

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

Starved Rock Lodge and Conference Center
One Lodge Lane
Oglesby, IL 61348

May 10, 2022, 10:00 a.m.
In-person meeting with WebEx option

*Documentary Material Enclosed

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

Item 2:* Adoption of Agenda

Item 3: Approval of Minutes for the 240th Meeting January 25, 2022

Note: Share Accomplishments Summary of the 240th INPC Meeting

Item 4: Next meeting date and location

242	September 13, 2022	Olney Central College
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Item 5:* INPC Staff Report

REPORT
Todd Strole, Executive Director
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

Item 6:* Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves Report

REPORT
Amy Doll, Director
Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves

Item 7:* IDNR Staff Report

REPORT
Ann Marie Holtrop
Division of Natural Heritage

Item 8:* Endangered Species Protection Board Report

REPORT
Dr. Joyce Hofmann
Endangered Species Protection Board

Item 9:* Jo Daviess Co. – Dick Dvorak Addition to Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The Dick Dvorak Addition to Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve (LWR) consists of 225.25 acres owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The addition lies east of the existing Apple River Canyon LWR (#81). The original registration of 182 acres occurred in 2003 (Resolution 1696) followed by these additions:

- In 2010, 85.09 and 34.44 acres (Resolutions 2095 and 2096)
- In 2012, 104.71 acres (Resolution 2162)
- In 2021, 147.74 acres (Resolution 2496)

Apple River Canyon LWR lies within the Wisconsin Driftless Natural Division of Illinois. While the addition has not yet been added to the adjacent Apple River Canyon Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) Site (#1069), it does qualify as Category II, supporting three listed plant species: the State-endangered White Camas (*Zigadenus elegans*), the State-threatened Cliff Goldenrod (*Solidago sciaphila*), and the State-endangered American Brooklime (*Veronica americana*). The State-threatened Ozark Minnow (*Notropis nubilus*) has been found in the Apple River near the addition. Registration of the Dick Dvorak Addition will increase the size of Apple River Canyon LWR from 553.98 to 779.23 acres. This LWR is part of a 1700-acre complex of contiguous lands along the Apple River in conservation ownership, including Apple River Canyon Nature Preserve (441.51 acres) and additional tracts owned by IDNR. At least 12 wildlife Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), as identified by the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP), are known to utilize the Apple River Canyon LWR, including seven birds, two fish, and three invertebrates. The protection and management of this LWR addresses goals within the Forest and Woodland, Streams, and Invasive Species Campaigns of the IWAP.

REPORT
Angella Moorehouse
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval for Registration

Jim Johannsen
Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation

Item 10:* LaSalle Co. – Fox River Bend Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The Conservation Foundation (TCF) holds a conservation easement on approximately 109 acres of land known as Fox River Bend. It is owned by the First National Bank of Ottawa, as Trustee, and is located along the lower Fox River INAI Site (#1444). Fox River Bend lies within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois. The site is composed of dry-mesic upland forest, wet floodplain forest, and prairie plantings. The landowner, a private family trust wishes to further protect the natural features of this property by registering in perpetuity 43 acres as a land and water reserve. The proposed Fox River Bend Land and Water Reserve includes a 0.7-mile stretch of riverbank along the Fox River, and its

terrestrial communities support numerous wildlife SGCN. Allowable uses include camping in designated areas, bank fishing, campfires, and maintenance of trails and a kayak/canoe landing. Registration of this natural area will legally protect this habitat in perpetuity and add to the acreage protected along the lower Fox River corridor.

REPORT
Kim Roman,
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval for Registration

Item 11:* Jackson Co. – Possum Trot Nature Preserve, Final Dedication

The Bates family, owners of Possum Trot Farm LLC, seek final dedication of 78 acres of nature preserve (NP) and two acres of NP buffer as the Possum Trot NP in northwestern Jackson County, Illinois. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) granted preliminary approval at the 240th meeting (Resolution #2551). Possum Trot NP lies within the Greater Shawnee Hills Section of the Shawnee Hills Natural Division of Illinois. The proposed 80-acre NP consists of forest natural communities intersected by Reed’s Creek and surrounding steep sandstone bluffs. It will permanently protect 60 acres of the currently unprotected 127-acre Reed’s Creek Canyon North INAI site #583, designated for Category VI: unusual concentration of vascular flora. The sandstone cliff community is listed as an exceptional feature. Dedication of these lands supports the IWAP by permanently protecting natural lands that help maintain population viability of native species, including at least 12 confirmed breeding SGCN; by managing these associated habitats to benefit native species; and through ensuring a permanent habitat corridor exists for the adaptation and adjustments of native species to future landscape and environmental changes. The preserve resides within the Hill Prairie Corridor – South Section Conservation Opportunity Area. Within the two acres of NP buffer located along the north boundary of the NP, the landowner reserves the right to maintain a 1.5-acre old field community directly south of the house as a native prairie planting and the right to maintain two pre-existing structures on the property.

REPORT
Kevin Sierzega
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 12: Prairie Rivers Network - Summary of Herbicide Drift Monitoring Report

Prairie Rivers Network is compiling a report for the INPC to provide background information and a summary of monitoring efforts by different agencies and organizations to document off-target impacts to the State’s natural areas, attributed to particle drift and/or vapor drift from herbicide application on surrounding agricultural lands. This includes INPC-protected sites where injuries to trees, other woody plants, and herbaceous plants have been observed and documented. The report will evaluate the different monitoring programs and data collection, discuss the ecological implications associated with widespread herbicide drift, and offer recommendations for future efforts.

REPORT
Kim Erndt-Pitcher
Prairie Rivers Network

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Informational Presentation

Item 13*: Signature Authority for INPC Executive Director and Staff

At the INPC’s January 2016 meeting, signature authority was addressed for Commission staff in the absence of an Executive Director, withdrawing some authorities to be retained with the Chair of the Commission (Resolution #2352). With the recent hiring of Todd Strole as the Executive Director, it is recommended that signature authority for staff be addressed. Similar to past practice, it is suggested that signature authority be granted to the INPC Executive Director for mutual agreements, NAAF land acquisition site approval, any required IRS documents on behalf of the INPC acknowledging the receipt of a donation in the form of dedications or easements, letters and memorandums representing the INPC comments on Consultation/CERP reviews, and approval of permits and land management on behalf of the Commission and other ministerial functions. The Executive Director may further delegate the authority for comments on Consultation/CERP reviews to the Nature Preserves Defense Project Manager. Similarly, the Executive Director may further delegate the authority for permit approvals, routine management plans and routine stewardship activities to the Stewardship Project Manager. Routine activities are defined as those activities that are approved by administrative rule or consistent with INPC Guidelines or those activities that have been approved a minimum of three times by the Commission for specific sites. This is consistent with current practice.

REPORT
Todd Strole
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval for Signature Authority

Item 14: Review of Closed Meeting Minutes

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Commissioners must review closed minutes at least twice a year to determine if they must remain closed. The following meetings had closed minutes and need to be reviewed: August 2, 2005; May 2, 2006; May 6, 2008; May 5, 2009; May 7, 2013; September 10, 2013; and September 10, 2019.

REPORT
Todd Strole
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Determination if closed minutes remain closed

Item 15: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Item 16: Other Business

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

Item 17: Adjournment