

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA  
TWO HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH MEETING

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

September 9, 2014, 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 217<sup>th</sup> Meeting, May 6, 2014

Item 4: Next meeting date and location

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

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

A. Nomination of Advisors

Current Advisors:

Marc Miller IL Department of Natural Resources (Statutory Advisor)	Dr. Brian Anderson IL Natural History Survey (Statutory Advisor)	Dr. Bonnie Styles IL State Museum (Statutory Advisor)
Dr. Mike Demissie IL State Water Survey	Dr. Thomas E. Emerson 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		

B. Nomination of Consultants

Current Consultants:

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		

C. Nomination of Officers

Current Officers:

Chair: Dr. David Thomas

Vice Chair: Donald Dann

Secretary: George Covington

Item 6:\* INPC Staff Report

REPORT

Randy Heidorn

Nature Preserves Commission

Item 7: IDNR Staff Report

REPORT

Ann Holtrop

Department of Natural Resources

Item 8: Endangered Species Protection Board Staff Report

REPORT

Anne Mankowski

Endangered Species Protection Board

Item 9:\* Kankakee County – Additions to Sweet Fern Savanna Land and Water Reserve, Registration

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 Land and Water Reserve in 2001, and was 62 acres in size. Subsequent additions to the Land and Water Reserve, 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 Land and Water Reserve to approximately 126.4 acres. Sweet Fern Savanna Land and Water Reserve 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 (*Coccyzus americanus*), reptile, and butterfly. Sweet Fern Savanna also provides habitat for an additional 23 insect species and 10 vertebrate Species in Greatest Need of Conservation. This proposal is for the registration of 14 individual lots totaling 20.2 acres comprised of Grade C dry-mesic sand savanna, sand flatwoods, sand forest, and former agricultural fields succeeding to sand prairie, as additions to Sweet Fern Savanna. 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 (*Carex cumulata*), sweet fern (*Comptonia peregrina*), and shore St. John's wort (*Hypericum adpressum*), 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.

REPORT  
Kim Roman  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Registration Approval

Item 10:\* Ogle County – Edward F. Vassallo Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Paul and Carol Soderholm propose to permanently register 130 acres as the Edward F. Vassallo Land and Water Reserve 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 Nature Preserve, and White Pines Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI #0087). The natural features on the proposed reserve 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 were well suited to convert this land from an agricultural land use 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 relict natural communities can be found on the proposed reserve, 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 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 reserve to White Pines State Park and Whites Pines Nature Preserve. If approved, the Edward F. Vassallo Land and Water Reserve 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 permanent registration of this land is named in memory of Edward F. Vassallo, loving son of Carol Soderholm and stepson to Paul Soderholm.

REPORT  
John Nelson  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Registration Approval

Item 11:\* Vermilion County – Kickapoo Hill Prairie Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The proposed Kickapoo Hill Prairie Land and Water Reserve (LWR) is a 36.95 acre site, located about 4 miles northwest of Danville within the Vermilion River Section of the Wabash Border Natural Division in Vermilion County, Illinois. The proposed land and water

reserve is part of the much larger 1,128-acre Dynege tract owned by Illinois Department of Natural Resources (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, 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 (*Lampsilis fasciola*). The Middle Fork of the Vermilion River is recognized as Illinois' only State and National Scenic River. Kickapoo State Recreation Area, 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 Illinois Department of Natural Resources' 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

REPORT

Tyson Dallas and Eric Smith  
Department of Natural Resources  
Mary Kay Solecki  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Registration Approval

Item 12:\* Vermilion County – Kickapoo Woods Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The proposed Kickapoo Woods Land and Water Reserve (LWR) is a 53-acre site that is owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and is part of Kickapoo State Recreation Area, 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 (*Carex communis*) and a State-endangered amphibian. The site lies adjacent to the 77-acre Middlefork Woods Nature Preserve, 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 State Recreation Area, 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 consist of 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 Illinois Department of Natural Resources' 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.

REPORT  
Roger Jansen  
Department of Natural Resources  
Mary Kay Solecki  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Registration Approval

Item 13:\* Cumberland County – John Clyde Spitler Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

John Clyde Spitler Woods 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 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 part of the Embarras River watershed is recognized as a Resource Rich Area by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' 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.

REPORT  
Mary Kay Solecki  
Nature Preserves Commission  
Terry Esker  
Department of Natural Resources

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 14:\* Fayette County – Burnside Forest Nature Preserve and Buffer, Dedication

The proposed Burnside Forest Nature Preserve is a 39.55-acre Fayette County site owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (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 (*Hepatica acutiloba*), doll's eye (*Actaea pachypoda*), goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*) and wild hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*) 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.

REPORT

Meaghan Collins and Bob Edgin  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 15:\* Lake County – Berkeley Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) seeks final approval for dedication of 15.7 acres of the 17.5-acre Berkeley Prairie Forest Preserve as the Berkeley Prairie Nature Preserve. 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 Nature Preserve supports five State-listed plant species; four are known from the IDNR Natural Heritage Database and include the State-endangered queen of the prairie (*Filipendula rubra*) and State-threatened small sundrops (*Oenothera perennis*), slender wheat grass (*Agropyron trachycaulum*), and golden sedge (*Carex aurea*). The LCFPD recently documented the presence of the State-endangered Kalm's St. John's wort (*Hypericum kalmianum*) 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 section of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan (the Plan). Berkeley Prairie Forest Preserve provides habitat for three species identified in the Plan as Species in Greatest Need of Conservation and include a salamander, yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), and northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). 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 217<sup>th</sup> Meeting in May 2014.

REPORT  
Steve Byers  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 16:\* Lake County – Addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Long Grove Park District (LGPD) seeks final approval for dedication of 3.986 acres as a nature preserve addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve. 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 Nature Preserve 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 LGPD and Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve dates back to 1972. At the 42<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Nature Preserves Commission, the Commission encouraged Harold and Barbara Turner to preserve the forest on their property (Resolution #243). Then, in 1980 at the Commission's 80<sup>th</sup> 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 137<sup>th</sup> Meeting in 1992, Resolution #1156 and Resolution #1157; one parcel at the Commission's 192<sup>nd</sup> Meeting in 2006, Resolution #1926; and one parcel at the Commission's 217<sup>th</sup> 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 217<sup>th</sup> Meeting in 2014 (Resolution # 2291). Protection and management of this addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve 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 Nature Preserve and will increase its size from 42.534 acres to 46.52 acres.

REPORT  
Steve Byers  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 17:\* Monroe County – Paul Wightman Subterranean Nature Preserve, Dedication

The proposed Paul Wightman Subterranean Nature Preserve is a 535-acre Monroe County site owned by Clifftop, a non-for-profit organization, 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, and the 51<sup>st</sup> 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 Illinois Department of Natural Resources' 27-acre Fogelpole Cave Nature Preserve, and is located one mile from the 64.5-acre Storment Hauss Nature Preserve. 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 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. It was given preliminary approval for dedication (Resolution 2292) at the 217<sup>th</sup> Meeting in May 2014.

Clifftop is reserving an additional reserved right 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.

REPORT  
Debbie Scott Newman  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 18:\* Will County – Buffer Addition to Messenger Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC) seeks final approval for dedication of a 7.01-acre parcel as a buffer addition to Messenger Woods Nature Preserve. The Messenger Woods Nature Preserve buffer addition was granted preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission's 217<sup>th</sup> 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.

REPORT  
Thomas Engbrecht and Kim Roman  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 19:\* Winnebago County – Proposal for trail connection at Stone Bridge Trail Land and Water Reserve

The Winnebago County Forest Preserves District (WCFPD) requests approval for a proposed trail connection at the Stone Bridge Trail Land and Water Reserve (Reserve). The Reserve 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 Reserve 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.

REPORT  
John Nelson and Kelly Neal  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Approval of trail connection

Item 20:\* Natural Areas Acquisition Fund FY2015 Stewardship Program

The Natural Areas Stewardship project 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 in anticipation of available funding.

REPORT  
Bob Szafoni  
Department of Natural Resources  
Randy Heidorn  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Approval of FY2015 Stewardship Program

Item 21: Election of Advisors and Consultants

REPORT  
George M. Covington  
Nominating Committee of the Whole

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Election of Advisors and Consultants

Item 22: Election of Officers

REPORT  
George M. Covington  
Nominating Committee of the Whole

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Approval of Slated Candidates

Item 23: Review of Minutes of Closed Meetings

Item 24: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Item 25: Other Business

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

Item 26: Adjournment