

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA  
TWO HUNDRED THIRTIETH MEETING

Henry N. Barkhausen  
Cache River Wetlands Center  
8885 IL-37  
Cypress, IL 62923

September 11, 2018, 10:00 a.m.

\*Documentary Material Enclosed

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

**Item 2:\* Adoption of Agenda**

**Item 3:\* Approval of Minutes for the 229<sup>th</sup> Meeting May 8, 2018**

**Item 4: Next meeting dates and locations**

January 29, 2019  
May 14, 2019  
September 10, 2019

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, IL  
Crystal Lake Park District, Crystal Lake, IL  
Douglas-Hart Nature Center, Mattoon, IL

**Item 5:\* INPC Staff Report**

REPORT  
Valerie Njapa  
Nature Preserves Commission

**Item 6: IDNR Staff Report**

REPORT  
Ann Holtrop  
Department of Natural Resources

**Item 7: Endangered Species Protection Board Report**

REPORT  
Joyce Hofmann  
Endangered Species Protection Board

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

A. Nomination of Advisors

Current Advisors:

Wayne A. Rosenthal IL Dept. of Natural Resources <i>(Statutory Advisor)</i>	Dr. Lee Solter IL Natural History Survey <i>(Statutory Advisor)</i>	IL State Museum <i>(Statutory Advisor)</i>
Illinois State Water Survey	Dr. Thomas E. Emerson IL State Archaeological Survey	Rich Brauer IL Dept. of Natural Resources Office of Historic Preservation
Richard C. Berg IL State Geological Survey	Dr. Eric M. Schaubert Prairie Research Institute	Dr. Kevin O'Brien IL Sustainable Technology Center
Joyce Hofmann IL Endangered Species Protection Board	Dr. Brian Anderson Prairie Research Institute	

B. Nomination of Consultants

Current Consultants:

Gerald Adelmann	Jill Allread	Michelle Carr
Harry Drucker	Fran Harty	Randy Heidorn
Jim Herkert	Kerry Leigh	Jill Riddell
Bruce Ross-Shannon	Joseph Roth	John Schwegman
Valerie Spale	John white	

C. Nomination of Officers

Current Officers:

Chair: Donnie Dann  
 Vice Chair: George Covington  
 Secretary: Abigail Derby Lewis

**Item 9\*: Hancock Co. – Addition to Cecil White Prairie Land and Water Reserve, Registration**

Cecil White Prairie Land and Water Reserve contains 33 acres owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). It was registered in 2002 at the 177<sup>th</sup> meeting (resolution #1679). IDNR seeks to register a 0.34-acre addition located in the southeast corner which was acquired from the Illinois Department of Transportation in 2006 during negotiations involving the expansion of US Route 336. Cecil White Prairie is located in east-central Hancock County on the north side of US Route 336, within the Galesburg Section of the Western Forest-Prairie Natural Division. The site is recognized as a category 1 site by the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI #0155) for having one acre of Grade B and one acre of Grade C loess hill prairie. The site also contains significant archaeological features, most notably a Late Woodland Mortuary Mound known as the Cecil White Mound Complex. Cecil White Prairie is located immediately upstream from the northern reaches of the Lower LaMoine River Conservation Opportunity Area identified by the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP) as significant for the amount of acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. Protection and management of this reserve will help meet the goals of multiple IWAP campaigns including: Farm and Grassland, Forest and Woodlands, Streams, Land and Water Stewardship, and Invasive Species. At least 6 wildlife Species of Greatest Need of Conservation have been reported within the reserve.

REPORT  
 Angella Moorehouse  
 Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
 Approval for Registration

**Item 10\*:** **Sangamon Co. – Sangamon Bottoms Land and Water Reserve, Registration**

The proposed Sangamon Bottoms Land and Water Reserve is a 112.99-acre site located within the Springfield Park District’s 275.60-acre Riverside Park along a 0.45-mile reach of the Sangamon River. The Sangamon County site is located in the Springfield Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. Sangamon Bottoms contains 103.6 acres of forested bottomlands supporting breeding populations of 14 bird species recognized as being sensitive to forest fragmentation. These two factors (over 100 acres of forest, area-sensitive breeding bird species) qualify Sangamon Bottoms for registration as a land and water reserve. Natural communities consist of Grade C wet-mesic floodplain forest, the most widespread community; Grade C wet floodplain forest; Grade C mesic floodplain forest; Grade D maturing floodplain forest; and pond communities in the form of oxbow lakes (about 9.4 acres). Eight bird species breeding at the Sangamon Bottoms are listed as Species in Greatest Need of Conservation in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). The proposed reserve also directly supports four priority action campaigns of the IWAP. The registration agreement for this reserve will be subject to an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement Between the City of Springfield and the Springfield Park District (Ordinance 529-10-02) and is planned for a 20-year time-limited period with automatic renewal.

REPORT  
Debbie Newman  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Approval for Registration

**Item 11:\*** **St. Clair Co. – Zoeller Farm Land and Water Reserve, Registration**

The proposed Zoeller Farm Land and Water Reserve, located in St. Clair County, Illinois, is 160 acres of farm land and wooded sinkholes in the Stemler Karst Area (Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site #0835.) The Stemler Karst Area contains high-quality aquatic and terrestrial cave communities, including 14 globally rare cave invertebrates. The INAI site also provides habitat for one state and one federally listed species, and contains high-quality upland forest. Protection of the Zoeller Farm will help maintain water quality in the Stemler Karst Area by preventing residential development. Protection will meet objectives of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan’s Sinkhole Plain Conservation Opportunity Area; and the Southwestern Illinois Wildlife Action Plan Partnership goals of protecting the recharge area of a cave that provides habitat for the Illinois cave amphipod, restoring acres of prairie, savanna, and woodland, and providing habitat for Species in Greatest Need of Conservation. The Zoeller Farm is owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The site is adjacent to the IDNR-owned 195-acre Stemler Cave Woods Nature Preserve, and the 35-acre Four Our Future Natural Heritage Landmark, and in the vicinity of five other privately-owned nature preserves and natural heritage landmarks within the Stemler Karst.

REPORT  
Debbie Newman  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Approval for Registration

**Item 12:\* Adams Co. – Allendale Springs Nature Preserve, Dedication**

Allendale Spring is located in southern Adams County in the Galesburg Section of the Middle Mississippi Border Natural Division. The proposed nature preserve consists of 2.27 acres and is owned by Edward Behrensmeyer. The site is not presently listed on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory but it qualifies as a category 2 site for suitable habitat supporting two federally listed bat species: Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), which breeds within the vicinity of the proposed preserve, and northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), which is thought to overwinter on site. The site is also listed within the Illinois Inventory of Archaeological and Paleontological Sites and was used as a settlement by various prehistoric peoples of the Dalton, Hardin, Archaic, Sedalia, and, late woodland cultures. Allendale Spring contains habitat supporting a least five Species in Greatest Need of Conservation as defined by the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). Protection and management of the site will serve to help fulfill goals within both the Forest and Woodland and Streams IWAP campaigns.

REPORT

Ray Geroff

Division of Natural Heritage

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

**Item 13:\* Lake Co. – Donnelley Prairies and Oaks Buffer Addition to Liberty Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication**

Libertyville Township seeks final approval for dedication of the 46-acre Donnelley Prairies and Oaks Buffer Addition to Liberty Prairie Nature Preserve (INAI # 1252). The proposed addition received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission’s 229<sup>th</sup> Meeting in May 2018. Liberty Prairie received final approval for dedication at the Commission’s 129<sup>th</sup> Meeting in November 1990 (Resolution # 1062). Since that time, Libertyville Township has formally protected three nature preserve buffer additions to Liberty Prairie; the first addition receiving final approval for dedication at the Commission’s 180<sup>th</sup> Meeting in October 2003 (Resolution # 1743), the second addition receiving final approval at the Commissions 212<sup>th</sup> Meeting in October 2012 (Resolution #2206), and at the Commission’s 226<sup>th</sup> Meeting in May 2017 (Resolution #2389). The 184-acre Liberty Prairie Nature Preserve, and the 46-acre proposed addition, are located within the 5,770-acre Liberty Prairie Reserve located in south-central Lake County, Illinois. Liberty Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The proposed Donnelley Prairies and Oaks Buffer Addition consists of a cultural community (agricultural lands) that will be restored to dry-mesic, mesic, and wet prairie and dry-mesic oak savanna. Efforts to begin conversion of the agricultural lands to natural communities began in 2014 when the Township adopted the Casey Road Land Use Plan. Libertyville Township has adopted a 5-year management plan for the proposed addition that will begin during the autumn of 2018 that includes disabling field drain tiles, prairie seeding, and tree plantings. Protection and restoration of the proposed nature preserve buffer addition supports elements of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan; specifically action steps to “...establish or restore grasslands...”. The proposed addition will provide water quality benefits to Bull Creek and Liberty Prairie Nature Preserve, meet the needs of a suite of grassland birds that require large blocks of habitat, and further buffer Liberty Prairie Nature Preserve from incompatible land uses. The proposed Donnelley Prairies and Oaks Buffer Addition (the fourth addition) will increase the size of Liberty Prairie Nature Preserve from 184 to 230 acres in size. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission acknowledges the leadership of Kathleen O’Connor with Libertyville Township for protection and stewardship of Liberty Prairie Nature Preserve and also acknowledges Sarah Surroz with Openlands and David Eubanks for their support.

REPORT

Steve Byers

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

**Item 14:\* Winnebago Co. – Roadway Rehabilitation Project at Plum Grove Nature Preserve**

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), in association with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), is requesting approval for Phase I of a multi-phase, multi-million-dollar roadway rehabilitation project at Rock Cut State Park. A small segment of the roadway lies in the northwest corner of Plum Grove Nature Preserve, which is situated in the center of the state park. Rock Cut State Park is an urban park with more than a million visitors annually, and its roadway system is crumbling and failing. The rehabilitation project will repair and replace all pavement areas and accommodate cyclists and pedestrians with a widened shoulder area to create a safer system for visitors. IDNR Planning and Engineering staff, with Natural Heritage and INPC biologists, completed work on-site to provide a basis for acknowledging existing right of way and to determine the least intrusive width to achieve constructability of the new roadway and its necessary drainage components. If approved, this project will allow for the continuation of subsequent phases of the comprehensive roadway project at the state park. Repairing and re-constructing the roadway will provide stability and reduce erosion into the nature preserve.

REPORT  
George Bellovics  
Department of Natural Resources  
Valerie Njapa  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Approval for Roadway Project, Phase I  
Acknowledgement of 60-foot ROW

**Item 15: Election of INPC Officers**

REPORT  
  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Election of Officers

**Item 16: Election of INPC Advisors and Consultants**

REPORT  
  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Election of Advisors and Consultants

**Item 17:\* Review of Closed meeting minutes**

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

REPORT  
Valerie Njapa  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Determination if closed minutes remain closed

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

**Item 19: Other Business**

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

**Item 20: Adjournment**