

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA  
TWO HUNDRED TWENTIETH MEETING

Illinois Beach State Park, North Point Marina  
Winthrop Harbor Yacht Club  
701 North Point Road  
Winthrop Harbor, IL 60096

May 5, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

\*Documentary Material Enclosed

Item 1: Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

Item 2:\* Adoption of Agenda

Item 3:\* Approval of Minutes for the Special Meeting, January 26, 2015 and the 219<sup>th</sup> Meeting, January 27, 2015

Item 4: Next meeting date and location

September 15, 2015, 10 a.m.      Black Hawk State Historic Site, Rock Island, IL

Item 5:\* INPC Staff Report

REPORT  
Randy Heidorn and Valerie Njapa  
Nature Preserves Commission

Item 6: IDNR Staff Report

REPORT  
Ann Holtrop  
Department of Natural Resources

Item 7: Endangered Species Protection Board Staff Report

REPORT  
Anne Mankowski  
Endangered Species Protection Board

Item 8:\* Grundy County – Collins Station Prairie Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The proposed Collins Station Prairie Land and Water Reserve (LWR) is a 638-acre site, located approximately 4 miles east of Morris in Grundy County. It lies within the Grand Prairie Section and Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois. This site includes approximately 105 acres of mesic prairie, a part of which is recognized as a Category I Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI #0560). The proposed Land and Water Reserve also support a complex of wet/wet-mesic prairie and sedge meadow, approximately 156 acres in size. The site is owned and managed by the Illinois

Department of Natural Resources and includes portions of Heidecke Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area and Goose Lake Prairie State Park. The proposed Collins Station Prairie LWR is ½ mile west of the 1,628-acre Goose Lake Prairie Nature Preserve, which is the largest remnant prairie in Illinois, and is known for its grassland dependent birds. The addition of Collins Station Prairie to the larger Goose Lake Prairie complex will protect contiguous habitat for area-sensitive grassland bird species. Collins Station Prairie supports one Illinois endangered species, the eryngium stem borer (*Papaipema eryngii*), and two state threatened species, the one reptile and the red-veined prairie leafhopper (*Aflexia rubranura*). The proposed Collins Station Prairie LWR is located in the Midewin - Des Plaines - Goose Lake Prairie Macrosite Conservation Opportunity Area identified in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). Conservation of this important natural area is consistent with the goals of IWAP and supports action steps identified for the Prairie Campaign, Wetlands Campaign, and Invasive Species Campaign. Reserved rights and allowable uses include deer hunting, maintenance of an archery range, and the creation of a parking lot adjacent to the existing parking area.

REPORT  
Kim Roman  
Nature Preserves Commission  
Dan Kirk  
Department of Natural Resources

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Registration Approval

Item 9:\* Lee County – Amboy Marsh Sanctuary Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Illinois Audubon Society proposes to permanently protect approximately 287.02 acres as the Amboy Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve is located within the Green River Lowland Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (#1621) site, located in the Green River Lowland Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. This is a category II site that provides critical habitat for at least three state-threatened and endangered reptiles. Presently, the Amboy Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary is also documented to provide habitat for 27 faunal species listed in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan as being in Greatest Need of Conservation, as well as one state-threatened plant, pinweed (*Lechea intermedia*). The faunal species include thirteen birds (nine breeding), five reptiles, one mammal, and eight moths. An abundance of eolian sand dune deposits, located in close association with numerous wetlands, make this site an ideal breeding and nesting area for reptiles and amphibians. Historically, the Amboy Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary consisted of dry sand savanna, wet-mesic sand prairie, dry-mesic savanna, and wetland basins consisting of marsh, sedge meadow and wet-prairies. These communities still exist at Amboy Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary, but in degraded condition due to invasive woody vegetation and lack of fire disturbance. The site is located in what was once the largest grove of timber in Lee County. This is the first property within the Green River Lowland INAI site (#1621) to be proposed for dedication. Thanks to the Illinois Audubon Society, its members and volunteers, this dedication likely represents only a “first-step” in protecting what will someday be an even larger nature preserve and an incredible example of ecological restoration.

REPORT  
John Nelson  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 10:\* Marshall County – Fern Ridge Nature Preserve, Dedication

Maury Brucker and Emiko Yang seek preliminary approval for dedication of 3.25 acres within the Fern Ridge Natural Area (INAI# 1836) as the Fern Ridge Nature Preserve. Fern Ridge is located within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division along the Illinois River bluffs. The significant feature of this site is a large population of the state-threatened fibrous-rooted sedge (*Carex communis* Bailey), in which flowering and fruiting individuals have been documented. This population of several hundred clumps is one of only 18 that have been documented throughout the state. Natural communities at Fern Ridge are grade C and consist of dry-mesic upland forest, mesic upland forest, mesic floodplain forest, and an intermittent high-gradient small stream. Upland forests are dominated by species such as white oak (*Quercus alba*), red oak (*Q. rubra*), shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), and sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*). Floodplain forest species include bur oak (*Q. macrocarpa*), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), and American basswood (*Tilia americana*). Notable plants at Fern Ridge include several fern species, including the conservative silvery spleenwort (*Athyrium thelypteroides*); blue beech (*Carpinus caroliniana*); smooth forked aster (*Aster schreberi*); and ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*). The primary threat to this site is invasion by non-native species, which the landowners have already addressed. The Illinois Wildlife Action Plan would be supported by this dedication through the Forest, Land and Water Stewardship, and Invasive Species campaigns.

REPORT

Tom Lerczak  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 11:\* Kane County – Addition to Freeman Kame Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Forest Preserve District of Kane County seeks final approval for dedication of a 101.9-acre addition (referred to as the Ed Meagher Savanna and Sedge Meadow) to Freeman Kame Nature Preserve that consists of a nature preserve addition (67.5 acres) and a nature preserve buffer addition (34.4 acres). The Commission granted preliminary approval for dedication of a 96-acre addition to Freeman Kame at its 200<sup>th</sup> Meeting in October 2008 (Resolution No. 2012). Freeman Kame Nature Preserve (35 acres) and the proposed addition (101.9 acres) are located within the larger 442.7-acre Freeman Kame-Meagher Forest Preserve owned by the Forest Preserve District of Kane County. Freeman Kame Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in Kane County, Illinois. The proposed addition includes high-quality (Grade B) sedge meadow and dry-mesic savanna, Grade C dry-mesic forest, Grade C freshwater marsh and Grade C or D mesic prairie. Surveys reveal the presence of five State-listed plant and animal species within Freeman Kame Nature Preserve and the proposed addition: including purple-flowering raspberry (*Rubus odoratus*), bog-panicled sedge (*Carex diandra*), buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) and a reptile. Protection of the proposed addition supports elements of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan; specifically action steps to restore and manage high-quality wetland communities and five wildlife species listed in that Plan as species in “greatest need of conservation”. Those species include the Dion skipper (*Euphyes dion*), broad-winged skipper (*Poanes viator*), sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*), northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), and a reptile.

Dedication of the proposed addition will increase the size of Freeman Kame Nature Preserve from 35.0 to 136.9 acres.

REPORT  
Steve Byers  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 12:\* Lake County – Addition to Hybernia Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Hybernia Area Homeowners Association seeks final approval for dedication of an addition to Hybernia Nature Preserve that includes three separate lots (totaling 0.533 acres) and a vacated portion of Cardinal Lane (totaling 0.43 acres). These parcels were granted preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission's 217<sup>th</sup> Meeting in May 2014 (Resolution No. 2290). At that time the three lots were owned by Georgene Gullicksen, A.P. Properties, and The Goldie House Trust, respectively. The lots have now been conveyed to the Hybernia Area Homeowners Association. The proposed addition consists of Grade C wet-mesic prairie and Grade C sedge meadow and is surrounded by Hybernia Nature Preserve and the Hybernia - Highmoor Prairie INAI site (INAI No. 1235). Hybernia Nature Preserve and the proposed addition support populations of the State-threatened small sundrops (*Oenothera perennis*) and a federally-listed species. Hybernia Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southeastern Lake County, Illinois. Protection and management of the proposed nature preserve addition to Hybernia Nature Preserve will eliminate threats posed by these in-holdings and represents good preserve design. Dedication of this addition supports elements of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan; specifically action items to improve the condition of existing natural wetlands, and restoring and enhancing acreage for rare/extirpated species and native plant communities. Formal dedication of this addition (0.963 acres) will increase the size of Hybernia Nature Preserve from 27.46 to 28.323 acres. The Commission thanks the long-term interest and support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and most notably the Hybernia Area Homeowners Association for their protection and stewardship of Hybernia Nature Preserve.

REPORT  
Steve Byers  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 13: Cook Co. – Busse Dam Modification, Busse Forest Nature Preserve

Elk Grove Village proposes to modify a fixed concrete dam on Salt Creek to alleviate downstream flooding during storm events. Busse Forest Nature Preserve lies approximately 8,500 feet upstream of the dam. The 440-acre site, owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC), is recognized on the INAI (#0534) due to the presence of dry-mesic upland forest, mesic upland forest, freshwater marsh, northern flatwoods, and shrub swamp natural communities harboring nine state-listed species. The original dam installation in the vicinity of Busse Forest Nature Preserve was discussed by Commissioners on twelve occasions between January 1969 (24<sup>th</sup> Meeting) and October

1973 (49<sup>th</sup> Meeting). At the 49<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the Commission affirmed the FPDCC's opinion and approved the permanent inundation of 17.4 acres of formerly cultivated meadow and woodland of Busse Forest Nature Preserve (Resolution 310). The dam was constructed in 1975. In 2004, the Commission began deliberations (182<sup>nd</sup>, 186<sup>th</sup>, 187<sup>th</sup>, and 188<sup>th</sup> Meetings) on a proposed modification to the dam in the form of an inflatable rubber bladder that would restrict water flow out of the Busse Reservoir during heavy rain events thereby reducing flood damage downstream. At the 188<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the Commission approved the dam modification subject to operational conditions contained in an Applied Ecological Services (AES) report, including a Proposed Decision Matrix (outlining acceptable storm event inundation elevations and durations during periods crucial to plant growth and reproduction); approval of the modification by the landowner, FPDCC; and written acknowledgement by the project sponsor, the DuPage County Board, that a fine would be assessed for each day that the approved AES recommendations were violated (Resolution 1852). The funding for this dam modification was never realized. Now, Elk Grove Village through its consultant, Wills Burke Kelsey Associates, Ltd. (WBK), proposes replacing the fixed concrete weir with a pair of hinged gates that can be lowered and raised to take advantage of the flood storage availability in the Busse Reservoir. The goal of the current proposal is to provide additional flood mitigation without inundating Busse Forest Nature Preserve either more frequently or for a greater duration. At the request of the INPC, WBK performed a comparative analysis of the current proposal within the previously approved AES Decision Matrix. This analysis exhibited an overall reduction in the inundation duration at the Decision Matrix-prescribed storm event elevations. This information was presented at the 215<sup>th</sup> meeting. Commissioners refrained from endorsement of the proposed dam modification until several conditions be met including an Intergovernmental Agreement providing assurances of the operational responsibilities. Elk Grove Village has met the requested conditions and is requesting final INPC approval for the proposed dam modifications with the hope of construction beginning in August 2015.

**REPORT**

John Wills, Wills Burke Kelsey Associates, Ltd.  
 Ken Jay, Elk Grove Village  
 Brian Karczewski, Stantec  
 Kelly Neal, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Approval of Dam Modification

Item 14: Draft 2015-2020 Strategic Plan

A draft INPC 2015-2020 Strategic Plan for was prepared based on the results of staff SWOT analysis, INPC Special Meeting on January 26, 2015, the 219<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the INPC and INPC Staff preparation of objectives. Comments are being requested from Commissioners, Advisors and consultants to the Commission, and INPC and IDNR staff. Once comments are collated and addressed, a final draft will be presented to the Commission for approval. The target date for that will be the 221<sup>st</sup> meeting of the INPC in September 2015.

**REPORT**

Randy Heidorn  
 Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Discussion only no final decision anticipated

Item 15: Review of Closed meeting minutes

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Commissioners must review closed minutes at least twice a year to determine if they must still remain closed. The following meetings had closed minutes and need to be reviewed: August 2, 2005; May 2, 2006; May 6, 2008; May 5, 2009; May 7, 2013; and September 10, 2013.

REPORT

Randy Heidorn  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Determination if closed minutes remain closed

Item 16: FY 2015 and 2016 NAAF Defense Program

Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF) capital appropriation for Defense in FY2011 through FY2012 included \$225,000 each and \$250,000 in FY2013 through 2015 to fund contractual natural area defense activities needed on properties included in one of the INPC's protection programs. NAAF defense projects that were begun in years prior to FY2015 and continued or completed during FY2015 include: funding the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) to collect and review groundwater data needed to assess impacts of proposed off-site development, threats or damages, prepare Class III Special Resource Groundwater petitions to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for INPC program sites and provide groundwater consulting services for the INPC staff. In FY 2015, a new contract has been proposed to continue the current monitoring at sites. This current proposal is for continuing monitoring at several INPC protected sites. We are also awaiting a contract proposal for some additional Class III delineations from the ISGS. The Plants of Concern Project, coordinated by the Chicago Botanic Garden is being funded at \$14,000. In FY2016 \$250,000 may be available for allocation to defense from this year's appropriation. Specific projects will be selected as needed but will likely include a continuation of the aforementioned groundwater data and consultation services at some level. In addition we are planning on using this source of funding to collect status information on resources within the preserves and reserves to improve INPC's ability to monitor the status resources prior to threats occurring up to \$50,000. Specific projects funded during FY2016 will be reported in May, 2016.

REPORT

Randy Heidorn  
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval of approach for FY 2016 NAAF Defense Program.

Item 17: FY 2016 NAAF Land Acquisition Program

The Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF) is administered by the IDNR with review and recommendations of specific land acquisition projects by the INPC. Since last year's report, NAAF expended just over \$560,000 to add 3 parcels totaling slightly more than 160 acres to the states portfolio of natural areas. The IDNR has option contracts on another four parcels totaling 2205 acres with an anticipated cost of around \$1,500,000. As of April 20th, 2015 the state budget has not been approved, the capitol budget for land acquisition from NAAF has not been established and a final decision on the amount of funds to be used for land acquisition in FY16 has not been made. It is anticipated however, that the NAAF Fund

should sustain an anticipated target of \$1,000,000 in additional land acquisition expenditures. Therefore, as some parcels have been on the list for several years with some work in progress, the proposed FY16 list is recycled from the viable remainders of the FY13, FY14 and FY15 lists. All of these projects have been approved previously by the INPC. This combined list contains eleven parcels totaling around 3,900 acres at an anticipated cost of almost \$10,000,000. If additional parcels receive favorable regional review they will be brought before the Commission at a later date. The INPC is asked to review and approve a larger list than there is funding for because matching monies will be sought to stretch NAAF dollars and negotiations with some landowners will not be successful. All of the proposed parcels are 1) identified Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites or, 2) buffer a Nature Preserve or Land and Water Reserve owned by the IDNR or, 3) provide habitat for endangered and threatened species of animals or plants.

REPORT  
John Wilker  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Approval of FY 2016 NAAF Land  
Acquisition Program.

Item 18: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Item 19: Other Business

Items may be discussed, but no final action may occur for items not previously included on the agenda.

Item 20: Adjournment