

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA
TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-SIXTH MEETING

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702

September 15, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
WebEx meeting due to Covid-19 pandemic

*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 21, 2020
Approval of Minutes for the 234th Meeting, January 22, 2020**

Item 4: Next meeting dates and locations

January 25, 2021	Special Meeting – Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, IL
January 26, 2021	237 th Meeting - Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, IL
May 11, 2021	238 th Meeting - Starved Rock State Park Lodge, Oglesby, IL
September 14, 2021	239 th Meeting - Olney Central College, Olney, IL

Item 5:* INPC Staff Report

REPORT
Valerie Njapa
Nature Preserves Commission

REPORT
Matt Evans, President
Friends of the Illinois Nature Preserves

Item 6:* IDNR Staff Report

REPORT
Ann Marie Holtrop
Division of Natural Heritage

Item 7: Endangered Species Protection Board Report

REPORT
Joyce Hofmann
Endangered Species Protection Board

Item 8: Committee of the Whole Meeting to propose nominations for Illinois Nature Preserves Commission Advisors, Consultants and Officers (Committee Chair: Dave Thomas)

A. Nomination of Advisors

Current Advisors:

Colleen Callahan IL Dept. of Natural Resources (Statutory Advisor)	Dr. Eric M. Schauber IL Natural History Survey (Statutory Advisor)	Robert Sill IL State Museum (Statutory Advisor)
Joyce Hofmann IL Endangered Species Protection Board	Dr. Thomas Emerson IL State Archaeological Survey	Mike Norris IL Dept. of Natural Resources Office of Historic Preservation
Richard C. Berg IL State Geological Survey	Dr. Kevin O'Brien IL Sustainable Technology Center	Mark Ryan Prairie Research Institute

B. Nomination of Consultants

Current Consultants:

Gerald Adelman	Jill Allread	Randy Heidorn
Harry Drucker	Fran Harty	Jill Riddell
Jim Herkert	Kerry Leigh	Joseph Roth
Lauren Rosenthal	Bruce Ross-Shannon	John White
John Schwegman	Michelle Carr	

C. Nomination of Officers

Current Officers:

Chair: George Covington
 Vice Chair: Abigail Derby Lewis
 Secretary: Pen DauBach

Item 9:* Cook Co. – Bergman Slough Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC) seeks to register a 281-acre site located immediately adjacent to Cap Sauers Holding Nature Preserve in southwest suburban Palos Park. The Forest Preserves of Cook County owns and manages Bergman Slough Forest Preserve which lies in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division of Illinois. The 281-acre site was variously disturbed for agriculture (including drain tiling) prior to a large-scale prairie and savanna restoration project circa 2001-2009. The site supports the state-threatened eared false foxglove (*Tomanthera auriculata*, synonym *Agalinis auriculata*) and the state-endangered osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). Additionally, 21 wildlife Species in Greatest Need of Conservation (SGNC) breed and/or forage here, including 9 grassland and savanna bird species sensitive to habitat fragmentation. Bergman Slough Forest Preserve is a key conservation holding in the Palos-Sag Valley Forest Preserve Complex and helps buffer the adjacent nature preserve. Bergman Slough Forest Preserve is open to the public, and its uses and management will be consistent with the long-term preservation of the site's natural resources. Registration of Bergman Slough Forest Preserve as a land and water reserve supports the significant restoration efforts invested and provides protection for this important preserve in perpetuity. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the FPCC and INPC staff that registration of Bergman Slough Land and Water Reserve be approved by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.

REPORT
Kim Roman
Nature Preserves Commission
Kristin Pink
Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC)

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval for Registration

Item 10:* Effingham Co. – Ballard Nature Center Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The Ballard Nature Center Board of Directors seeks to permanently register 83.5 acres of forest in Mound Township of Effingham County as the Ballard Nature Center Land and Water Reserve. The reserve is located in the Effingham Plain Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division of Illinois. The reserve consists of 65 acres of Grade C dry-mesic forest, 10.5 acres of Grade C mesic floodplain forest, a small 2.5-acre wetland reconstruction and 5.5 acres of a tree planting previously enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. The Ballard Nature Center Land and Water Reserve is significant primarily because it supports an usual concentration of reptiles and amphibians, supporting 24 species of herptiles. The reserve also supports twelve species listed as Species in Greatest Need of Conservation (SGNC). In addition, there have been seven state-threatened or endangered species found in habitats directly adjacent to the reserve, as well as an additional 15 SGNC.

REPORT
Sami Childerson
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval for Registration

Item 11:* Jo Daviess Co. – Townsend Glade Addition to Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The Natural Land Institute (NLI) proposes permanent registration of 147.74 acres as the Townsend Glade Addition to Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve. The Townsend Glade Addition will provide important buffer to help protect high-quality natural features found within the existing Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve (406.1-acres) and Apple River Canyon Nature Preserve (442.1-acres). The Apple River Canyon was listed on the original Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) in 1977 in recognition of its unique geology, high-quality natural communities, and numerous state-listed plant and animal species (INAI # 1069). The canyon also contains scenic bluffs rising from 100 to 150 feet above the Apple River with deep ravines running back from the main gorge. Cold water seeps and springs help create a cool micro-climate that allows aboreal plant species to persist here in spite of changing climatic conditions. The wide-ranging diversity of habitats, coupled with the unique geologic history of the canyon, makes this natural area one of the most botanically rich places in Illinois. The Townsend Glade Addition contains unique cliff communities included on the INAI. It is also documented to support local populations of at least three state-listed threatened or endangered plant species; cliff goldenrod (*Solidago sciaphila* ST), sullivantia (*Sullivantia sullivantia* ST), and white camass (*Zigadenus elegans* SE). The Townsend Glade Addition is primarily forested (~60-acres) with tillable lands that will be planted to trees as part of a comprehensive site management plan (~40-acres). The remaining land consists of cedar groves, open woodlands, and a small portion of the Apple River and associated floodplain. If approved, the proposed Townsend Glade Addition will increase the total acreage of the Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve from 406.1 acres to 555.16 acres. The NLI Townsend Glade Addition represents yet another fine example of the strong public-private partnership that has been working to protect this unique natural area since the first land acquisition in 1932. INPC staff recommends approval.

REPORT
John C. Nelson
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval for Registration

Item 12:* Will Co. – Lily Cache Prairie Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Lily Cache Prairie is a 34-acre site, owned and managed by Don and Espie Nelson. It contains patches of remnant prairie and wetland communities, prairie plantings, and more than a 2200-foot stretch of Lily Cache Creek, a perennial stream. The 34-acre prairie is located in Plainfield, within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois. It lies south of Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve and provides important nearby foraging habitat for the herons and egrets which nest at Lake Renwick. It also harbors an extant population of the state-endangered northern corn salad (*Valerianella umbilicata*), as well as introduced populations of other state-listed plant species. The Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC) holds a permanent conservation easement on the site and will eventually hold fee simple title to the property. Don and Espie Nelson wish to have their land recognized in the Illinois Nature Preserves System, and permanently protected as a land and water reserve prior to transferring the land to the FPDWC. The permanent registration of Lily Cache Prairie as an Illinois land and water reserve will act as buffer to the nearby Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve, provide foraging habitat for the birds which nest within the rookery, and protect habitat for the state-endangered northern corn salad. It is therefore recommended by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission field staff that Lily Cache Prairie be registered in perpetuity as an Illinois land and water reserve.

REPORT
Kim Roman
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval for Registration

Item 13:* Bureau Co. – Daisy Hill Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The proposed Daisy Hill Prairie Nature Preserve consists of a very small, but very rare glacial drift hill prairie natural community, lying within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois. This natural community was evaluated in 2010 and later added to the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI #1824) as a Category I site for presence of Grade B and C Glacial Drift Hill Prairie natural communities. This relict natural area is currently owned by two adjacent landowners: Hungry World Farm and the Uher family. This proposal presents for consideration the dedication of both landowner parcels to establish the Daisy Hill Prairie Nature Preserve. If each landowner executes dedication of their respective parcel, the resulting nature preserve will be 2.34 acres in size.

It is important to note that Daisy Hill Prairie is located within the right-of-way of a Commonwealth Edison high voltage electric utility corridor. It is remarkable that this prairie persists in such high-quality condition given its circumstances, but poor soil, a steep slope, and a remote location prevented its conversion to farm land. And surprisingly, the utility easement and periodic brush/tree clearing has helped this relict prairie survive as well. While very small at just 0.584 acres, this relict prairie represents one of only a few remaining unprotected high-quality Glacial Drift Hill Prairies in Illinois. It is considered an irreplaceable natural resource of statewide significance.

The staff of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and Illinois Department of Natural Resources recommend dedication of approximately 2.34 acres as the Daisy Hill Prairie Nature Preserve and Uher

Family Addition. Dedication of this relict prairie will provide the best means available to ensure this INAI site is protected and survives long into the future.

REPORT
John C. Nelson
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 14:* Champaign Co. – Charlotte and Dan Brady Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

The proposed Charlotte and Dan Brady Woods Nature Preserve (NP) is a ~20-acre property located along the Sangamon River about 4.5 miles southwest of the Village of Mahomet in Champaign County, lying within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois. It protects a biologically diverse stretch of the Sangamon River and associated forest. In 2014, the land was gifted to the Land Conservation Foundation (LCF), a not-for-profit, charitable conservation organization and land trust, by Charlotte and Dan Brady of Seymour, Illinois, for protection and conservation purposes. The property is adjacent to the Piatt County Forest Preserve District's 60-acre Sangamon River Park. These sites are part of a growing network of protected land along the Sangamon River corridor in Champaign and Piatt Counties. The Charlotte and Dan Brady Woods qualifies as a nature preserve because it protects both sides of a ~900 ft. reach of the Sangamon River. The Sangamon River, for the river's entire length in Piatt and Champaign Counties, is recognized by the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI #1449) for outstanding aquatic resources, especially freshwater mussels. This stretch of the Sangamon River provides important habitat for a relatively high diversity of mussels and state listed species including the state-threatened mussels slippershell (*Alasmidonta viridis*) and spike (*Elliptio dialata*) and state-endangered salamander mussel (*Simpsonaias ambigua*). There are over a dozen species of mussels recorded from this stretch of river. This is noteworthy as freshwater mussels are considered to be the most endangered group of species in North America. This stretch of the Sangamon River also protects habitat for populations of the state-threatened mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*), an aquatic salamander that occurs in the vicinity of the preserve. The Charlotte and Dan Brady Woods also protects bottomland forest that contributes to the high natural quality of the river by buffering the channel and reducing runoff and sediments entering the river. It also supports a small great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) rookery. This site is one of 19 protected natural areas that, when taken together, preserve over 17 miles of the Sangamon River and over 5075 acres of forest and other natural land along the Sangamon River corridor in Piatt and Champaign Counties.

REPORT
John Griesbaum
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 15:* Lake Co. – Broberg Marsh Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Lake County Forest Preserve District proposes to dedicate 362 acres of the 2835.1-acre Lakewood Forest Preserve as the Broberg Marsh Nature Preserve. This proposed nature preserve lies within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division of Illinois. There are two existing nature preserves located within Lakewood Forest Preserve: Wauconda Bog Nature Preserve, consisting of approximately 68 acres, dedicated in 1970; and McLean Woods and Wetlands Nature Preserve with approximately 532 acres of protected land, dedicated in 2012. The proposed Broberg Marsh Nature Preserve would increase the amount of State protected land within Lakewood Forest Preserve from 600 acres to 962 acres. Broberg Marsh is recognized on the Illinois Natural Areas

Inventory as part of the Wauconda Bog (INAI Site # 1002). It is listed on the INAI as a Category I, II, and III site. The proposed Broberg Marsh Nature Preserve includes a mosaic of Grade B/C freshwater marsh and community reconstructions of savanna, wetland, and prairie. Broberg Marsh and associated wetlands are known to support a large assemblage of native wetland birds, one of the largest in Lake County. Previous investigations have even led researchers to comment that Broberg Marsh is one of the highest quality wetland bird habitats in Northeastern Illinois.

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission staff and staff of the Lake County Forest Preserve District recommend dedication of 362 acres of the Lakewood Forest Preserve as the Broberg Marsh Nature Preserve.

REPORT
Jim Anderson
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 16:* Cook Co. – Elizabeth Conkey Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Forest Preserves of Cook County owns the 240-acre Elizabeth Conkey Woods, and wishes to dedicate 180 acres in perpetuity as the Elizabeth Conkey Woods Nature Preserve. This site is found near Palos Heights in southwest Cook County, and it straddles the Chicago Lake Plain and Morainal Sections of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division of Illinois. Elizabeth Conkey Woods contains one of the region’s most important archaeological sites, the Huber site, which contains examples of human habitation dating back 10,000 years, including important cultural resources from the Huber Phase, the time of earliest contact between native peoples and European trappers/traders. Additionally, Elizabeth Conkey Woods encompasses mesic woodlands, mesic floodplain forest, and a creek containing seven species identified in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan. It is connected to an additional 3,500 acres of the Forest Preserve’s lands, including an extensive band of woodlands and forest along the banks of Tinley Creek. Preliminary dedication of this site was conferred by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission during its 234th meeting on January 22, 2020 (Resolution 2485). Final dedication of this site as a nature preserve will help ensure the protection of the vital cultural and natural resources contained within its boundaries for future generations.

REPORT
Kim Roman
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 17:* Kankakee Co. – Guiding Star Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) owns and manages a portion of Guiding Star Savanna Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI #974) and wishes to dedicate 82.5 acres of it in perpetuity as the Guiding Star Savanna Nature Preserve. Guiding Star Savanna, located in Kankakee County and lying in the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois, is recognized on the INAI for its high-quality dry and dry-mesic sand savanna. It is also known to provide habitat for the state-threatened regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria regalia*). Dedication of this natural area promotes the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan by targeting conservation efforts on habitat for the red-headed woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) and other wildlife Species in Greatest Need of Conservation (SGNC). It is also located in the Kankakee Sands Conservation Opportunity Area and lies in close proximity to many other high-quality natural areas. Guiding Star Savanna INAI site is one of the best quality natural areas in the State of Illinois, and is a key conservation holding in the

Kankakee Sands. Preliminary approval for dedication was conferred by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission during its 234th meeting on January 22, 2020 (Resolution 2487). Final dedication of this important site as a nature preserve will help ensure its natural character is protected and managed for future generations.

REPORT
Kim Roman
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 18:* Lake Co. – Addition to Gavin Bog and Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) seeks final approval for dedication of 283.8 acres, which includes 4.6 acres as nature preserve addition and 279.2 acres as nature preserve buffer addition, all lying within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division of Illinois. The proposed additions will increase the size of the existing Gavin Bog and Prairie Nature Preserve (Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Site #0794) from 137 acres to 420.8 acres. The existing Gavin Bog and Prairie Nature Preserve and proposed additions include a mosaic of Grade B shrub bog, Grade C tall shrub bog, Grade B and C forested bog, Grade C with pockets of Grade B sedge meadow, Grade B wet prairie, Grade B to C mesic prairie and Grade C mesic oak savanna. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission granted preliminary approval for this dedication at its 233rd meeting (Resolution 2474). Staff recommends final approval.

REPORT
Jim Anderson
Lake County Forest Preserve District

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 19:* Lake Co. – Sturm Woods Buffer Addition to Wright Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

William and Angelica Sturm seek final approval for dedication of approximately 4.8 acres as the Sturm Woods Buffer Addition to Wright Woods Nature Preserve. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission granted preliminary approval for this dedication at its 234th meeting (Resolution 2488). Since that time, a slight boundary adjustment was made to remove a portion of the Sturm’s residential driveway which constituted a “flag lot”. The result was a reduction in dedicated land from ~5 acres to ~4.8 acres. The instrument of dedication also includes added language referencing reserved rights presented in the proposal for dedication. The Sturm Woods Buffer Addition, located within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division of Illinois, will increase the size of Wright Woods Nature Preserve from 287.8 to 292.6 acres. INPC staff look forward to working with Angelica (Gail) and William (Bill) Sturm to manage and protect their buffer addition to Wright Woods Nature Preserve. INPC staff recommends approval.

REPORT
John C. Nelson
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 20:* Lee Co. – John Husar Memorial Addition to Franklin Creek Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) seeks final approval to dedicate 62.8 acres as the John Husar Memorial Addition to Franklin Creek Nature Preserve. This site lies within the Oregon

Section of the Rock River Hill Country Natural Division of Illinois. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) granted preliminary approval for this dedication at its 234th meeting (Resolution 2489). Both the existing Franklin Creek Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located within the 945-acre Franklin Creek State Natural Area owned and managed by the IDNR. The proposed addition is eligible for dedication due to its designation as part of the Franklin Creek Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) Site (#1068) as a Category II due to the presence of State-listed plant species, Category III due to the prior Franklin Creek Nature Preserve dedication, and Category IV due to the presence of outstanding geological features. This INAI site consists of moderate quality dry-mesic and mesic upland forest, wet-mesic floodplain forest, forested seep, dry dolomite prairie, and cliff communities. The proposed addition has natural areas of similar quality to those found in the existing nature preserve. If approved, this addition to Franklin Creek Nature Preserve will bring the total acreage of protected land at this site to 260.1 acres. It is recommended by staff of the INPC and IDNR that this 62.8-acre parcel be granted final approval for dedication.

REPORT
John C. Nelson
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 21*: Monroe Co. – Addition to Storment Hauss Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Storment Hauss Nature Preserve is a 64.5-acre site in Monroe County dedicated March 1, 2002 (Resolution 1641). The site includes all of the Storment Hauss Woods Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI #1617) and lies within the Northern Section of the Ozark Natural Division and the Mt. Vernon Hill Country Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division of Illinois. The site is listed on the INAI as a Category I for high-quality upland forest and Category VI for the presence of snake hibernacula. The preserve's previous owner, the late David Storment, proposed to add an adjacent 10 acres to the preserve in 2007 when a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract expired on that field. Those 10 acres were given preliminary approval for dedication at the 194th meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission on May 1, 2007 (Resolution 1950—see Appendix A). David Storment intended to eventually dedicate another 10 acres of CRP when the contract on that parcel expired. David passed away in the summer of 2019. In his will, he left provisions for the two 10-acre portions to be added to the Storment Hauss Nature Preserve. David's son, James Storment, seeks to fulfill the provisions of the will and dedicate the additional 20 acres to the preserve. The second 10-acre parcel was given preliminary approval for dedication at the 234th meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission in January 2020 (Resolution 2490). As stated during the 234th meeting, the staff is presenting one instrument of dedication for the entire 20 acres.

The two preliminarily approved 10-acre additions will square off the boundaries of the existing nature preserve. The fields are comprised of native prairie and non-native pasture grasses, old field native and exotic herbaceous plants, and native tree plantings. The long-term goals of the late landowner were to convert the early-successional fields to dry-mesic upland forest, providing a larger and seamless forest community in the future. INPC staff plan to continue forest restoration of the sites.

REPORT
Debbie S. Newman
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 22*: LaSalle Co. – Matthiessen Dells Nature Preserve, Road and Trail Improvements

Matthiessen Dells NP is an 86-acre nature preserve, and part of the 160-acre Matthiessen Dells INAI site (INAI #0079). The nature preserve is located within Matthiessen State Park, a few miles away from companion site Starved Rock State Park, the busiest park in the state (and one of the busiest state parks in the nation). Annual attendance numbers of Starved Rock frequently exceed 2.5 million visitors per year. Matthiessen State Park has become a “spillover” site where visitors are directed when Starved Rock reaches capacity. Matthiessen State Park receives approximately 450,000 visitors per year. When the official visitor parking lot at Matthiessen is at capacity, a second, overflow parking area east of the nature preserve is used. This creates the need for visitors to access the site once their vehicles have been parked. For safety reasons, pedestrians have been guided to walk on a dirt trail alongside and south of the Dells Access Road, which is within the nature preserve. While the minimally developed foot trail has long been used by the public, it was never designed to carry the amount of foot traffic that it currently receives. The additional pedestrian use is creating maintenance issues within the nature preserve and is fragmenting the forest.

The Dells Access Road, which hasn’t received significant maintenance in 35 years, is in extreme disrepair. Asphalt is deteriorating, and culverts need to be appropriately sized and positioned to minimize erosion. While it is possible to perform the necessary road improvements and route pedestrian traffic outside of the nature preserve boundaries (on the north side of the road), this option was dismissed early. The north side of the road, while not dedicated as a nature preserve, is also part of the INAI site. The north side of the road supports larger oaks, high quality understory vegetation, and has more challenging topography to work around. IDNR and INPC staff agreed it is more fitting to take a global approach to protect the resources on site to accommodate safe public access by using natural resources (instead of strict nature preserve boundaries) to guide the necessary maintenance and construction. This proposal will align the pedestrian trail immediately adjacent to and south of the road, thus requiring additional area to be used within the nature preserve. It will avoid high-quality understory vegetation, avoid steep topography, and result in the abandonment of the deteriorating dirt path within the nature preserve. IDNR’s approach to this situation is supported by INPC staff. While equipment access, minimal structural features, and vegetation maintenance is proposed to occur on the very northern edge of the nature preserve, it is deemed to be the best option for minimizing long-term impact to the natural resources within the greater Matthiessen Dells INAI site.

REPORT

George Bellovics
Department of Natural Resources
Kelly Neal, Kim Roman
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval of Road and Trail Improvements

Item 23*: McHenry Co. – Black-crown Marsh Land and Water Reserve, Nunda Township Road District, Wegner Road Storm Sewer Improvement Project – BMP Wetland

The 373.5-acre Black-crown Marsh Land and Water Reserve is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The Illinois Natural Areas Inventory recognized Black-crown Marsh as a Category II Natural Area (#1503) in 1995 for its high diversity and abundance of wetland-dependent avifauna. The marsh is a component of a much larger wetland complex and represents a headwater feature that drains into the Kettle Moraine Nature Preserve and associated wetlands at Moraine Hills State Park. Surface water from Black-crown Marsh ultimately discharges to the Fox River.

The Nunda Township Road District will be installing storm sewers to alleviate chronic flooding in a residential neighborhood located within the Village of Lakemoor and adjacent to Moraine Hills State Park. The neighborhood prone to flooding is on poorly drained topography and soils. Open swales carry stormwater to a low point on Wegner Road where ponding occurs with no external surface drainage. In heavy rain events, this ponding can last for days or weeks with road closure, flooded basements, and yards. To solve this problem, storm sewers will be installed at the low point located along the Wegner Road right-of-way. Depending on the location of outflow, the stormwater has the potential to negatively impact water quality entering the natural areas and INPC sites owned by IDNR. To provide water treatment, the option of directing the stormwater to a constructed best management practices (BMP) wetland within the LWR was considered to be among the most acceptable alternatives to protect natural resources downstream. The Nunda Township Road District, in association with the Village of Lakemoor, is requesting approval to use a small portion of the Black-crown Marsh LWR for installation of a BMP water quality wetland (2 stage if possible). Final engineering will be performed by the Township once Commission and IDNR approve of the concept plan.

REPORT

John C. Nelson (for Nunda Township)
Kelly Neal
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval of Installation of BMP Wetlands

Item 24*: Lake Co. – Illinois Beach Shoreline Erosion

Adeline Jay Geo-Karis Illinois Beach State Park (SP) is composed of both passive recreational lands and ‘protected lands’ in its nature preserves and Camp Logan State Historic Site. While the land uses inherently are intended to support each other to provide for a unique and well-rounded visitor experience, both have been equally subject to losses and damage due to the erosional forces of Lake Michigan’s historic high water levels, which, in recent years amounts to a rate of 20’-50’ of lakefront lost per year in select areas of the Illinois Beach SP lakefront. This damage causes temporary workarounds to infrastructure. Losses to the nature preserves have been previously presented to this Commission by Brad Semel, and that loss is truly priceless. Similarly, the extent and cost of the park’s ongoing infrastructure damage has a mounting price tag. Infrastructure repairs require careful consideration of the special natural community, which inflates the budgetary costs, limits construction season, and demands additional staff hours of involvement. It also requires budgetary commitment and support. Losses have accelerated to the point that it has been difficult for capital projects to be developed, funded, and performed within a desirable window to minimize further damages. With consideration of the combined losses to ecosystem and park infrastructure, IDNR’s Office of Realty and Capital Planning initiated a consultant-led study in 2018 to understand how lake-based infrastructure (engineered solutions) might be effective in preventing further losses to both ecosystem and infrastructure. This study has graduated into a \$45M project which will be moving forward with construction in 2021.

REPORT

Laura Verden
Department of Natural Resources

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Informational Update

Item 25: Election of INPC Officers

REPORT
Dave Thomas
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Election of Officers

Item 26: Election of INPC Advisors and Consultants

REPORT
Dave Thomas
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Election of Advisors and Consultants

Item 27: 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 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; September 10, 2013; and September 10, 2019.

REPORT
Valerie Njapa
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Determination if closed minutes remain closed

Item 28: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Item 29: Other Business

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

Item 30: Adjournment