

ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

MINUTES OF 203rd MEETING, August 23, 2024

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Director's Boardroom

One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702

and remotely via WebEx

Approved at the 204th meeting, November 15, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Dr. Angelo Capparella, Dr. Jeremie Fant, Dr. David Gibson, Dr. Joyce Hofmann, Mr. Randy Schietzelt, Dr. Tih-Fen Ting, Dr. Philip Willink, and Mr. Chris Young.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Samantha Chavez and Dr. Janice Coons.

OTHERS PRESENT: Heather Osborn (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage ITA Coordinator), Brian Metzke (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage, Aquatic Ecologist), Ann Marie Holtrop (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage), Natalia Maass (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage Database Program), Joe Kath (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage), Michelle Bloomquist (IDNR Statewide Recovery Specialist), Leon Hinz (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage), Kelly Neal (INPC), Valerie Njapa (INPC), Trent Thomas (IDNR Fisheries), Brian Charles (INHS), Dr. Brent Pease (SIU Forestry), Mark Alessi (IDNR), Patrick McDonald (IDNR), Eric Ulaszek (INHS), Chris Borrelli (Chicago Tribune), Ryan Sorrells (Volunteer / Public), Roger Jansen (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage), Stephen Tillman (IDNR), Kristen Ragusa (IDNR Private Lands, CREP Specialist), and Dusty Swedburg (INHS).

1. Call to Order, Roll Call of Board Members, and Introduction of Guests

Chair Hofmann called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and conducted the roll call. Seven voting Board members were physically in attendance, constituting a quorum. Dr. Hofmann welcomed the visitors and asked them to introduce themselves.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Schietzelt moved that the agenda be adopted as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Gibson. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes from the 202nd Meeting on May 17, 2024

Draft minutes of the 202nd meeting had been distributed to Board members prior to the meeting by email. Dr. Capparella moved that the minutes of the 202nd meeting be approved as presented. Dr. Ting seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The minutes will be posted on the website.

4. Report from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

The Department's report had been distributed to the Board via email. Ms. Holtrop highlighted that the revised format of the quarterly report emphasizes the synergies among the Endangered Species Protection Board (ESPB) and Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC).

IDNR was involved in many surveys and assessments. For example, they assisted the University of Illinois Veterinary College with health assessments of threatened Ornate Box Turtles at a southern Illinois site. They worked with Plants of Concern to monitor threatened Buffalo Clover at IDNR and other public-owned natural areas tracking population trends, mapping newly tracked subpopulations, and coordinating data tracking to ensure compatibility between the Natural Heritage Database and the Plants of Concern database.

IDNR worked with partners to improve success of federal- and state-endangered Piping Plovers along Lake Michigan. Nest monitoring and protection was established, as well as responding to threats from storms and predators.

IDNR searched for Cypress Fireflies at two locations. The Cypress Firefly is considered vulnerable across its range, and little is known about its distribution in our region.

IDNR worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others to locate native crayfish for a captive rearing program. The crayfish will be released later in an attempt to create more habitat for the Hine's Emerald Dragonfly.

IDNR continues to focus on recovery and the meaning of recovery, especially in regard to their focal species, with their species leads. The species status assessment process is undergoing peer review.

The IDNR Quarterly Report now organizes Incidental Take Authorizations (ITAs) by energy type. The Plum Creek Greenway Trail ITA has gone out for public notice, so it cannot be discussed at this meeting.

IDNR is doing a significant amount of work at some larger sites, most notably Green River State Wildlife Area, Cache River State Natural Area, and Lost Mounds National Wildlife Refuge.

According to administrative rules, the Herp Code is currently out for public comment.

Ms. Chavez (who is absent) requested that Dr. Hofmann ask two questions. First, she wanted to know if there will be a special meeting involving IDNR and ESPB. Ms. Holtrop replied that the Department is still interested. Second, she wanted to know if ESPB members could have direct access to the Illinois Natural Heritage Database. Ms. Holtrop replied that some agency partners do have access to the database. The data are nuanced and could be misinterpreted if care is not taken when conducting queries. The issue of database access is still under consideration.

Dr. Hofmann was contacted by someone who was looking at the county lists of threatened and endangered species on the Board's website and was wondering why there were not many species listed in his county. She explained that only records in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database were used to generate the county list. The caller also wanted to know how the database records were used so Dr. Hofmann referred him to the Department for a better explanation of the consultation process. Because the process can be complicated and there are new Board members Dr. Hofmann asked if the Department would be willing to review it, perhaps at the special meeting.

5. Report from the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC)

An INPC report was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting via email. Ms. Neal highlighted that INPC meets three times a year and ESPB meets four times a year, so INPC does not have much to report at this time. Their next meeting is September 10, 2024 at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center in Marion, IL.

The report distributed to the ESPB is predominantly a list of biological surveys/inventories undertaken by INPC staff.

6. Report from the Chair of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board

Chair Hofmann provided a written report on her activities since the last meeting; the report is attached to these minutes. She performed the usual administrative tasks of dealing with email, reviewing draft minutes from the previous meeting, distributing draft ITAs and Conservation Plans to Board members, and distributing materials for the current meeting.

Chair Hofmann reviewed several petitions in preparation for this meeting. One bee petition was withdrawn. The Board had not voted on that petition, so no action is needed.

Chair Hofmann completed the mandated annual IDNR trainings. Mr. Young encouraged everyone else to complete the trainings soon.

7. Semi-annual Review of Whether to Keep Closed the Minutes from Previous Closed Sessions

Dr. Hofmann pointed out that there have been no closed sessions since the Board voted on this issue at the 201st meeting. Mr. Schietzelt moved to keep the minutes of previously closed sessions closed and the motion was seconded by Dr. Fant. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Approval of the Board 2022-2024 Biennial Report

Chair Hofmann prepared and distributed a draft report detailing the ESPB's activities and accomplishments over the past two years. After sending out the draft, she realized that an additional person who provided assistance to the Board should be recognized, so she distributed an amended paragraph. Also, not all Board members had reported their donated hours before the draft was distributed, but Dr. Hofmann now has an estimate for the total. Dr. Gibson moved that the draft 2022-2024 Biennial Report with the amended paragraph and donated hours be approved. Dr. Ting seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Change the Status of Bluebreast Darter (*Nothonotus camurus*) from Endangered to Threatened

Mr. Trent Thomas (IDNR) gave a brief presentation on this species. He pointed out that maximum size varied by reference, ranging from 84 mm to 125 mm, while the IDNR Fisheries database only goes up to 77 mm. The reason for this discrepancy is unclear.

Bluebreast Darters feed on aquatic insects, live for about three years, prefer riffles with clear water, and spawn late May/early June, after which males defend the nests.

Illinois is along the western edge of the species' range. The first Illinois record was in Salt Creek in 1930. The first record in the Middle Fork Vermilion River was 1960. By 1979, it was no longer found in Salt Fork. It is now more widespread, being found in both drainages.

The dam removals in the Vermilion watershed are presumably beneficial, and the Bluebreast Darter is expanding its range. Josh Bruegge (Eastern Illinois University) found many in some riffles he sampled. Overall, it can be abundant within restricted areas (i.e., riffles). In the most recent IDNR basin survey, Bluebreast Darter was the sixth most abundant darter of 12 species. It is increasing in abundance.

Dr. Capparella wondered if the species should just be delisted. Mr. Thomas indicated that Mr. Tiemann would be opposed to such a measure. Dr. Hofmann added that it does have a restricted range within Illinois which would make it vulnerable.

Dr. Gibson wanted to make sure the taxonomic change was clear (the previous name was *Etheostoma camurum*). Dr. Willink indicated the petition included the older name and the currently recognized name. Later in this meeting, Item #22 will also cover taxonomic changes in the List.

Mr. Schietzelt asked if the species had moved north of the Danville Dam. Mr. Thomas replied that he was unaware of that occurring.

Ms. Schietzelt motioned that the status of Bluebreast Darter *Nothonotus camurus* be changed from endangered to threatened. Dr. Gibson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with one abstention (Dr. Willink).

10. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to add Tippecanoe Darter (*Nothonotus tippecanoe*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as Threatened

Mr. Trent Thomas gave a brief presentation on this species, mentioning that it grows up to 51 mm in length, feeds on aquatic insects, and prefers habitat almost identical to that used by the Bluebreast Darter, although possibly the two species segregate based on body size. It may spawn multiple times a year.

Illinois is the western edge of its range. Indiana recently delisted the Tippecanoe Darter from its Species in Greatest Conservation Need. A microfisher was the first person to find the species in the Indiana portion of the Vermilion River. It was first recognized in Illinois in 2020, but a voucher specimen from 2014 was later found in the INHS Fish Collection.

Recent dam removals have presumably benefitted this species. In the most recent IDNR basin survey, it was the tenth most common darter out of 12 species. Mr. Bruegge found that it was expanding its range approximately 7 miles/year over 2022-2023. Its range is not yet as large as the Bluebreast Darter and it has not colonized areas that lack Bluebreast Darter.

All individuals collected in the Middle Fork Vermilion River are parasitized by Black Spot. The American Fisheries Society lists the Tippecanoe Darter as Vulnerable.

Dr. Ting observed that the Vermilion River (Wabash) is important to fish. Siltation and pollution are potential threats. She asked what could be done to protect the aquatic system and if listing would impact land use along the river. Mr. Thomas replied that the recent dam removals have helped. Project permitting (e.g., ITAs), minimal flow protection, and the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy are also beneficial.

Dr. Gibson wondered what “kick seining” was. Mr. Thomas pantomimed kicking and shuffling gravel and cobble upstream of an outstretched net. It is not efficient to pull a net over cobble as

the small fishes simply hide in the substrate below the net. Mr. Thomas often uses a backpack electrofisher in habitats like this.

Dr. Ting motioned that Tippecanoe Darter *Nothonotus tippecanoe* be added to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as threatened. The motion was seconded by Dr. Capparella. The motion passed unanimously, with one abstention (Dr. Willink).

11. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Change the Status of Brassy Minnow (*Hybognathus hankinsoni*) from Threatened to Endangered

There was no formal presentation on this species, but Dr. Willink offered to answer any questions with input from any other fisheries personnel present.

Dr. Ting wondered why was it worth the effort to change the status from threatened to endangered. Dr. Willink replied that this was an effort to maintain consistent listing criteria among species. Dr. Ting clarified that she was wondering how agencies respond to threatened versus endangered status. There is no regulatory difference between the two. Ms. Holtrop continued that understanding the exact status of a species could help with conservation decision making.

Mr. Thomas added that many *Hybognathus* species require long rivers for spawning and the subsequent drifting of eggs on the current. Dams could be a threat to this species.

Dr. Capparella motioned that the status of Brassy Minnow *Hybognathus hankinsoni* be changed from threatened to endangered. Mr. Schietzelt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with one abstention (Dr. Willink).

12. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Remove Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) from the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

This petition was unanimously approved by the Avian Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee (ESTAC).

Dr. Ting noted that there are Status Review Criteria in the Board-approved recovery planning document for Osprey, but there are also many nuances. For example, in regard to number of nests and recruitment, exactly where the nests are located is important. Most nests have been documented within the last three years, and it is not clear if they are sustainable. Most nests are in Lake and Cook counties and most are on cell towers. She felt there needs to be additional and higher quality nests. Dr. Gibson observed that perhaps Osprey are not as stable as it initially appeared.

Dr. Ting continued that a Population Viability Analysis would be helpful. There needs to be more scientific data before making a decision. Federal agencies typically include 5-year monitoring programs.

Ms. Holtrop continued that the Osprey is a focal recovery species for IDNR and there is a species lead. IDNR staff examined the review triggers and believe there are 17 valid nests rather than the 25 nests reported in the petition. There is also a spatial distribution issue, with a clustering of records in northeast Illinois.

Dr. Capparella noted that the Avian ESTAC recognized the increase in nesting and had no reservations in delisting the species. The committee did not discuss recruitment.

Mr. Schietzelt asked about the protection of nests on cell phone towers. Ms. Holtrop replied that matter falls mainly under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Mr. Joe Kath added that he has had overall positive experiences with contractors who deal with nests on cell towers. They want to do the right thing. Inactive nests can be legally removed.

Dr. Ting mentioned a paucity of records in central Illinois, so there is an ongoing project in the area.

Dr. Capparella wondered if delisting would impact funding for the species. Ms. Holtrop replied that IDNR – Wildlife will continue working on Osprey regardless.

Dr. Capparella observed that Osprey have hit the target numbers for delisting in the recovery plan. He thought it would look bad to ignore that and asked when the species should be delisted. Ms. Holtrop replied that not all nests are equal. Mr. Kath clarified that federal law was the primary statute being applied when dealing with Osprey.

Dr. Capparella asked about the status of Osprey in adjacent states. Ms. Holtrop was not sure.

Ms. Holtrop added that IDNR has comments about several additional species. She wondered when it would be a good time to discuss those.

Dr. Capparella motioned that the Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* be removed from the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species. Dr. Hofmann seconded the motion. The motion did not pass with three Yes votes (Dr. Capparella, Dr. Hofmann, Dr. Willink), three No votes (Dr. Fant, Dr. Gibson, Mr. Schietzelt), and one abstention (Dr. Ting).

13. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Remove Karner Blue Butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa sammuellis*) from the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

Ms. Angella Moorehouse (INPC) was scheduled to give a brief presentation on this species but was unable to attend the meeting. She sent comments to Dr. Hofmann to be read to the Board.

The last record in Illinois was in 2001 at Illinois Beach State Park. It was listed as federally endangered in 1992. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considered it extirpated (not breeding) in Illinois in 2003.

Dr. Ting asked if a species can be on the List if it is not breeding in Illinois. Dr. Willink noted that the Endangered Species Protection Act covers species that breed in or significantly use Illinois. Ms. Holtrop wondered if there were any examples of species on the List because they significantly use Illinois even if they don't breed in the state. Drs. Ting and Hofmann both mentioned the short-eared owl.

Dr. Fant noted that butterflies often follow metapopulation models where it is not unusual for subpopulations to alternately do well for a while and then poorly for a while.

Dr. Hofmann noted that the appropriate amount of time to elapse before considering a species extirpated varies from species to species. It is challenging to know how long to wait.

Dr. Capparella asked what would happen if the species was delisted, but then found again. Ms. Holtrop replied that federal law would take over.

Mr. Schietzelt motioned that the Karner Blue Butterfly *Lycaeides melissa sammuellis* be removed from the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species. Dr. Capparella seconded the

motion. The motion passed with five Yes votes (Dr. Capparella, Dr. Gibson, Dr. Hofmann, Mr. Schietzelt, Dr. Ting), one No vote (Dr. Willink), and one abstention (Dr. Fant).

14. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Remove Cobweb Skipper (*Hesperia metea*) from the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

Ms. Angella Moorehouse was planning to give a brief presentation on this species but was unable to attend the meeting. She sent several comments for Chair Hofmann to read at the meeting.

The last record in Illinois was in 1989. Repeated surveys have not found the species.

Mr. Schietzelt commented that in the Chicago area, it is said that the last five Karner Blue Butterflies were supposedly vouchered. It is not clear if this is true or not, but this is a common perception. For many skipper species, individuals need to be vouchered and examined under a microscope to verify identifications. This is a potential public relations problem.

Dr. Hofmann noted that there are Wisconsin populations and individuals could sometimes cross the line into Illinois.

Dr. Gibson observed that this species requires bluestem grasses, and these are certainly present in Illinois. Mr. Schietzelt followed up by saying skippers are generally declining. Oftentimes people are not sure what the larvae feed upon.

Mr. Schietzelt motioned that the Cobweb Skipper *Hesperia metea* be removed from the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species. Dr. Gibson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Add Swink's St. John's Wort (*Hypericum swinkianum*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as Endangered

Mr. Brian Charles (Illinois Natural History Survey [INHS]) gave a brief presentation on this species. It was originally combined with the endangered species *Hypericum kalmianum* until it was split off as a separate species in 2016. *Hypericum swinkianum* prefers more acidic soils than *H. kalmianum* which occupies more calcareous locations. Swink's St. John's Wort is only known from three states.

Mr. Schietzelt motioned that Swink's St. John's Wort *Hypericum swinkianum* be added to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as endangered. Dr. Fant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At this point in the meeting there was a 10-minute recess.

16. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Add Florida Bellwort (*Uvularia floridana*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as Endangered

Mr. Ryan Sorrells gave a brief presentation on this species, mentioning that it was first recorded in Illinois on the app iNaturalist in 2017. Other Bellworts are present at the southern Illinois site. There is a significant population of Florida Bellwort in floodplain forest along the Cache River as well as along trails at Heron Pond.

Florida Bellwort is a spring ephemeral that disappears quickly. It is the rarest species within its genus. The Illinois population is disjunct from the main southeastern United States population.

It is uncertain how many individuals are present because the plant spreads via rhizomes as well as fruit. There are perhaps 10,000 stems present. Florida populations struggle with infertility, but there is no evidence of that in Illinois.

Potential threats include encroachment from species such as Japanese Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose, and Chinese Bushclover. Since it is found in a thin strip along a steeply eroded bank of the Cache River, erosion is also a threat.

Dr. Gibson asked if someone else took the picture in iNaturalist. Mr. Sorrells replied that it was Vanessa Voelker. Dr. Gibson then asked if the species was being monitored by Plants of Concern. Mr. Sorrells replied that it was, but more surveys and monitoring would always be useful.

Mr. Sorrells added that there is the potential of hybridization, but it is not an apparent problem at this time.

Dr. Fant motioned that Florida Bellwort *Uvularia floridana* be added to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as endangered. Dr. Gibson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

17. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Change the Status of Ground Juniper (*Juniperus communis*) from Threatened to Endangered

Mr. Eric Ulaszek (INHS) gave a brief presentation on this species, mentioning that it is found on dunes, bluffs, and ravines along Lake Michigan. Two of the Elemental Occurrences (EO) are large (i.e., Illinois Beach State Park, Openlands Lakeshore Preserve). Other EOs are a single plant.

The primary threat to this species is erosion. Illinois is along the southern edge of its range, so climate change also is a possibility. It is uncertain if hybridization is a threat. There is recruitment and the species is relatively easy to propagate.

Dr. Hofmann noticed that there has been a slight increase in records recently. Mr. Ulaszek explained that was due to renewed survey effort.

Dr. Gibson observed that the species has a worldwide distribution and wondered if it should be considered endangered. Mr. Ulaszek noted that there are other species on the List in the same situation.

Dr. Fant motioned that the status of Ground Juniper *Juniperus communis* be changed from threatened to endangered. Dr. Gibson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with two abstentions (Dr. Hofmann, Dr. Ting).

18. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Change the Status of Seaside Spurge (*Chamaesyce polygonifolia*) from Endangered to Threatened

Mr. Eric Ulaszek gave a brief presentation on this species, mentioning that it was one of the first listed plants in Illinois. It flowers mid- to late summer. Seed dispersal is via lake currents and wind. It is found along Lake Michigan, often showing up on its own when habitat is suitable. Populations fluctuate with lake levels and available habitat. It can persist in intensively utilized

habitats (such as the Chicago lakefront). The species' range includes the Great Lakes and East Coast.

Dr. Fant motioned that the status of Seaside Spurge *Chamaesyce polygonifolia* be changed from endangered to threatened. Mr. Schietzelt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

19. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Change the Status of Water Hickory (*Carya aquatica*) from Threatened to Endangered

Mr. Stephen Tillman (IDNR) gave a brief presentation on this species, mentioning that it has shaggy bark, 9-11 leaflets, and compressed angled nuts. Its preferred habitat is floodplains. Illinois is along the northern extent of its range. It can generate a lot of seeds that are then dispersed by water and animals. It was added to the Illinois List in 2004.

Populations are in the Coastal Plain division as well as along the Wabash River. Only three EOs have been observed in the last ten years, with another in 2013. Efforts have not been made to verify all historic records. Nut productivity has been observed, but no saplings have been recently verified.

The species is no longer present at some EOs, and Dr. Hofmann was curious as to how a tree would disappear. Mr. Tillman clarified that minimal effort was made to verify some EOs because they were not on public land. Some trees are known to have been cut down.

Dr. Fant motioned that the status of Water Hickory *Carya aquatica* be changed from threatened to endangered. Dr. Gibson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with two abstentions (Dr. Hofmann, Dr. Ting).

20. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Change the Status of Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) from Threatened to Endangered

Dr. Hofmann made some comments from the Mammal ESTAC discussion. This bat was added to the Illinois List when it was listed federally as threatened. The federal status has recently changed to endangered.

Mr. Kath elaborated that one is lucky to find one a day during surveys now. They used to see several to hundreds in hibernacula, but numbers have plummeted due to White Nose Syndrome.

Dr. Hofmann continued by saying she has seen a dramatic reduction in numbers submitted for rabies testing.

Mr. Schietzelt observed that this species is mostly in forest interiors and wondered if invasive undergrowth was a threat. Dr. Hofmann replied that is not necessarily the case as the bats typically fly above the undergrowth. Mr. Kath continued by saying White Nose Syndrome is the primary threat.

Dr. Capparella motioned that the status of Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis* be changed from threatened to endangered. Mr. Schietzelt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

21. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Add Little Wabash Crayfish (*Faxonius stannardi*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as Endangered

Mr. Dusty Swedberg (INHS) gave a brief presentation on this species, mentioning that it was described by Dr. Lawrence Page in 1985. It is endemic to the Little Wabash watershed in

Illinois. It can be found under stones or woody debris in pools but has recently been located in bridge rip rap.

In 2023, ten historic locations were sampled. Only two individuals from one location were found. Many locations exhibited habitat degradation. Its range has been reduced. Since 1990, it has been collected in only three locations.

This is one of Illinois' few endemic animals.

Mr. Schietzelt motioned that Little Wabash Crayfish *Faxonius stannardi* be added to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as endangered. Dr. Capparella seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

22. Preliminary Approval of Scientific and Common Name Changes

Mr. Schietzelt motioned that the following scientific fish names be changed. Dr. Willink seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

<u>Name on Current List</u>	<u>Proposed New Name</u>
<i>Etheostoma camurum</i>	<i>Nothonotus camurus</i>
<i>Notropis boops</i>	<i>Miniellus boops</i>
<i>Notropis texanus</i>	<i>Alburnops texanus</i>
<i>Notropis chalybaeus</i>	<i>Alburnops chalybaeus</i>
<i>Notropis heterodon</i>	<i>Miniellus heterodon</i>
<i>Notropis nubilus</i>	<i>Miniellus nubilus</i>

Dr. Hofmann explained that two subspecies of Regal Fritillary are now recognized, and that the federal listing status of the two subspecies could be different. Only one subspecies is present in Illinois, and she suggested that its name should be on the Illinois List.

Dr. Ting motioned that the scientific and common names of Regal Fritillary *Argynnis idalia* be changed to Western Regal Fritillary *Argynnis idalia occidentalis*. Dr. Capparella seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

23. Next Steps in the 2025 List Review and Revision Process

Chair Hofmann announced that two more petitions had been received, but not in time to be reviewed at this meeting. The Board can either hold a special meeting to review any further petitions or review the petitions at the November Board meeting. After a brief discussion, it was decided to review any remaining petitions at the November Board meeting.

Chair Hofmann set October 25, 2024 as the deadline for petition submission.

Chair Hofmann distributed the timetable from the 2020 list revision so everyone could see what still needs to be done and how long each step might take. After reviewing the final petitions and voting on the preliminary list of changes, there must be a public hearing on the proposed changes. Dr. Hofmann can update the notice that was posted announcing the public hearing in 2019.

Based on the present situation and the 2020 timetable, the following tentative schedule was decided upon:

November 2024 – Review final petitions and prepare preliminary list of changes.

January 2025 – Hold the public hearing.

February 2025 – Review and respond to comments from the public hearing. Vote on the final list of proposed changes and send to IDNR to be routed through the Administrative Rules process.

24. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

25. Other Business

Dr. Gibson announced that the office at Cypress Creek National Wildlife Refuge was closing. Staff were being moved to the Marion Office in October.

Chair Hofmann asked Board members to please send timesheets and travel reimbursement requests to Nicole Sandidge.

There is one opening on the Board to replace Dr. Gibson. There has been no official announcement about his replacement. Dr. Gibson will continue to serve on the Board until replaced.

26. Next meeting information (November 15, 2024 10 A.M.)

The next meeting will be November 15, 2024 at 10 A.M. Presumably it will be at IDNR in Springfield, IL.

27. Adjournment

Chair Hofmann adjourned the meeting at 1:38 P.M.



ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Illinois 62702 - 1271; dnr.espb@illinois.gov

Report from the Chair, 23 August 2024

Joyce Hofmann

Activities for the period between the 202nd and 203rd Board meetings

- performed follow-up for 202nd meeting – arranged for the final agenda of the 202nd meeting and the approved minutes of the 201st Board meeting to be posted on the Board’s website, updated list of changes that have received preliminary approval
- monitored the Board’s email account – responded to some messages, forwarded others to appropriate personnel at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
- reviewed the draft minutes for the Board’s 202nd meeting
- completed the Board’s 2022-2024 Biennial Report
- performed administrative or updated review of 12 petitions for changes to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species (List)
- began preparation for the public hearing on proposed changes to the List
- distributed three draft Incidental Take Authorizations (ITAs) and two Conservation Plans to Board members for potential review
- completed state-mandated Ethics; Harassment and Discrimination Prevention; and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility training for 2024
- completed government documents for re-appointment to the Board
- had phone conversation with Chicago Tribune writer about the listing process
- prepared for the 203rd Board meeting – prepared the notice for the 203rd meeting, developed a draft agenda for the 203rd meeting, and distributed materials for the 203rd meeting to Board members