was approved as submitted.

The 2003 schedule of meeting was discussed. Suggested dates for 2003 are February 27 in Harrisburg, late May in Warren/Kane, September 18 in Harrisburg, and December 9 at a location to be determined in conjunction with the annual PBP meeting. Cal DuBrock requested that the annual meeting be moved from December to January since deer hunting season makes it difficult to participate.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Thompson gave a synopsis of her comments regarding the *Snapshot 2002* (the Report) made at the all-member meeting that morning. She asked for the board's comments on the PBP website and asked all board members to submit a brief biographical sketch to include on the website.

AGENCY REPORTS

DCNR – Sally Just reported that DCNR's Office of Biodiversity was created on December 2, 2002. There are six budget positions, three of them vacant. PNDI and the Wild Resource Conservation Fund are included in the office.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

Bioinformatics – Dessie Severson gave highlights of the task force meeting held that afternoon. The potential of the PBP website to collect data from various sources was discussed.

Education – Paulette Johnson distributed minutes of the joint meeting of the PBP Education Task Force and the PABS Education Committee on September 24, 2002 and gave an overview of the Pennsylvania Environmental Education Resource Directory, which contains a search mechanism for biodiversity education resources. She raised a question about the role of the Education Task Force in deciding which grants for PBP to pursue. Thompson responded that the role of the task forces is advisory and it is the PBP President's responsibility to successfully raise

money for PBP board-approved mandates. Jack Farster has agreed to serve as chair of the task force on an interim basis.

Funding – Cindy Dunn gave highlights of the joint Funding and Public Relations Task Forces meeting held that afternoon. Various levels of membership and dues were discussed, as well as the creation of a yet-to-be-named group for those contributing over \$2000. The board approved a motion to impose a dues structure. A membership brochure will be developed.

Stewardship – Thompson gave the report for Chair Jim Thorne and gave an overview of the task force meeting held that afternoon. The Best Management Practices (BMPs) are complete and will be the focus of the Task Force.

Public Relations – Frank Felbaum thanked the members for their input at the all-member PBP meeting that afternoon, especially for their suggestions for effective distribution of *Snapshot 2002*.

Science – Michelle Cohen reported that Charles Bier had agreed to chair the Science Task Force.

Policy – Gray announced that Tim Schaeffer has agreed to chair the Policy Task Force. Schaeffer suggested a conference call with all task force chairs. He announced that the Policy Task Force will review both *Snapshot 2002* and the original Environmental Law Institute report. The next meeting of the Task Force is January 24, 2003 when the members will identify both short-term action items, such as deer management, and long-term issues with input from the other task force chairs.

The board members approved the election of all Task Force chairs.

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION PLAN

Gray asked the members to remember that PBP is not working toward an end product at this time. The process currently in place will lead us to the necessary action steps.

Sue Thompson and MaryLinda Gangewere were excused from the meeting for the board's executive session regarding staff salary increases for 2003.

approved 27 February 2003