

**Minutes of the Mid Atlantic Regional
Partnership Committee Meeting**
Boiling Springs, PA
February 12, 2005

Attendance:

Voting Delegates: Ron Rosen (NYNJTC), Mike Kintner (WTC), Al Britton (Batona), Mike Mantes (AMC-DV), Paul Schubert (PTC), Scott Birchman (BMECC), Hal Wright (AHC), John Lenahan (SATC), Tim Schmidt (YHC), Tede Fleming (MCM), Frank Bohn (CVATC), Kerry Snow (PATC)

Alternates: Walt Daniels (NYNJTC), Bill Tinny (WTC), Dave Scheid (PTC), Barbara Wiemann (AHC), Dallas Owens (CVATC), ,

Others : ATC staff: Bob Proudman, Karen Lutz, Michelle Miller; NPS staff: Pam Underhill, Todd Remaley; ATC Board of Managers: Thyra Sperry

1. Introduction. Lutz convened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Each person introduced him or her self to the group by offering a short biographical sketch.

2. Purpose and Role of RPC. Lutz stated that this group is the first RPC to officially meet and asked what members saw as their vision for the group,, what their expectations were for the RPC, what the clubs could expect from the RPC, and what the clubs can contribute to the RPC?

Discussion:

Snow: want to make sure that volunteerism remains the primary force

Britton: we need to make people aware that the federal government, ATC, and the clubs are a partnership; we need to spread public awareness of the trail and expand the corridor; we need to become involved in political action

Owens: do we need to formalize these relationships?

Britton: we need to realize that other outdoor organizations are our allies

Proudman: we need to maintain good relations with like-minded organizations and look for natural alliances

Mantes: we need to educate club members about what ATC is and what it does

Sperry: Dick Martin has an email list of every conservation organization in country

Rosen: potential members and supporters have traditionally come from hiking clubs, but future members might come from other interests such as birders and botanists; we need to bring others in and broaden the scope of the RPC

Wiemann: the function of the RPC is to serve as a forum for sharing ideas and for learning from each other, to serve as a link between the clubs, ATC staff, and NPS, and facilitate three way communications

Wright: what do we mean by recreation? mountain bikes? ATVs? hunting?; I'm concerned about inappropriate use and enforcement; we need to reshape people's perceptions about wilderness versus backcountry; PRC representatives represent the clubs

Scheid: conservation is important; why does ATC have trouble aligning itself to other groups?

Owens: communications is critical; we need to define what resources will be needed

Underhill: the AT is a unit of the National Park system; we are totally committed to retaining volunteerism, the soul and essence of the trail; the trail faces constant onslaughts; is bureaucracy onerous or a layer of protection? enforcement is not the ultimate answer, communication is; the trail has 3-4 million users each year, but ATC has 30-35,000 members

Wright: its important not to "sell out" to commercialism

3. Bylaws. Bohn presented a draft version of proposed bylaws for the MARPC and asked for comments, additions, and corrections.

Section I discussion:

Daniels: the draft says that the RPC has no authority to set policy; it should say "except as delegated by Stewardship Council"

Britton: this is an advisory board

Snow: the issue is in not saying that we don't have authority, but rather we could accept authority; the document says "conference policy" and "club policy"

Sperry: will there be a need/ability to set policy for this committee only; for example, a policy to admit other organizations to this RPC?

Wright: I object to being a generic advisory body to ATC

Daniels: we should be aggressive in what we try to do and see what the Board of Directors will buy

Owens: policy without authority is fantasy

Wright: the RPC should recommend

The delegates conducted a series of votes on wording in the draft:

Section I:

- Voted 4 yea, 7 nay, 1 abstention to remove the words "as advisory body"
- Voted unanimously to change RPC to MARPC in the bylaws

Section II:

- Voted unanimously to remove the requirement that club representatives must have experience as a club officer or hold a leadership position (section II, 3rd sentence)
- Voted 7 yea, 5 nay to change the fifth sentence to "Representatives and alternates will be appointed for a term to be determined by each club"

Section III:

- Voted 6 yea, 5 nay, 1 abstention to remove the requirement that the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary must be from different clubs
- Voted 11 yea, 1 abstention, to change the term of officer to three years
- Voted to change the last sentence in the first paragraph to read "The Chair shall appoint a nominating committee to develop a ballot for these positions."
- Voted unanimously to add a sentence "The Committee may remove an individual from these roles by a vote of two-thirds of the member clubs."
- Voted 11 yea, 1 abstention, to limit an officer to two consecutive terms
- Voted 3 yea, 7 nay, 1 abstention to allow a Chair to be succeeded by someone else from the same club
- Voted to have the Vice Chair preside in the absence of the Chair, and assume the office of Chair in the event that the position becomes vacant
- Voted to have the Chair, in the event that an officer position becomes vacant, appoint a replacement with the approval of the RPC. The replacement officer will serve the remainder of the term.
- Voted unanimously to replace the word "roles" with "officers"
- Voted to require that the Secretary distribute draft minutes within four weeks after a RPC meeting
- Voted to change the word "members" to "representatives"
- Voted to require the Chair and Vice Chair to be representatives
- Voted 11 yea, 1 abstention, to remove the words "these representatives must be chosen from the membership" (referring to Stewardship Council representatives)

Section IV:

- Voted 11 yea, 1 abstention, to allow the Chair, if he/she is the only person present from his/her Club, to vote on behalf of their Club
- Voted to define RPC members as delegates and alternates
- Voted unanimously to delete the requirement that the RPC must, at each regular meeting, set the date for the next regular meeting
- Voted to combine the first two paragraphs of section IV
- Voted 8 yea, 2 nay, 2 abstentions, to strike the first sentence of section IV

The MARPC will function under Roberts Rules. The MARPC may declare an executive session. Guests may request or be invited to make presentations. The Chair may allow a public comment period.

The MARPC gave Bohn a round of applause in recognition of his efforts to develop the draft bylaws.

4. Officers. Sperry presented a draft statement of the responsibilities of the Chair. The MARPC accepted the document as a guideline, noting that this statement lists desirable characteristics for all members.

Should the secretary be a volunteer or staff member? Roberts dictates that only the outcome of any discussion needs to be recorded, but not the discussion. Wiemann noted that recording some discussion threads can be helpful for future reference and to understand the thought process involved.

5. Miscellaneous Issues

- A. RPC delegates should provide a report to their club at regularly scheduled club meetings.
- B. Constituencies include appropriate ATC staff, the Board of Directors, and the other RPCs.
- C. Delegates should check the RPC web site for information:
<http://www.nynjtc.org/ATC/MidAtlantic/>
- D. What information can the RPCs disseminate? What can be posted on club web sites? This needs to be discussed at the next meeting
- E. How does the RPC relate to state management committees?

6. Election of Officers

Chair: Kerry Snow

Vice Chair: Scott Birchman

Secretary: Barbara Wiemann

Nominations for MARPC member on Stewardship Council: Walt Daniels, Kerry Snow, Barbara Wiemann

7. Next meeting - the next meeting will be November 5, 2005, in Boiling Springs.

Compiled by Barbara Wiemann from notes taken by Karen Lutz,

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