

**ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA
TWO HUNDRED FORTY-SIXTH MEETING**

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Lake Level Conference Room
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, Illinois 62702

January 23, 2024, 10:00 AM

In-person meeting with WebEx option

*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 244-A Meeting on August 28, 2023 and the 245th Meeting on September 12, 2023

Accomplishment Summary:

At the 244A Special Meeting of the INPC, held on August 28, 2023, at the Illinois Beach Hotel and Conference Center in Zion, Illinois, legal protection was completed by the Commission for one tract of land totaling 186.42 acres. This tract of land is the Addition to Illinois Beach Nature Preserve, which is publicly owned.

At the 245th Meeting of the INPC, held on September 12, 2023, at the Monroe County Annex Building in Waterloo, Illinois, legal protection was completed by the Commission for six tracts of land totaling 469.99 acres. Three of the six tracts are privately owned, and the other three are publicly owned. The owners of the private sites donated the value of the protection agreements to the public. Lands protected include the Addition to Warbler Bottoms North Land and Water Reserve, Beaver Dam Glacial Drift Hill Prairie Land and Water Reserve, North Addition to Grisley Woods Land and Water Reserve, Gowin-Boldrey Addition to Robert Ridgway Grasslands Nature Preserve, Nature Preserve Addition to Gladstone Fen Nature Preserve, and Gibbons Creek Barrens Nature Preserve.

Currently, there are 417 dedicated nature preserves with 63,239 acres and 207 registered land and water reserves with 58,949 acres. Altogether, there are 624 sites with 122,188 acres protected in the Illinois Nature Preserves System.

Note: Share Resolution for John Rogner, Retired IDNR Assistant Director.

Item 4: Next Meeting Dates and Locations

247	May 14, 2024	Putnam County Conservation District, Hennepin, Illinois
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248	September 10, 2024	Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge Visitor's Center Marion, Illinois
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Item 5:* INPC Staff Report

REPORT
Todd Strole, Executive Director
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

Item 6:* IDNR Staff Report

REPORT
Ann Marie Holtrop, Chief
Division of Natural Heritage

Item 7:* Endangered Species Protection Board Report

REPORT
Joyce Hofmann, Director
Endangered Species Protection Board

Item 8:* Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves Report

REPORT
Amy Doll, Director
Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves

Item 9: Revise the list of INPC Advisors and Consultants

Committee Chair: Commissioner Szafoni

One revision for changes to the INPC Advisor list are proposed:

1. The replacement of Dr. Eric M. Schauber with IHNS Interim Director Dr. Brenda Molano-Flores, as statutory advisor.

Three revisions for changes to the INPC Consultants list are proposed:

1. The removal of Michelle Carr
2. The addition of Jeff Walk
3. The addition of Dr. Charles Ruffner

Current Advisors:

Natalie Finnie IL Dept. of Natural Resources (Statutory Advisor)	Dr. Eric M. Schauber IL Natural History Survey (Statutory Advisor)	Jennifer Edginton IL State Museum (Statutory Advisor)
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Dr. Joyce Hofmann IL Endangered Species Protection Board	Dr. Richard C. Berg IL State Geological Survey	Mike Norris IL Dept. of Natural Resources Office of Historic Preservation
Dr. Timothy Pauketat IL State Archaeological Survey	Dr. Kevin O'Brien IL Sustainable Technology Center	Dr. Praveen Kumar Prairie Research Institute

Current Consultants:

Gerald Adelman	Jill Allread
Alan Branham	Michelle Carr
Amy Doll	Harry Drucker
Kim Erndt-Pitcher	Jo Fessett
Fran Harty	Randy Heidorn
Dr. Jim Herkert	Cynthia Kanner
Bill McClain	Jill Riddell
Lauren Rosenthal	Bruce Ross-Shannon
Joseph Roth	John Schwegman
Deborah Stone	Dr. David Thomas
John White	

REPORT

Robert Szafoni
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval for the Revised Advisor and
Consultant List

Item 10:* Champaign County – Addition to Edna Edwards Burnett Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Edna Edwards Burnett Land and Water Reserve (LWR) is a 20-acre natural area in Champaign County, owned and managed by Grand Prairie Friends, registered at the 221st Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) meeting, Resolution #2333 Grand Prairie Friends wishes to register 60-acres as an addition to Edna Edwards Burnett LWR (Burnett LWR). Burnett LWR and the proposed addition occur near the northern extent of the high-quality reach of the Embarras River (Illinois Natural Areas Inventory [INAI] site #1808). Burnett LWR and the proposed addition protect and buffer approximately 1250 ft. of the Embarras River and associated habitat.

Registration of the proposed addition to Burnett LWR increases the size of the reserve 3-fold, protects a headwater segment of the Embarras River and its riparian corridor and conserves stream habitat for a rich diversity of aquatic species. Illinois Nature Preserves Commission staff recommend registration of an addition to Edna Edwards Burnett Land and Water Reserve.

REPORT

John Griesbaum
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval for Registration

Item 11:* LaSalle County - Marseilles Hill Prairie Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) proposes registration of the Marseilles Hill Prairie Land and Water Reserve. This 61.75-acre parcel is located within the Marseilles State Fish and Wildlife Area in LaSalle County and is recognized on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (#1520) for its high-quality Glacial Drift Hill Prairies representative of the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois. The Marseilles State Fish and Wildlife Area is closed to the public except during hunting seasons as it is used by the Illinois National Guard as a training facility. The proposed Marseilles Hill Prairie Land and Water Reserve is primarily comprised of Glacial Drift Hill Prairie and Dry-mesic Upland Forest natural communities containing steep ravines and ephemeral streams. The registration of the site as a Land and Water Reserve will permanently protect 8% of Illinois' high quality Glacial Drift Hill Prairies and continue to provide opportunities for compatible military training and public hunting programs.

IDNR reserves the following rights:

- Continued use of the site for military training per the existing agreement with the ability to add other training activities compatible with the LWR registration.
- Addition of hunting programs in accordance with Administrative Rules and at the discretion of site managers via the intra-agency Plan of Work process.
- Control of unnatural erosion west and outside of the LWR boundary but potentially affecting additional highly erodible soils which could undermine the features which make the site significant. Stabilization could require work within the LWR. Erosion control work would be evaluated via the intra-agency Plan of Work process in coordination with INPC staff.

Currently allowed uses of the site include upland game, turkey, and deer hunting. It is recommended by staff of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission that Marseilles Hill Prairie be permanently registered as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve.

REPORT

Kim Roman
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval for Registration

Item 12:* Will County - Vesely Prairie Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) proposes registration of the Vesely Prairie Land and Water Reserve. The site is managed as a satellite to Des Plaines State Fish and Wildlife Area. Vesely Prairie is part of a large complex of publicly owned natural areas protected within the Illinois Nature Preserves System. It is located in southwestern Will County and lies within the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois. The proposed Vesely Prairie Land and Water Reserve is 196 acres in size, and nearly all of it was used for agricultural production and included a former homesite/farmstead. Most of this site has been retired from agricultural production and seeded with prairie species, however approximately 48 acres remain in row crop production. Vesely Prairie's most significant attribute supporting registration as a Land and Water Reserve is its location. The site immediately abuts the IDNR-owned Wilmington Shrub

Prairie Nature Preserve and the Forest Preserve District of Will County-owned Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve. Both of these INPC sites harbor high-quality natural communities and listed species. As Vesely Prairie’s plantings become established, they are expanding plant and wildlife habitat for the area’s biota while also providing important buffer and habitat connectivity for the adjacent nature preserves.

IDNR reserves the following rights:

- To continue to farm under agricultural lease until sufficient resources are available to properly prepare, seed, and manage the fields to help ensure a successful transition to prairie. The lease retirement is anticipated for 2028.
- To add hunting programs in accordance with Administrative Rules and at the discretion of site managers via the intra-agency Plan of Work process.
- To adjust the existing drain tile valves to restore natural hydrology without impact to neighboring properties.
- To honor the preexisting pipeline easements within the proposed Land and Water Reserve.

Currently allowed uses of the site include deer and turkey hunting. Other Allowable Uses in the future may include minimally developed user amenities such as expanded public parking, picnic tables, interpretive signs, and a kiosk. It is recommended by staff of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission that Vesely Prairie be permanently registered as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve.

REPORT

Kim Roman
Illinois Nature Preserve Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval for Registration

Item 13:* Logan County – Buffer Addition to Sandra Miller Bellrose Nature Preserve, Preliminary Dedication

The Sandra Miller Bellrose Nature Preserve which is owned by Ron Bellrose and Sandra Miller Bellrose was dedicated on September 5, 2002 at the 176th meeting of the INPC. The Bellrose’s are seeking preliminary approval for an approximate 306-acre Nature Preserve Buffer Addition which would bring the total acres dedicated to approximately 377 acres. The proposed Sandra Miller Bellrose Nature Preserve Buffer Addition is located in Logan County in the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. The existing Nature Preserve consists of a 0.8 mile segment of the Sugar Creek-Salt Creek Drainage Illinois Natural Area Inventory site (#1521) and adjacent woodlands. It was recognized for the high diversity of freshwater mussels which was the qualifying feature at the time of dedication. The proposed buffer addition consists of prairie plantings, wetland creations and woodlands which will provide additional buffer for this stretch of the Sugar Creek. The addition will provide habitat for a variety of wildlife. The buffer addition will include a larger block of forest cover as the tree plantings mature which will provide more habitat for area sensitive forest bird species.

REPORT

Byron Paulsen
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 14:* McHenry County – Dome Hill Buffer Addition to Lake in the Hills Fen Nature Preserve, Preliminary Dedication

The Village of Lake in the Hills proposes dedication of 4.1 acres as nature preserve buffer addition to Lake in the Hills Fen Nature Preserve. This nature preserve is part of the 540.8-acre Lake in the Hills Fen Conservation Area. The Village of Lake in the Hills, the McHenry County Conservation District, and Illinois Department of Natural Resources each own portions of the existing nature preserve which is currently 347.9-acres. The proposed 4.1-acre Dome Hill buffer addition is adjacent to Lake in the Hills Fen Nature preserve and offers an impressive view of the entire preserve. The eastern boundary of the Lake in the Hills Fen INAI site (#1011) runs through the proposed buffer addition. The INAI site is recognized for its high-quality calcareous floating mat, calcareous seep, dry gravel prairie, graminoid fen, sedge meadow, and shrub fen. Also present are low-gradient creek, freshwater marsh, and mesic gravel prairie. The INAI site also supports populations of 14 plant species that are currently endangered or threatened. A subpopulation of one of these species occurs within the boundaries of the proposed addition. Formal dedication of Dome Hill as a buffer addition will increase the total size of the nature preserve to 352.09 acres.

REPORT

Claire Gregory and John C. Nelson
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 15:* Will County – Buffer Addition to Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve, Preliminary Dedication

Sand Ridge Savanna is a 625-acre nature preserve owned and managed by the Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC), located in the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois. The FPDWC wishes to dedicate in perpetuity an adjacent 157-acre tract of the District's Kankakee Sands Preserve as a buffer addition to Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve. Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve abuts Wilmington Shrub Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed Vesely Prairie Land and Water Reserve; it is also within one mile of Braidwood Dunes and Savanna Nature Preserve. The proposed buffer addition includes approximately 23.5 acres of remnant natural communities, 127 acres of prairie plantings, and an approximate 6.5-acre zone designated as an access area which includes user facilities such as a parking lot, outhouse, and a picnic shelter. The proposed buffer addition lies west of the north unit of Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve and its prairie plantings support the state-threatened eryngium stem borer moth (*Papaipema eryngii*) and the state-threatened ornate box turtle (*Terrepenne ornata*). The state endangered short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*) and northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*) have been observed using the proposed buffer addition during winter months. Conservative plant species such as winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), green fringed orchid (*Habenaria lacera*), and lady fern (*Athyrium filix femina*) are among the 314 species of native flora documented on site. An existing 2.5-mile limestone chip loop-trail leads from the access area within the proposed buffer addition to the north unit of Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve. Approximately 1.3 miles of trail and two bridges are within the proposed dedicated buffer addition; the trail and its mowed shoulders occupy approximately 4.5 acres. A 6.5-acre zone in and around

the access area is designated by the Forest Preserve District for possible future development of user amenities consistent with the Rules for Management of Illinois Nature Preserves. The dedication of this buffer addition helps to preserve the region's biota, complete good preserve design for Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve, and promote contiguity of the natural landscape of a large complex of sites within the Illinois Nature Preserves system.

REPORT

Kim Roman
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 16:* Cook County - Addition and Buffer Addition to Paintbrush Prairie Nature Preserve, Final Dedication

Paintbrush Prairie Nature Preserve (INAI #1563), owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), was originally dedicated in 1999 and was 68 acres in size. Subsequent additions of both nature preserve and nature preserve buffer have increased the total dedicated area of this site to 81.6 acres. Paintbrush Prairie is one of five nature preserves in south Cook County collectively and informally known as the Indian Boundary Prairies. At the time of its first dedication in 1999, the qualifying features for nature preserve status was 10 acres of high-quality remnant prairie with the presence of two state-listed plant species: eared false foxglove (*Tomanthera auriculata*) and early fen sedge (*Carex craweii*). These species are still found on site but have been de-listed by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board since the time of dedication. As management efforts increased and biological inventories were conducted, more than 200 native plant species, including the federally-threatened eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*) and state-endangered mountain blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium montanum*), have been documented. The proposed nature preserve addition occupies former road rights-of-way that were platted and graded, but never developed. The City of Markham has legally vacated 5.5 acres of road right-of-way within and adjacent to Paintbrush Prairie Nature Preserve, and TNC wishes to afford them the same level of legal protection as the rest of the site. The interior portions of former road right-of-way total 3.15 acres and are proposed nature preserve additions because they are similar in biological quality as the rest of the nature preserve. The more disturbed, exterior former road rights-of-way total 2.36 acres and are proposed as nature preserve buffer additions. Dedication of vacated road rights-of-way within and abutting Paintbrush Prairie Nature Preserve will protect additional acreage of remnant prairie and help complete good preserve design by providing legal protection under the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act. Preliminary approval for these additions was granted at the 245th meeting of the INPC on September 12, 2023 (Resolution #2602). It is therefore recommended by field staff of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission the dedication of 3.15 acres as nature preserve addition, and 2.36 acres as nature preserve buffer addition.

REPORT

Kim Roman
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 17:* Cook County - Addition and Buffer Addition to Sundrop Prairie Nature Preserve, Final Dedication

Sundrop Prairie Nature Preserve (INAI #1575) is owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and is located in south Cook County. It was first dedicated in 2000 and had three subsequent nature preserve additions to total 91.5 acres in size. Sundrop Prairie is one of 5 nature preserves in south Cook County collectively and informally known as the Indian Boundary Prairies. At the time of its first dedication in 2000, the qualifying feature for nature preserve status was the presence of the state-threatened early fen sedge (*Carex craweii*) in remnant prairie of the Chicago Lake Plain. This species is still found on site but has been delisted by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board since the time of dedication. As management efforts increased and biological inventories were conducted, more than 200 native plant species, including the state-endangered mountain blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium montanum*), have been documented. The proposed nature preserve additions include three small undeveloped lots and also former road rights-of-way that were platted, but never developed. The City of Markham has legally vacated its road rights-of-way within and adjacent to Sundrop Prairie Nature Preserve, and TNC wishes to afford them the same level of legal protection as the rest of the site. The interior portions of former road right-of-way and three small lots total 21.4 acres and are proposed nature preserve additions because they are similar in biological quality as the rest of the nature preserve. The ecologically disturbed former road rights-of-way total 3.3 acres and are proposed as nature preserve buffer additions. Dedication of undeveloped lots and vacated road rights-of-way within and abutting Sundrop Prairie Nature Preserve will protect additional acreage of remnant prairie and help complete good preserve design by providing legal protection under the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act. Preliminary approval for these additions was granted at the 245th meeting of the INPC on September 12, 2023 (Resolution #2603). It is therefore recommended by field staff of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission the dedication of 21.4 acres as nature preserve addition, and 3.3 acres as nature preserve buffer addition.

REPORT

Kim Roman
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 18:* Edwards County – Birks Prairie Nature Preserve, Final Dedication

Roger and Vivian Beadles, owners of Birk’s Prairie (INAI #1975), seek final dedication of 7.92 acres of reconstructed prairie as Birk’s Prairie Nature Preserve. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission granted preliminary approval for dedication at its 243rd meeting on January 24, 2023 (Resolution #2584). The proposed nature preserve is located in the Mt. Vernon Hill Country Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division of Illinois in Edwards County. The site contains a Grade C mesic prairie reconstruction and is the only prairie natural community listed on the INAI in this natural division and section. The reconstruction supports a thriving translocated population of the state-threatened grass-leaved lily (*Stenanthium gramineum*) and a naturally occurring population of state-endangered royal catchfly (*Silene regia*). The proposed Birk’s Prairie Nature Preserve is known to support at least seven Species of Greatest Conservation Need, as identified in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan. It is one of only two INAI sites in Edwards County and is located less than one-half mile from Beadles Barrens Nature Preserve (INAI Site #1547). Dedication will

provide permanent protection of habitat for two state-listed plants and one of only two INAI sites in Edwards County. It will be the first prairie natural community to be permanently protected in the Southern Till Plain Natural Division's Mt. Vernon Hill Country Section. On behalf of Roger and Vivian Beadles, staff recommends final approval for dedication of Birk's Prairie as an Illinois Nature Preserve.

REPORT

Sami Childerson
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 19:* Monroe County - Addition to White Rock Nature Preserve, Final Dedication

The proposed addition to White Rock Nature Preserve is a 97.8-acre site in the bluffs of southwestern Illinois, south of St. Louis. The site lies in between and connects the 306.5-acre White Rock Nature Preserve and the 168-acre White Rock Land and Water Reserve, owned by Clifftop NFP (Conserving Lands in Farm, Forest, Talus Or Prairie, Not-For-Profit, also known as Clifftop, Inc.).

The White Rock Nature Preserve contains a mosaic of high-quality loess hill prairie, limestone glade, limestone cliffs and upland forest overlooking the Mississippi River floodplain and encompasses approximately 47 acres of the Monroe City Hill Prairie Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (#199). The White Rock Land and Water Reserve also contains high-quality limestone glade along with mature dry, dry-mesic and mesic upland forest. The LWR encompasses approximately 50 acres of the Potato Hill INAI site (#200). Both the preserve and reserve contain populations of the state-threatened Missouri coneflower (*Rudbeckia missouriensis*), the state-endangered woolly buckthorn (*Bumelia lanuginosa*), and a state-threatened reptile. In addition, the state-endangered crested coralroot orchid (*Hexalectris spicata*), American bluehearts (*Buchnera americana*), stickleaf (*Mentzelia oligosperma*), and climbing milkweed (*Matelea decipiens*) are found on the nature preserve.

The proposed White Rock Nature Preserve Addition was granted preliminary approval at the 245th meeting of the INPC on September 12, 2023 (Resolution #2604) is located just outside of the current boundaries of the Monroe City and Potato Hill INAI sites. The site qualifies for nature preserve addition because it contains a tiny remnant, Grade C glade that contain at least two listed species, the Missouri coneflower and the woolly buckthorn; provides habitat for a state-threatened reptile since it is within a one-mile radius of known hibernacula and rookeries, and most likely has hibernacula located within its boundaries, also. The site also provides additional acres of mature upland forest connected to a larger complex of protected forest lands (657 acres) and provides important continuity of the same habitat between White Rock Nature Preserve and White Rock Land and Water Reserve.

REPORT

Debbie S. Newman
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 20:* Winnebago County - Lost Flora Fen on Raccoon Creek Nature Preserve, Final Dedication

The Natural Land Institute requests final approval to dedicate 156.7 acres as the Lost Flora Fen on Raccoon Creek Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve includes a large portion of the Lost Flora Fen INAI site (#1972), which was recognized in 2021 as a Category I site. The qualifying feature is an 8.9-acre, Grade B Sedge Meadow and an associated 13-acre, Grade C Sedge Meadow. The entire INAI site is 62.9 acres in size and includes a portion of the surrounding landscape (41 acres) consisting of pasture, low-gradient stream, oxbow ponds, row crops, and unmanaged wetlands of lower quality but with good restoration potential. More than half of the INAI site (35.9 acres) is within the proposed nature preserve boundary. Lost Flora Fen was also included on the INAI as a Category II site for suitable habitat supporting two state endangered animals and one state endangered plant. Preliminary approval for dedication was granted at the 245 INPC meeting (Resolution #2606). Dedication of the Lost Flora Fen on Raccoon Creek Nature Preserve will help protect and restore high-quality wetlands on a landscape level scale. This dedication is the first step in legally protecting this unique natural area and will undoubtedly be followed by other dedications in the future by the Natural Land Institute.

REPORT

John C. Nelson
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED:

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 21:* McHenry County – Request to Approve Limited Spraying of Btk to Combat Spongy Moth Outbreaks at Amberin Ash Ridge Nature Preserve and Spring Hill Buffer Addition to Boone Creek Fen Nature Preserve

Spongy Moth (*Lymantria dispar*): In the spring of 2023, it was reported to INPC staff that a severe outbreak of the invasive spongy moth had occurred at Amberin Ash Ridge Nature Preserve and the Spring Hill Buffer Addition to Boone Creek Fen Nature Preserve. These sites are adjacent to one another. The infestation was causing defoliation of mature oak trees and the landowners contracted for individual tree spraying (insecticide) to protect trees and quality of life. This insecticide spraying was not part of an approved management plan.

The control of spongy moth at INPC sites is not new and has been carefully permitted as part of the Slow the Spread Program administered by the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA). Under an approved INPC permit, the IDOA is required to use a species-specific mating disruptor and provide a minimum 300-foot buffer distance to nature preserves where spraying is not permitted. This has worked well in the past, but the Slow the Spread Program is no longer active in McHenry County and thus is not available to private landowners who now must carry the burden of costs when an outbreak occurs. A mating disruptor, such as SPLAT, would be the preferred alternative. Due to cost and availability treatment using SPLAT will likely be prohibitive.

In support of the two private landowners who are trying to prevent oak tree mortality due to spongy moth outbreaks, staff requests approval of the following as part of an approved management plan. The action, if approved, will be specific to these two sites:

- Spraying of Btk on a very limited basis, for a period not to exceed two consecutive years.
- A report of spraying activity to the INPC will be required. Report will include spray date(s) and any observations of caterpillar mortality, particularly of non-target species.

REPORT

John C. Nelson and Kelly Neal
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Authorization for Staff Level Approval of
Limited Btk Spraying

Item 22: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Item 23: Other Business

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

Item 24: Adjournment