

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION
Minutes of the 218th Meeting
(Subject to approval at the 219th Meeting)

BALLARD NATURE CENTER
5253 E. US Highway 40
Altamont, IL 62411

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

218-1) Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

At 10:00 a.m., pursuant to the Call to Order by Chair David Thomas the meeting began.

Chair Thomas thanked Bob Edgin for the tour at Lake Sara open woodlands and its southern flat woods; Mike Dirks, Superintendent, Effingham Water Authority for hosting us and Dave Hungort, and Karen Greuel, Vanessa Doedtman, Terry Esker at Ballard Nature Center. Also, Chair Thomas welcomed Commissioner Deborah Stone for her new appointment and being able to join us on short notice.

INPC Director Randy Heidorn read the roll call.

Members present: Deborah Stone , George Covington, Donnie Dann, Dr. Pen DauBach, Dr. Abigail Derby-Lewis, William E. McClain, Dr. David Thomas.

Members absent: Dr. Jo Elle Mogerman, Dr. Charles Ruffner

Advisors to the Commission present: Dr. Brian Anderson, Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS); Dr. Thomas Emerson, Illinois State Archeological Survey (ISAS)

Consultants to the Commission present: Fran Harty, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Kerry Leigh, Natural Lands Institute.

Others present: Randy Heidorn, Marni English, Kelly Neal, Jenny Wells, Valerie Njapa, Tom Lerczak, John Nelson, Debbie Newman, Steven Byers, Angella Moorehouse, Tom Engbrecht, Kim Roman, Bob Edgin, Meaghan Collins, Mary Kay Solecki, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) Staff; Roger Jansen, Bridget Henning, Jenny Skufca, Eric Smith, Eric Wright, Tyson Dallas, Bob Szafoni, Terry Esker, Ann Marie Holtrop, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR); Jeannie Barnes, Steve Taylor, INHS; Joann Fricke (Clifftop); Doug and Nadine Rorem; Paul and Carol Soderholm, Edward F. Vassallo Land and Water Reserve landowners; Oran Wilder; Mary Ann Hofflinger, Ballard Nature Center; Ben Turner.

218-2) Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Dann, seconded by Commissioner DauBach and carried that the Agenda be adopted.

218-3) Approval of Minutes for the 218th Meeting, May 6, 2014

It was moved by Commissioner DauBach, seconded by Commissioner Dann, and carried that the Minutes of the 218th Meeting, September 9, 2014, be approved.

218-4) Next meeting date and location

It was moved by Commissioner Covington, seconded by Commissioner Dann, and carried that the following meeting dates and locations be approved.

January 27, 2015, 10 a.m.	Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, IL
May 5, 2015, 9 a.m.	Illinois Beach State Park, Zion IL
September 15, 2015, 10 a.m.	Black Hawk State Historic Site, Rock Island, IL

218-5) Committee of the Whole Meeting to propose nominations for Illinois Nature Preserves Commission Advisors, Consultants and Officers. (Committee Chair: George M. Covington)

Commissioner Covington stated the process being followed is designed to comply with the Open Meetings Act. A separate nominating committee would require a separate public meeting and notice. It is expeditious to have the full Commission as a committee of the whole to make nominations for advisors, consultants and officers.

The current officers are Dave Thomas, Chair; Donnie Dann, Vice-Chair and George Covington, Secretary.

It was moved by Commissioner McClain, seconded by Commissioner DauBach and carried that the current officers be nominated for another year.

Current Advisors to the INPC are as follows:

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 Illinois State Archaeological Survey	Alyson Grady Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Dr. E. Donald McKay, III Illinois State Geological Survey	Dr. Gary Miller Prairie Research Institute	Dr. William W. Shilts Prairie Research Institute
Anne Mankowski Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board		

Director Heidorn reported all advisors have agreed to continue. No additional advisors have indicated a desire to discontinue.

Commissioner Thomas reported that Dr. Donald McKay, Illinois State Geological Survey, has retired. We have not been advised of a replacement. George Covington stated we can deal with that through the course of the year.

Current Consultants to the INPC:

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

Director Heidorn reported that Marilyn Campbell does not wish to be considered as a consultant. Former Commissioners Lauren Rosenthal and Jill Riddell were contacted and agreed to serve as consultants.

It was moved by Commissioner McClain and seconded by Commissioner Thomas that the following persons be nominated for Advisors to the Commission: Marc Miller, Dr. Brian Anderson, Dr. Bonnie Styles, Dr. Mike Demissie, Dr. Thomas E. Emerson, Alyson Grady, Dr. E. Donald, McKay, III, Dr. Gary Miller, Dr. William W. Shilts and Anne Mankowski; and that the following persons be nominated as Consultants to the Commission: Gerald Adelman, Jill Allread, Michelle Carr, Tom Clay, Harry Drucker, Kenneth Fiske, Dr. Ronald Flemal, Fran Harty, James Mann, Jerry Paulson, Joseph Roth, Bruce Ross-Shannon, John Schwegman, Valerie Spale, John White, Lauren Rosenthal and Jill Riddell. Motion passed.

218-6) INPC Staff Report

Director Heidorn presented the staff report which is attached as Exhibit 1. He reported the recent appointment of Deborah Stone as a new Commissioner, who is replacing Commissioner Dennis Clark. Commissioner DauBach was re-appointed to a three-year term. ¹

Director Heidorn welcomed Marni English as the new Commission Office Specialist. She came to the Commission from the IDNR Watercraft/Snowmobile Titling and Registration Section. He also welcomed Jenny Wells, as a Graduate Public Service Intern; she is a graduate student in computer sciences from the University of Illinois Springfield who will be working with Kelly Neal to develop databases for INPC. Jared Ruholl, a Natural Heritage Resident, working with Angella Moorehouse, resigned having accepted a position with the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) in Fayette County. Director Heidorn asked the current residents attending the meeting to stand. Most of them will be leaving the INPC after the meeting. He also welcomed Eric Wright as the newest resident.

¹ At the meeting it was incorrectly reported that Commissioner Thomas was also reappointed.

The Area 9, Naturals Areas Preservation Specialist position has been approved to be located in Saline County and will be posted. The Area 9 position will be located at the Shawnee National Forest Headquarters. INPC's two middle-management positions, which have been vacant since 2005, are still under review at Central Management Services (CMS). We were told CMS is expediting the positions of Operations Manager and Protection Program Manager. These will hopefully be in place in Springfield fairly soon.

The INPC staff have been coordinating with the Endangered Species Protection Board and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, in an effort to come up with a joint policy to address requests for translocation of endangered animals without bringing those changes to the Commission. Changes to administrative rules and quite possibly within the Illinois Endangered Species Act may be required. So, no additional progress has occurred.

Illinois Beach has had a history of asbestos containing materials (ACM). There was a manufacturing plant to the south of Illinois Beach State Park and Illinois Beach Nature Preserve. Over the years there have been a number of cleanups associated with the plant on Nature Preserve. Within the Nature Preserve, a portion of dune had been a road hardened with ACM back in the 30's. That road remains with a thin layer of sand over ACM. ACM has surfaced over time due to frost heave. The decision was made in the late 90's to only retrieve the pieces that surfaced. This approach, agreed upon by the United State Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has been followed. There have been no problems at this site since people are kept out of the area USEPA has reassessed this area and suggest we consider digging out this part of the dune and backfill it. Director Heidorn indicated that there have been no changes at the site and continues to be concerned that removal would give invasive species a pathway to invade the site.

Commissioner Thomas stated after discussion with Commissioner Dann and Director Heidorn that they should go on record indicating no action should be taken in digging out this portion of the dune.

Commissioner Dann stated removal of the ACM would likely do more harm than good.

Commissioner Daubach asked why USEPA wanted to take this action.

Commissioner Thomas answered that he suspects USEPA staff see the canal just south of the Nature Preserve as providing an opportunity to bury everything, including the ACM, under the road. There is always an issue of digging up something, that you are going to have more exposure than if it is left in place. Commissioner Thomas said that it is a very questionable activity even for the benefit of removing the ACM.

Commissioner Dann asked to hear from staff.

Steven Byers reported he received a call from Mr. Ott, a program manager from USEPA. A consulting firm has requested a permit to investigate the amount of asbestos in this area.

Commissioner McClain agreed there would be more harm to come in and remove the ACM.

Commissioner Dann asked if the Commission can instruct staff to draft a letter in regards to this matter.

Randy Heidorn agreed to work with staff on drafting a letter.

Valerie Njapa gave an update on Class III Special Resource Groundwater petitions. The Groundwater Conservation Areas (GCA) of twenty-five Illinois nature preserves have been designated Class III Groundwater. Three more are close to final designation. Four have recently been petitioned. Six more are under review with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). She asked staff to let her know of any fens or seeps that may come up for dedication, so she can add them to her list.

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) approved a permit for Prairie Power, Inc., to install a fiber optic cable along Hwy. 336 in May - June 2014, and encroached on property that is registered as Cecil White Prairie Land and Water Reserve (LWR), Hancock County owned by IDNR. IDOT acknowledged failure to obtain prior approval from IDNR and INPC. IDNR granted a permanent easement to IDOT in 2006 when the highway was expanded to four lanes. It is a mowed grass way and no significant prairie natural communities were affected. Angella Moorehouse has been documenting what has been going on at this site as to impacts.

Commissioner Thomas stated that it seems there are many cases like this as though IDOT does not know to come to us. Do these companies get a checklist as to what permits they need to obtain?

Valerie Njapa felt that in this case, as with a lot of other cases, it was an over sight on IDOT's part to obtain a permit.

Director Heidorn indicated this intrusion comes short of requiring a formal Commission finding, as the action did not disturb native vegetation. It is not the situation we like, but we can make our point with IDOT reminding them they need to coordinate with INPC.

Commissioner Covington asked if LWR require all of the same consents as are required for a nature preserve or is it something less than that.

Director Heidorn answered that it requires less. Since the easement is held by the IDNR and INPC it only requires these two entities to agree that the action is in the public interest. Since no natural vegetation was disturbed, no finding is necessary in this case.

Commissioner Stone asked if Ms. Njapa had any thoughts or suggestions that could be made to IDOT in terms of improving the process. Perhaps there is a way IDOT could make this clearer to contractors seeking access.

Valerie Njapa answered that IDOT did not do the due diligence, by following the required conditions of the LWR agreement in approving the permit, not the power company.

Commissioner Dann asked what kind of sanctions can a state agency impose on another state agency that is doing wrong.

Valerie Njapa thought we could write a letter to IDOT to express our concerns.

Commissioner Dann asked if steps can be taken to enforce or impose penalties.

Valerie Njapa stated it would be difficult and complicated. You have to consider each situation on a case specific incident, look at all the factors and a different course of action would be taken depending on the factors.

Director Heidorn commented that if you look at many locations, we have had a good relationship with IDOT coordinating their activities with ours. He could understand from their perspective how this one could be missed, since it was approved at the district level instead of at the agency level. A reminder might be best.

Commissioner Stone asked if a letter might get filtered through to all districts as well.

Director Heidorn answered yes.

Commissioner Thomas thanked Valerie Njapa.

IDOT is coordinating with INPC on Blackhawk Forest NP, Rock Island County. A drainage way, that runs beneath Route 5 (Blawhawk Road) that also runs through the NP, has eroded the fore slope along about a 300 ft. stretch of the road and created a deep ravine adjacent to the shoulder. The road has a potential to collapse. Repairs are needed and proposed to begin in Spring 2015.

Similar failures occurred along Route 5 in 2006 and 2009. In 2006, emergency repairs were done and approval was given at staff level rather than going through the Commission. In 2009, the Commission approved the required repair work that affected one third of an acre of the NP. IDOT has been coordinating with Angella Moorehouse. Both Ms. Moorehouse and Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) support the proposed project. IDOT is planning for a longer term solution that will last for more than ten years. They need to make repairs and improvements to the drainage way, the culvert, the fore slope and the roadway. Construction will extend approximately ten feet into the NP and impact 0.01 acres. If repairs and improvements are not made the result could be much more severe. IDOT has made commitments to minimize impacts to the NP and continue to work with Angella Moorehouse. INPC staff will continue to work with IDOT and IHPA on a letter of support to be signed by Directors of INPC, IDNR and IHPA.

218-7) IDNR Staff Report

Ann Holtrop, Chief of the Division of Natural Heritage (DNH) reported on the collaboration of INPC and IDNR staff giving the following examples:

Scott Simpson and Bob Edgin have been working collaboratively at Prairie Ridge. They have an aggressive prescribed burn program to improve the habitat for the greater prairie chickens. Approximately 100 prairie chickens were translocated from Kansas to this site and several of those females fledged young.

Bob Edgin and Terry Esker have been perfecting the technique of summer burns and have conducted eight of these on IDNR properties.

DNH and INPC staff also work together preparing dedication proposals.

Brad Semel and John Nelson accompany each other on nearly all of their burns bringing their equipment and years of experience to work together on those sites. Kim Roman and Steve Byers and Natural Heritage staff assist with large burns such as that at Illinois Beach State Park. The collective efforts of these broad teams were recognized this year by Chicago Wilderness with the 2014 Chicago Wilderness Excellence in Restoration Platinum Level in recognition of their efforts at Illinois Beach State Park.

The 68th Natural Areas Evaluation Committee was held on July 15, 2014. Three new sites were added for high-quality mussel diversity segments. Category I features were added to two existing Category II sites. One new site was added as a Category I site; one site was deleted.

We have received approval for acquiring parcels on the 2013-2014 Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF) list. We have secured 43 acres at Berryville Shale Glade in Union County and two parcels associated with Cache River State Natural area in Johnson County totaling 121 acres.

On August 22, 2014, interviews were held for a Natural Resource Coordinator position at Prairie Ridge. We also have four new positions that will hopefully be filled within the year. One will be a field staff position and the other three will be supporting program levels. Ten new staff members formerly part of the Office of Realty and Environmental Planning's Impact Assessment Program have been moved to DNH. This brings together staff that conduct regulatory functions with the scientists. It also reinforces the identification of cultural resources as natural areas. Keith Shank and Hal Hassen are two of those who will be joining the DNH team.

DNH will be hosting a Division meeting October 21st – 23rd, 2014. The second half of that meeting will be joint with INPC staff. As the division grows, it is important to establish our priorities and reinforce our partnership with the Commission.

In response to Commissioner Dann's question from the 217th Meeting, May 5, 2014, DNH has 26 districts in the field of which thirteen are filled.

The Division is reassessing whether a twenty-six district structure really is necessary.

Commissioner McClain commented he was happy to see the late summer burning, since there was a time when the only time to burn was in the spring, it didn't seem to really do the job. It is very exciting, because it may be a big help in managing prairie sites.

Terry Esker commented that summer burns may be our only option to get into some of these sites.

218-8) Endangered Species Protection Board Staff Report

No report.

218-9) Kankakee County – Additions to Sweet Fern Savanna Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Kim Roman reported that Dr. Marianne Hahn was requesting the registration approval of fourteen individual lots totaling 20.2 acres as additions to Sweet Fern Savanna. These lots are comprised of Grade C dry-mesic sand savanna, sand flatwoods, sand forest, and former agricultural fields succeeding to sand prairie. Sweet Fern Savanna, located in the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division in Kankakee County, was originally registered by Dr. Marianne Hahn as a LWR in 2001, and was 62 acres in size. Subsequent additions to the LWR were registered by both Dr. Hahn and the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (occurring in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, and 2012), have increased the size of the LWR to approximately 126.4 acres. Sweet Fern Savanna LWR is recognized on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI # 1581) for its high-quality dry-mesic sand savanna and for the habitat it provides for 15 State-threatened or endangered plants, and the State-threatened black-billed cuckoo, reptile, and butterfly. Sweet Fern Savanna also provides habitat for an additional 23 insect species and 10 vertebrate Species in Greatest Need of Conservation. The registration of these additions will buffer habitat for many Species in Greatest Need of Conservation, protect known occurrences of the State-endangered crowded oval sedge, sweet fern, and shore St. John's wort, buffer high-quality natural communities, and promote more efficient management of the land and water reserve. Registration of these tracts will bring the total registered acreage of this site to approximately 146.6 acres.

Ms. Roman commented that Dr. Hahn regrets not being able to make down to Effingham today, but can tell you that Sweet Fern Savanna is her pride and joy. Dr. Hahn is very honored and excited to be such a big player in the Kankakee Sands and part of the Nature Preserve System.

Commissioner Dann asked if any of this proposed or existing LWR has potential to be nature preserve quality?

Ms. Roman answered it is all of nature preserve quality. Dr. Hahn supports deer hunting on the property and wanted to reserve the right to camp and collect firewood, so is not willing to give up the rights that are allowed with LWR status.

Commissioner Derby-Lewis commented that Field Museum staff visited the property and were blown away by Dr. Hahn's botanical knowledge.

Commissioner Thomas asked Ms. Roman to pass his personal greetings and thanks for all Dr. Hahn continues to do.

Commissioner McClain commented that he continues to be amazed by Dr. Hahn's vision, determination and tenacity; as well as how beautifully Ms. Roman put together and gave the presentation.

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

The Commission grants approval for the registration of Additions to Sweet Fern Savanna Land and Water Reserve in Kankakee County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 9 of the Agenda for the 218th Meeting.

(Resolution 2304)

218-10) Ogle County – Edward F. Vassallo Land and Water Reserve, Registration

John Nelson reported that Paul and Carol Soderholm propose to permanently register 130 acres as the Edward F. Vassallo LWR located in the Freeport Section of the Rock River Hill Country Natural Division. The proposed reserve will provide important buffer to help protect high-quality natural features found within the adjacent White Pines State Park, White Pines Forest Nature Preserve, and White Pines Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI #0087). The natural features on the proposed LWR are primarily old fields with tree plantings and managed grasslands. These forest and grassland habitats were established through the Forest Development Act and the Conservation Reserve Program, respectively. These programs converted this land from an agricultural to a natural landscape providing important wildlife habitat. While this land was used for agricultural purposes for several generations, the land is poorly suited for this purpose due to topography and prevalence of highly erodible soils. While no high-quality natural communities can be found on the proposed LWR, this land qualifies for registration under the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act because it has been committed to a program of restoration management designed to return the land to a condition supporting significant natural heritage resources (Section 4010.150). The land is further eligible for registration for the presence of managed grasslands at least 80 acres in size that support breeding populations of area sensitive grassland wildlife species. Another important consideration for this registration is the proximity of the LWR to White Pines State Park and Whites Pines Forest Nature Preserve. The Edward F. Vassallo LWR will permanently protect 130 acres of former agricultural lands that have been planted to natural vegetation to benefit native wildlife species. The registration will also prevent any future land uses that might negatively impact the natural resources and outdoor recreational amenities provided for the public at White Pines State Park.

The LWR is named in memory of Edward F. Vassallo, loving son of Carol Soderholm and stepson to Paul Soderholm.

The owners wish to reserve the right for upland game hunting as well as establish and maintain a small prayer garden in honor of Edward, for Carol's son and for other family.

Commissioner Dann commented that one of the real privileges of serving on the Commission is to see people like Paul and Carol Soderholm, Marianne Hahn and others over the years, who are conservation minded and conservation buyers. He really admires them and only wishes there were more of them. He thanked them.

Paul Soderholm said, "Thank you". He also asked if there was anyone at IDNR that could bring back the *Outdoor Illinois* magazine because it was through it that they learned about Sparta and Nachusa Grasslands leading to their involvement. He thanked John Nelson for helping them through this process and the Commissioners for providing the opportunity for working in the great outdoors.

Carol Soderholm thanked John Nelson for how wonderful, genuine and compassionate he has been to their situation and asked to honor him.

It was moved by Commissioner Daubach, seconded by Commissioner Derby-Lewis and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants approval for the Edward F. Vassallo in Ogle County as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 10 of the Agenda for the 218th Meeting.

(Resolution 2305)

218-11) Vermilion County – Kickapoo Hill Prairie Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Tyson Dallas reported that the IDNR was seeking registration of 36.95 acres as the Kickapoo Hill Prairie LWR, located about 4 miles northwest of Danville within the Vermilion River Section of the Wabash Border Natural Division in Vermilion County, Illinois. The proposed LWR is part of the much larger 1,128-acre Dynegy tract owned by IDNR as part of Kickapoo State Recreational Area (SRA). Kickapoo Hill Prairie contains 0.38 acres of Grade B glacial drift hill prairie and 0.45 acres of Grade C hill prairie. The hill prairies and adjacent woodlands are recognized as Kickapoo Hill Prairie Natural Area as a Category 1 site by the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI #1817). The site includes a short section of the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River. Much of the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River, including the segment within the proposed LWR, is recognized as a Category II, III, IV and VI high-quality stream by the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (#1006). This river section supports the State-endangered wavy-rayed lampmussel. The Middle Fork of the Vermilion River is recognized as Illinois' only State and National Scenic River. Kickapoo SRA, which contains the proposed LWR, lies adjacent to Middlefork State Fish and Wildlife Management Area, owned by IDNR, and Kennekuk County Park, owned by the Vermilion County Conservation District. Combined, these three sites contain 9,600 acres of public land and contain several protected natural areas. The proposed Kickapoo Hill Prairie LWR is within the Vermilion River Ecosystem Partnership and the Vermilion River Conservation Opportunity Area. In addition, the Vermilion River watershed is recognized as a Resource Rich Area by the IDNR's Conservation 2000 Ecosystem Program. Registration of Kickapoo Hill Prairie LWR supports action steps identified in the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan for the Farmland and Prairie Campaign, Forests Campaign, Streams Campaign, and the Land and Water Stewardship Campaign

Commissioner Thomas asked if there was any kind of access to the site.

Tyson Dallas responded there is minimal access via a mowed road that borders Kennekuk County Park to the north and forms a border between Kickapoo SRA (Dynegy tract) and Kennekuk County Park. You have to go through the park to get to the road.

Commissioner Stone commented that it is great that IDNR is doing this and that it is an area they should be showing leadership. It would be great if some positive re-enforcement could be brought back to IDNR that it is appreciated.

Commissioner McClain asked if there was a slough in the photo that shows the communities.

Tyson Dallas reported that there is no slough but that there is seep.

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

The Commission grants approval for Kickapoo Hill Prairie in Vermilion County as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 11 of the Agenda for the 218th Meeting.

(Resolution 2306)

218-12) Vermilion County – Kickapoo Woods Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Roger Jansen reported that the IDNR is seeking registration of 53 acres as the Kickapoo Woods LWR. It is part of Kickapoo SRA, located northeast of Oakwood. The proposed LWR protects a Category II Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (Rock Cut Botanical Area; INAI # 1718) that harbors the State-threatened fibrous-rooted sedge and a State-endangered amphibian. The site lies adjacent to the 77-acre Middlefork Woods NP, and both occur within the Vermilion River Section of the Wabash Border Natural Division. Kickapoo Woods contains Grade C mesic upland forest, dry-mesic upland forest, dry-mesic barrens and sandstone cliffs. The proposed LWR will also buffer 950 feet of the Middle Fork of the Vermilion River, Illinois' only State and National Scenic River. Kickapoo Woods is one of six protected sites in the Middle Fork River Corridor. Kickapoo SRA, which contains the proposed LWR, lies adjacent to Middlefork State Fish and Wildlife Management Area, owned by IDNR, and Kennekuk County Park, owned by the Vermilion County Conservation District. Combined, these three sites contain 9,600 acres of public land. Kickapoo Woods LWR is within the Vermilion River Ecosystem Partnership and the Vermilion River Conservation Opportunity Area. In addition, the Vermilion River watershed is recognized as a Resource Rich Area by the IDNR's Conservation 2000 Ecosystem Program. Registration of Kickapoo Woods LWR supports action steps identified in the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan for the Streams Campaign, Forests Campaign, Invasive Species Campaign, and Land and Water Campaign.

Commissioner Derby-Lewis asked if there are any other locations beyond this area that are known silvery salamander breeding areas. She asked if putting in an ephemeral pool will have such a quick response rate for breeding areas, is there anyone looking to see if there are particular areas that are best for connectivity.

Roger Jansen answered that connectivity could be made. At the same time they put in the ephemeral pools, they put in vernal pools at Middle Fork Fish & Wildlife area. The Salamanders are using every one of those vernal pools.

Mr. Jansen said he could not take the credit for the ephemeral pools. The credit goes to Terry Esker.

It was moved by Commissioner Derby-Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Dann and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants approval for Kickapoo Woods in Vermilion County as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 12 of the Agenda for the 218th Meeting.

(Resolution 2307)

218-13) Cumberland County – John Clyde Spitler Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

Mary Kay Solecki requested preliminary approval for dedication of John Clyde Spitler Woods on behalf of Ballard Nature Center. It is an 18.865-acre natural area that protects high-quality, dry-mesic and mesic upland forest just north of Montrose in Cumberland County. This natural area was gifted to the Ballard Family Nature Center in 2008 with the intention that it be retained as a nature preserve. The proposed nature preserve comprises most of the 20.4-acre John Clyde Spitler Woods Natural Area recognized by the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI # 1844) for its grade B dry-mesic upland forest (~18.1 acres) and grade B mesic upland forest (~2.3 acres) in October 2013. John Clyde Spitler Woods lies about 10 miles northeast of Effingham in the Effingham Plain Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division. This natural area is within the Embarras River Ecosystem Partnership and the Embarras River basin. The middle and lower parts of the Embarras River watershed are recognized as a Resource Rich Area by the IDNR's Conservation 2000 Ecosystem Program. Protection of John Clyde Spitler Woods as a nature preserve helps fulfill the goals of the Ecosystem Partnership and the Embarras River Watershed Resource Management Plan. Conservation of this natural area supports action steps identified in the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan for the Forests Campaign to maintain and enhance the composition of Illinois' forested habitats, continue removal and control of invasive exotic plants, and restore and manage high-quality examples of forest communities. Upon dedication, John Clyde Spitler Woods will be the first Illinois nature preserve in Cumberland County.

Commissioner McClain commented how nice it is to see the wildflower diversity within this site. A lot of woods do not have this due to the invasive plants like bush honeysuckle and garlic mustard.

Mary Kay Solecki commented that exotics are very rare at this site.

Commissioner McClain commented that it is a testament to its quality. It is refreshing to see it be the first nature preserve in this county.

Mary Kay Solecki credited Terry Esker for having called this site to the attention of the Natural Areas Inventory Update Project.

Commissioner McClain commented that there are not sugar maple saplings everywhere and that there are not huge clones of pawpaw. The absence of those two is very positive.

Commissioner Dann asked if there was potential that the owner to the South might be interested in dedication as well.

Mary Kay Solecki commented that the owner had not been approached yet, but that they could be.

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

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of John Clyde Spitler Woods in Cumberland County as an Illinois Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 13 of the Agenda for the 218th Meeting.

(Resolution 2308)

218-14) Fayette County – Burnside Forest Nature Preserve and Buffer, Dedication

Meaghan Collins requested preliminary approval for Burnside Forest as a nature preserve. The proposed preserve is a 39.55-acre Fayette County site owned by the IDNR, located in the Effingham Plain Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division. The Burnside family had owned the site for more than 50 years prior to donating it to the IDNR on February 10, 2014 with the stipulation that it be dedicated as an Illinois nature preserve. The site is recognized by the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI #1796) as having 15.9 acres Grade B mesic upland forest and 4.3 acres Grade B dry-mesic upland forest. Included within the upland forests are a number of conservative plant species such as liver leaf, doll's eye, goldenseal and wild hydrangea that are typically associated with high-quality forests. Dedication as an Illinois nature preserve would provide permanent protection for all 20.2 acres of the high-quality forest community and also protect 3.9 acres of Grade C mesic upland forest, 12.25 acres of Grade C dry-mesic upland forest, and 3.2 acres of Grade C mesic floodplain forest. Dedication supports the Streams, Forests and Invasive Species Campaigns of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan.

Bob Edgin commented that after another review of the legal description, the buffer addition was an access easement that IDNR did not own. Only the approval for the nature preserve and not the buffer addition is being considered.

Commissioner Thomas commented having worked on the Kaskaskia in the sixties, the area south of Carlyle and Fayetteville, the bottomland forest and the river forest interaction is one of the last remaining natural ecosystems of its kind in Illinois. Some of the Natural History Survey studies of birds show that it is one of the few places getting positive recruitment of some of the bird species. He considered it a pleasure to see some of these areas being protected.

Commissioner Covington asked what had been done in the past for a nature preserve that has archeological resources and a University or other qualified entity wishes to explore.

Director Heidorn answered that the staff work with researchers who share their planned methodologies to encourage the use of less intrusive methods as much as possible, trying to minimize the amount of impacts on the natural resources, but still allow the resource to be studied. At the last meeting INPC adopted standards for the archeological and cultural resources. DNH is now going to have an archeologist within their organization. Many of the nature preserves have mounds and things like this.

It was moved by Commissioner Covington, seconded by Commissioner Daubach and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of Burnside Forest in Fayette County as an Illinois Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 14 of the Agenda for the 218th Meeting.

(Resolution 2309)

218-15) Lake County – Berkeley Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steve Byers requested final approval on behalf of the Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) for dedication of 15.7 acres of the 17.5-acre Berkeley Prairie Forest Preserve as the Berkeley Prairie NP. The proposed nature preserve includes Grade B and C mesic and wet-mesic prairie, Grade C and D dry-mesic savanna, and an old field. Although Berkeley Prairie is not currently included on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI), the site had been included on the INAI in 1977 in recognition of extant Grade C mesic prairie. The proposed Berkeley Prairie NP supports five State-listed plant species; four are known from the IDNR Natural Heritage Database and include the State-endangered queen of the prairie and State-threatened small sundrops, slender wheat grass, and golden sedge. The LCFPD recently documented the presence of the State-endangered Kalm's St. John's wort at the proposed nature preserve. The proposed nature preserve is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southeastern Lake County, Illinois. The LCFPD reserves the right to implement an adaptive management approach to the site and to maintain the existing mown grass trail. A deed restriction held by The Nature Conservancy states that the property "shall forever be held as a nature preserve". Protection and stewardship of Berkeley Prairie as an Illinois nature preserve supports several "action" steps identified in the Farmland and Prairie Campaign of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan (the Plan). Berkeley Prairie Forest Preserve provides habitat for three species identified as Species in Greatest Need of Conservation and include a salamander, yellow-billed cuckoo, and northern flicker. Dedication of Berkeley Prairie as an Illinois nature preserve supports other elements of the Plan that call for "...collaboration among the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, IDNR, and other agencies, organizations, and institutions on recovery plans and actions for rare and declining species." Berkeley Prairie was given preliminary approval for dedication (Resolution 2289) at the 217th Meeting in May 2014.

The two-car parking lot is located outside the boundary of the nature preserve.

Mr. Byers thanked Anne Maine, President of the LCFPD; and staff of the LCFPD: Ty Kovak, Executive Director, and Ken Click. He acknowledged the early conservationist at this site that were supportive of this prairie so many years ago.

Commissioner Thomas asked if the LCFPD is cataloging the adaptive management approach information and how it gets shared.

Steve Byers answered they are keeping track of what works controlling invasive species and change their strategy to include different types of herbicide application at different times of the year. The LCFPD will share that information with the Commission staff.

Director Heidorn commented that all nature preserves are required to have a written management plan which they provide to us as well.

Commissioner Dann asked if the existing blue bird boxes are included in the management plan.

Mr. Byers said they are included in the management plan.

Commissioner Dann asked if the trail circumscribes the nature preserve.

Mr. Byers answered there is a mowed trail that is around the boundary of the proposed nature preserve. In the event that some areas become too wet with increased usage the LCFPD may modify the trail alignment which would come to the Commission staff for approval.

It was moved by Commissioner Dann, seconded by Commissioner Derby-Lewis and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of Berkeley Prairie in Lake County as an Illinois Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 15 of the Agenda for the 218th Meeting.

(Resolution 2310)

218-16) Lake County – Addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steve Byers requested on behalf of the Long Grove Park District (LGPLD), final approval for dedication of 3.986 acres as a nature preserve addition to Reed-Turner Woodland NP. The proposed addition consists of Grade B and C mesic upland forest, wet-mesic floodplain forest, and a medium-gradient small stream and lies within the Reed-Turner Woodland INAI site (INAI No. 228). Reed-Turner Woodland NP and the proposed addition are located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southern Lake County, Illinois. The Commission's partnership with LGPLD and Reed-Turner Woodland NP dates back to 1972. At the 42nd Meeting of the INPC, the Commission encouraged Harold and Barbara Turner to preserve the forest on their property (Resolution #243). Then, in 1980 at the Commission's 80th Meeting, the Commission granted final approval for dedication of 32 acres of Reed-Turner Woodland as an Illinois nature preserve (Resolution # 559). Since then, there have been four additions to Reed-Turner Woodland (two parcels at the Commissions 137th Meeting in 1992,

Resolution #1156 and Resolution #1157; one parcel at the Commission's 192nd Meeting in 2006, Resolution #1926; and one parcel at the Commission's 217th meeting in 2014, Resolution # 2296). This parcel received preliminary approval for dedication as a nature preserve addition to Reed-Turner Woodland at the Commission's 217th Meeting in 2014 (Resolution # 2291). Protection and management of this addition to Reed-Turner Woodland NP supports elements of the Forests Campaign identified in the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan that includes efforts to restore and manage high-quality examples of all forest communities and a recommendation to contribute to ecological connectivity among forests and other habitat patches. Formal protection of this nature preserve addition (3.986 acres) represents the fifth addition to Reed-Turner Woodland NP and will increase its size from 42.534 acres to 46.52 acres.

Mr. Byers reported that Barbara Turner and Jane Wittig, Park District President, sent their regrets for not attending for final approval.

It was moved by Commissioner Derby-Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Stone and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of an Addition to Reed-Turner Woodland in Lake County as an Illinois Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 16 of the Agenda for the 218th Meeting.

(Resolution 2311)

218-17) Monroe County – Paul Wightman Subterranean Nature Preserve, Dedication

Debbie Newman, on behalf of Clifftop, a non-for-profit organization, requested final approval of Paul Wightman Subterranean Nature Preserve, a 535-acre Monroe County site located in the Northern Section of the Ozark Natural Division. The owners are seeking to dedicate only the site's subsurface at this time.

The proposed preserve protects karst features associated with the Fogelpole Cave System, which is part of the 10,467-acre Renault Karst Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Site (INAI #1597). The Renault Karst and associated cave systems are recognized on the INAI for high-quality aquatic and terrestrial cave communities and the presence of three State and federally endangered species, including two bats and an invertebrate. Fogelpole Cave System is Illinois' largest cave system, the 51st largest in the United States, and hosts the largest number of troglobitic species (species that live and reproduce only in caves) in Illinois.

The proposed Paul Wightman Subterranean Nature Preserve completely surrounds the IDNR's 27-acre Fogelpole Cave NP, and is located one mile from the 64.5-acre Storment Hauss NP. Besides protecting the aquatic and terrestrial cave communities, and State and federally listed species, dedication of the proposed preserve supports two campaigns identified in the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan, including the Streams Campaign and the Land and Water Stewardship Campaign. The dedication also supports goals in the Southwestern Illinois Wildlife Action Plan and the Illinois Cave Amphipod Recovery Plan.

Clifftop is dedicating the preserve in honor of Rev. Paul Wightman, who developed the initial maps of the Fogelpole Cave System and advanced scientific knowledge of the cave through

recharge area delineations and various expeditions in the cave. Rev. Wightman has maintained his interest and efforts on behalf of the cave for more than 65 years. The site was given preliminary approval for dedication (Resolution 2292) at the 217th Meeting in May 2014.

Clifftop is reserving additional rights not included in the original proposal. Clifftop reserves the right to modify the physical environment within subterranean passages of the Paul Wightman Subterranean Nature Preserve under certain circumstances, including:

- Rescue and/or recovery emergency situations may require modification of the above-described physical environment without prior coordination with the INPC, in accordance with Clifftop's pre-coordinated and pre-positioned Incident Action Plan (IAP). Clifftop will file a copy of the IAP with the INPC upon completion of the document.
- In situations where modifications of the above-described physical environment are needed to allow continued progress of the cave surveying effort or other approved research, determinations will be made by Clifftop in coordination with the INPC, the Fogelpole Cave Survey Project Coordinator, the Project Lead Scientist and in a way that such modifications will not cause undue harm to the overall system or features within it.

Debbie Newman recognized Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation and Grand Victoria Foundation for their significant financial support for Clifftop's acquisition of this property. She recognized Dr. Steve Taylor and the Illinois Natural History Survey for their significant support in providing information to help Clifftop create a vision for protecting karsts in Southwest Illinois including this property. She also recognized Clifftop's membership who donated a significant portion of the cost to protect and acquire this property.

Ms. Newman thanked Clifftop and their board for the enormous time and energy they have put into this property as well as other nature preserves. They have really worked hard to create a way to implement the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan and Southwest Illinois Wildlife Action Plan partnership which includes protecting the karst region of Southwest Illinois engaging the public to better understand karst resources.

Commissioner Covington asked if rescuing of people might not be much of an issue since a permanent gate will be installed at the entrance of this cave.

Debbie Newman answered that there are multiple entrances to the Fogelpole Cave System. The main entrance is on the IDNR property which will be gated, but there are many other entrances if people are aware of them. There have been incidences over the years where someone has had to go in and rescue someone.

Commissioner Dann asked that if the white-nosed syndrome is successful in eliminating these bats, would it still merit nature preserves dedication.

Debbie Newman answered bats are only one of the important components of this cave. The Illinois cave anphopod, which is only known from 5 or 6 historical cave systems and only in southwest Illinois and nowhere else in the world, is also found in Fogelpole. Fogelpole Cave was noted on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory as a high quality terrestrial and aquatic cave system meaning that it has quite a number of rare species.

Commissioner Stone asked what type and category of users would have access to this site. Is it only owners and researchers that the owners allow on the property?

Commissioner Daubach answered that when the grant proposals were written to the foundations, it was specifically noted that the caves would never have public access to the subterranean portions. Fogelpole is essentially a pristine wilderness because there has never been public access. There is no intention to open it to public access.

Commissioner Stone asked if there are any concerns about the small septic systems that are allowed for the facilities at surface use.

Debbie Newman said septic systems are always a concern with cave systems. They can be a major contributor to pollution when the septic systems are not maintained properly. That is an ongoing issue in this karst region. This particular site already had septic systems present because there had been multiple homesteads. The difference is Clifftop will be maintaining and having inspections of these septic systems. The maintenance and inspections of the septic systems will probably be built into the management plan for this site.

Director Heidorn acknowledged Bruce Ross-Shannon, a former chair and current consultant to the Commission, for his role in developing and reviewing the language for the dedication.

Commissioner Daubach stated for the record that she was recusing herself from voting.

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

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of Paul Wightman Subterranean in Monroe County as an Illinois Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 17 of the Agenda for the 218th Meeting.

(Resolution 2312)

218-18) Will County – Buffer Addition to Messenger Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

Thomas Engbrecht requested on behalf of the Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC) final approval for dedication of a 7.01-acre parcel as a buffer addition to Messenger Woods NP. The Messenger Woods NP buffer addition was granted preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission's 217th meeting in May 2014 (Resolution 2293). Messenger Woods and the proposed buffer addition are located in northern Will County in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division and are owned and managed by the FPDWC. In 1994, 407 acres were dedicated as a nature preserve and buffer with a 2.8-acre buffer addition in 1999. The proposed buffer addition consists of dry-mesic and mesic upland forest communities, a freshwater marsh and an old field that has undergone prairie reconstruction. It also buffers habitat for a State-threatened salamander and 25 other species identified in the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan (the Plan) as Species in Greatest Need of Conservation. Within the proposed buffer addition, the FPDWC reserves the right to maintain and use a driveway within a former home site for management access and parking, and to

operate a water control structure located south of the marsh. Protection and management of the proposed buffer addition support actions found in the Plan including the Wetlands Campaign, Forests Campaign, the Farmland and Prairie Campaign and the Invasive Species Campaign. Protection of this buffer addition will increase the size of Messenger Woods Nature Preserve to approximately 417 acres.

It was moved by Commissioner Daubach, seconded by Commissioner Stone and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of a Buffer Addition to Messenger Woods in Will County as an Illinois Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 18 of the Agenda for the 218th Meeting.

(Resolution 2313)

218-19) Winnebago County – Proposal for trail connection at Stone Bridge Trail Land and Water Reserve

John Nelson, on behalf of the Winnebago County Forest Preserves District (WCFPD) requested approval for a proposed trail connection at the Stone Bridge Trail LWR. The LWR is owned by Roscoe Township and there exists a public bike trail along the centerline of a former railroad bed. The site was registered to protect remnant railroad prairies that occur in “pockets” along the bike trail. The WCFPD owns and manages land adjacent to the reserve, which includes a restored prairie, scenic overlook of the historic Stone Bridge. The request is part of a site plan for this adjacent property that will include a parking area, hiking trail, and bike trail connection to the existing Stone Bridge bike trail along Bur Oak Road. If approved, the project will disturb approximately 4100 square feet of the LWR along the right-of-way to Bur Oak Road. This area does not contain remnant natural communities nor any threatened, endangered, or rare plant species.

Roscoe Township approves of this action. The Natural Lands Institute also has no objections. Both have provided a letter of approval.

Kelly Neal reported the staff recommends approval of the trail linkage from the Winnebago County Forest Preserve parking area located outside the reserve boundaries through the land and water reserve to the Stone Bridge trail, with the following conditions:

- If heavy equipment is used it must be power washed off-site to prevent the spread of exotic/invasive plants at the site.
- Heavy equipment should remain within the “disturbance zone” as delineated on maps provided by WCFPD.
- Heavy equipment must be staged off-site.
- Soil best management practices (BMP) should be used to prevent soil erosion/sedimentation in areas where soil disturbances occur.
 - Soil stabilization and runoff control measures should be incorporated throughout the entire construction site and during the entire construction period.
 - BMPs should be inspected daily to ensure there is no erosion/siltation from the

work area.

- When work is complete, seeding with turf in the six foot band on each side of the trail and with local genotype seed appropriate to surrounding habitat if there are disturbed areas beyond the six feet.
- Staff or contractors walking in/working at the site should be sure to minimize trampling and disturbances to sensitive plant communities. Every effort should be made to prevent the spread of exotic or invasive plants/plant propagules. All equipment and work clothing including shoes/boots, must be clean and free of any seeds/mud prior to enter or leaving the site(s) to prevent the spreading of invasive species within and among job sites and other areas where staff may have worked.
- There should be no negative impacts to high quality plant communities.
- There should be no negative impacts to rare threatened or endangered plants or animals present at the site.

Commissioner Covington was concerned how much land would actually be disturbed.

John Nelson explained that fill would have to be brought in to get the right slope to make it stable. The area is not a perfect rectangle, the area of impact is very small and will not be impacting any high quality natural communities. This is the best location.

Kerry Leigh indicated that the National Land Institute does not yet have an agreement with the Forest Preserve District but have a verbal understanding that the District will be providing invasive species management to the high quality areas of the site.

It was moved by Commissioner Derby-Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Stone and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants approval for the trail connection at Stone Bridge Trail Land and Water Reserve in Winnebago County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 19 of the Agenda for the 218th Meeting.

(Resolution 2314)

218-20) Natural Areas Acquisition Fund FY2015 Stewardship Program

The Natural Areas Stewardship Program uses monies provided by the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund [NAAF] to support management activities on both State- and non-State-owned nature preserves and land and water reserves. The FY15 NAAF Stewardship allocation is projected to be \$1,000,000. Additional funds may be available from unallocated monies from past fiscal years but the amount is unknown at this time. IDNR requests approval of the submitted FY15 NAAF Stewardship Proposal list (Exhibit 2) in anticipation of available funding.

Bob Szafoni reported that 70 proposals were submitted from both INPC and DNH staff and all are on INAI sites which are dedicated Nature Preserve or registered Land and Water Reserves; 47 on IDNR lands, 27 on non-IDNR lands (private lands). Seventy-five percent of these address exotic/invasive species management, ten percent for prescribed burn support and 15 percent for general protection and hydrology restoration. Sixteen projects bring in outside matching funds for INAI management and totaling over \$600,000 which is almost all Federal funds from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Commission was asked to approve the entire list even though the entire list exceeds the amount of money available in NAAF. This allows us flexibility to fund projects other ways.

Commissioner Thomas asked if there was a more current list of estimate for sites other than the \$4.5 million from four or five years ago.

Bob Szafoni answered there was not.

Commissioner Stone asked why funds appropriated from prior years were not being spent.

Bob Szafoni answered that some projects have come in under budget, so there is money remaining. Since capital dollars can be rolled, if they are not spent in a fiscal year, they can be spent in the next fiscal year.

Commissioner McClain suggested legislation directed towards preventing new exotics. He suggested the need for some sort of screening process and if this is where money could be set aside for this. He also suggested the quantitative tracking of prescribed burns, and rare plant management, so effectiveness can be assessed.

Bob Szafoni responded these were not the appropriate for NAAF, but the agency is moving forward with a person funded by State Wildlife Grant dollars whose charge is to implement Invasive Species Campaign of the Wildlife Action Plan. They are engaged in efforts addressing this need. Jody Shimp is very involved and would be the person to talk to. The data collecting is being addressed outside the NAAF budget.

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

The Commission grants approval for the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund FY2015 Stewardship Program, as described in the proposal presented under Item 20 of the Agenda for the 218th Meeting.

218-21) Election of Advisors and Consultants

Commissioner Covington reported that following persons have been nominated as Advisors: Marc Miller, Dr. Mike Demissie, Dr. Donald McKay, Anne Mankowski, Dr. Brian Anderson, Dr. Thomas E. Emerson, Dr. Gary Miller, Dr. Bonnie Styles, Alyson Grady and Dr. Williams Shilts.

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

The Commission elects Marc Miller, Dr. Mike Demissie, Dr. Donald McKay, Anne Mankowski, Dr. Brian Anderson, Dr. Thomas E. Emerson, Dr. Gary Miller, Dr. Bonnie Styles, Alyson Grady and Dr. William Shilts as Advisors to the Commission.

(Resolution 2316)

Commissioner Covington reported that the following persons have been nominated as Consultants to the Commission: Gerald Adelman, Jill Allread, Michelle Carr, Tom Clay, Harry Drucker, Kenneth Fiske, Dr. Ronald Flemal, Fran Harty, James Mann, Jerry Paulson, Joseph Roth, Bruce Ross-Shannon, John Schwegman, Valerie Spale, John White, and as new consultants Jill Riddell and Lauren Rosenthal.

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

The Commission elects Gerald Adelman, Jill Allread, Michelle Carr, Tom Clay, Harry Drucker, Kenneth Fiske, Dr. Ronald Flemal, Fran Harty, James Mann, Jerry Paulson, Joseph Roth, Bruce Ross-Shannon, John Schwegman, Valerie Spale, John White, Jill Riddell and Lauren Rosenthal as consultants to the Commission.

(Resolution 2317)

218-22) Election of Officers

Commissioner Covington reported that the following persons have been nominated as Officers of the Commission for FY2015: Dave Thomas, Chair; Donnie Dann, Vice-Chair; George Covington, Secretary.

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

The Commission elects the following persons to serve as Officers of the Commission during FY2015: David Thomas, Chair; Donnie Dann, Vice-Chair; George Covington, Secretary.

218-23) Review of Minutes of Closed Meetings

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Commissioner must review minutes from the following closed meetings: August 2, 2005; May 2, 2006; May 6, 2008; May 5, 2009; May 7, 2013; and September 10, 2013, to determine if they must still remain closed.

Commissioner Thomas asked for a motion for these minutes to remain closed.

Director Heidorn explained that some sites mentioned in these minutes were still under consideration for acquisition. IDNR's Office of Realty and Environmental Planning recommended they remained closed.

It was motioned by Commissioner Dann, seconded by Commissioner Covington and carried that the following resolution be approved.

The Commission has reviewed the minutes of the Closed Meeting, held August 2, 2005; May 2, 2006; May 6, 2008; May 5, 2009; May 7, 2013 and September 10, 2013, and directed the minutes remain closed.

(Resolution 2319)

218-24) Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Ben Turner read the following letter on behalf of his brother, Seth Turner:

Ballard Nature Center
5253 E. US Highway 40
Altamont, IL 62411

September 9, 2014, 10:00 a.m.

I was unable to attend today's meeting. My brother has agreed to act as my proxy and read the following comments.

In July, I sent two documents to the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission by email. In one of these documents, I detailed the theft of fossils from Fogelpole Cave by IDNR and ISGS staff. The other paper discussed the mismanagement of cave resources in the Shawnee Hills area by the Forest Service, IDNR, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

These agencies have lied about bat counts, violated NEPA, exaggerated recreational impacts, and concealed takings under the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act and the Federal Endangered Species Act. In 2010, the Shawnee National Forest gated Jug Spring Cave to protect Indiana bats, gray bats, and the eastern small-footed bat from recreational impacts. None of these bats species have ever been found in the cave. It is my professional opinion and that of certain INHS staff that recreational visitation to the cave was minimal to non-existent.

The Shawnee National Forest's current wildlife biologist has lied about the success of the

Brasher Cave bat gate. Indiana bat populations have not been increasing steadily at this site. Following gating, the cave's population of wintering Indiana bat's has averaged less than 3 individuals per year. The Brasher Cave gate may be adversely impacting Indiana bats.

I truly believe that the Forest Service and IDNR are gating caves, simply because such action is almost always viewed favorably. Conservation groups are going to advocate for the gating of caves. Land managers and biologists stand to benefit professionally from such action. Anyone who contests the gating of a cave can easily be dismissed by polarizing the issue to reflect a disregard for the health of bats or other cave biota.

The gating of Illinois' caves has stopped being about conservation. When the state and federal government will act to protect two bats by constructing a gate, but fail to protect a colony of hundreds or thousands of federally and state endangered bats that are being adversely impacted by mining something is wrong.

Element of Occurrence Records for state endangered species exist for two cave sites on White Hill, which is located in the same county as Jug Spring Cave. The White Hill Caves at one time were known to winter hundreds of southeastern bats. The state and federal government are aware that an active quarry is impacting these sites. In comparison to White Hill, gating a cave like Jug Spring that has no bats is hardly a management priority.

What is happening at Cave Spring Cave in Hardin County is even worse. Cave Spring Cave was at one time the most biologically significant cave in the state. This cave would not even exist today if it were not for the actions of Dr. John White, who is currently a consultant to the INPC.

One of the cave's entrances is within twenty-five feet of an active quarry. Past mining has encroached on the cave's passages in certain areas to a distance of less than ten feet. The quarry operators are guilty of multiple permit violations, which include operating outside the permitted area. Element of Occurrence Records for the site exist for four federal and state endangered species.

The cave's maternity colony of gray bats has been reduced by 65%, since mining operations started in the 1960's. Before mining, the caves population of gray bats numbered 10,000. Cave Spring Cave is the site of the only known gray bat maternity colony in the entire state.

Other nearby caves and abandoned mines that support wintering bat populations in Hardin County are being impacted by illegal quarry operations. Last winter, the operators of the Hastie Quarry at Lead Hill cleared overburden in preparation for a quarry expansion. Debris was pushed into the entrances of the site's caves and mines, while bats hibernated inside.

I believe that the IDNR, Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, USFWS, and Forest Service are unwilling to take any action that might address these matters. It is not so easy to fault such a lack of action. For many of these agencies, doing something would be an admission of guilt. Careers would be impacted. The Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board is largely dependent on IDNR funding and resources. It is only natural for the Board to strive to avoid situations that might be at odds with IDNR action.

In reality, nothing is likely being done because of the awkward situations that would result. I can commiserate with these agencies. Some of the land that is being leased near Cave Spring Cave for mining is owned by my extended family. I have every reason to wish that I was wrong. Unfortunately, I believe that I am right.

Something needs to be done. I likely have no real standing under Illinois law to bring a meaningful lawsuit against the state. I could pursue a writ of mandamus in accordance with 520 ILCS 10/11 (b) to compel the IDNR to study whether or not adverse impacts are occurring at Cave Spring Cave. However, even if adverse impacts were found to exist, nothing would have to be done. My rights lie solely with compelling the IDNR to study the situation. It is the state's responsibility, not the public's, to enforce quarry permits and the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act.

I can only think of a few more options, that I have not yet exhausted, that might result in some of these issues being addressed. I can still petition the USFWS to designate Cave Spring Cave as critical habitat for the gray bat, write a journal article, and try contacting the media. I am hopeful that the Commission will consider taking action on some of the issues that I raised today and in my previous correspondence. I believe that the Commission has standing under Illinois law to see that something is done, should a gentle nudge to the IDNR fail. While I understand if the Commission chooses not to address any of these matters, I would hope that such a lack of action would not be rooted in a desire to avoid an awkward situation.

Sincerely,
Seth Turner

Commissioner Derby-Lewis asked what the evidence was.

Ben Turner responded that agencies contacted did not have the records required by law to initiate the actions taken and that bat count records published in articles did not match those of the agencies records.

Commissioner Dann asked shouldn't he (Seth) be taking this up with the bodies to whom he presented the evidence.

Commissioner Derby-Lewis asked what action was taken.

Ben Turner answered that some of his (Seth) FOIA requests have been denied for there being no records.

Commissioner Thomas suggested that if he (Seth) has any issues to address to the commission, in writing would be best.

218-25) Other Business

No other business.

218-26) Adjournment

Commissioner Dann motioned to adjourn. It was seconded by Commissioner Derby-Lewis and approved. The INPC adjourned at approximately 2:25 PM.



Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

memorandum

To: Commissioners

From: Randy Heidorn

Date: April 21, 2014

Subject: Staff Report for the 217th Meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
Reporting Period: December 13, 2013 – April 7, 2014

KEY (Please use the following abbreviations. If others are needed please define)

INPC = Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

IDNR = Illinois Department of Natural Resources

FPD = Forest Preserve District

NHL = Natural Heritage Landmark

INAI = Illinois Natural Areas Inventory

ComEd = Commonwealth Edison Company

ICC = Illinois Commerce Commission

SP = State Park

ORC = Office of Resource Conservation

ISGS = Illinois State Geological Service

NP = Nature Preserve

LWR = Land and Water Reserve

CMS = Department of Central Management Services

PD = Park District

SNA = State Natural Areas

SF = State Forest

AREAS

Area 1 - John Nelson

Area 2 - Steven Byers

Area 3 - Kim Roman & Tom Engbrecht

Area 4 - Angella Moorehouse & Jared Ruholl

Area 5 - Thomas Lerczak

Area 6 - Mary Kay Solecki

Area 7 - Debbie Newman

Area 8 - Bob Edgin & Meaghan Collins

INPC OPERATIONS

- Staff changes:
 - Valerie Njapa accepted the position of INPC Natural Areas Defense Specialist and will begin work on May 1. She comes to us from the IDNR Office of Realty and Environmental Review where she served as a specialist in the Natural Resource Damage Program.
- Hiring efforts:
 - The paperwork to post the INPC Office Specialist was submitted to ORC on December 12, 2013 and the position posted in January. There were no internal candidates and the open and competitive list for the position at CMS had no candidates. We were told this was likely due to the short hand requirement for the position. A clarification removing this requirement was submitted to CMS. The revised position was posted April 17, 2014 with the last day to apply May 1, 2014.
 - The paperwork clarifying the job title and description of the Natural Areas Protection Program Manager (Vacant since 2005) from a Natural Resource Manager 1 to a Natural Resource Manager 2 (NRM2) was submitted to IDNR Human Resources in October 2013. This clarification has yet to be submitted to CMS. This position has been included in the submitted FY2015 budget yet to be approved.
 - Paper work for establishing and/or posting The Areas 9 Natural Areas Protection Specialist (vacant since 2010) and the INPC Operations Manager (essentially, but new title, Heidorn's old position prior to becoming Assistant Director) has been prepared and is under internal review. These positions have been included in the submitted FY2015 budget yet to be approved.
- Randy Heidorn continues to handle personnel and other administrative matters including all hiring, evaluations and budget preparations and execution. He also is coordinating INPC's response to threats to protected INPC sites.

- Kelly Neal, Mary Kay Solecki and Tom Lerczak continue to fill in for missing administrative staff maintaining petty cash, INPC wide procurement, review of documents for meetings and processing of post meeting documents for dedications and registrations.
- Appointments:
 - Immediately prior to the 216th Meeting, Dr. Abigail Derby Lewis, a climate change mitigation specialist at The Field Museum and Dr. Charles Ruffner, Professor of Forestry at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale were appointed as new commissioners replacing Lauren Rosenthal and Mare Payne. William McClain and Donnie Dann were both reappointed for three-year terms.
 - Randy Heidorn met with INPC Advisors Dr. Brian Anderson (INHS) and Dr. Bonnie Styles (State Museum) to discuss appointments and reappointments for terms expiring at the end of June 2014. Dr. Pen DauBach, Dr. David Thomas and Dennis Clark's terms are expiring at that time. Dennis Clark has indicated that he is planning to move to Wisconsin and did not wish to be reappointed. Letters are being prepared to make recommendations to the Governor consistent with statute.

OUTREACH/PARTNERSHIP/TRAINING/VOLUNTEER COORDINATION/MEETINGS ATTENDED

- INPC staff continues to provide information for the INPC Facebook page under the coordination of Kim Roman.
- Randy Heidorn presented at the Illinois Prescribed Fire Council Conference held at McHenry County College, Crystal Lake a talk on describing how persons may become an Illinois Certified Prescribed Burn Manager. Kim Roman, John Nelson, Jared Ruholl and Tom Engbrecht also attended this conference.
- Randy Heidorn and Debbie Newman both presented talks on the INPC at the Southwestern Illinois College's Darwin Day event. Commissioner DauBach and Dr. Carl DauBach rounded out the presenters at the event.
- Angella Moorehouse, Jared Ruholl and Meaghan Collins attended a workshop on control of Japanese stiltgrass held in Harrisburg and sponsored by the Oak Woodlands and Forest Fire Consortium.
- Bob Edgin and Randy Heidorn represented INPC at the Endangered Species Protection Board Meeting.
- Randy Heidorn:
 - Participated in a live webcast hosted by IDNR Director Miller on Land and Water Management. Heidorn described the purpose and programs of the INPC.
 - Traveled to Washington DC representing the INPC, IDNR and Natural Areas Association (NAA) at the Teaming with Wildlife annual fly-in to support the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants. This fund has provided Illinois with over \$25 million since its inception. Much of this funding has been used to manage natural areas owned by IDNR. While in Washington, Heidorn also participated in partner visits with federal agencies, met with staff of the Illinois Senate delegation and convened a Board of Directors meeting of NAA where Heidorn serves as President.
- Kelly Neal:
 - Participated in Network for Nature meeting for Volunteer Stewardship Network leaders at meetings in southern Illinois.
 - Participated in the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid Researchers Meeting.
- Steven Byers:
 - Gave presentation at Audubon Birding America on Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge
 - Presented to Libertyville Township Open Space on the mission of INPC
 - Participated with Forest Preserves Cook County on their Master Plan development.
- Kim Roman
 - completed Goose Lake Prairie application for Chicago Wilderness Excellence in Ecological Restoration accreditation.
 - Continued to lead the INPC effort on maintaining a Face Book page.
- Tom Engbrecht completed Red Card recertification and First Aid/CPR certification.
- Angella Moorehouse and Jared Ruholl
 - Attended a pollinator workshop in East Peoria, hosted by Pheasants Forever.

- Angella Moorehouse met with the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, Prairie Land Conservancy and River Bend Wildland Trust to explore funding options for the acquisition of conservation easements in western Illinois.
- Tom Lerczak
 - Provided an opinion to a representative of the Vital Lands Illinois Commons on website usage.
 - Provided his article “Protecting Hopewell Hill Prairies” to be reprinted in @ORC in-house newsletter. Kim Roman assisted in the final formatting for this article
- Mary Kay Solecki:
 - Gave presentation at Grand Prairie Friends winter meeting on INPC’s conservation efforts over the past 50 years.
 - Gave presentation at University of Illinois for the Scholarship of Sustainability series on “Conserving Nature in a Fragmented Landscape: 50 Years of Saving Nature” which highlighted INPC’s conservation efforts and fragmentation issues.
- Debbie Newman:
 - Provided INPC 50 years and Acquisition of New Stemler Parcel articles for Friends of Stemler Cave Woods (Cave & Woods Newsletter).
 - Gave INPC Presentation to Novitiates and Staff at Missionary Oblates La Vista Novitiate.
- Meaghan Collins completed Chainsaw Safety Training

PROTECTION

Discussion of protection options with the following landowners and potential funders:

Area 1

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Land Institute • Winnebago County FPD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JoDaviess Conservation Foundation • Three private landowners |
|--|---|

Area 2

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Grove PD • McHenry County Conservation District • Lake County FPD • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (funding) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FPD Kane County • Two private individuals • Lake Forest Open Lands Association • Two private landowners |
|--|--|

Area 4

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pheasants Forever • Peoria PD • River Bend Wildland Trust | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prairie Land Conservancy • Ten private landowners |
|---|--|

Area 5

- Contacted 10 landowners.

Area 6

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDNR • Grand Prairie Friends • Land Conservation Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Illinois • Three private individuals |
|---|---|

Area 7

- Two private landowners

Area 8

- Five private landowners

EASEMENT/DEDICATION MONITORING/BOUNDARY SURVEYS

Boundary monitoring took place at the following protected areas:

Area 1

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harlem Hills NP • George B. Fell NP • Pine Rock NP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flora Prairie NP • Beach Cemetery Prairie NP |
|--|---|

Area 2

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hybernia NP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glacial Park NP |
|---|---|

- Somme Prairie NP

Area 4

- Short Fork Seep NP
- Thistle Hills LWR
- Josua Lindahl Hill Prairie NP
- Root Cemetery Savanna NP
- Brimfield Railroad Prairie NP
- Jubilee College Forest NP

Area 5

- Walden West LWR
- Stubblefield Woodlots NP
- Funks Grove LWR

Area 6

- Edgewood Farm LWR

Area 8

- Padgett Pin Oak Woods LWR

BIOLOGICAL INVENTORIES

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

Area 2

- Reed-Turner Woodland NP (botanical)

Area 3

- Pecumsaugen Creek/Blackball Mines NP (bat hibernacula)

Area 5

- Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak NP (red-headed woodpecker)
- Walden West LWR (red-headed woodpecker)

INAI UPDATE

Area 6

- Jasmine Hollow LWR

STEWARDSHIP

Planning Site and species conservation plans prepared or updated during the reporting period:

Area 1

- Kinnikinick Creek NP

Area 2

- Illinois Beach NP
- North Dunes NP

Area 7

- Palisades NP

Area 8

- Royal catchfly (*Silene regia*)
- Winged sedge (*Carex alata*)
- Halbred-leaved tearthumb (*Polygonum arifolium*)
- Mud plantain (*Heterathera reniformis*)
- Storax (*Styrax americana*)
- Tube beardtongue (*Penstemon tubaefflorus*)
- Leatherflower (*Clematis viorna*)
- Shore St. John's wort (*Hypericum adpressum*)
- Bloodleaf (*Iresine rhizomatosa*)

STEWARDSHIP

Consulting, contract work conducted or administered and completed during the reporting period:

Area 1

- Lake in the Hills Fen
- Boone Creek Fen NP
- Eagles Nest LWR

Area 2

- Somme Prairie NP
- Forested Fen INAI site
- Wolf Road Prairie NP
- Dokum Mskoda Sedge Meadow NP

- Bluff Spring Fen NP

Area 3

- Goose Lake Prairie NP

Area 4

- Stony Hills NP
- Robert Evers LWR

Area 6

- Sibley Grove NP
- Upper Sangamon River LWR

Area 7

- Salt Lick Point LWR
- Illinois Ozarks NP (proposed)

Area 8

- P and E Refuge LWR

- Hybernia NP

- Long Run Seep NP

- Nenawakwa LWR
- McFarland Hills LWR

- Kickapoo Hill Prairie INAI site

- Horse Creek Glade NHL

Prescribed burns completed:

Area 1

- Pine Rock NP
- Piros Prairie NP
- Harlem Hills NP

- Kettle Moraine NP
- George B. Fell NP

Area 3

- DesPlaines Dolomite Prairie LWR

Area 4

- Nenawakwa LWR

- Stony Hills NP

Area 6

- Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP

Area 7

- Martha & Michelle Prairies LWR
- Illinois Ozarks NP (proposed)

Area 8

- Prairie Ridge SNA – Jasper County (28 burns)
- Prairie Ridge SNA –Marion County (9 burns)
- Robert Ridgway Grasslands NP
- Beall Woods NP
- Red Hill Woods NP
- Flag Pond LWR
- Green Prairie NHL
- Lake Sara Flatwoods NHL
- Stephen A Forbes SP (4 burns)

- Wildcat Hollow SF
- American Beech Woods NP
- Pyramid State Park
- Trail of Tears SF
- Cave Creek Glade NP
- Boss Island NP
- Cretaceous Hills NP
- Newton Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area
- Embarras River Bottoms State Habitat Area (3 burns)

Other land stewardship completed by staff:

Area 1

- Boone Creek Fen NP
- Temperance Hill Cemetery Prairie NP
- Harlem Hills NP

- Kettle Moraine NP
- George B. Fell NP
- Pine Rock NP

Area 2

- Liberty Prairie NP

- Bluff Spring Fen NP

Area 4

- Harry N. Patterson Savanna LWR

- Nenawakwa LWR

- Stony Hills NP

Area 7

- Prairie of the Rock Overlook LWR

Area 8

- Prairie Ridge SNA, Jasper and Marion County: Greater prairie-chicken translocation project

**Threats to Sites Report for the 217 Meeting of the
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission**

Black-crown Marsh LWR, McHenry County – John Nelson and Keith Shank (IDNR)

- **Issue:** Proposed cell tower on the northern boundary of the Reserve
- **Threat:** A potential visual and physical nuisance to rare, threatened, or endangered bird species that have been documented to use the Reserve for feeding, resting, breeding, and nesting.
- **Status:** A new threat issue that has been reported to the INPC through the IDNR Consultation Program. Staff has provided review comments to the IDNR and is prepared to write a letter to the Village of Lakemoor prior to their voting on the proposed cell tower.

Black Partridge Park Woods LWR, Woodford County – Tom Lerczak, Randy Heidorn

- **Issue:** Request from the Village of Metamora for a water line easement across the LWR along its southern boundary.
- **Threat:** Disturbance of LWR features.
- **Status:** On-going. Meetings and communications with LWR landowners (Metamora PD), Village of Metamora, representatives from the neighbors to the west of the reserve (Girl Scouts of Central Illinois), and planning engineers occurred to examine alternative routes for the water line extension that would avoid the Reserve. A preferred option has yet to be chosen. If the engineer’s preferred route involves crossing part of the reserve, then an INPC staff recommendation will be planned for a future INPC meeting.

Bliss Woods NP, Kane County – Steven Byers/Randy Heidorn

- **Issue:** Lead shot on site (origin traced back to operation of adjacent shooting range).
- **Threat:** Lead shot poses a health risk and threat to the environment. And its removal threatens existing plant communities (both wetland and terrestrial ecosystems).
- **Status:** Ongoing. INPC staff participating with FPD of Kane County (owner), Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, IDNR, and Illinois Attorney General’s Office to identify acceptable course of action for removal of lead shot from site.

Burlington Prairie NP, Kane County – Steven Byers

- **Issue:** ComEd is constructing a 345 kv electric transmission line across Ogle, DeKalb, Kane and Du Page Counties.
- **Threat:** Transmission line could impact NP.
- **Status:** Ongoing. INPC staff worked successfully with ComEd personnel early in the planning process to preclude routes that would be located near Burlington Prairie NP or nearby Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve. The primary/secondary routes that ComEd will be submitting to ICC will avoid the NP. INPC staff continues to monitor project with ComEd and ICC.

Cotton Creek Marsh NP, McHenry County - Steven Byers and Randy Heidorn

- **Issue:** Manure pit expansion has been proposed for site in Lake County that lies within Class III groundwater for Cotton Creek Marsh NP.
- **Threat:** Manure pit represents a source of pollutants to both ground water and surface water resources upon which fen wetlands at Cotton Creek Marsh NP are dependent.
- **Status:** New. INPC staff coordinating with IDNR Consultation Program, Lake County Planning Department, Lake County FPD, McHenry County Conservation District and has sought expertise regarding threat posed by facility with staff of ISGS. INPC staff awaiting analysis from ISGS of threat and necessary remediation steps that will be necessary to eliminate or minimize threat to both surface and ground water.

Crevecoeur NP, Tazewell County – Tom Lerczak

- **Issue:** Neighbor encroachments.
- **Threat:** Disturbance of NP features, dumping, unauthorized activities.
- **Status:** On-going. Little progress was made over the 2013-14 winter. Beginning in March, however, the Village of Creve Coeur renewed landowner contacts with neighbors who are still continuing to encroach upon the NP. Plans are being made for cleaning up the illegal dumping and installing boundary fencing later in 2014.

Gensburg-Markham Prairie NP, Cook County - Steven Byers

- **Issue:** AT&T entered NP without authorization for emergency repair of infrastructure in December 2013.
- **Threat:** Vehicles and equipment left ruts/disturbance in NP.
- **Status:** Ongoing. INPC staff coordinating with AT&T and The Nature Conservancy to address and correct disturbance to the prairie.

Illinois Beach NP, Lake County – Steven Byers and Brad Semel/IDNR

- **Issue:** Fiber optics installed without IDNR approval by private contractor.
- **Threat:** During installation, bentonite, a clay based lubricant used for directional boring, was released to wetland in NP.
- **Status:** New. IDNR coordinating clean-up activities with North Point Marina and INPC.

Kennicott's Grove NP, Cook County – Steven Byers

- **Issue:** Residential development near Kennicott's Grove NP.
- **Threat:** Proposed development will reduce forest cover and could disrupt surface hydrology upon which this site is dependent.
- **Status:** Ongoing. INPC staff working with IDNR Consultation, developer, Glenview PD) to secure more information about the proposed development and will work with PD and City of Glenview to raise issues and concerns about the proposed project.

Middlefork Savanna NP, Lake County – Steven Byers

- **Issue:** Construction and operation of helipad adjacent to NP.
- **Threat:** Disruption of wildlife and visitor use of NP. Tree clearing for flight approaches.
- **Status:** New. INPC staff will be coordinating with IDNR Consultation, Lake County FPD, and Lake County to address threat.

Ramsey Railroad Prairie NP, Fayette County – Bob Edgin

- **Issue:** Village of Ramsey is claiming ownership of Ramsey Railroad.
- **Threat:** Village of Ramsey received tax account statement from the Fayette County Supervisor of Assessments office which indicated the Village owned the south ±600 feet of the NP. Bob Edgin met with the Assessor's office taking copies of the deed and a certified survey plat. Upon review of the documents the Assessor's office believed the boundaries of the NP had been incorrectly mapped by the firm contracted to map land parcels which generated an erroneous tax statement. Assessor's office is reviewing the documents further and will make necessary changes to NPs boundaries and assign rightful ownership to the parcels.
- **Status:** Ongoing.

Rocky Branch NP, Clark County – Mary Kay Solecki

- **Issue:** All-terrain vehicle trespass; fencing to prevent trespass was compromised .
- **Threat:** damage to vegetation, soil compaction, stream impacts
- **Status:** ongoing; fence will be repaired/fortified.

Romeoville Prairie NP, Will County—Kim Roman

- **Issue:** In 2010 an Enbridge pipeline adjacent to the NP had a break in its line, resulting in the release of crude oil.
- **Threat:** While most of the spill was contained, constituents of crude oil were detected in the NP.
- **Status:** Negotiations over the past 3 years with Enbridge to address violations to the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act (INAPA) were unsatisfactory. As a result, INPC and IDNR referred the violations to the Illinois Attorney General's Office to amend the existing Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's complaint so that counts to INAPA can be better addressed.

Tomlin Timber NP, Mason County – Tom Lerczak

- **Issue:** Utility line maintenance along NP boundary.
- **Threat:** Excessive cutting of vegetation and herbicide use.
- **Status:** Resolved. INPC staff inspection on 21 January 2014 showed no encroachments onto the NP.

Upper Sangamon River LWR, Piatt County – Mary Kay Solecki, Eric Smith, Karen Miller

- **Issue:** Storm water drainage system planned for City of Monticello's Recreation Complex would drain into LWR.
- **Threat:** Increased water and soil erosion in LWR.
- **Status:** An alternate discharge point proposed that minimizes impact to LWR; ongoing.

FY15 Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Stewardship Program

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

FY15 NAAF Stewardship Proposals

- 70 proposals submitted (\$1,822K)
 - All 70 proposals on INAI sites
 - All 70 on Nature Preserves, Land & Water Reserves
 - 47 on IDNR lands*
 - 27 on non-IDNR / private lands*
- (* some proposals cover DNR & non-DNR sites)

FY15 NAAF Stewardship Proposals

- 75% address exotic / invasive species mgmt
- 10% Prescribed burn support
- 15% gen protection and hydrology restoration
- 16 projects bring in outside matching funds for INAI management
- Over \$600,000 in non-state funds leveraged

FY15 NAAF Stewardship Funding

- FY15 Funding estimated \$1,000K
- Potential additional funds from close-out of past FY NAAF Stewardship programs

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

FY15 NAAF Stewardship Proposed Projects - IDNR

Sites/Locations	Reg	County	Activity	Amount
Ayers Sand Praire NP Thompson - Fulton Sand Prairie NP	1	Carroll Whiteside	Exotic control	\$5,900
Hanover Bluff NP	1	Jo Daviess	Woody control	\$9,000
Sentinal NP	1	Carroll	Woody control	\$6,500
Thompson - Fulton Sand Prairie NP	1	Whiteside	Woody control	\$8,000
Apple River Canyon LWR - Thompson Hill Prairie	1	Jo Daviess	Woody control	\$20,000
Hetzler Cemetery Prairie NP McCune Sand Prairie LWR Miller-Anderson NP Wyanet Prairie INAI (DNR) Matthiessen Dells NP Mitchell's Grove NP Starved Rock NP Franklin Creek NP Green River NA (DNR) G B Fell NP Lowden Miller INAI (DNR) Pine Rock NP White Pines NP Mineral Marsh NP	1	Bureau Bureau Bureau LaSalle LaSalle LaSalle Lee Lee Ogle Ogle Ogle Ogle Henry	Exotic control	\$70,000
Mineral Marsh NP	1	Henry	Exotic control	\$9,500
Prairie Ridge SNA LWR Flag Pond LWR Chauncey Marsh NP/LWR	5	Jasper/Marion Clay Lawrence	Planting	\$10,000
Beall Woods NP/LWR Dean Hills NP Rock Cave NP Red Hills NP Red Hills Seep Spring LWR Martin T Snyder Memorial NP Chanucey Marsh NP/LWR Ramsey RR Prairie NP	5	Wabash Fayette Effingham Lawrence Lawrence Clay Lawrence Fayette	Exotic control	\$49,000
Beall Woods NP/LWR Dean Hills NP Rock Cave NP Red Hills NP Red Hills Seep Spring LWR Martin T Snyder Memorial NP Chanucey Marsh NP/LWR Ramsey RR Prairie NP Prairie Ridge SNA LWR Pagetts LWR (non-DNR) Graber Grassland LWR (non-DNR) Ridgeway Grasslands LWR (non-DNR) Bartels Grassland LWR (non-DNR)	5	Wabash Fayette Effingham Lawrence Lawrence Clay Lawrence Fayette Jasper/Marion Jasper Jasper Jasper Jasper	Rx fire	\$33,600

Horn Prairie Grove LWR (non-DNR) Beadles Barrens NP (non-DNR)		Fayette Edwards		
Cecil White NP	1	Hancock	Woody control	\$9,900
Grubb Hollow NP	4	Pike	Woody control	\$9,900
Williams Creek LWR	4	Schuyler	Exotic control	\$9,900
Heron Pond-Little Black Slough NP (Boss Island)	5	Johnson	Exotic control	\$65,000
Cache River LWR	5	Johnson	Hydrologic restoration	\$30,000
Cache River LWR	5	Johnson	Hydrologic restoration	\$3,270
Embarras Woods LWR	3	Coles	Planting; Rx fire	\$19,000
Guzy Pothole Wetland LWR	3	Shelby	Protection	\$107,000
Upper Embarras Woods NP/LWR	3	Douglas	Woody control	\$14,000
Hitts Siding NP Goose Lake NP	2	Will Grundy	Exotic control	\$40,000
Goose Lake NP	2	Grundy	Woody control	\$60,000
Kankakee River NP - Langham Island	2	Kankakee	Woody control	\$15,000
Wilmington Shrub Prairie NP	2	Will	Woody control	\$15,000
Gillespie Prairie LWR Denby Prairie NP	4	Macoupin	Woody control	\$9,500
Knobeloch Woods NP Marissa Woods NP	4	St Clair	Exotic control	\$8,500
Pere Marquette NP - St Andrews Ridge	4	Jersey	Woody control	\$9,500
Sipple Slough Woods LWR	4	Washington	Rx fire	\$1,800
DesPlaines Dolomite Prairie LWR	2	Will	Exotic control	\$25,000
Goose Lake NP	2	Grundy	Exotic control	\$120,000
Hitts Siding NP	2	Will	Woody control	\$25,000
Kankakee River NP (South Unit)	2	Will	Exotic control	\$20,000
Harlem Hills NP	1	Winnebago	Exotic control	\$8,000
Illinois Beach NP	2	Lake	Exotic control	\$48,000
G B Fell NP Pine Rock NP Franklin Creek NP Lowden Miller INAI (DNR)	1	Ogle	Exotic control	\$66,000
G B Fell NP Pine Rock NP Franklin Creek NP Lowden Miller INAI (DNR)	1	Ogle	Exotic control	\$104,000
Argyle Barrens NP Bennett's Terraqueous Gardens NP (non-DNR) G S Park Memorial Woods NP Dore Seep NP (non-DNR) Harper-Rector Woods NP Hopewell Hill Prairie NP (non-DNR) Jubilee Colleg Forest NP Manito Prairie NP	1	McDonough Tazewell Putnam Putnam Fulton Marshall Peoria Tazewell Warren	Exotic control	\$20,000

Massasauga Prairie NP Mt Palatine Cemetery NP (non-DNR) Oak Bluff Savanna NP (non-DNR) Parklands NP (non-DNR) Patterson Savanna LWR Rock Island Trail Prairie NP Spring Bay Fen NP Spring Lake INAI (DNR)		Putnam Marshall Tazewell Henderson Peoria Woodford Tazewell		
Patterson Savanna LWR	1	Henderson	Woody control	\$120,000
R Evers LWR Jennings Hill Prairie NP Cox Creek Hill Prairie LWR Patterson Savanna LWR Stemler Cave Woods NP Pere Marquette NP McAdams Peak LWR Roderick Prairie NP Bohm Woods NP Gillespie Prairie LWR H A Gleason NP Matanzas Prairie NP Revis Hill Prairie NP Sand Prairie Scrub Oak NP Sparks Pond LWR Fults Hill Prairie NP Grubb Hollow NP Manito Prairie NP Spring Lake INAI (DNR) Massasauga Prairie NP	4	Adams/Brown Calhoun Cass Henderson St Clair Jersey Jersey Macoupin Madison Macoupin Mason Mason Mason Mason Monroe Pike Tazewell Tazewell Warren	Rx fire	\$30,000
Prairie Ridge SNA LWR (Loy tract)	5	Marion	Woody control	\$30,000
Prairie Ridge SNA LWR	5	Jasper/Marion		\$41,300
Prairie Ridge SNA LWR (Loy tract)	5	Marion	Planting	\$10,000
Prairie Ridge SNA LWR	5	Jasper/Marion	E&T recovery	\$15,000
Iroquois Co SWA LWR	2	Iroquois	Woody control	\$50,000
Upper Sangamon River LWR	3	Piatt	Rx fire	\$25,000
Upper Sangamon River LWR	3	Piatt	Woody control	\$10,000
Kinney's Ford Seep LWR Kickapoo Hill Prairie INAI (DNR) Sibley Grove NP (non-DNR)	3	Vermilion Vermilion McLean	Rx fire	\$61,100
H A Gleason NP Matanzas NP Long Branch Sand Prairie LWR Sand Ridge Savanna INAI (DNR) Sand Prairie Scrub Oak NP Quiver Prairie INAI (DNR) Sparks Pond LWR	4	Mason	Exotic control	\$80,000

FY15 NAAF Stewardship Proposed Projects - INPC

Sites/Locations	Reg	County	Activity	Amount
Sternes Fen NP		McHenry		
Fox River Forested Fen NP		Kane		
Sleepy Hollow Ravine NP		Kane		
Brewster Creek Fen NP	2	Kane	Exotic control	\$15,000
Fox River Fen NP		Kane		
Trout Park NP/trout Park INAI		Kane		
Bluff Springs Fen NP		Cook		
Sternes Fen NP	2	McHenry	Hydrologic restoration	\$50,000
Big Creek Woods Memorial NP	5	Richland	Woody control	\$3,000
Horn Prairie Grove LWR	5	Fayette	Exotic control	\$3,000
Robeson Hills NP/LWR	5	Lawrence	Exotic control	\$12,000
Elkhart Hill LWR	4	Logan	Exotic control	\$10,000
Anderson Prairie LWR	4	Christian	Woody control	\$6,000
Crevecoeur NP	4	Tazewell	Protection	\$18,950
North Elkhart Hill Grove LWR	4	Logan	Exotic control	\$6,000
Sandy Creek Bluffs LWR	1	Marshall	Exotic control	\$4,900
Black Hawk Forest NNP		Rock Island	Exotic control	\$8,000
Josua Lindahl Hill Prairie NP	1			
Haw Creek Sedge Meadow LWR		Knox	Exotic control	\$9,800
Kedzior Woodlands LWR	1	Fulton		
McFarland Hill LWR	4	Pike	Woody control	\$9,900
Nenawakwa LWR	1	McDonough	Woody control	\$5,000
Flora Prairie NP	1	Boone	Woody control	\$9,999
Stone Bridge Trail LWR	1	Winnebago	Woody control	\$9,999
Salt Lick Point LWR		Monroe		
Bulltop Acres LWR		Randolph		
Angela's Prairie LWR	4	Monroe	Rx fire	\$8,900
Prairie of the Rock NP		Randolph		
Wm A Demint NP		Monroe		
Jennings Family Hill Prairie NP	4	Calhoun	Woody control	\$8,000
Two Branch Peace Prairie LWR				
Wm & Emma Bohm NP		Madison	Exotic control	\$7,000
E Dora Bohm Memorial NP				
Toadwood Scrubs NP	4			
Hildy Prairie NP	2	Grundy	Exotic control	\$5,000
Sweet Fern Savanna LWR		Kankakee		
Bonnie's Prairie NP	2,3	Iroquois	Rx fire	\$35,000
Hitt's Siding NP (DNR)		Will		
Iroquois Sands LWR		Iroquois		
Sweet Fern Savanna LWR	2	Kankakee	Exotic control	\$9,000
Edgewood Farms LWR	3	Vermilion	Exotic control	\$10,000