

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION
Minutes of the 215th Meeting
September 10, 2013

INDEX

<u>AREAS</u>	<u>ITEM</u>
Johnson Co. – Faulkner Tract Addition to Cache River Land and Water Reserve, Registration	10
Kankakee Co. – Additions to Sweet Fern Savanna Land and Water Reserve, Registration	11
Pope Co. – Gibbons Creek Barrens Land and Water Reserve, Registration	12
Winnebago Co. – Johns Mound Group Land and Water Reserve, Registration	13
Mason Co. – Buffer Addition to Matanzas Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication	14
McHenry Co. – Buffer Addition to Oakwood Hills Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication	15
Pope Co. – Round Pond Nature Preserve, Dedication	16
Washington Co. – Bohbrink Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication	17
Cook Co. – Addition to Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication	18
Kankakee Co. – Hopkins Park Savanna Nature Preserve	19
Tazewell Co. – Fon du Lac Seep North Nature Preserve	20
DuPage Co. – Correction of Legal Description for Brewster Creek Marsh Nature Preserve ..	21
DuPage Co. – Correction of Legal Description for Des Plaines Riverway Nature Preserve ..	22
DuPage Co. – Correction of Legal Description for Meacham Grove Nature Preserve	23
DuPage Co. – Correction of Legal Description for Swift Prairie Nature Preserve	24
Lake Co. – Correction of Legal Description for Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve.....	25
Lake Co. – Correction of Legal Description for Spring Bluff Nature Preserve	26
Lee and Ogle Co. – Correction of Legal Description for Nachusa Grasslands Nature Preserve.....	27
Will Co. – Correction of Legal Description for Hickory Creek Barrens Reserve Nature Preserve	28
Will Co. – Correction of Legal Description for Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve	29
Cook Co. – Busse Dam Modification, Busse Forest Nature Preserve.....	30
 <u>COMMISSION AFFAIRS</u>	
Adoption of Agenda.....	2
Committee of the Whole Meeting to Propose Nominations for Advisors, Consultants, And Officers for the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission	3
Approval of the 214 th Meeting Minutes, May 7, 2013	4
Proposed 2014 Meeting Schedule.....	5
Election of Advisors and Consultants.....	6
INPC Staff Report.....	7
IDNR Staff Report	8
Endangered Species Protection Board Staff Report	9
Update on Development of a Joint INPC/ESPB/IDNR Animal Translocation Policy.....	31
Election of Officers.....	32
Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Fiscal Year 2014 Land Acquisition Proposals.....	33
Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Fiscal Year 2014 Stewardship Proposals.....	34
Review of Closed Meeting Minutes	35
Public Comment Period	36
Other Business	37
Adjournment	38

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
Minutes of the 215th Meeting
(Subject to approval at the 216th Meeting)

Giant City State Park Lodge
460 Giant City Lodge Road
Makanda, IL 62958

Tuesday, September 10, 2013

215-1) Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

At 9:15 a.m., pursuant to the Call to Order of Chair Thomas, the meeting began.

Randy Heidorn read the roll call.

Members present: George Covington, Donnie Dann, Pen DauBach, William McClain, Lauren Rosenthal, and David Thomas.

Members absent: Dennis Clark, Mare Payne, and Jill Riddell.

Others present: Steven Byers, Bob Edgin, Tom Lerczak, Angella Moorehouse, Kelly Neal, John Nelson, Debbie Newman, Debbie Reider, and Mary Kay Solecki, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC); Scott Ballard, Mark Guetersloh, Jim Herkert, Tim Kelley, Tara Kieninger, Don McFall, Brad Semel, Jody Shimp, Jenny Skufca, Eric Smith, Penny Snyder, Bob Szafoni, and John Wilker, Office of Resource Conservation (ORC), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR); Anne Mankowski, Endangered Species Protection Board (ESPB), IDNR; Brian Anderson, Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) and INPC Advisor; Thomas Emerson, Illinois State Archaeological Survey and INPC Advisor; Fran Harty, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and INPC Consultant; John Wallace, Illinois Audubon; Tracy Boutelle Fidler, Shawnee Resource, Conservation and Development Area, Inc., representing the proposed Round Pond Nature Preserve; Ken Jay, Elk Grove Village, Brian Karczewski, Stantec Consulting, Kristine Meyer and John Wills, Wills Burke Kelsey, representing the proposed Busse Dam Modification, Busse Forest Nature Preserve; Meaghan Collins; Tom Engbrecht; Judy Faulkner Dempsey; Bridget Henning, Judith Joy, Paula McClain, and Jared Ruholl.

215-2) Adoption of Agenda

Item 11 has been deferred at the landowner's request.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Dann, and carried that the Agenda be adopted as modified.

215-3) Committee of the Whole Meeting to Propose Nominations for Advisors, Consultants, and Officers for the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

Commissioner Rosenthal stated that the Committee of the Whole wishes to submit names for INPC advisors, consultants, and Commission officers. All have been contacted and have expressed a willingness to serve, except for Leslee Spraggins. Ms. Spraggins has advised the

Commission of her wish to be removed from the list of consultants as she has taken a job out of state.

Listed below are the names of the current advisors, consultants, and officers.

Current Advisors:

Marc Miller IL Department of Natural Resources (Statutory Advisor)	Dr. Brian Anderson IL Natural History Survey (Statutory Advisor)	Dr. Bonnie Styles IL State Museum (Statutory Advisor)
Dr. Mike Demissie IL State Water Survey	Dr. Thomas E. Emerson IL State Archaeological Survey	Chuck Giger IL Historic Preservation Agency
Dr. E. Donald McKay, III IL State Geological Survey	Dr. Gary Miller Prairie Research Institute	Dr. William W. Shilts Prairie Research Institute

Current Consultants:

Gerald Adelman	Jill Allread	Marilyn Campbell
Tom Clay	Harry Drucker	Kenneth Fiske
Dr. Ronald Flemal	Fran Harty	James Mann
Jerry Paulson	Joseph Roth	Bruce Ross-Shannon
John Schwegman	Valerie Spale	Leslee Spraggins
John White		

Current Officers:

Dr. David Thomas, Chair	Donnie Dann, Vice Chair	George Covington, Secretary
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Commissioner Rosenthal stated that Chuck Giger has retired from State service, and Alyson Grady from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency is being nominated to replace Mr. Giger. She also stated that Anne Mankowski, Director of the ESPB is being nominated to serve as an advisor to the Commission.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by DauBach, and carried that the following be nominated as advisors to the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission: Dr. Mike Demissie, Dr. Thomas Emerson, Alyson Grady, Anne Mankowski, Dr. E. Donald McKay, III, Dr. Gary Miller, and Dr. William Shilts.

Commissioner Rosenthal stated that Kerry Leigh, Natural Land Institute, and Michelle Carr, Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy have been nominated as consultants to the Commission and these names should be added to the current slate of consultants.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Covington, and carried that the following be nominated as consultants to the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission: Gerald Adelman, Jill Allread, Marilyn Campbell, Michelle Carr, Tom Clay, Harry Drucker, Kenneth Fiske, Ronald Flemal, Fran Harty, Kerry Leigh, James Mann, Jerry Paulson, Joseph Roth, Bruce Ross-Shannon, John Schwegman, Valerie Spale, and John White.

Commissioner Rosenthal stated that Dr. David Thomas was nominated for Chair of the Commission, Donnie Dann was nominated as Vice Chair, and George Covington was nominated as Secretary. She asked if there were any other nominations, and no additional nominations were submitted.

It was moved by Covington, seconded by DauBach, and carried that Dr. David Thomas be nominated as Chair of the Commission.

It was moved by Covington, seconded by Thomas, and carried that Donnie Dann be nominated as Vice Chair of the Commission.

It was moved by DauBach, seconded by Thomas, and carried that George Covington be nominated as Secretary of the Commission.

215-4) Approval the 214th Meeting Minutes, May 7, 2013

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Dann, and carried that the 214th Meeting Minutes, May 7, 2013 be approved.

At the 214th Meeting of the INPC, held on May 7, 2013, at the Greenbelt Cultural Center, North Chicago, Illinois, legal protection was completed by the Commission for four tracts of land totaling 1,666.7 acres. Two of these areas are owned by a not-for-profit corporation or private individuals who donated the value of the protection agreement to the public. This private land was permanently preserved without further acquisition of the land by the state. The dollar value of the tracts of private land is \$3,877,500 based on conservative estimates of the fair market value of the land. Private lands protected include Callie Mae Spraggins Savanna Nature Preserve, Kankakee County; and Openlands Lakeshore, Bluff and Ravine Nature Preserve, Lake County. Protection of this land came about because the Commission has eight staff in the field working with private and public landowners. There are now 371 dedicated nature preserves in 84 counties totaling 56,641.245 acres and 170 land and water reserves in 66 counties totaling 48,173.948 acres.

215-5) Proposed 2014 Meeting Schedule

January 28, 2014	Illinois Department of Natural Resources Building, Springfield
May 6, 2014	Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Grand Hall, Channahon
September 9, 2014	Ballard Nature Center, Altamont

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Covington, that the 2014 meeting schedule be approved as presented.

215-6) Election of Advisors and Consultants

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Thomas, and carried that the following be elected as advisors to the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission: Dr. Mike Demissie, Dr. Thomas Emerson, Alyson Grady, Anne Mankowski, Dr. E. Donald McKay, III, Dr. Gary Miller, and Dr. William Shilts.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Thomas, and carried that the following be elected as consultants to the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission: Gerald Adelman, Jill Allread, Marilyn Campbell, Michelle Carr, Tom Clay, Harry Drucker, Kenneth Fiske, Ronald Flemal, Fran Harty, Kerry Leigh, James Mann, Jerry Paulson, Joseph Roth, Bruce Ross-Shannon, John Schwegman, Valerie Spale, and John White.

215-7) INPC Staff Report

The INPC staff report is attached as Exhibit A.

Randy Heidorn stated that Jenny Skufca has accepted a position with the Division of Natural Heritage as its Endangered Species Project Manager. The request to backfill the Natural Area Defense Specialist position has been submitted. A request has also been submitted to post a Natural Resource Manager II position, and the clarification of the position is being put together so this can move forward. The Area 9 position in southern Illinois is vacant, and it is hoped that this position will be filled sometime in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015.

Mr. Heidorn stated that the Governor's office has indicated that they are ready to move forward with one new appointment to the Commission, and the reappointment of Commissioner Thomas and Commissioner Covington. He stated that he will continue to work with Dr. Brian Anderson and Dr. Bonnie Styles to put forward additional candidates and reappointments to the Governor's office.

Mr. Heidorn stated that Todd Rettig has been working on proposed amendments to the administrative rules that control consultation. Mr. Rettig has provided suggested edits, and the draft changes have been provided to the Commissioners. Mr. Heidorn asked that the Commissioners review the suggested edits and send any comments to him by October 5, 2013, so he can forward them to Mr. Rettig.

Mr. Heidorn stated that the Commission has been given an operational budget of \$2.05 million for FY 2014. The non-personnel, or operating portion of that, is \$272,800. That will be the amount used for the operation of Commission programs. He stated that \$100,000 of that will be allocated for stewardship projects, and \$80,000 has been set aside for surveys and title commitments.

Mr. Heidorn updated the Commission on the status of the Natural Heritage Database fees. The rules for implementation of the fee structure have completed the first notice. Two comments were received from the not-for-profit energy transmission industry, and the response is being formulated. It is hoped that the rules will be on second notice in October, 2013. The funds generated for the fees will go into the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF).

Mr. Heidorn stated that it has come to his attention that the Lake County Water District has been talking with the IDNR about trying to obtain two lots within North Dunes Nature Preserve to be used as part of its pumping station. The roads and alleys in this old, platted subdivision are not currently dedicated, so there are opportunities for other types of rights-of-way to occur at that site. The Lake County Water District is pushing the concept of having the IDNR transfer the two lots to the Water District. This would be considered a taking under the Natural Areas Preservation Act and would involve all the regulatory processes associated with that. There are multiple alternatives available that would avoid such a taking. Some of those alternatives have

serious environmental issues, but others could definitely work out. He stated that he was not aware of any engineering studies being done other than the biological work to see how the properties could be transferred over. There seems to be some indication that the Water District will use legal avenues or other political means to make this happen. The Water District has been advised of the Commission's position and process. He stated that the Commission will continue to monitor this issue.

215-8) IDNR Staff Report

Don McFall presented the IDNR staff report which is attached as Exhibit B.

215-9) Endangered Species Protection Board Report

Anne Mankowski presented the ESPB report which is attached as Exhibit C.

Randy Heidorn stated that the registration agreements for today's land and water reserve presentations have been signed and executed by the landowners as required by administrative rule.

215-10) Johnson Co. – Faulkner Tract Addition to Cache River Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Mark Guetersloh presented a proposal on behalf the IDNR to permanently register the Faulkner Tract (302.5 acres) as an addition to Cache River Land and Water Reserve. Approval of this addition would bring the total acreage of Cache River Land and Water Reserve to 10,669.5 acres. The Faulkner Tract is located in Johnson County in the Bottomlands Section of the Coastal Plain Natural Division and the Lesser Shawnee Hills Section of the Shawnee Hills Natural Division. The Cache River State Natural Area was established to preserve and manage very high-quality natural features, protect imperiled species and provide compatible ecosystem services found within and provided by the largest Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites (INAI) in the State (#1059 and #0610). While the Faulkner Tract is not physically connected to existing IDNR ownership, it is less than one-half mile northwest of public lands that are part of the existing Cache River Land and Water Reserve. The Faulkner Tract contains a diverse mosaic of natural communities that includes upland forest, floodplain forest and swamp forest as well as aquatic habitat that occur in segments of the main channel of the Cache River found on the property. The following state endangered species have been documented at the site: Cypress knee sedge (*Carex decomposita*), swamp leather flower (*Clematis crispa*), American strawberry bush (*Euonymus americanus*), water pennywort (*Hydrocotyl ranunculoides*), trailing yellow loosestrife (*Lysimachia radicans*), and a state-listed amphibian. The following state threatened species have been documented at the site: great bladder sedge (*Carex intumescens*), Willdenow's sedge (*Carex willdenowii*), water hickory (*Carya aquatic*), and storax (*Styrax americana*). There is a protected reptile (protected in Illinois as though listed per agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service) at the site. Registration of this addition to the Cache River Land and Water Reserve supports actions and goals identified in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP) for the Cache River Conservation Opportunity Area described in the Wetland, Forest, Stream, Invasive Species, and Land and Water Stewardship campaigns.

Randy Heidorn stated that there is an addendum to the baseline condition report for this site because a deer stand was found in a tree when the site inspection was done.

It was moved by McClain, seconded by Rosenthal, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of the Faulkner Tract addition to Cache River Land and Water Reserve in Johnson County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 10 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting.

(Resolution 2253)

215-11) Kankakee Co. – Additions to Sweet Fern Savanna LWR, Registration

This item was deferred at the request of the landowner.

215-12) Pope Co. – Gibbons Creek Barrens Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Mark Guetersloh presented a proposal on behalf of the IDNR to permanently register approximately 173.24 acres as Gibbons Creek Barrens Land and Water Reserve. The proposed land and water reserve is located in the northeast corner of Pope County in the Greater Shawnee Hills Section of the Shawnee Hills Natural Division. The Gibbons Creek Barrens property was acquired from The Nature Conservancy in 2005 by the IDNR. It is managed as a state natural area attached to the Saline County Conservation Area. The site is primarily a wooded upland which is recognized for its grade A dry barrens community by the INAI. The proposed Gibbons Creek Barrens Land and Water Reserve contains approximately 138 acres of the 220.68 acres found within the original inventory boundary (INAI #0339). The proposed land and water reserve also encompasses numerous other natural communities including sandstone cliff, a stream, sandstone glades, and several forest types ranging from wet-mesic to dry forest. Two state-listed species occur at the site, the state-endangered Hale's corydalis (*Corydalis halei*) and a threatened reptile. Registration of this site supports priority actions and goals of the IWAP in the forests, land and water stewardship, and invasive species campaigns, as well as protecting existing habitat for a state-listed plant and reptile.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Covington, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of Gibbons Creek Barrens in Pope County as an Illinois land and water reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 12 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting.

(Resolution 2254)

215-13) Winnebago Co. – Johns Mound Group Land and Water Reserve, Registration

John Nelson presented a proposal on behalf of the Smeja Homestead Foundation, Inc. to register 17.1-acres as Johns Mound Group Land and Water Reserve. Located in the Freeport Section of the Rock River Hill Country Natural Division, the site qualifies for registration due to the presence of significant cultural resources in the form of earthen mounds constructed by ancient cultures during the Middle Woodland (200 B.C. to A.D. 350) and Late Woodland (A.D. 700-1000) periods. The site is documented to contain 22 mound features. Most are lineal or conical in shape, with the exception of one that is considered to be a panther effigy mound – one of only two such mounds remaining intact within the State of Illinois. Registration of this site will afford permanent legal protection to the cultural resources found on-site and will promote the

restoration and management of an associated dry-mesic savanna natural community. In Illinois, effigy mounds were constructed in the northernmost portion of the state and often in association with water features such as the Rock and Mississippi rivers. In Winnebago County, there were at one time at least 26 known effigy mounds. Today, only two of these effigy mounds remain. One is an effigy mound located at Beattie Park in Rockford. The other mound is an effigy in the shape of a panther at the Johns Mound Group site. The fact that in Winnebago County only two effigy mounds remain intact represents a 93 percent mortality rate for effigy mound destruction in the local area. This fact gives an added urgency to expedite the preservation of this valuable mound group. The accomplishment of this task will constitute a significant step forward in the preservation of Illinois' valuable, but dwindling, native effigy mound sites.

Mr. Nelson stated that the site is not currently open to the public, but it may be in the future. The site has been recently surveyed and fenced. The landowners reserve the right to have a gated access along the eastern boundary and to construct a small parking area in the northeast corner.

Dr. Tom Emerson stated that currently only two mound groups that are preserved intact from a thousand years ago are known. This is a rare resource and has a sacred meaning to native people in the state and country. It is an interesting preservation of a heritage that went on for thousands of years before Europeans came to this country.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Covington, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of Johns Mound Group in Winnebago County as an Illinois land and water reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 13 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting.

(Resolution 2255)

215-14) Mason Co. – Buffer Addition to Matanzas Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

Timothy Kelley presented a proposal on behalf of the IDNR for preliminary approval for dedication of a 54.155-acre buffer addition to Matanzas Prairie Nature Preserve. The proposed buffer addition is located in the Illinois River Section of the Illinois River and Mississippi River Sand Areas Natural Division and provides habitat for several state-listed species, including a state-endangered reptile, a state-threatened amphibian, the state-threatened regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*), the state-threatened tubercled orchid (*Platanthera flava* var. *herbiola*), and the state-threatened ear-leafed foxglove (*Tomanthera auriculata*). In addition, the site provides habitat for ten species in greatest need of conservation as recognized in the IWAP. Dedication of this buffer addition to Matanzas Prairie Nature Preserve will increase the size of the Nature Preserve to approximately 81.80 acres. Additionally, dedication of this parcel will provide buffer to aid in protection of high-quality wet-mesic and mesic sand prairie communities on the adjoining Nature Preserve, allow for the continuing restoration of similar communities on the proposed buffer addition, and provide habitat for several state-listed species and species in greatest need of conservation.

It was moved by McClain, seconded by Dann, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of a buffer addition to Matanzas Prairie Nature Preserve in Mason County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 14 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting.

(Resolution 2256)

215-15) McHenry Co. – Buffer Addition to Oakwood Hills Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the Village of Oakwood Hills for preliminary approval for dedication of 17.8 acres as a buffer addition to Oakwood Hills Fen Nature Preserve. Oakwood Hills Fen Nature Preserve was granted final approval for dedication at the Commission's 108th Meeting in March 1986 (Resolution 886). Both the Nature Preserve and proposed buffer addition are located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southeastern McHenry County. The proposed buffer addition lies adjacent to the Bates Fen INAI site (#0708). This INAI site includes both Oakwood Hills Fen Nature Preserve and Bates Fen Nature Preserve which support a variety of high-quality wetland communities. The proposed buffer addition is located on a steep east-facing slope overlooking Oakwood Hills Fen Nature Preserve and consists of grade C/D dry-mesic forest that serves as an important recharge zone for the graminoid fens arrayed along the toe of the slope in the Nature Preserve. The Village of Oakwood Hills reserves the right to maintain a sledding hill and an existing network of trails, continuation of the forest restoration plan, and to restore a ravine system as resources become available. Dedication of this site as a buffer addition to Oakwood Hills Fen Nature Preserve is consistent with recommendations from the IWAP that call for improving "...the condition of existing natural and artificial wetlands" and a recommendation to enhance "...ecological connectivity among forests and other habitat patches." Although no wetlands occur on the proposed buffer addition, protection of the steep slopes overlooking the wetlands will provide better infiltration and less disruption of the surface and groundwater hydrology upon which the fen wetlands in the Nature Preserve are dependent. Protection of this site is also consistent with the Silver Creek Watershed Plan and will increase the size of Oakwood Hills Fen Nature Preserve from 14.819 acres to 32.619 acres.

Mr. Byers discussed the reserved rights for the site which are explained in detail in the dedication proposal.

It was moved by DauBach, seconded by Rosenthal, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of a buffer addition to Oakwood Hills Fen Nature Preserve in McHenry County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 15 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting.

(Resolution 2257)

215-16) Pope Co. – Round Pond Nature Preserve, Dedication

Tracy Boutelle Fidler presented a proposal on behalf of TNC for preliminary approval to dedicate approximately 206 acres of land as Round Pond Nature Preserve. Round Pond is one of a handful of biologically-rich bottomland lakes found in the valley of the historic Cache River that formed in the abandoned channels of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. Round Pond is located in southeastern Pope County, approximately two miles northwest of New Liberty and is

within the Bottomlands Section of the Coastal Plain Natural Division. It is listed on the INAI (#0812). The proposed nature preserve is biologically diverse, hosting a great blue heron rookery and several rare plants, including the state-endangered cypress knee sedge (*Carex decomposita*), the state-threatened storax (*Styrax americana*), the state-endangered winged sedge (*Carex alata*), and state-threatened swollen sedge (*Carex intumescens*). A significant feature of this site, noted by the INAI inventory, is grade B and grade C swamp. It also includes examples of rare wet bottomland forests, wet-mesic bottomland forests and one of the few swamps of its kind remaining in the Illinois Coastal Plain Natural Division or in the Upper East Gulf Coastal Plain Ecological Region. Conservation of Round Pond supports several action steps identified in the Streams and Wetlands Campaign of the IWAP.

Ms. Boutelle Fidler discussed the reserved rights for the site which are explained in detail in the dedication proposal.

It was moved by Covington, seconded by DauBach, and carried, with Dann and Thomas abstaining, that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of Round Pond in Pope County as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 16 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting.

(Resolution 2258)

215-17) Washington Co. – Bohbrink Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

Debbie Newman presented a proposal on behalf of the IDNR for preliminary approval for dedication of 10 acres near Nashville in southwestern Illinois as Bohbrink Woods Nature Preserve. The site is comprised entirely of grade B southern flatwoods natural community and is located in the Mount Vernon Hill Country Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division. The site is one-half of the Bohbrink Woods INAI site (#0868). Approximately 657 acres of grade A or B southern flatwoods remain in Illinois with only portions of eight of the 18 remaining sites having protection status. In addition to protecting the rare southern flatwoods natural community, dedication of Bohbrink Woods supports several campaigns identified in the IWAP, including the Forests, the Invasive Species, and the Land and Water Stewardship campaigns.

Ms. Newman stated, as noted in the dedication proposal, the mineral rights have been severed from this property, and there is a potential that mining will occur under this nature preserve.

It was moved by DauBach, seconded by Dann, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of Bohbrink Woods in Washington County as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 17 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting.

(Resolution 2259)

215-18) Cook Co. – Addition to Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) for final approval for dedication of 58 lots and vacated streets, totaling 17.1 acres, as an addition to Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve. An ordinance to vacate streets and alleys in Wolf Road Prairie was executed by John Stroger, Jr., President of the FPDCC in March 2006. The Commission granted preliminary approval for dedication of Wolf Road Prairie (including these lots and platted but unbuilt roads) at its 111th Meeting in July 1986 (Resolution 898). Wolf Road Prairie is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located within the Wolf Road Prairie INAI site (# 0251). This INAI site includes grade A/B/C mesic prairie and grade C freshwater marsh. Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve is owned in part by the IDNR, the FPDCC, and Save the Prairie Society. Protection and stewardship of Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed addition support the IWAP, specifically actions that restore and manage high-quality prairie and wetland communities. Dedication of the proposed addition will increase the size of Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve from 55.19 acres to 72.29 acres.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Dann, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of an addition to Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve in Cook County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 18 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting.

(Resolution 2260)

A lunch break was taken from 12:00 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.

215-19) Kankakee Co. – Hopkins Park Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication

John Nelson presented a proposal on behalf of the Illinois Chapter of TNC for final approval for dedication of the 77-acre Hopkins Park Savanna INAI site (#1835) in perpetuity as Hopkins Park Savanna Nature Preserve. Hopkins Park Savanna is located in the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division, and is recognized on the INAI for its high-quality dry and dry-mesic sand savanna, and for the presence of the state-threatened regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria regalia*) and bristly blackberry (*Rubus schneideri*), and the state-endangered crowded oval sedge (*Carex cumulata*), Carey's heartsease (*Polygonum careyi*), and primrose violet (*Viola primulifolia*). Dedication of this natural area promotes the IWAP by providing habitat for at least seven wildlife species in greatest need of conservation, including northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), red-headed woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), and a reptile. The site is also located in the Kankakee Sands Conservation Opportunity Area, and lies in close proximity to many other high-quality natural areas. Hopkins Park 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. Dedication of this site as a nature preserve will help ensure its natural character is protected and managed for future generations. The site received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission's 214th Meeting in May, 2013 (Resolution 2238).

It was moved by Covington, seconded by DauBach, and carried, with Dann and Thomas abstaining, that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of Hopkins Park Savanna in Kankakee County as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 19 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting.

(Resolution 2261)

215-20) Tazewell Co. – Fon du Lac Seep Nature Preserve, Dedication

Thomas Lerczak presented a proposal on behalf of the Fon du Lac Park District for final approval for dedication of 10.616 acres as the Fon du Lac Seep Nature Preserve. Fon du Lac Seep (INAI #0851) is located within the Illinois River Section of the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois River Bottomlands Natural Division and the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. The significant feature of this site is a 4-acre grade B seep with species such as bottlebrush sedge (*Carex hystricina*), swamp thistle (*Cirsium muticum*), spotted joe-pye-weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*), swamp goldenrod (*Solidago patula*), skunk cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*), and marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*). The 2.3 acres of grade C bottomland forest at this site supports silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), American elm (*Ulmus americana*), and eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*). Black ash (*Fraxinus nigra*) can be found in the bottomlands near the seeps. The 4.3 acres of grade C dry-mesic upland forest at this site is characterized by white oak (*Quercus alba*), black oak (*Q. velutina*), and sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*); butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) is a notable, minor component of this forest. Invasion by non-native species is the greatest threat to this site and the most immediate management concern. The IWAP would be supported by this dedication through the Forest, Land and Water Stewardship, Wetlands, and Invasive Species campaigns. The site received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission's 214th Meeting in May, 2013 (Resolution 2239).

Mr. Lerczak stated that a survey was done to define the utility easement, and the utility easements have been signed by the Fon du Lac Park District and the utility company.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Dann, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of Fon du Lac Seep in Tazewell County as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 20 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting.

(Resolution 2262)

215-21) DuPage Co. – Correction of Legal Description for Brewster Creek Marsh Nature Preserve

Jenny Skufca gave a presentation describing the legal description discrepancy for Brewster Creek Marsh Nature Preserve. The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC) received final approval for dedication of 256.88 acres as Brewster Creek Marsh Nature Preserve at the Commission's 211th Meeting in May, 2012 (Resolution 2183), and the dedication document was recorded in DuPage County on June 7, 2012. The landowner has requested that the Commission record the corrected legal description.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Rosenthal, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval of the correction to the legal description for Brewster Creek Marsh Nature Preserve in DuPage County as described in the proposal presented under Item 21 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting. The corrected legal description will be attached to the dedication document and re-recorded in DuPage County.

(Resolution 2263)

215-22) DuPage Co. – Correction of Legal Description for Des Plaines Riverway Nature Preserve

Jenny Skufca gave a presentation describing the legal description discrepancy for Des Plaines Riverway Nature Preserve. The FPDDC received final approval for dedication of 75 acres as Des Plaines Riverway Nature Preserve at the Commission's 211th Meeting in May, 2012 (Resolution 2184), and the dedication document was recorded in DuPage County on June 7, 2012. An error in the legal description has been found. The landowner has requested that the Commission record the corrected legal description.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Rosenthal, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval of the correction to the legal description for Des Plaines Riverway Nature Preserve in DuPage County as described in the proposal presented under Item 22 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting. The corrected legal description will be attached to the dedication document and re-recorded in DuPage County.

(Resolution 2264)

215-23) DuPage Co. – Co. – Correction of Legal Description for Meacham Grove Nature Preserve

Jenny Skufca gave a presentation describing the legal description discrepancy for Meacham Grove Nature Preserve. The FPDDC received final approval for dedication of 49 acres as Meacham Grove Nature Preserve at the Commission's 211th Meeting in May, 2012 (Resolution 2185), and the dedication document was recorded in DuPage County on June 7, 2012. An error in the legal description has been found. The landowner has requested that the Commission record the corrected legal description.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Dann, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval of the correction to the legal description for Meacham Grove Nature Preserve in DuPage County as described in the proposal presented under Item 23 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting. The corrected legal description will be attached to the dedication document and re-recorded in DuPage County.

(Resolution 2265)

215-24) DuPage Co. – Correction of Legal Description for Swift Prairie Nature Preserve

Jenny Skufca gave a presentation describing the legal description discrepancy for Swift Prairie Nature Preserve. The FPDDC received final approval for dedication of 116 acres as Swift Prairie Nature Preserve at the Commission's 211th Meeting in May, 2012 (Resolution 2186), and the dedication document was recorded in DuPage County on June 7, 2012. An error in the legal description has been found. The landowner has requested that the Commission record the corrected legal description.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Rosenthal, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval of the correction to the legal description for Swift Prairie Nature Preserve in DuPage County as described in the proposal presented under Item 24 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting. The corrected legal description will be attached to the dedication document and re-recorded in DuPage County.

(Resolution 2266)

215-25) Lake Co. – Correction of Legal Description for Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve

Jenny Skufca gave a presentation describing the legal description discrepancy for Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve. The Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) received final approval for dedication of 499 acres as Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve at the Commission's 176th Meeting in August, 2002 (Resolution 1700), and the dedication was recorded in Lake County on October 15, 2002. An error in the legal description has been found. The landowner has requested that the Commission record the corrected legal description.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by DauBach, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval of the correction to the legal description for Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve in Lake County as described in the proposal presented under Item 25 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting. The corrected legal description will be attached to the dedication document and re-recorded in Lake County.

(Resolution 2267)

217-26) Lake County – Correction of Legal Description for Spring Bluff Nature Preserve

Jenny Skufca gave a presentation describing the legal description discrepancy for Spring Bluff Nature Preserve. The LCFPD received final approval for dedication of 11.270 acres as an addition to Spring Bluff Nature Preserve at the Commission's 168th Meeting in August, 2000 (Resolution 1549), and the dedication document was recorded in Lake County on September 19, 2000. An error in the legal description has been found. The landowner has requested that the Commission record the corrected legal description.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Covington, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval of the correction to the legal description for an addition to Spring Bluff Nature Preserve in Lake County as described in the proposal presented under Item

26 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting. The corrected legal description will be attached to the dedication document and re-recorded in Lake County.

(Resolution 2268)

215-27) Lee and Ogle Co. – Correction of Legal Description for Nachusa Grasslands Nature Preserve

Jenny Skufca gave a presentation describing the legal description discrepancy for Nachusa Grasslands Nature Preserve. The Nature Conservancy received final approval for dedication of 987.760 acres as Nachusa Grasslands Nature Preserve at the Commission's 213th Meeting in January, 2013 (Resolution 2227), and the dedication document was recorded in Lee County on March 15, 2013, and in Ogle County on March 11, 2013. An error in the legal description has been found. The landowner has requested that the Commission record the corrected legal description.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Covington, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval of the correction to the legal description for Nachusa Grasslands Nature Preserve in Lee and Ogle counties as described in the proposal presented under Item 27 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting. The corrected legal description will be attached to the dedication document and re-recorded in Lee County and Ogle County.

(Resolution 2269)

215-28) Will Co. – Correction of Legal Description for Hickory Creek Barrens Reserve Nature Preserve

Jenny Skufca gave a presentation describing the legal description discrepancy for Hickory Creek Barrens Reserve Nature Preserve. The Forest Preserve District of Will County received final approval for dedication of 575.103 acres as Hickory Creek Barrens Reserve Nature Preserve at the Commission's 157th Meeting in October, 1997 (Resolution 1390), and the dedication document was recorded in Will County on February 10, 1998. An error in the legal description has been found. The landowner has requested that the Commission record the corrected legal description.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Covington, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval of the correction to the legal description for Hickory Creek Barrens Reserve Nature Preserve in Will County as described in the proposal presented under Item 28 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting. The corrected legal description will be attached to the dedication document and re-recorded in Will County.

(Resolution 2270)

215-29) Will Co. – Correction of Legal Description for Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve

Jenny Skufca gave a presentation describing the legal description discrepancy for Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve. The FPDWC received final approval for dedication of 227.342 acres as Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve at the Commission's 140th Meeting in August, 1993 (Resolution 1197), and the dedication document was recorded in Will County on September 16, 1993. An error in the legal description has been found. The landowner has requested that the Commission record the corrected legal description.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Covington, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval of the correction to the legal description for Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve in Will County as described in the proposal presented under Item 29 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting. The corrected legal description will be attached to the dedication document and re-recorded in Will County.

(Resolution 2271)

215-30) Cook Co. – Busse Dam Modification, Busse Forest Nature Preserve

John Wills, Wills Burke Kelsey Associates, Ltd. (WBK), and Brian Karczewski, Stantac Consulting, on behalf of the Elk Grove Village, gave an informational presentation regarding the proposed Busse dam modification. 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. Elk Grove Village, through its consultant, 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 Applied Ecological Services (AES) Decision Matrix. This analysis exhibited an overall reduction in the inundation duration at the Decision Matrix-prescribed storm event elevations. Mr. Wills' presentation is attached as Exhibit D. Mr. Wills stated that he will be coming back to the Commission at a later date to request approval of this modification of the reservoir with the conditions and various approvals that have been noted.

The 440-acre site, owned by the 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 (24th Meeting) and October 1973 (49th Meeting). At the 49th 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 (182nd, 186th, 187th, and 188th 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 188th Meeting, the Commission approved the dam modification subject to operational conditions contained in an 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.

Mr. Wills stated that this proposal maintains the normal pool levels during normal condition, and normal pool level will not be lowered prior to a storm event. When the water level is high, the gate will be lowered to let water out, but it will maintain the normal reservoir levels. This stability is believed to be important in terms of erosion of the banks. There are tools available today that aid in the modeling approach to project larger storms. There will be the ability to change settings to allow variability in the way the reservoir operates. The gate can be moved up or down during the storm event according to a set of rules, and the rules can be modified. Four monitoring stations will be added to bracket the reservoir, and water level readings will be taken. DuPage County has been doing real time monitoring and operation of their own reservoirs over the last 12 years. There is a good body of knowledge on how this will work. There is a flood forecasting model which allows the prediction of some of the effects of the storm; however there is no way to definitely say what those effects will be. Dual hydraulic arms will raise and lower the gate. The gate only needs one arm; however, the redundancy was added to each gate. The fact that there will be two gates is another redundancy to allow the process to work even if one of the gates gets jammed or will not operate all. This also allows for an uninterrupted process when work is being done on one gate.

Mr. Karczewski stated that he expects the plant community to respond to the less frequency in duration in the storm events. The leeway would provide the community to come back and expand over the topography. This is one of the things that will require further management if you want to make this community come back. It is not just the reservoir. There is an opportunity to reverse some of the trend of the reservoir and create a more stable condition for management to take affect and allow the FPDCC and the INPC to do what it wants in order to have a more effective management tool in that area.

Jenny Skufca presented the staff recommendation, and it is attached as Exhibit E. The staff recommendation is:

The INPC staff believes that as the dam was an approved use as of the Commission's 49th Meeting in 1973, the current review should consider how any proposed modification would impact existing conditions. The INPC staff opinion of 2005 pertained to a proposal to increase both the frequency and the duration of flooding in the Nature Preserve. This is no longer the proposed scenario. Duration of flooding is reduced under the currently proposed alternative. However, many of the same recommendations apply. Staff recommends that Commissioners refrain from endorsement of the currently proposed dam modification until the following considerations have been fulfilled:

- Require correspondence from the Busse Forest Nature Preserve landowner, FPDCC, documenting their approval.
- Require that the requests of the FPDCC be met – including, in part, the establishment of a fish barrier and removal of sediment.
- Require that the project sponsors provide the INPC with the final operational plan identifying the responsibilities of each of the partner communities.
- Require that an Intergovernmental Agreement provide assurances of the operational responsibilities and specifically identify who will be held liable if the Nature Preserve experiences impact beyond what is proposed stating that failure to comply with the

agreed parameters is a violation of the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act and confirming responsibility for penalties (specifically, \$10,000/day per 525 ILCS 30/22).

- Require that the project sponsors acquire all other necessary permits.

Mr. Heidorn stated that an intergovernmental agreement will be needed to make sure everyone knows what the repercussions will be if there are violations to the Natural Preservation Act. At this time it has not been decided what parties need to be involved with the intergovernmental agreement.

No action on this matter was required by the Commission at this time.

215-31) Update on Development of a Joint INPC/ESPB/IDNR Animal Translocation Policy

Kelly Neal presented an update on the progress to develop a joint INPC/ESPB/IDNR animal translocation policy. At the 214th INPC Meeting in May 2013, Commissioners directed staff to draft a joint animal translocation policy that would allow for staff level review/approval of requests to translocate animals into INPC sites. A core group, which consisted of Jim Herkert, ORC office director, Anne Mankowski, ESPB director, and Kelly Neal, was convened to draft the framework of a policy. The current consensus amongst the IDNR, ESPB and INPC staff is to use the biological features of the ESPB's Animal Translocation Policy. Participants continue to refine the details focusing on work flow processes, balancing approvals and reviewers appropriate for specific situations. Draft, interim documents are available for Commissioner review at this time. The goal is to expand the work group to include IDNR legal staff and other ORC divisions so the policy will be finalized by the January 2014 meeting.

Ms. Neal stated that IDNR legal staff have not been contacted as of this date. She stated that they are developing the procedure to review the translocation requests.

No action on this matter was required by the Commission at this time.

215-32) Election of Officers

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by DauBach, and carried, pursuant to the recommendations from the Committee of the Whole, that the following Commissioners be elected as Officers of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission: for Chair, Commissioner Thomas; Vice Chair, Commissioner Dann; and Secretary, Commissioner George Covington.

215-33) Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Fiscal Year 2014 Land Acquisition Proposals

Don McFall presented an overview of the list of proposed land acquisitions for FY 2014. The NAAF is administered by the IDNR with review and recommendation of land acquisition projects by the INPC. In FY 2014, seven high priority natural area tracts are available for sale and are recommended for acquisition by the IDNR. All the proposed acquisition parcels are included on the INAI and/or provide habitat for endangered or threatened species of animals or plants. The proposed acquisition program totals 3,738 acres and will cost approximately \$6,000,000 to acquire. The capital budget for land acquisition from NAAF has been established at \$2 million. INPC approval of the seven acquisition opportunity areas is requested. Approval of a list that is greater than the amount of money allocated for land acquisition allows for flexibility to acquire property when it becomes available.

The proposed sites are:

Grassy Slough, Johnson County
Iroquois County Conservation Area, Iroquois County
Harbor Point, Cook County
Bull Valley State Fish and Wildlife Area, McHenry County
Wolf Road Prairie State Natural Area, Cook County
Two tracts at Round Pond, Pope County

Randy Heidorn stated that in the past year approximately \$7 million of new revenue came into the NAAF. There was an additional \$3.5 million payback into the NAAF in the last FY.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Rosenthal, and that the Illinois Nature Preserve go into closed session, pursuant to Section 2(c)(5) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act [5ILCS 120/2(c)(5)] for purposes of discussing the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purpose of discussing whether a particular parcel should be acquired.” A unanimous roll-call vote was taken. Closed session started at 1:57 p.m.

The meeting was called back to order at 2:08 p.m. by Chair Thomas.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by Rosenthal, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval for the Fiscal Year 2014 Natural Areas Acquisition Fund project list as presented under Item 33 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting, and the Director of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission be given authority to acquire additional Illinois Natural Areas Inventory listed sites as they become available within the confines of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Natural Areas Acquisition Fund budget.

(Resolution 2272)

215-34) Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Fiscal Year 2014 Stewardship Proposals

Bob Szafoni presented the proposed FY 2014 stewardship projects, and the proposal is attached as Exhibit F. The Natural Areas Stewardship project uses monies provided by the NAAF to support management activities on both state and non-state-owned nature preserves and land and water reserves. The FY 2014 NAAF Stewardship allocation is projected to be \$750,000. Additional funds will be available from unallocated monies from past fiscal years but the amounts are unknown at this time. The IDNR requests the approval of the complete FY 2014 NAAF Stewardship Proposal list in anticipation of available funding.

The stewardship projects being proposed for approval are:

FY14 NAAF Stewardship Proposed Projects - IDNR				
Sites/Locations	Reg	County	Activity	Amount
Hanover Bluff NP	1	JoDaviess	Invasive control	\$20,000
Pine Rock, George B. Fell, Franklin Creek, Lowden-Miller	1	Ogle, Lee	Exotic control	\$52,000

Forest NPs/LWRs/INAI				
Harlem Hills NP	1	Winnebago	Exotic control	\$9,500
Harry N. Patterson Savanna LWR	1	Henderson	Exotic control	\$30,000
Ayers Sand Prairie, Apple River Canyon, Mineral Marsh, Thomson-Fulton Sand Prairie, Foley Sand Prairie, Mitchell's Grove NPs/LWRs	1	Carroll, Jo Davies, Henry, Whiteside, Lee, LaSalle	Rx Fire	\$130,000
Goose Lake Prairie NP	2	Grundy	Exotic control	\$20,000
Wilmington Shrub Prairie NP	2	Will	Exotic control	\$15,000
Des Plaines Dolomite Prairies LWR	2	Will	Exotic control	\$9,500
Long Run Seep NP	2	Will	Exotic control	\$25,000
Millhurst Fen NP	2	Kendall	Exotic control	\$9,000
Long Run Seep, Millhurst Fen, Butterfield Creek Headwaters NPs/LWRs	2	Will, Kendall, Cook	Rx Fire	\$20,000
Illinois Beach NP	2	Lake	Exotic control	\$48,000
Lake in the Hills Fen NP	2	McHenry	Wetland development	\$43,000
American Beech Woods NP	3	Clark	Exotic control	\$3,000
Embarras River LWR	3	Coles	Invasive control	\$8,000
Margaret Guzy Pothole Wetlands LWR	3	Shelby	Prot	\$14,000
Spitler Woods NP	3	Macon	Exotic control	\$20,000
Carl N. Becker Savanna NP	3	Kankakee	Exotic control	\$35,000
Thaddeus Stubblefield Grove NP	3	McLean	Exotic control	\$30,000
Hooper Branch Savanna NP	3	Iroquois	Wetland development	\$30,000
Robert A. Evers LWR	4	Brown	Invasive control	\$15,000
Various Reg 4 NPs & LWRs	4	various	Rx Fire	\$30,000
Williams Creek Bluff LWR	4	Schuyler	Exotic control	\$20,000
Bohm Woods NP	4	Madison	Exotic control	\$7,500
Goode's Woods NP	4	Macoupin	Exotic control	\$6,500
Stemler Cave Woods NP	4	St Clair	Exotic control	\$15,000
S Till Plain NPs & LWRs	5	Jasper, Lawrence, Clay, Edwards, Marion	Planting	\$5,000
Beall Woods LWR	5	Wabash	Exotic control	\$5,000
Chauncey Marsh NP & LWR	5	Lawrence	Invasive control	\$20,000
Sites/Locations	Reg	County	Activity	Amount
Red Hills Woods, Red Hills Seep Springs NP/ LWR	5	Lawrence	Exotic control	\$8,000
Prairie Ridge LWR	5	Jasper	Protection	\$5,000
Prairie Ridge LWR	5	Jasper	Protection	\$40,000
Prairie Ridge LWR	5	Jasper, Marion	Exotic control	\$10,000
Prairie Ridge LWR	5	Marion	Invasive control	\$40,000

FY14 NAAF Stewardship Proposed Projects - INPC				
Sites/Locations	Reg	County	Activity	Amount
Sandy Creek Bluffs LWR	1	Marshall	Exotic control	\$2,500
Black Partridge Park Woods LWR	1	Woodford	Planting	\$7,000
Stony Hills, Short Fork Seep, Nenawaka, Thistle Hills, Haw Creek Sedge Meadow, Kedzior Woodlands, McFarland Hill NPs/LWRs	1	Hancock, McDonough, Knox, Fulton, Pike	Rx fire	\$45,000
Black Hawk Forest, Josua Lindahl Hill Prairies NPs	1	Rock Island	Exotic control	\$30,000
Stony Hills NP	1	Hancock	Invasive control	\$30,000
Nenawaka, Thistle Hills LWRs	1	McDonough	Exotic control	\$35,000
Haw Creek Sedge Meadow, Kedzior Woodlands LWRs	1	Knox, Fulton	Invasive control	\$25,000
Bluff Spring Fen, Trout Park, Fox River Fen, Sleepy Hollow Ravine, Brewster Creek Fen, Sterne's Fen NPs	2	Cook, Kane, McHenry	Exotic control	\$12,000
Wolf Road Prairie NP	2	Cook	Invasive control	\$5,000
Old Plank Road Prairie NP	2	Cook	Exotic control	\$9,000
Mettler Woods NP	3	DeWitt	Rx fire	\$6,000
Sibley Grove NP	3	Ford	Invasive control	\$10,000
Sibley Grove, Jasmine Hollow, Kinney's Ford Seep, Kickapoo, NPs/LWRs/Natural Area	3	Ford, Piatt, Vermilion	Rx fire	\$78,000
Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP	3	Champaign	Rx fire	\$24,000
Jasmine Hollow LWR	3	Piatt	Exotic control	\$10,000
Carpenter Park NP	4	Sangamon	Exotic control	\$7,000
Storment Hauss, William A. DeMint Memorial Hill Prairie, Brickey-Gonterman of Renault Bluffs, Prairie of the Rock, DesPain Wetlands, Chip-O-Will NPs/LWRs	4	Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair, Washington	Exotic control	\$18,000
White Rock NP	4	Monroe	Exotic control	\$20,000
Salt Lick Point LWR	4	Monroe	Invasive control	\$9,900
P & E Refuge LWR	5	Saline	Invasive control	\$1,500
Sites/Locations	Reg	County	Activity	Amount
Prairie of the Rock, Blufftop Acres, William A. DeMint Memorial Hill Prairie NP/LWRs	4	Randolph, Monroe	Exotic control	\$9,500
Lost Creek Marsh NP & LWR	5	Clinton	Invasive control	\$8,500

Brickey-Gonterman of Renault Bluffs, Angela's Prairie NP/LWR	4	Monroe	Invasive control	\$13,000
Jennings Family Hill Prairie, Two Branch Peace Prairie NP/LWR	4	Calhoun	Invasive control	\$8,000
William and Emma Bohm Memorial, E. Dora Bohm Memorial, William and Emma Bohm Memorial NPs	4	Madison	Exotic control	\$7,000

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Covington, and carried, with DauBach abstaining, that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval of the Fiscal Year 2014 Natural Areas Acquisition Fund stewardship expenditures as presented under Item 34 of the Agenda for the 215th Meeting.

(Resolution 2273)

215-35) Review of Closed Meeting Minutes

There are five sets of minutes regarding land acquisition from closed meetings of the Commission. The meeting dates were August 2, 2005, May 2, 2006, May 6, 2008, May 5, 2009, and May 7, 2013. These meetings were closed in accordance with the Open Meetings Act to discuss the purchase of real property. Section 2.06 of the Open Meetings Act provides that public bodies, “shall periodically, but no less than semi-annually, meet to review minutes of all closed sessions. At such meetings, a determination shall be made and reported in an open session that: 1. the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of those minutes, or 2. that the minutes or portions thereof no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection.”

Randy Heidorn stated that all five sets of minutes contain information that was still of a sensitive nature, and it was the Department’s recommendation that they remain closed.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Dann, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the closed session minutes from the August 2, 2005, May 2, 2006, May 6, 2008, May 5, 2009, and May 7, 2013 meetings will remain confidential but will be reviewed semi-annually to ascertain the need to be kept confidential.

(Resolution 2274)

215-36) Public Comment Period

Randy Heidorn stated that the Natural Areas Conference will be held in Chicago on October 1–4, 2013. He encouraged everyone to attend.

215-37) Other Business

There was no other business.

215-38) Adjournment

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by DauBach, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702
217/785-8686



Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

memorandum

To: Commissioners
From: Kelly Neal, Jenny Skufca, Randy Heidorn
Date: September 4, 2013
Subject: Compiled Staff Report for the 215th Meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
Reporting Period: April 10 – August 6, 2013

KEY

INPC = Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
IDNR = Illinois Department of Natural Resources
ESPB = Endangered Species Protection Board
IDOT = Illinois Department of Transportation
FPD = Forest Preserve District
NP = Nature Preserve
LWR = Land and Water Reserve
INAI = Illinois Natural Areas Inventory

ORC = Office of Resource Conservation
TNI = The Nature Institute
NAAF = Natural Areas Acquisition Fund
ISGS = Illinois State Geological Service
IEPA = Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
NHL = Natural Heritage Landmark
COA = Conservation Opportunity Area
TNC = The Nature Conservancy

AREAS

Area 1 - John Nelson
Area 2 - Steven Byers
Area 3 - Kim Roman
Area 4 - Angella Moorehouse

Area 5 - Thomas Lerczak
Area 6 - Mary Kay Solecki
Area 7 - Debbie Newman
Area 8 - Bob Edgin

INPC OPERATIONS

- Jenny Skufca resigned as Natural Areas Defense Specialist to take a position as Endangered Species Project Manager within IDNR's Division of Natural Heritage effective September 1, 2013. Randy Heidorn is working with IDNR's ORC and has submitted the needed paperwork to refill this position.
- Randy Heidorn assisted in the interview process to hire eight new Natural Heritage Residents. We are awaiting final authorizations to make official offers to seven new residents, three of which will be assigned to INPC staff.
- Staff evaluations were completed and are up to date.
- Mary Kay Solecki:
 - Reviewed all protection proposals for inclusion on the INPC agenda.
 - Coordinated with Hal Hassen, IDNR archeologist, and INPC staff on procedures for the inclusion of historic properties in the INPC system.
- Tom Lerczak:
 - Coordinated the INPC's sign order and assisted with distribution of the signs to INPC staff.
 - Assisted with distribution of sign posts to INPC/IDNR staff.
 - Assisted with distributing fiscal year 2013 herbicide orders to INPC staff and partners.

OUTREACH/PARTNERSHIP/TRAINING/VOLUNTEER COORDINATION/MEETINGS ATTENDED

- Randy Heidorn and Steven Byers attended quarterly the meeting of the Executive Council for Chicago Wilderness. Steven Byers represents the INPC as a voting member of the Council and co-chairs the Natural Resource Management Team.
- Kelly Neal and Debbie Newman coordinated with a contractor for the development of a 50th anniversary PowerPoint presentation.
- Debbie Newman organized, with assistance from Kelly Neal, a 50th anniversary reception and dinner for September 9, 2013.
- Kim Roman, with Randy Heidorn's assistance, maintained INPC's Facebook page and coordinated the INPC's 50th anniversary with a photo album of 50 different NPs. The INPC's Facebook page currently has over 2,330 fans. Field staff coordinated with photographers and provided photos and captions for sites for the INPC's photos.
- The Friends of Stemler Cave Woods received the IDNR Volunteers of the Year award as a result of Debbie Newman's nomination. Randy Heidorn and Debbie Newman attended the ceremony at the Illinois State Fair.
- Randy Heidorn
 - Attended TNC's "Potluck on the Prairie" to assist in the dedication ceremony for Nachusa Grassland Nature Preserve.
 - Participated in the regular meeting of the Association of Conservation and Forest Preserve Districts.
 - Represented the INPC on the planning committee of the Natural Areas Conference to be held in Chicago on October 1-4, 2013.
 - Continues to serve as President of the Natural Areas Association, representing the interests of the INPC and State of Illinois to this national organization.
 - Represented INPC interests at two quarterly meetings of the ESPB.
 - Continues to serve on the Illinois Incident Management Team where he serves as a Logistics Section Chief. Recently received his Red Card qualification as an All-Hazards Logistic Section Chief.

Field staff prepared for and/or participated in the following activities:

Area 1

- Gave the presentation "Illinois' Native Landscapes" for members of the Prairie Preservation Society at its annual dinner.
- Contributed to an article on native prairies for the Winnebago County FPD.
- Attended field workshop on prairie management and potential impacts to the ornate box turtle.

Area 2

- Represented the INPC at a McHenry County Conservation District/IDNR/Openlands strategic meeting for land acquisition for Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge and at a US Fish and Wildlife Service plaque ceremony.
- Met with the Mettawa Open Lands Association and gave a presentation on the resource-rich Lake County.
- Represented the INPC at a FPD of Cook County's 100 years celebration in Chicago.

Area 3

- Organized/led a field trip at Callie Mae Spraggins Savanna NP and Carl N. Becker Savanna NP to promote recent dedications and the INPC's 50th anniversary.
- Represented the INPC at a Lower Fox River Planning Committee meeting.

Area 4

- Supervised and trained an undergraduate summer intern from University of Illinois, Springfield.
- Gave the keynote presentation on hill prairies for the Iowa Prairie Conference held in Decorah, Iowa.
- Interviewed by Chicago public radio stations, a Chicago CBS news affiliate, and The Weather Channel in Atlanta, Georgia regarding this year's decline in the butterfly population.
- Led a field trip for the Illinois Audubon Society at Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak NP.

Area 5

- Worked with INPC volunteer Faith Wheaton on various projects.

- Led a field trip for the Illinois Audubon Society at Henry Allan Gleason NP.
- Interviewed by WSEC-TV PBS Springfield for *Illinois Stories* concerning North Elkhart Hill Grove LWR and Elkhart Hill.

Area 6

- Interviewed for an Environmental Almanac piece on the INPC's 50th anniversary which was published in the News-Gazette and was featured on WILL-AM radio.
- Wrote an article on the INPC's 50th anniversary for Grand Prairie Friends' fall newsletter.
- Co-lead a field trip for Lumpkin Family Foundation at Embarras River INAI sites and gave a presentation on Embarras River conservation efforts at a picnic lunch for the Foundation.

Area 7

- Coordinated with *Illinois Audubon* magazine editor and writers on a special INPC 50th anniversary edition of the magazine.
- Wrote articles for the *Illinois Audubon* magazine special issue.
- Compiled an updated INPC Fact Sheet for the INPC' 50th anniversary.
- Led an interpretive wildflower hike at Salt Lick Point LWR, also incorporating the INPC's 50th anniversary.
- Attended a four-day Urban/Wildland Fire Operations Course (S-215) at the Jefferson City Fire Academy.
- Attended a Salt Lick Point LWR committee meeting.

Area 8

Gave oral presentation and guided tour at Beall Woods NP as part of the INPC's 50th anniversary celebration.

PROTECTION

Discussion of protection options with the following landowners and potential funders

Area 1

Winnebago County FPD
 JoDaviess Conservation Foundation
 Illinois Audubon Society
 Land Conservancy of McHenry County
 FPD of Cook County
 IDNR
 Boy Scouts of America, Blackhawk District
 Friends of Franklin Creek
 Boone County Conservation District
 TNC
 The Natural Land Institute
 Three landowners of Boone Creek Fen and Seep INAI

Area 2

Owners of the following sites:
 Skokie River NP
 Bluff Spring Fen NP
 Busse Forest NP
 Gensburg-Markham Prairie NP
 MacArthur Woods NP
 Trout Park NP
 Kaskel Fen INAI site
 Somme Prairie INAI site
 Alden Sedge Meadow INAI site
 Chicago Junior School Area INAI site

Area 3

Owners of Dayton Bluffs

Assisted TNC and a private landowner with the environmental assessment of parcels available at a Kankakee County tax auction.

Area 4

Worked with landowners of three potential natural areas. Completed baseline documentation for the proposed Forever Fields LWR.

Area 5

Worked on proposals to register Fern Ridge Natural Area in Marshall County as a LWR (in-progress) and Riverside Park in Sangamon County as a LWR (in-progress).

Area 6

Owners of the following sites:
 Rock Cut Botanical Area INAI site
 Embarras River INAI site
 Sangamon River INAI site
 Salt Fork Vermilion River INAI site

Area 8

Owners of the following sites:
 Beadles Barrens NP
 Pruett Woods NP
 Horn Prairie Grove LWR
 Karl Bartel Wildlife Sanctuary LWR
 Richard R. and Jean W. Graber Grasslands LWR
 Robert Ridgway Grasslands NP
 Culley Barrens LWR
 Green Prairie NHL

Loy Prairie LWR
 Marjorie J. Brines White Oak Woods LWR

OTHER LANDOWNER CONTACTS (includes acquisition)

Area 1

Provided comments to IDNR’s Office of Realty and Environmental Planning regarding two land parcels considered for acquisition.

Area 3

Owners of the following:

- Pilcher Park INAI site
- Clark Run INAI site
- Leesville Savanna INAI site
- Sweet Fern Savanna LWR and INAI site

Neighbors of the following sites:

- Lower Fox River-Blake’s Landing NP
- Hooper Branch Savanna NP
- Wilmington Shrub Prairie NP

Area 4

Owners of the following:

- Josua Lindahl Hill Prairies NP
- Spring Grove Cemetery Prairie NP
- Brownlee Cemetery Prairie NP
- Short Fork Seep NP
- Thistle Hills LWR
- Cecil White Prairie LWR
- Robert A. Evers LWR
- Samuel Barnum Mead Savanna NP
- Nenawakwa LWR
- Stony Hills NP
- Kedzior Woodlands LWR
- Munson Township Cemetery Prairie NP
- Greenlee Cemetery Prairie NP
- Harper’s Woods NP
- Mary Taylor’s Mossville Road Hill Prairie NHL
- Tartan Bluff Hill Prairie NHL

Area 5

Owners of the following:

- Anderson Prairie LWR
- Black Partridge Park Woods LWR
- Carpenter Park NP
- Chandlerville Cemetery Hill Prairie LWR
- Crevecoeur NP
- Denby Prairie NP
- Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR
- Thomas W. and Elizabeth Moews Dore Seep NP
- Funks Grove LWR
- Gillespie Prairie LWR
- Hopewell Hill Prairies NP

Burnside Forest INAI Site
 Paint Rock Bluffs INAI site

- Independence Park Woods LWR
- Mackinaw River LWR
- Manito Prairie NP
- Matanzas Prairie NP
- Mt. Palatine Cemetery Prairie NP
- North Elkhart Hill Grove LWR
- Oak Bluff Savanna NP
- River Hill Seep (Fondulac Seep Natural Area)
- Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak NP
- Sandy Creek Bluffs LWR
- Bob Spanski's Walden Too LWR
- Thaddeus Stubblefield Grove NP
- Wiegand Prairie NHL
- Witter's Bobtown Hill Prairie NP

Area 6

Owners of the following:

- Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP
- Edgewood Farm LWR
- Embarras Ridges LWR
- Embarras Bend NHL
- Embarras Bluffs NHL
- Jasmine Hollow LWR
- Warbler Woods NP
- Wolf Ridge NHL

Area 7

Owners of the following:

- DesPain Wetlands LWR
- Prairie of the Rock NP
- Prairie of the Rock Overlook LWR
- Brickey-Gonterman Memorial Hill Prairie NP
- Brickey-Gonterman at Renault Bluffs LWR
- Palisades NP
- Oblate Father’s Woods NP
- John M. Olin NP
- Mississippi Sanctuary NP
- Harry’s Prairie NHL
- Katelyn’s Woods LWR
- Salt Lick Point LWR
- Martha and Michelle Prairies LWR
- Pere Marquette NP
- Brainerd Cave NP
- McAdams Peak LWR
- An INAI site in Monroe County
- An INAI site in St. Clair County

EASEMENT/DEDICATION MONITORING/BOUNDARY SURVEYS

Boundary monitoring took place at the following protected areas:

Area 1

Apple River Canyon LWR

Wapelo LWR

Eagles Nest LWR

Boone Creek Fen NP

Area 2

Spring Lake NP

Bluff Spring Fen NP

Trout Park NP and Trout Park Rivers Edge

Sleepy Hollow Ravine NP

Skokie River NP

Oakwood Hills Fen NP

Area 3

Black Partridge Woods NP

Area 4

Singing Woods NP

Robinson Park Hill Prairies NP

Thistle Hills LWR

Short Fork Seep NP

Nenawakwa LWR

Stony Hills NP

Kedzior Woodlands LWR

Harper-Rector Woods NP

Harper's Woods NP

Samuel Barnum Mead Savanna NP

Spring Grove Cemetery Prairie NP

Brownlee Cemetery Prairie NP

Grubb Hollow Prairie NP

Robert A. Evers LWR

Area 5

The proposed Fon du Lac Seep NP

Anderson Prairie LWR

Bennett's Terraqueous Gardens NP

Black Partridge Park Woods LWR

Bullard Lake Club NHL

Carpenter Park NP

Chandlerville Cemetery Hill Prairie LWR

Crevecoeur NP

Denby Prairie NP

Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR

Fon du Lac Seep LWR

Funks Grove LWR

Gillespie Prairie LWR

Hopewell Hill Prairies NP

Independence Park Woods LWR

King Forest NP

McMaster Woods NP

Oak Bluff Savanna NP

Providence Woods NHL

Bob Spanski's Walden Too LWR

Thaddeus Stubblefield Grove NP

Wiegand Prairie NHL

Witter's Bobtown Hill Prairie NP

Area 7

Prairie of the Rock Overlook LWR

Martha and Michelle Prairie LWR

Luella Schaefer Memorial Hill Prairie LWR

Jennings Family Hill Prairies NP

Salt Lick Point LWR

Harry's Prairie NHL

White Rock NP

Columbia Quarry-Sugar Loaf Prairie LWR

Columbia Quarry-Dupo Prairie LWR

Area 8

Karl Bartel Wildlife Sanctuary LWR

Richard R. and Jean W. Graber Grasslands LWR

Embarras Bottoms State Habitat Area

BIOLOGICAL INVENTORIES

Unless otherwise specified, routine inventories were conducted at the following sites (target species if applicable):

Area 2

Fox River Country Day School site

Glenwood Park and a private fen in Cook County

Area 3

Wilmington Shrub Prairie NP

Nachusa Grasslands NP

Des Plaines Dolomite Prairies LWR

Sweet Fern Savanna LWR

Area 4

Cedar Glen NP, Massasauga Prairie NP, Samuel Barnum Mead Savanna NP, Short Fork Seep NP, Nenawakwa LWR, a potential site for INAI nomination, and a privately owned forest

Mississippi River - Andalusia Slough INAI site (24-hour Bio Blitz) Assisted in the preparation of a proposal to census Harry N. Patterson Savanna LWR and other natural areas within the sand area of northern Henderson

County (planning for listed and rare herpetiles and aerial helicopter surveillance to map the location of invasive black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*).

Participated in the development of a research project for the state-threatened bunchflower (*Melanthium virginicum*).

Area 5

Riverside Park (bird, botanical)

Fern Ridge INAI site (botanical)

Black Partridge Park Woods LWR (bird)

Post restoration assessments were conducted at Chandlerville Cemetery Prairie LWR, Witter's Bobtown Hill Prairie NP, Hopewell Hill Prairies NP, Oak Bluff Savanna NP, Crevecoeur NP and Wiegand Prairie NHL

Area 6

Middle Fork of Vermilion River (bald eagle [*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*] nest)

Edgewood Farm LWR (mussel translocation)

Middle Fork Woods NP (fibrous-rooted sedge [*Carex communis*])

Horseshoe Bottoms NP (turtle survey)

Wolf Ridge NHL and Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve (Sangamon phlox [*Phlox pilosa sangamonensis*])

Area 7

Mill Creek Natural Area/Swayne Hollow NP (Bio Blitz)

Harry's Prairie NHL

Prairie of the Rock Overlook LWR

Salt Lick Point LWR

Twenty-seven separate prairies and glades for Hill Prairie SWG post-assessment

Area 8

Royal Catchfly (*Silene regia*) at Loy Prairie LWR, Karl Bartel Wildlife Sanctuary LWR, Richard R. and Jean W. Graber Grasslands LWR, Prairie Ridge LWR (Walter Tract), Robert Ridgway Grasslands NP, Beadles Barrens NP, Chauncey Marsh INAI site, Flag Pond INAI site, Allison Gravel Prairie NHL, Centerville Cemetery INAI site, and Allison Ditch INAI site

Tube beardtongue (*Penstemon tubaeiflorus*) at Prairie Ridge LWR (Galbreath Tract) and Horn Prairie Grove LWR CSX Railroad (Grass-leaved lily [*Stenanthium gramineum*])

Beadles Barrens NP and private land near Prairie Ridge LWR (spring ladies tress orchid [*Spiranthes vernalis*])

Old Stone Face – Dennison Hollow INAI site (Mead's milkweed [*Asclepias meadii*])

Simpson Township Barrens INAI site (climbing milkweed [*Matalea oblique*] and heart-leaved plantain [*Plantago cordata*])

Little Grand Canyon - Cedar Creek INAI site (buffalo clover [*Trifolium reflexum*])

INAI UPDATE

Randy Heidorn, Kelly Neal and Tom Lerczak attended the Natural Areas Evaluation Committee meeting in May. Randy Heidorn serves as the INPC voting member for this committee that determines what sites are added to the INAI.

STEWARDSHIP

Planning

- Kelly Neal:
 - Has been coordinating with the IDNR's ORC and the ESPB in the development of a joint INPC, ESPB, IDNR Animal Translocation Policy.
 - Has been working with the IDNR's ORC and Office of Legal Counsel staff in an effort to receive final delivery of a working product with the contractor that designed an the ORC Permit Database.
- Kelly Neal and Debbie Newman gave a PowerPoint presentation updating new members regarding stewardship at a TNI board meeting and discussed the INPC/TNI partnership.
- Kelly Neal and Debbie Reider coordinated with Karen Tharp, TNC, with the ordering of stewardship equipment to be distributed to volunteers in the Volunteer Stewardship Network.

- Steven Byers met with The Tollway Authority regarding Trout Park NP bridge design considerations and opportunities for mitigation of loss of wetlands along the I-90 corridor
- Angella Moorehouse:
 - Participated in discussions with Bluffland Alliance members regarding potential McKnight funding for watershed projects within the Upper Mississippi River COA.
 - Assisted the Prairie Land Conservancy in the preparation of a grant proposal to seed funds for a Cooperative Weed Management Area for west-central Illinois.
- Debbie Newman met with Egyptian Electric Cooperative staff to look at and discuss power line/NP interface cooperation.
- Bob Edgin assisted the ESPB with development of recovery outlines for the state-endangered winged sedge (*Carex alata*), tube beardtongue (*Penstemon tubaeflorus*), halberd-leaved tearthumb (*Polygonum arifolium*) and state-threatened storax (*Styrax americanus*).

Unless otherwise specified stewardship plans or proposals were prepared or updated for the following sites:

Area 2

Wolf Road Prairie NP
Bluff Spring Fen NP
Fox River Country Day School
Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid NP
Millennium Reserve

Area 3

Superior Street Prairie LWR
Old Plank Road Prairie NP
Lockport Prairie NP
Romeoville Prairie NP
Long Run Creek & Long Run Seep NP: watershed planning

Area 4

Siloam Springs State Park: discussed plans for using National Wild Turkey Federation funding for a large Forest Stewardship Project.
Quad Cities natural areas: met with River Bend Wildland Stewards to discuss stewardship plans.
Submitted five NAAF proposals for prescribed burn assistance at six INPC sites and general stewardship work at seven sites.

Area 6

Upper Sangamon River LWR: hunting activities with the landowner.
Doris Westfall Prairie Restoration NP: exotic plant control.
Several LWRs and NHLs in Vermilion River, Sangamon River, and Embarras River watersheds: exotic plant control with private owners.
IDNR lands: plans to convert agricultural lease renewal areas back to natural habitat.

Area 7

Salt Lick Point LWR
DesPain Wetlands LWR
Stemler Cave Woods NP
Blufftop Acres LWR
John M. Olin NP
Mississippi Sanctuary NP
Palisades NP
Mill Creek Natural Area

Area 8

Assisted Natural Resources Damage Assessment staff with boundary identification and wetland planning at Embarras Bottoms State Habitat Area.

STEWARDSHIP

Consulting, contract work conducted, administered or completed

Area 2

Trout Park NP/Trout Park INAI site
Bluff Spring Fen NP
Sleepy Hollow Ravine NP
Sterne's Fen NP
Palatine Prairie NP

Area 3

Old Plank Road Prairie NP
Hildy Prairie NP
Long Run Seep NP
Des Plaines Dolomite Prairies LWR

Area 6

Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP
Jasmine Hollow LWR

Area 7

Salt Lick Point LWR
Blufftop Acres LWR
Horse Creek Glade NHL
Armin Krueger Speleological NP

Area 8

Green Prairie NHL
Horn Prairie Grove LWR

STEWARDSHIP

Land management conducted by staff

Area 1

Lake in the Hills Fen NP
Bluff Spring Fen NP
Boone Creek Fen NP

Area 2

Trout Park NP/Trout Park INAI site
Wolf Road Prairie NP
Bluff Spring Fen NP
Sleepy Hollow Ravine NP
Sterne's Fen NP
Fox River Country Day School

Area 3

Sweet Fern Savanna LWR
Voight Pauper Cemetery Prairie LWR
Short Pioneer Cemetery Prairie NP
Grant Creek Prairie NP
Goose Lake Prairie NP

Area 4

Completed GPS work for 13 hill prairies (seven INPC sites) for the Hill Prairie State Wildlife Grant.
Kedzior Woodlands LWR
Harper-Rector Woods NP
Harper's Woods NP
Cecil White Prairie LWR
Short Fork Seep NP
Thistle Hills LWR
Grubb Hollow Prairie NP
Robert A. Evers LWR
Cedar Glen NP
Mississippi River Sand Hills NP
Samuel Barnum Mead Savanna NP
Brownlee Cemetery Prairie NP
Spring Grove Cemetery Prairie NP
Nenawakwa LWR

Area 5

Anderson Prairie LWR

Black Partridge Park Woods LWR
Charles "Chinee" Colvin Sand Prairie LWR
Crevecoeur NP
Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR
Manito Prairie NP
McCune Sand Prairie LWR
Mt. Palatine Cemetery Prairie NP
North Elkhart Hill Grove LWR
Tomlin Timber NP
Sparks Pond LWR
Walden West LWR

Area 6

Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP
Prospect Cemetery Prairie NP
Warbler Woods NP
Miller's Rocky Branch LWR

Area 7

Salt Lick Point LWR
DesPain Wetlands LWR
Angela's Prairie LWR
Piney Creek Ravine NP
Jennings Family Hill Prairie NP
Brickey-Gonterman Memorial Hill Prairie NP
Prairie of the Rock Overlook LWR

Area 8

Beadles Barrens NP
Marjorie J. Brines White Oak Woods LWR

**Threats to Sites Report for the 215th Meeting of the
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
(reporting period: April 10, 2013 – August 26, 2013)**

Bluff Spring Fen NP, Cook County – Steven Byers, John Nelson, Jenny Skufca

Issue: The Bluff Spring Fen Protection Plan (approved June 30, 2003) between the INPC and Bluff City Materials, Inc. calls for conveyance of surface water from Gifford Lake to Poplar Creek through proposed stormwater piping.

Threat: Surface water represents a threat to this groundwater-dependent wetland.

Status: Ongoing. The stormwater piping project began in March 2013, and continues. Staff of the INPC supported an amendment of the work plan with FPD of Cook County Bluff City Materials, Mackie Consultants, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that would permit filling a gravel pit lake with bank run aggregate in order to better protect groundwater resources at the NP. INPC staff also coordinated a site visit with the Soil and Water Conservation District personnel to ensure the necessary soil erosion/silt control measures were in place for the project to move forward.

Middlefork Savanna NP, Lake County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca

Issue: An adjacent landowner, Knollwood Golf Club, dredged a golf course pond and piped sediment into the NP owned by the Lake County FPD.

Threat: Direct and indirect impact to aquatic resources/ephemeral ponds in the NP and at the Knollwood Golf Club.

Status: Ongoing. Staff of the INPC provided comments to the Office of the Attorney General regarding Knollwood's July 31, 2013 revisions to the Consent Order. The INPC continues to coordinate with the Lake County FPD.

Trout Park NP, Kane County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca

Issue: The Tollway Authority will be widening I-90 (one additional lane each direction) and will be constructing a new bridge over the Fox River.

Threat: Direct impacts to woody cover adjacent to the NP. The right-of-way will be much wider than suggested by current boundary fences and will be impacted during bridge construction. Indirect impacts from additional salt and contaminants from the widened road.

Status: Ongoing. INPC staff has met with the Tollway Authority regarding the bridge design features and the need to monitor groundwater. Groundwater monitoring wells have been installed by the ISGS. Staff continues to work with the Tollway Authority and the ISGS to implement mitigation measures to reduce impacts to nearby high-quality forested fen wetlands.

Bliss Woods NP, Kane County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca

Issue: An unknown amount of lead shot has been deposited in the NP by years of trap/skeet shooting at adjacent former Aurora Sportsman's Club.

Threat: Lead shot poses a threat to humans and the environment.

Status: Ongoing. Recently, the Aurora Sportsman's Club was sent a Notice of Intent to Pursue Legal Action, which is the IEPA's last procedural hurdle before potentially referring the matter over to the Attorney General's Office. The IEPA will conduct groundwater sampling on the NP in September, 2013.

MacArthur Woods NP, Lloyd's Woods NP, Grainger Woods NP, and Elm Road Woods NP, Lake County – Steven Byers

Issue: Nicor Gas Company proposes to install pipelines within the St. Mary's Road right-of-way located adjacent to the aforementioned NPs.

Threat: Potential direct and indirect impacts to the NPs. The maintenance project calls for construction of pits to install equipment and excavation.

Status: Resolved. INPC staff met with Lake County FPD and representatives of Nicor Gas Company in the field. The pipeline will not infringe upon the NPs. A temporary drilling rig mounted on skids may extend four to five feet into Lloyd's Woods NP.

Illinois Beach NP, Lake County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca

Issue: The landowner (IDNR) is storing and applying road salt in close proximity and potentially within the NP.

Threat: Salt used for deicing roads is a primary source of chlorides, which have been documented to be a major cause of groundwater and surface water degradation resulting in direct impact to freshwater aquatic plants and animals. Studies show that non-native, invasive plant species favor higher chloride levels and will out-compete the native plants found in our relict high-quality wetlands. As a result of excessive chloride loadings, wetlands change from their natural high diversity condition to that of a monoculture that offers little habitat opportunity for native flora and fauna.

Status: Resolved. The salt was removed from Illinois Beach State Park. IDNR staff continue to work on a salt guidance document for Illinois state parks.

Romeoville Prairie NP, Will County – Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca

Issue: On September 9, 2010, an Enbridge Energy pipeline broke less than one-half mile from the NP boundary.

Threat: Potential for crude oil constituents to contaminate surface and groundwater in the NP affecting a diversity of flora and fauna, including numerous federally-listed and state-listed species.

Status: Ongoing. The IEPA has approved Enbridge's Remedial Action Completion Report dated July 2013, further stating that the IEPA has determined that the voluntary cleanup is complete. INPC staff are currently working with the NP landowner (FPD Will County), IDNR, and ISGS staff to draft a request for mitigation for impacts experienced by the NP at the time of the pipeline break and during the cleanup.

Tallmadge Sand Forest LWR, Kankakee County – Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca

Issue: Eighty-eight white oak trees were removed from within the LWR.

Threat: Direct impact to the LWR. Unauthorized removal of trees, over 4,000 feet of up to 18-inch ruts were created throughout the interior of the LWR; unauthorized removal of signs.

Status: Ongoing. The Office of the Attorney General is representing the INPC as a plaintiff and intervenor (with the LWR landowner, TNC) in a Complaint for Injunction and Civil Penalties filed October 29, 2012, citing four counts based on violations to the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act. The case is scheduled for trial in October 2013. Settlement negotiations continue.

Short Fork Seep NP, McDonough County – Angella Moorehouse, Jenny Skufca

Issue #1: The private landowner discovered that herbicide associated with power line vegetative maintenance had been used within the NP.

Threat #1: Direct impact to flora in the NP causing damage to the vegetation and soils within the high quality portion of seep/sedge meadow of the NP.

Status #1: Ongoing. The Office of the Attorney General continues to conduct settlement negotiations with the alleged responsible party. INPC staff are currently reviewing a revised draft of the Consent Order received August 19, 2013.

Issue #2: An adjacent neighbor has encountered water backing up in his farm field.

Threat #2: Direct impact to NP in digging up the failed drainage tile.

Status #2: Ongoing. It was determined that the neighbor was within his legal right to fix the broken tile based on the Illinois Drainage Code. INPC staff will monitor the action and ensure sensitivity to the protected resources.

Crevecoeur NP, Tazewell County – Thomas Lerczak

Issue: At least three adjacent landowners are potentially encroaching on the NP boundary.

Threat: Unauthorized use of the NP.

Status: Ongoing. INPC staff inspected the INPC-funded boundary survey, posted signs, and met with the NP landowner (Village of Creve Coeur) and site custodian to develop strategies for confronting encroaching neighbors.

Denby Prairie NP, Macoupin County – Thomas Lerczak

Issue: The parking lot of the NP was being used as staging area for high-speed rail contractors.

Threat: Unauthorized use of a NP.

Status: Resolved. IDNR Consultation staff assisted the INPC with informing the consultants overseeing the statewide high-speed rail project that they should refrain from using INPC sites without prior authorization.

Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR, Tazewell County – Thomas Lerczak

Issue: The landowner (Pekin Park District) reported to INPC staff that a volunteer had moved a trail.

Threat: Unauthorized trail construction.

Status: Resolved. INPC staff determined that the trail had been moved due to an adjacent collapsing creek bank. Soon after moving the trail, the bank collapsed.

Gillespie Prairie LWR, Macoupin and Montgomery counties – Thomas Lerczak, Jenny Skufca

Issue: Ditch clearing has occurred on 0.9 acres of the IDNR-owned LWR, a portion of which lies on property leased to Aladdin Steel.

Threat: Unauthorized vegetation removal within the LWR.

Status: Ongoing. INPC staff continues to monitor site restoration in consultation with the IDNR, Aladdin Steel, and the restoration contractor.

Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak NP, Mason County – Thomas Lerczak

Issue: One or more of the neighbors of the NP gated and locked the entry and exit to a recently vacated road which is at least partially within the NP.

Threat: Unauthorized use of the NP for private purposes.

Status: Ongoing. INPC staff has recommended that the landowner (IDNR) conduct a boundary survey.

Thaddeus Stubblefield Grove NP, McLean County – Thomas Lerczak

Issue: An outside source report to INPC staff that excessive timber cutting had occurred.

Threat: Unauthorized timber cutting.

Status: Resolved. INPC staff determined that a representative of the landowner had authorized the cutting due to safety reasons.

Edgewood Farm LWR and Larimore's Salt Fork of the Vermilion River LWR, Vermilion County – Mary Kay Solecki

Issue: Sunrise Coal is planning a new coal mine upstream of the LWRs.

Threat: Potential water withdrawal from Salt Fork of the Vermilion River for coal washing and processing estimated at ~325,000 gallons/day initially then increasing to 540,000 gallons/day; discharge of wastewater into Salt Fork. The Salt Fork of the Vermilion River is recognized as a high-quality stream in Vermilion County and the eastern part of Champaign County by the Illinois Natural Areas INAI. The Salt Fork in Vermilion County is also home to several state-threatened or endangered mussels and fish. Potential water withdrawal and wastewater discharge may impact state-listed species and the two LWRs on the Salt Fork.

Status: Resolved. INPC staff coordinated with the LWR and INAI site landowners and other citizens. The Homer Village Board voted unanimously to deny a request for up to 540,000 gallons/day of non-potable water. Sunrise Coal will seek alternate means of obtaining non-potable water for the mine. The INPC submitted correspondence on May 30, 2013, to the Champaign County Board Environment and Land Use Committee regarding potential impacts to protected sites and species of water withdrawal. Sunrise Coal entered into a contract with the City of Georgetown to purchase water.

John M. Olin NP, Madison County – Debbie Newman, Jenny Skufca

Issue: A neighboring landowner has cleared approximately three acres of timber along Hop Hollow Creek which forms a portion of the NP boundary.

Threat: Changes to the surface hydrology of the NP may occur when precipitation returns due to large piles of timber placed along the Creek and across the Creek. Within a short distance of the clearing, the Creek outfalls to the Mississippi River.

Status: Resolved. An IDNR surveyor provided interpretation of the land surveys. Boundary signs for the NP appear to have been placed beyond the NP boundary. The clearing may not have encroached on the NP. Boundary posting will be corrected. INPC staff and one of the landowners, TNI, will continue to monitor the timber cleanup.

Salt Lick Point LWR, Monroe County – Debbie Newman

Issue: The landowner (Village of Valmeyer) found a zip-line constructed in the woods.

Threat: Unauthorized use of and encroachment of a LWR.

Status: Resolved. The landowner removed the zip-line. The landowner will continue to investigate.

215th Meeting - Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC)
Review of Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Ecological Compliance and Assessment Tool (EcoCAT) Consultations
and Comprehensive Environmental Review Program (CERP) submittals
Reporting period: April 10, 2013 - August 26, 2013

EcoCAT Consultations:

<u>Site</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Proposed project under review</u>	<u>INPC recommendation or resolution</u>
Boloria Fen and Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve (NP)	McHenry	Proposed Enbridge pipeline repair within the NP.	INPC staff oversaw project, including final site grading and seeding.
Long Run Seep NP	Will	Proposed modification of streams and ditches in vicinity of the NP. Proposed culvert replacement.	No direct impacts to the NP are expected.
Bois du Sangamon NP	Macon	Proposed dredging of Lake Decatur which forms one boundary of the NP. Proposed hydraulic transport of sediment.	Recommendation to keep dredge staging away from the NP and ensure that hydraulic line avoids the NP.
Del Webb Sedge Meadow and Grove NP	Kane	Proposed Enbridge pipeline repair.	Determination was made that the proposal is unlikely to adversely modify the NP. All work will occur within the Enbridge right-of-way.
Boone Creek Fen and Amberin Ash Ridge NPs and Boone Creek Fen Class III	McHenry	Proposed telecommunications tower near the NPs and within Class III.	Recommendation to conduct soil borings to assess site suitability. Concern for groundwater protection in area with seeps.
North Dunes NP	Lake	Proposed repair of raw water intake pipe.	No impact will occur to the NP. All work will occur in Lake Michigan from a barge.

<u>Site</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Proposed project under review</u>	<u>INPC recommendation or resolution</u>
Spring Bluff NP	Lake	Proposed stream restoration to Dead Dog Creek.	Recommendations provided by IDNR Consultation to ensure the protection of state-listed species in the vicinity.
Boone Creek Fen, Gladstone Fen, Boger Bog, and Amberin Ash Ridge NPs and Boone Creek Fen Class III	McHenry	Proposed repair to the existing pipe culvert.	No impact to the NPs expected. Recommendation included no introduction of invasive seed.
Orland Grassland Land & Water Reserve (LWR)	Cook	Proposed perimeter trail within the LWR.	Installation of a perimeter trail was approved as an authorized use at registration.
CERP submittals:			
<u>Site</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Proposed project under review</u>	<u>INPC recommendation or resolution</u>
Fort Massac LWR	Massac	Proposal to construct a fence around the cemetery.	Installation will not impact high-quality resources. Recommendation made to ensure appropriate access.
North Dunes NP	Lake	Proposed relocation of a natural gas main.	Extensive recommendations were provided including protective measures for state-listed species, soil erosion, seeding, equipment cleaning, directional boring safety and response, no introduction of invasives, and extreme sensitivity to wetlands.
Illinois Beach NP	Lake	Proposed woody invasive species control.	Recommendation included no impact to state-listed species, clean equipment and shoes, and strict adherence to INPC's Vegetation Management Guidelines.

**Illinois Department of Natural Resources
report to the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
at the 215th meeting, September 10, 2013**

Personnel

Jenny Skufca was offered, and accepted, the position of Endangered Species Project Manager with DNR's Natural Heritage Division effective September 1. Jenny will be working with Joe Kath on endangered species Incidental Take Authorizations, drafting protocols for endangered species recovery and translocation and issuing endangered species possession permits. 484 species of animals and plants are listed as endangered or threatened in Illinois.

Two District Heritage Biologists resigned from the Natural Heritage Division to take positions in the Wildlife Resources Division. Dean Corgiat resigned from Natural Heritage August 1. He was a heritage biologist in west central Illinois for 17 years managing DNR preserves and reserves including significant hill prairie and cave preserves. He made important contributions to the Natural Heritage Database for mussel occurrences in the Mississippi and Illinois rivers.

Tim Kelley's last day with Natural Heritage is September 15. He was a heritage biologist in west central Illinois for 14 years. He managed outstanding natural areas including Revis Hill Prairie and Sand Prairie - Scrub Oak nature preserves.

Natural Heritage Resident Interns

IDNR and NPC completed interviews for Natural Heritage Resident Intern positions August 1. We are currently making job offers to 7 applicants with start dates planned for September.

The Residency program provides 12-month, full-time employment with benefits under the mentoring of Natural Heritage or Nature Preserves Commission staff in field or central office locations. Candidates must be graduate students currently enrolled in a full-time graduate program in plant biology, forestry, zoology or related biological science field and have the approval of their academic advisor.

The locations for the 7 positions are Cook County to work with Kim Roman, McDonough County to work with Angella Moorehouse and Jasper County to work with Bob Edgin as well as McHenry County, Peoria County and Ford County to work with Natural Heritage biologists, and Sangamon County to work with DNR's Endangered Species program and Database program.

Natural Areas Conference

DNR's Natural Areas Program is sponsoring a full day symposia at the 40th Natural Areas Association Conference in Chicago on Wednesday, October 2nd. The symposia will highlight several aspects of the recently concluded INAI Update. Featured speakers include Brian Anderson, Randy Nyboer, Connie Carroll-Cunningham, Wayne Schennum, Chris Evans, Deanna Glosser and John Wilker. Registration is still open for the conference.

Recreational Use of Land and Water Areas Act

A bill amending and improving the Recreational Use of Land and Water Areas Act was signed into law August 23. The law specifically extends liability protections for landowners who permit public access, at no charge, to their property for conservation, outdoor recreation, education, and resource management purposes. OpenLands and The Nature Conservancy were instrumental in passage of the bill.

Land Acquisition

DNR acquired a 226 acre addition to Wilmington Shrub Prairie State Natural Area in Will Co. in August. The owner, Mr. Irving Vesely, left the tract to DNR in his will with the stipulation that the land be restored to prairie. This addition brings the state natural area to 372 acres.

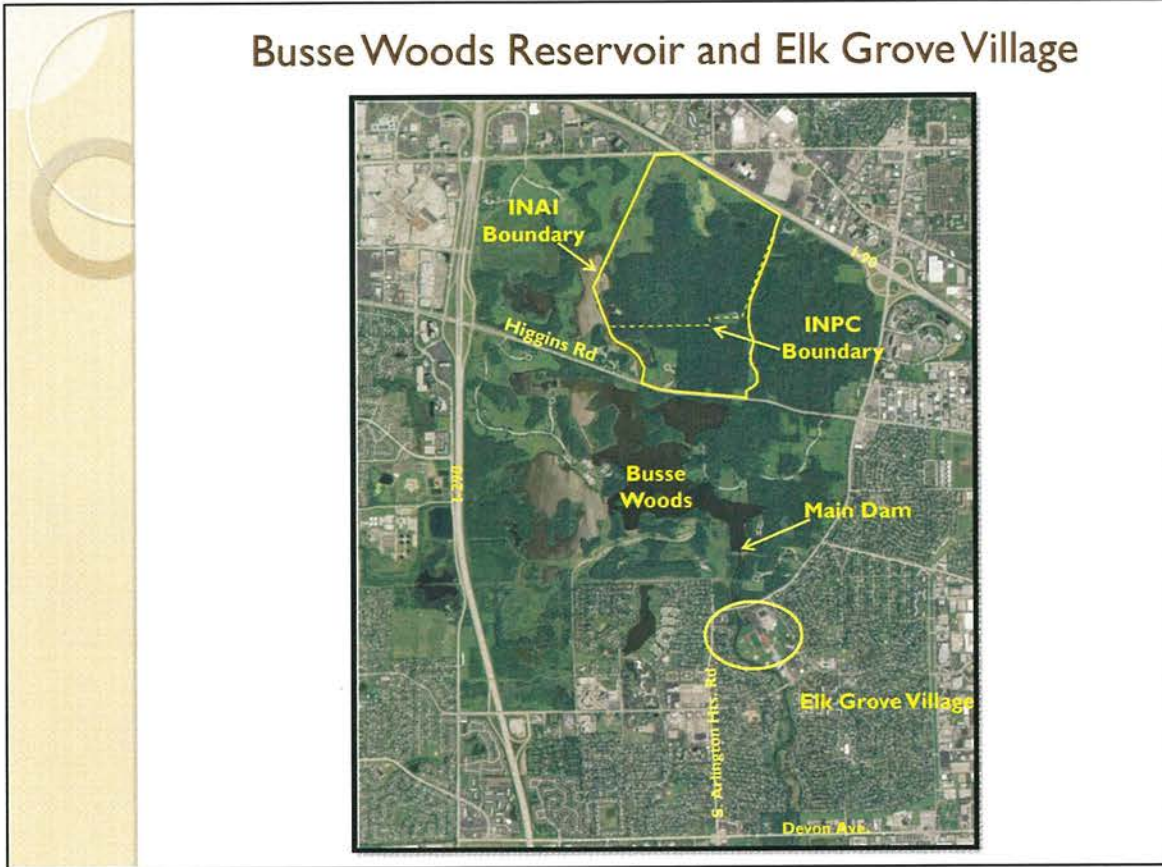
Busse Woods Reservoir South/Main Dam Modifications

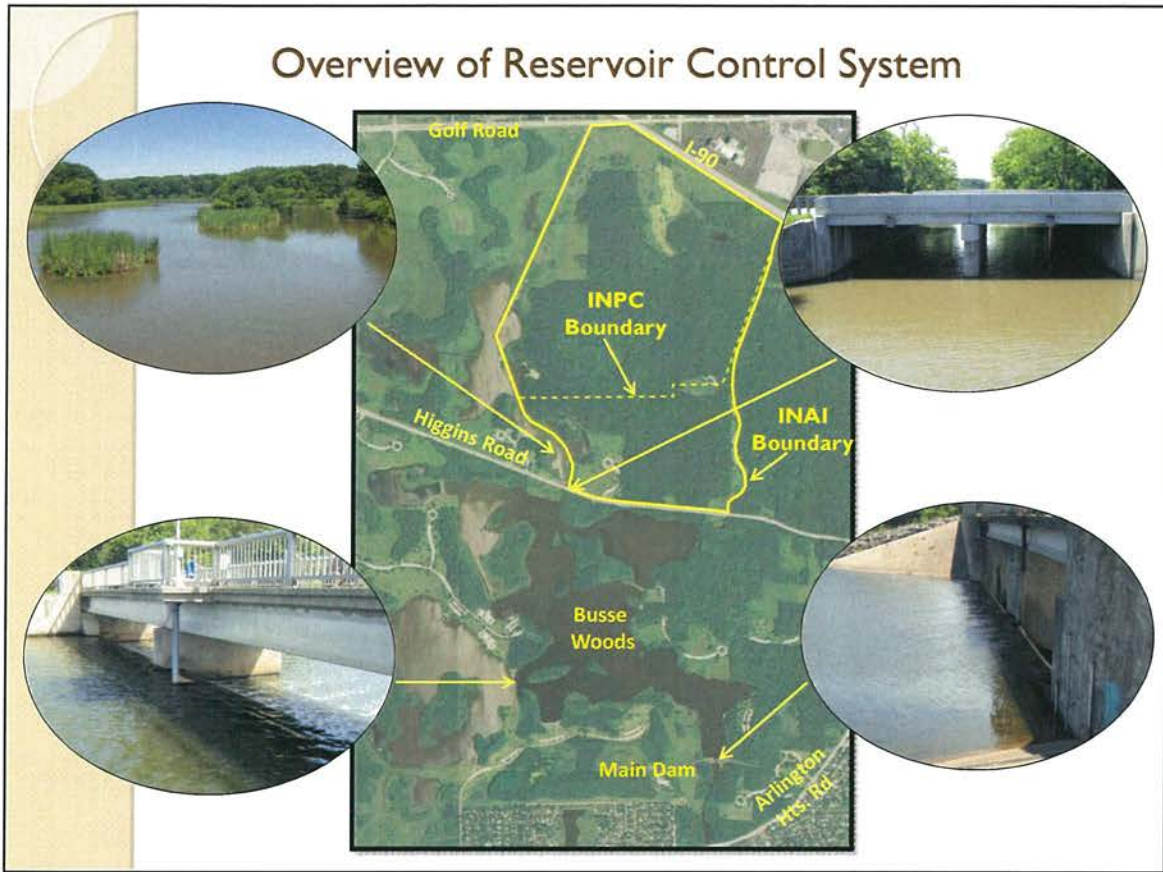
Busse Woods/Ned Brown Preserve
Elk Grove Village, Cook County, Illinois

September 10, 2013

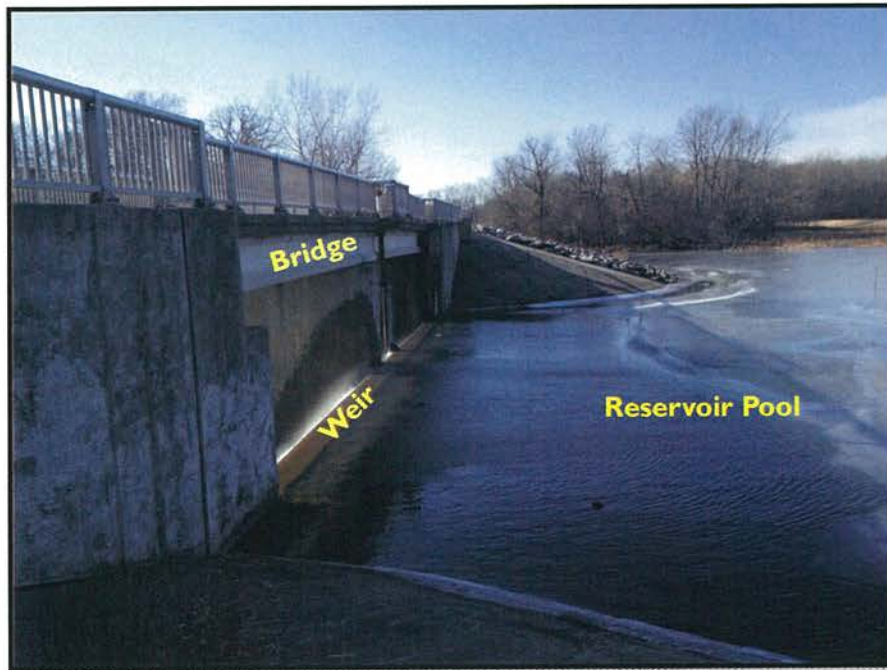


Busse Woods Reservoir and Elk Grove Village

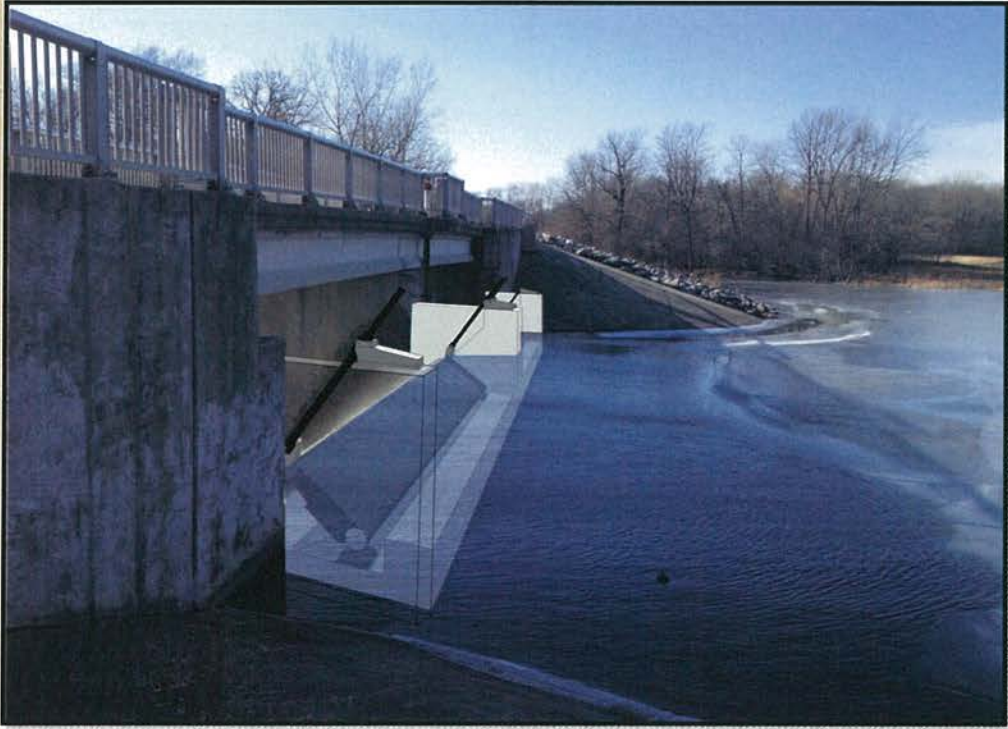




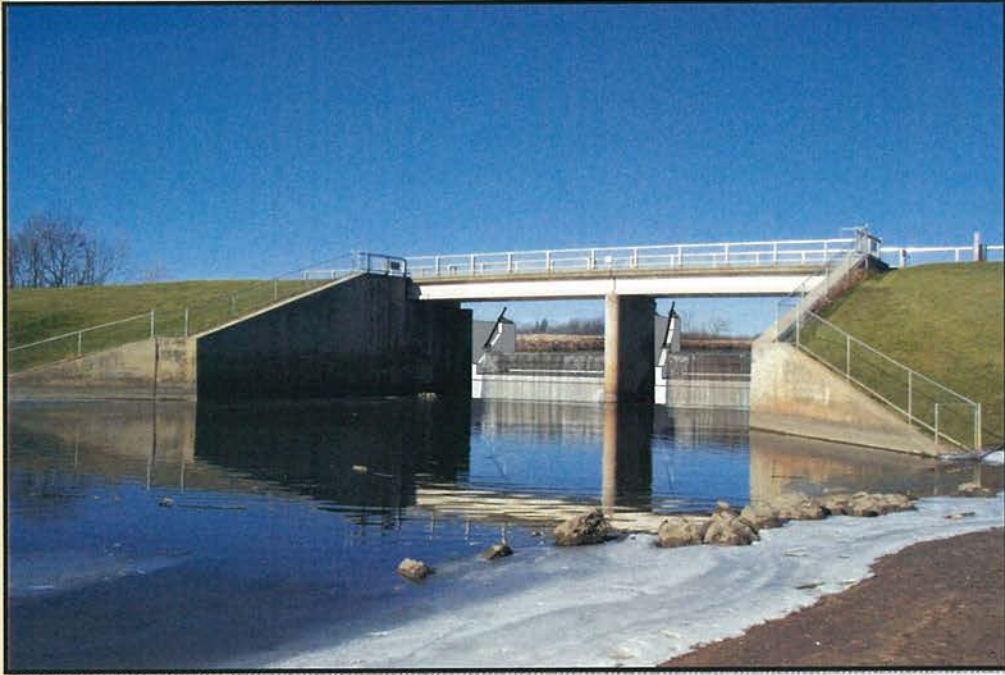
Existing Control Structure



Proposed Modifications



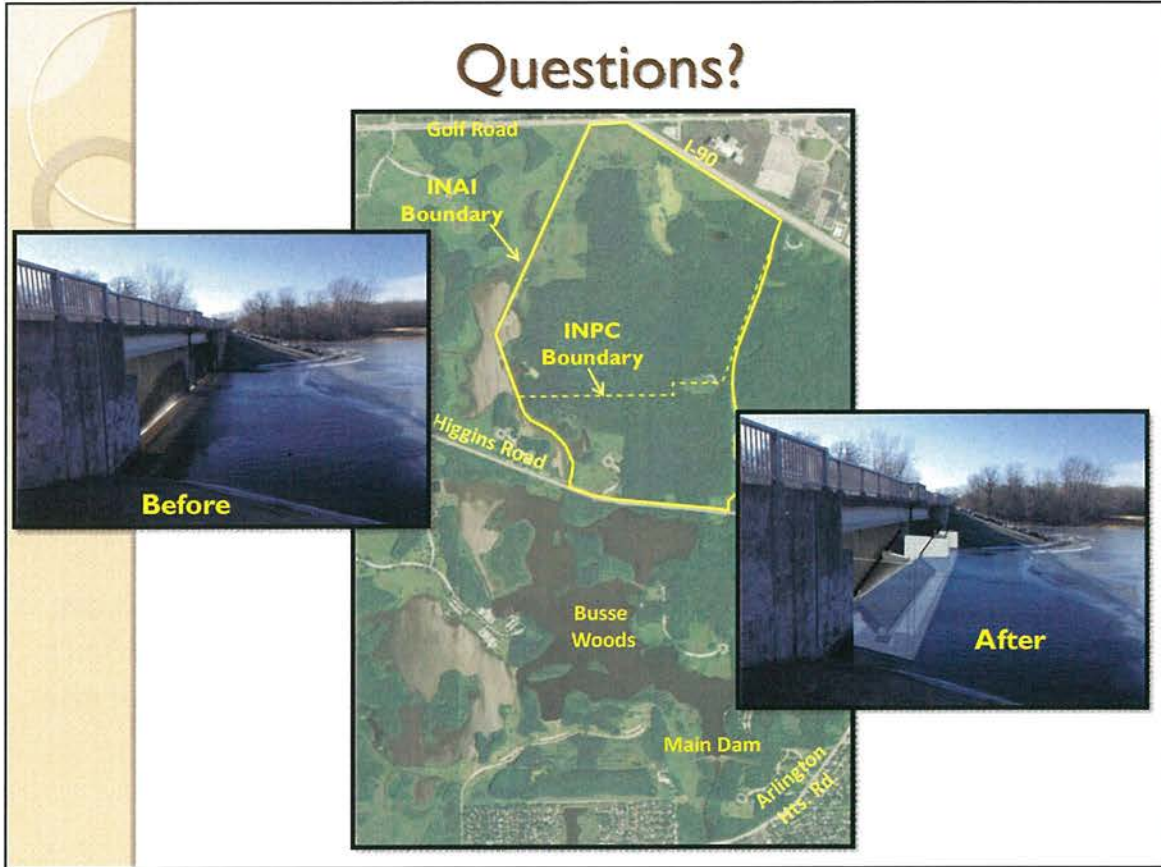
Proposed Modifications



Result Summary Duration Analysis

- 158 historic storms analyzed
- Cumulative duration above elevation 688.0 from 3272 hours in the existing conditions to 1390 hours in the proposed conditions

Questions?





ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Illinois 62702 - 1271, (217) 785-8687; FAX (217) 785-2438

Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board report for the September 10, 2013 Illinois Nature Preserves Commission meeting

Submitted by Anne Mankowski, Director

The Board held its 158th and 159th meetings on May 17, 2013 and August 16, 2013, respectively. Board actions from those meeting and other activities since, included:

1. ESPB new member

The Board welcomed James Robinett as a new member in June 2013. Mr. Robinett is the Vice President of Legislation and Regulation at the John G. Shedd Aquarium.

2. Five-year review and revision of the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

The Board continues working on its required 5-year review of the Illinois List. The Board is required by law to base its listing decisions on scientific evidence. The process usually takes about two years and is expected to conclude in 2014. The current schedule is to review List revision recommendations for approximately one taxonomic group at each Board meeting through 2013. The Board may make preliminary approvals as we move through the process and will conduct a confirming preliminary approval for the entire List when all groups have been completed and prior to holding its required public hearing, which is anticipated for sometime in early to mid CY2014. Following the public hearing, the Board considers comments and evidence received, makes any adjustments to the List that it feels necessary based on those comments and evidence, and approves a final List. The List then moves to the Illinois Administrative Rule amendment process at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The Board reviewed birds in May 2012, mammals in August 2012, reptiles and amphibians in November 2012, fish and mussels in February 2013, other invertebrates and part 1 of 3 of the plant list in May 2013, and part 2 of 3 the plant list in August of 2013. Part 3 of 3 of the plant list is scheduled for review at the Board's November 2013 meeting.

3. Meetings and presentations

- Ms. Mankowski participates in IDNR ORC twice-monthly administrative meetings, when possible.
- Ms. Mankowski participated in the 66th Natural Areas Evaluation Committee (NAEC) meeting held at IDNR headquarters May 21, 2013 and a meeting on June 25th, 2013 with IDNR Natural Areas and Database program staff to discuss INAI Category II (specific suitable habitat for Illinois endangered and threatened species) criteria. The ESPB is a voting member of the NAEC.
- Ms. Mankowski participated in the May 22, 2013 and August 21, 2013 meetings of the Illinois Wildlife Action Team held at IDNR Headquarters in Springfield, Illinois. The Board is a voting member of the team.

4. ESPB Website

Ms. Mankowski continues ongoing updates to the ESPB website, most recently adding a page dedicated to the IL List review and revision process and the 2014 List review and revision. The ESPB website serves as the web portal for ESPB and IDNR administered endangered and threatened species program information.

5. Coordination with IDNR and INPC:

Ms. Mankowski coordinated with the IDNR and INPC, on multiple matters, including:

E&T vouchering and translocation

- No follow-up to report about vouchering and translocation issues discussed at the ESPB 157th meeting.

E&T incidental take authorization

- At the request of IDNR Legal Counsel provided information and review of ORC E&T incidental take authorization information presented to IDNR executive staff and IDNR regulatory committee.
- Provided review, comments, and questions to IDNR on 5 draft ITAs: City of Rock Island, Schwiebert Park Boat Dock, involving Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*); Enbridge Pipeline, in Livingston, Woodford, Tazewell, Fulton, Mason, Schuyler, Brown, Adams Counties involving Illinois Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris illinoensis*), Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), and Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*); Remason WindFarm in Mason County, involving Illinois Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris illinoensis*); Orth Road Bridge in Boone County, involving Spike Mussel (*Elliptio dilatata*); and, County Hwy 16 Bridge in Grundy County, involving Slippershell Mussel (*Alasimodonta viridis*).

E&T translocation

- Began working with INPC and IDNR ORC staff on development of a joint animal translocation policy. The Board should expect a joint policy to be consistent with the Board's current E&T animal translocation policy and a draft joint policy will need to be approved by all three agencies before becoming official.
- Provided review and comment to INPC for proposed translocation of Northern Riffleshell (*Epioblasma rangiana*) and Clubshell (*Pleurobema clava*) mussels into a Land and Water Reserve.

E&T recovery planning and implementation

- Continued implementation/planning activities with the Illinois Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) Recovery Team.
- Provided advice to IDNR ORC regarding the ORC recovery planning process for developing, reviewing, and approving endangered and threatened species recovery plans relative to ORC's development of a draft Illinois Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*) recovery plan.
- Reviewed and provided comment to IDNR ORC on a draft status and distribution assessment with status review triggers for Smooth Softshell (*Apalone mutica*).
- Worked with Bob Edgin of the INPC on developing draft recovery outlines with status review triggers for *Carex alata* (Winged Sedge), *Penstemon tubaeflorus* (Tube Beard Tongue), *Polygonum arifolium* (Halberd-leaved Tearthumb), *Stryax americana* (Storax), *Heteranthera reniformis* (Mud Plantain), *Iresine rhizomatosa* (Bloodleaf), *Clematis viorna* (Leatherflower), *Hypericum adpressum* (Shore St. John's Wort), and *Silene regia* (Royal Catchfly). The draft outlines are being routed at IDNR ORC and INPC for review and then will be presented to the Board for consideration of approval.
- Worked with Terry Esker of the IDNR and Dr. Jeff Walk of TNC on developing a draft recovery outline with status review triggers for Eryngium Stem Borer (*Papaipema eryngii*). The draft outline is being routed at IDNR ORC and INPC for review and then will be presented to the Board for consideration of approval.

ESPB/IDNR review and approval coordination

- Ms. Mankowski continues working with IDNR ORC in establishing agreements for coordination of reviews and approvals of E&T recovery planning, E&T animal translocation proposals, E&T possession permits, and E&T ITA between the two agencies.

E&T monitoring/surveillance and reporting

- Continued working on developing a programmatic approach to updating E&T element occurrence surveys and IDNR Natural Heritage (Biotics 4) Database records. Ms. Mankowski is attempting to gain partnership commitment from IDNR ORC and OREP.
- Continued working on draft revised endangered and threatened species element occurrence reporting forms for use by the IDNR Natural Heritage (Biotics 4) Database. The revisions address some information gaps and terminology discrepancies and are intended to improve the robustness of data reported to the Database. Ms. Mankowski will work with Database staff to finalize the forms, which will replace those currently available via the Board's website.

- Assisted INPC staff with identification of *Orobanche ludoviciana* (Broomrape, IL T).
- Conducted surveys and submitted surveillance reports for *Berberis canadensis* (Allegheny Barberry) and *Melanthium virginicum* (Bunchflower).

Other

- Provided advice and explanation to IDNR Wildlife Resources staff about the IDNR E&T consultation and incidental take authorization processes.
- Provided advice and explanation to INPC staff and the owner of an Illinois Nature Preserve about the ESPB's Illinois E&T List review process and schedule and the ways in which any individual may address the Board with recommendations about the listing status of a species.
- Met with IDNR ORC Watershed Management Section staff to discuss the upcoming revision of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan and the IDNR IWAP website.
- Handled over 100 phone and email requests for ESPB and E&T information from the public and other state and federal agencies including referring those related to IDNR E&T consultation, incidental take, data, and permit programs, etc.

5. Coordination with other agencies

- Ms. Mankowski met with staff of the USFWS to discuss the ESPB's Illinois E&T List review process and schedule and data maintained by the IDNR Illinois Natural Heritage Database.
- Ms. Mankowski responded to a request from Kane County Forest Preserve District regarding an ESPB contracted Illinois Blanding's Turtle Conservation Assessment. Kane CFPD wanted to use work products from the project for planning purposes. Ms. Mankowski explained that the document and interpretations and recommendations therein are not currently approved or endorsed by the ESPB or IDNR and release of them or use by other entities would be premature. She further explained that the ESPB and IDNR intend to develop an Illinois recovery plan for the species and may use elements from the conservation plan in that effort. She advised that she would keep in mind Kane CFPD's request after a final recovery plan has been approved by both agencies.
- Provided advice and explanation to staff of the Lake County Forest Preserve District about the ESPB's Illinois E&T List review process and schedule and the ways in which any individual may address the Board with recommendations about the listing status of a species.
- Ms. Mankowski met with staff of the USFWS to discuss the ESPB's Illinois E&T List review process and schedule and data maintained by the IDNR Illinois Natural Heritage Database.
- Ms. Mankowski met with staff of the Shedd Aquarium to discuss the partnership project for updating E&T species occurrence information and advancing research towards recovery planning.
- Ms. Mankowski responded to a complaint from a member of the public about alleged impacts to a federally listed species, habitat, and IDNR/INPC owned/managed properties. She advised the USFWS, IDNR, and INPC about the complaint and referred it to the IDNR and INPC for further investigation.
- Ms. Mankowski responded to an inquiry from staff at the Morton Arboretum about legal protections afforded listed plant species. She referred the inquiry to the IDNR.
- Ms. Mankowski is serving on the 2013 Awards Committee of the Natural Areas Association. She served as the chair of the committee in 2011.

6. Field work

- Conducted surveys for *Berberis canadensis* (Allegheny Barberry) in Jackson and Tazewell Counties and for *Melanthium virginicum* (Bunchflower) in Morgan and Sangamon Counties.
- Conducted a USGS Breeding Bird Survey route in central Illinois.

7. 160th meeting of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board

The 160th meeting of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board will be at 9:30 AM on November 15, 2013 at Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie.



Illinois
Nature
Preserves
Commission

memorandum

To: Commissioners

From: Jenny Skufca and Kelly Neal

Date: August 21, 2013

Subject: Staff recommendation regarding Item 30 – a proposal submitted by Elk Grove Village for approval to modify a fixed concrete dam on Salt Creek to alleviate downstream flooding potentially impacting Busse Forest Nature Preserve, Cook County.

Background:

Busse Forest Nature Preserve was dedicated on January 5, 1965, as the 3rd Illinois nature preserve. The 440-acre Nature Preserve, owned by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC), is recognized on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (#0534) due to the presence of dry-mesic and mesic upland forest, freshwater marsh, northern flatwoods, and shrub swamp natural communities harboring nine state-listed species. The site has been recognized since 1980 by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a National Natural Landmark due to its status as one of the best remaining examples of mesic and dry-mesic upland forest in the eastern Central Lowlands biophysiological province. Busse Forest Nature Preserve lies approximately 8,500 feet upstream of the existing dam and lies within the FPDCC's Ned Brown Preserve, also known as Busse Woods. Busse Reservoir serves as the Nature Preserve's southwestern boundary.

Proposal:

Elk Grove Village, through its consultant, Wills Burke Kelsey Associates, Ltd. (WBK), proposes to replace the existing fixed concrete dam with a pair of hinged gates that can be lowered and raised to alleviate downstream flooding along Salt Creek by taking advantage of the flood storage availability in the Busse Reservoir. The dam is owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Office of Water Resources (IDNR-OWR) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The land adjacent to the dam is owned by the FPDCC. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) received a letter dated August 2, 2013, wherein the FPDCC with IDNR-OWR requests that NRCS review the dam modification plans. The letter notes that the parties concur that the proposed modification has

“...the potential to provide beneficial improvements to the reservoir for both flood control and recreational use...while also minimizing the potential for negative impacts to...Busse Woods Preserve.”

In their 86-page Design Memorandum for Busse Woods Dam, Elk Grove Village, Cook County, Illinois (Design Memo) dated November 15, 2012, WBK provides an analysis of alternatives, a summary of findings, and a presentation of recommendations. On Page 29 of the Design Memo, WBK describes their modeling effort to forecast conditions as if the proposed conventional hinge gate were in place. A summary of that description includes the assumption that the dam modification will keep intact the existing two-span bridge and replace the existing weir between the piers with gates. The gates were modeled as 5-feet-high with a normal opening at an elevation of 685.5 feet. When the model sensed the elevation in the Busse Reservoir rising, the gate began to open (lower) to an elevation of 683.0 feet. By opening the gate, it allows the release of water downstream early in the storm, so that storage is available in the Reservoir when the peak of the storm hits. Next, when the elevations at Arlington Heights Road (downstream) approach 684.3 feet, the gate begins to close (raise) to an elevation of 688.0 feet. The capacity of the channel downstream of the Reservoir (and where damages occur in Elk Grove Village, also referred to as the damaging flow threshold) is approximately 1000 cubic feet per second. This flow roughly corresponds to an elevation of $684.3 \pm$ feet. Therefore, by closing the gate at this elevation, the proposed dam would allow access to the storage created in the Reservoir to prevent further damages downstream. Finally, if the **elevation in the Busse Reservoir approaches 689.5 feet**, the gate then begins to open again. This prevents elevations in the Reservoir from increasing beyond those experienced during existing conditions.

Elk Grove Village contracted with Stantec to perform biological investigations including soil borings, floristic and herpetological surveys, and hydrologic features mapping. A 162-page report entitled Busse Woods Biological Investigations, dated January 23, 2013, was provided to the INPC. Soil borings were taken up to elevation 692.0 feet and revealed no sand seams, tight soils, low infiltration, and high runoff. The soil profile at Busse Woods Nature Preserve allows for no lateral or vertical water movement limiting the chance for inundation of plant root systems above the high water mark. This finding is supported by the existence of perching surface water in vernal pools and is also a characteristic of northern flatwoods natural communities. Floristic surveys confirmed that the immediate perimeter of the Reservoir to approximately 688.0 feet is a degraded plant community comprised of reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), hybrid cattail (*Typha x glauca*), and American elm (*Ulmus americana*). This finding is indicative of an area that receives floodwater at least once every two to ten years. The surveyors reported that rare species occurrences increased with elevation. Natural communities at and above 692.0 feet were characterized as high quality. Occurrences of the state-threatened Wood's stiff sedge (*Carex woodii*) were found at elevation 691.0 feet and in greatest abundance at elevation 696.0 feet. All other state-listed species occurrences within Busse Forest Nature Preserve were found at elevation 692.0 feet and above. No state-listed species were located during the herpetological surveys.

The goal of the current proposal is to provide additional flood mitigation without inundating the Busse Forest Nature Preserve either more frequently or for a greater duration. To this end and after conducting infrastructure alternative analysis and considering Stantec’s biological investigations, WBK recommends the conventional hinge gate alternative.

Legal Authorities and Responsibilities:

The Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act provides that a nature preserve is “...to be maintained as nearly as possible in its natural condition...under limitations consistent with its continued preservation, without impairment, disturbance or artificial development, for the public purposes of ...research, education, esthetic enjoyment and providing habitat for plant and animal species and communities and other natural objects.” [525 ILCS 30/3.11]

In Administrative Rule, the “management, development, or uses of a specific preserve, not otherwise allowed under the rules, may be allowed as a provision of the master plan for the site, or may be approved by the Commission under Section 4000.160 of this Part.” [17 Ill. Adm. Code 4000.120(c)]

However, Section 4000.160 specifically states that the Commission shall approve the request if it is determined “...that the proposed activity will enhance the natural features of the preserve, consistent with the proposal for dedication...” This Section is silent on uses that do not enhance the natural features.

Since in this case the use was approved (at initial dam installation) by the Commission at its 49th Meeting, the current legal authorities may more appropriately apply under the Administrative Rules related to emergency situations and/or water level control:

“Emergency situations that require immediate action to prevent injury to persons or damage to property as determined by the custodian, the Commission, or the Department shall be handled in such manner as to cause minimal damage to natural conditions.” [17 Ill. Adm. 4000.180(b)]

(This is indeed a situation where approval by the INPC may alleviate downstream flooding and damage to property. It can, however, be argued that the Administrative Rule language should be interpreted to mean damage to dedicated property only.)

“Natural water levels shall not be altered. Water levels which have been altered by artificial means which include, but are not limited to, installation of drain tiles and creation of ditches, may be changed if identified in the master plan or management schedule as essential for the maintenance and restoration of natural conditions or to protect significant or notable features.” [17 Ill. Adm. 4000.440]

(The current dam modification proposal would decrease the amount of

time that the Nature Preserve experiences inundation as compared to existing conditions.)

Analysis:

The original dam installation in the vicinity of Busse Forest Nature Preserve was discussed by Commissioners on twelve occasions between January 1969 (24th Meeting) and October 1973 (49th Meeting). Prior to the installation of the existing dam, the INPC's files reflect consideration of an amendment to the original dedication whereby the FPDCC recommended excluding 248 acres of the Nature Preserve or all land west of elevation 691.0 feet. The Commissioners ultimately decided that any de-dedication would establish an undesirable precedent. In 1973, George B. Fell referred to the inundation of the Nature Preserve as "inconsistent with law" and "the most critical problem in protecting the integrity of a nature preserve that the Commission has faced to date." However, William Klimstra, then-Chair of the Commission, expressed in correspondence that this was a "management problem," and, further, in another correspondence that an "impoundment can be created without any substantial damage to the Nature Preserve." References throughout the file at this time period reflect that Commissioners believed that the high-quality areas for which the site was dedicated to protect were not to be impacted. Minutes of the 27th Meeting state that the proposed inundation area had "...no natural area significance and serves only as a buffer for the natural portion." Buffer dedication was not yet an option. **At the 49th Meeting, the Commission affirmed the FPDCC's opinion to support the dam 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 (182nd, 186th, 187th, and 188th 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. The INPC staff recommended approval, not based on management as Administrative Rule requires that any approved management action enhance the natural features, but rather based on an emergency situation as downstream communities were experiencing damage to property. **At the 188th Meeting in October 2005, the Commission approved the dam modification subject to operational conditions contained in an Applied Ecological Services (AES) report (Resolution 1852).** The INPC approval included the following conditions:

- Adherence to the Proposed Decision Matrix (outlining acceptable storm event inundation elevations and durations during periods crucial to plant growth and reproduction):
 - Do not have a storm event that exceeds elevation 688.0 for more than 48 hours during the early growing season of March 15 – June 30.
 - Do not exceed a duration of 120 hours above elevation 688.0 from July 1 – October 31.
 - Do not exceed the existing period of record flood limit of 691.8.
- Approval of the modification by the landowner, FPDCC.

- 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.

The funding for this dam modification was never realized, therefore the action did not occur.

Within the current proposal, WBK provides a memo dated July 31, 2013, wherein a detailed comparison is provided to the approved AES recommendations of 2005. In the memo it is noted that due to more extensive biological investigation, it is believed that the critical elevation as it relates to the Nature Preserve's herbaceous communities is more likely 690.0 feet. WBK uses elevation 689.0 feet as a trigger to buffer the existing state-listed species. Overall, though, the currently proposed operation reduces the cumulative flood duration above elevation 688.0 feet from 3,272 hours under existing conditions to 1,390 in the proposed condition substantially complying with the previously approved AES Decision Matrix. WBK's proposal states that, "Both the frequency and duration of flooding in the transition zone between the frequently inundated/degraded band and the high quality ecological communities is reduced."

Staff Recommendation:

The INPC staff believes that as the dam was an approved use as of the Commission's 49th Meeting in 1973, the current review should consider how any proposed modification would impact existing conditions. The INPC staff opinion of 2005 pertained to a proposal to increase both the frequency and the duration of flooding in the Nature Preserve. This is no longer the proposed scenario. Duration of flooding is reduced under the currently proposed alternative. However, many of the same recommendations apply. Staff recommends that Commissioners refrain from endorsement of the currently proposed dam modification until the following considerations have been fulfilled:

- Require correspondence from the Busse Forest Nature Preserve landowner, FPDCC, documenting their approval.
- Require that the requests of the FPDCC be met – including, in part, the establishment of a fish barrier and removal of sediment.
- Require that the project sponsors provide the INPC with the final operational plan identifying the responsibilities of each of the partner communities.
- Require that an Intergovernmental Agreement provide assurances of the operational responsibilities and specifically identify who will be held liable if the Nature Preserve experiences impact beyond what is proposed stating that failure to comply with the agreed parameters is a violation of the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act and confirming responsibility for penalties (specifically, \$10,000/day per 525 ILCS 30/22).
- Require that the project sponsors acquire all other necessary permits.

FY14 Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Stewardship Program

Robert E. Szafoni, IDNR
Randy R. Heidorn, INPC

FY14 NAAF Stewardship Proposals

- 59 proposals submitted (\$1,238K)
 - All 59 proposals on INAI sites
 - All 59 on Nature Preserves, Land & Water Reserves
 - 34 on IDNR lands
 - 25 on non-IDNR / private lands

FY14 NAAF Stewardship Proposals

- 75% address exotic / invasive species mgmt
- 20% Prescribed burn support
- 5% gen protection and hydrology restoration

- All 19 projects bring in outside matching funds for INAI management
- Over \$470,000 in non-state funds leveraged

FY14 NAAF Stewardship Funding est. \$750,000

- Additional funds from appropriated but unallocated FY13 NAAF funds
- Potential additional funds from close-out of past FY NAAF Stewardship programs

Request approval of all submitted projects.
IDNR/INPC will ultimately execute what we can with the funds available.

FY14 NAAF Stewardship Proposed Projects - IDNR

Sites/Locations	Reg	County	Activity	Amount
Hanover Bluff NP	1	JoDaviess	Invasive control	\$20,000
Pine Rock, George B. Fell, Franklin Creek, Lowden-Miller Forest NPs/LWRs/INAI	1	Ogle, Lee	Exotic control	\$52,000
Harlem Hills NP	1	Winnebago	Exotic control	\$9,500
Harry N. Patterson Savanna LWR	1	Henderson	Exotic control	\$30,000
Ayers Sand Prairie, Apple River Canyon, Mineral Marsh, Thomson-Fulton Sand Prairie, Foley Sand Prairie, Mitchell's Grove NPs/LWRs	1	Carroll, Jo Daviess, Henry, Whiteside, Lee, LaSalle	Rx Fire	\$130,000
Goose Lake Prairie NP	2	Grundy	Exotic control	\$20,000
Wilmington Shrub Prairie NP	2	Will	Exotic control	\$15,000
Des Plaines Dolomite Prairies LWR	2	Will	Exotic control	\$9,500
Long Run Seep NP	2	Will	Exotic control	\$25,000
Millhurst Fen NP	2	Kendall	Exotic control	\$9,000
Long Run Seep, Millhurst Fen, Butterfield Creek Headwaters NPs/LWRs	2	Will, Kendall, Cook	Rx Fire	\$20,000
Illinois Beach NP	2	Lake	Exotic control	\$48,000
Lake in the Hills Fen NP	2	McHenry	Wetland development	\$43,000
American Beech Woods NP	3	Clark	Exotic control	\$3,000
Embarras River LWR	3	Coles	Invasive control	\$8,000
Margaret Guzy Pothole Wetlands LWR	3	Shelby	Prot	\$14,000
Spitler Woods NP	3	Macon	Exotic control	\$20,000
Carl N. Becker Savanna NP	3	Kankakee	Exotic control	\$35,000
Thaddeus Stubblefield Grove NP	3	McLean	Exotic control	\$30,000
Hooper Branch Savanna NP	3	Iroquois	Wetland development	\$30,000
Robert A. Evers LWR	4	Brown	Invasive control	\$15,000
Various Reg 4 NPs & LWRs	4	various	Rx Fire	\$30,000
Williams Creek Bluff LWR	4	Schuyler	Exotic control	\$20,000
Bohm Woods NP	4	Madison	Exotic control	\$7,500
Goode's Woods NP	4	Macoupin	Exotic control	\$6,500
Stemler Cave Woods NP	4	St Clair	Exotic control	\$15,000
S Till Plain NPs & LWRs	5	Jasper, Lawrence, Clay, Edwards, Marion	Planting	\$5,000
Beall Woods LWR	5	Wabash	Exotic control	\$5,000
Chauncey Marsh NP & LWR	5	Lawrence	Invasive control	\$20,000

FY14 NAAF Stewardship Proposed Projects - IDNR

Sites/Locations	Reg	County	Activity	Amount
Red Hills Woods, Red Hills Seep Springs NP/ LWR	5	Lawrence	Exotic control	\$8,000
Prairie Ridge LWR	5	Jasper	Protection	\$5,000
Prairie Ridge LWR	5	Jasper	Protection	\$40,000
Prairie Ridge LWR	5	Jasper, Marion	Exotic control	\$10,000
Prairie Ridge LWR	5	Marion	Invasive control	\$40,000

FY14 NAAF Stewardship Proposed Projects - INPC

Sites/Locations	Reg	County	Activity	Amount
Sandy Creek Bluffs LWR	1	Marshall	Exotic control	\$2,500
Black Partridge Park Woods LWR	1	Woodford	Planting	\$7,000
Stony Hills, Short Fork Seep, Nenawaka, Thistle Hills, Haw Creek Sedge Meadow, Kedzior Woodlands, McFarland Hill NPs/LWRs	1	Hancock, McDonough, Knox, Fulton, Pike	Rx fire	\$45,000
Black Hawk Forest, Josua Lindahl Hill Prairies NPs	1	Rock Island	Exotic control	\$30,000
Stony Hills NP	1	Hancock	Invasive control	\$30,000
Nenawaka, Thistle Hills LWRs	1	McDonough	Exotic control	\$35,000
Haw Creek Sedge Meadow, Kedzior Woodlands LWRs	1	Knox, Fulton	Invasive control	\$25,000
Bluff Spring Fen, Trout Park, Fox River Fen, Sleepy Hollow Ravine, Brewster Creek Fen, Sterne's Fen NPs	2	Cook, Kane, McHenry	Exotic control	\$12,000
Wolf Road Prairie NP	2	Cook	Invasive control	\$5,000
Old Plank Road Prairie NP	2	Cook	Exotic control	\$9,000
Mettler Woods NP	3	DeWitt	Rx fire	\$6,000
Sibley Grove NP	3	Ford	Invasive control	\$10,000
Sibley Grove, Jasmine Hollow, Kinney's Ford Seep, Kickapoo, NPs/LWRs/Natural Area	3	Ford, Piatt, Vermilion	Rx fire	\$78,000
Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP	3	Champaign	Rx fire	\$24,000
Jasmine Hollow LWR	3	Piatt	Exotic control	\$10,000
Carpenter Park NP	4	Sangamon	Exotic control	\$7,000

FY14 NAAF Stewardship Proposed Projects - INPC

Sites/Locations	Reg	County	Activity	Amount
Storment Hauss, William A. DeMint Memorial Hill Prairie, Brickey-Gonterman of Renault Bluffs, Prairie of the Rock, DesPain Wetlands, Chip-O-Will NPs/LWRs	4	Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair, Washington	Exotic control	\$18,000
White Rock NP	4	Monroe	Exotic control	\$20,000
Salt Lick Point LWR	4	Monroe	Invasive control	\$9,900
Prairie of the Rock, Blufftop Acres, William A. DeMint Memorial Hill Prairie NP/LWRs	4	Randolph, Monroe	Exotic control	\$9,500
Brickey-Gonterman of Renault Bluffs, Angela's Prairie NP/LWR	4	Monroe	Invasive control	\$13,000
Jennings Family Hill Prairie, Two Branch Peace Prairie NP/LWR	4	Calhoun	Invasive control	\$8,000
William and Emma Bohm Memorial, E. Dora Bohm Memorial, William and Emma Bohm Memorial NPs	4	Madison	Exotic control	\$7,000
Lost Creek Marsh NP & LWR	5	Clinton	Invasive control	\$8,500
P & E Refuge LWR	5	Saline	Invasive control	\$1,500