

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

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge
Visitor's Center
8588 IL-148
Marion, IL 62959

September 10, 2024, 9:00 AM
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 Special Meeting held on April 11, 2024 and for the 247th Meeting on May 14, 2024

Accomplishments Summary for the 247th Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) Meeting:

At the 247th Meeting of the INPC, held on May 14, 2024, at the Putnam County Conservation District in Hennepin, Illinois, legal protection was completed by the Commission for four tracts of land totaling 205.8 acres. One tract is privately owned and three are publicly owned. The owner of the private site donated the value of the protection agreement to the public. Lands protected include the Marshall Addition to Prairie Ridge State Natural Area Land and Water Reserve, Luginbuhl's Prairie Grass Hill Land and Water Reserve, Dome Hill Buffer Addition to Lake in the Hills Fen Nature Preserve and Buffer Addition to Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve.

Protection of these lands came about because the Commission has staff in the field working with public and private landowners. There are now 419 dedicated nature preserves with 63,693 acres; and 210 registered land and water reserves totaling 59,312 acres. Altogether, there are 629 sites with 123,005 acres protected in the Illinois Nature Preserves System.

Item 4: Next Meeting Dates and Locations

249	January 28, 2025	Joel Brunsvold Building Springfield, Illinois
250	May 13, 2025	Forest Glen Preserve Vermilion County Conservation District Westville, Illinois
251	September 9, 2025	TBD Ogle County, Illinois

Item 5:* INPC Staff Report

REPORT

Todd Strole, Executive Director
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

Item 6:* IDNR Staff Report

REPORT

Ann Marie Holtrop, Chief
Division of Natural Heritage

Item 7:* Endangered Species Protection Board Report

REPORT

Joyce Hofmann
Endangered Species Protection Board

Item 8:* Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves Report

REPORT

Amy Doll, Director
Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves

Item 9: Committee of the Whole Meeting to Propose Nominations for Illinois Nature Preserves Commission Advisors, Consultants and Officers

Committee Chair: Commissioner Szafoni

A. Nomination of Advisors

Current Advisors:

Natalie Finnie IL Dept. of Natural Resources <i>(Statutory Advisor)</i>	Dr. Brenda Molano-Flores IL Natural History Survey <i>(Statutory Advisor)</i>	Jennifer Edginton IL State Museum <i>(Statutory Advisor)</i>
Dr. Joyce Hofmann IL Endangered Species Protection Board	Dr. Richard C. Berg IL State Geological Survey	Mike Norris IL Dept. of Natural Resources Office of Historic Preservation
Dr. Timothy Pauketat IL State Archaeological Survey	Dr. Kevin O'Brien IL Sustainable Technology Center	Dr. Praveen Kumar Prairie Research Institute

B. Nomination of Consultants

Current Consultants:

Gerald Adelman	Jill Allread	Alan Branhagen
Amy Doll	Harry Drucker	Kim Erndt-Pitcher
Jo Fessett	Fran Harty	Randy Heidorn
Dr. Jim Herkert	Cynthia Kanner	Kerry Leigh
Bill McClain	Jill Riddell	Lauren Rosenthal
Bruce Ross-Shannon	Joseph Roth	Dr. Charles Ruffner
John Schwegman	Deborah Stone	Dr. David Thomas
Dr. Jeff Walk	John White	

C. Nomination of Officers

Current Officers:

Chair: Dr. Abigail Derby Lewis

Vice Chair: Michelle Parker

Secretary: Radhika Miraglia

Item 10:* Jackson Co. – Fountain Bluff Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The Thurmond family, owners of WPFT, LLC, seek registration of 12.7 acres as the Fountain Bluff Land and Water Reserve in southwestern Jackson County. The proposed reserve is in the Greater Shawnee Hills Section of the Shawnee Hills Natural Division. It protects 12.7 acres of the currently unprotected 3995-acre Fountain Bluff INAI site #0589 (Categories II, IV, and VI) in perpetuity. Significant features of the LWR include suitable habitat for numerous state-threatened (ST) and state-endangered (SE) species, unusual concentrations of vascular flora, presence of relict northern plant species, and unusual concentrations of reptiles and amphibians. Natural communities include small stream, mesic upland forest, dry sandstone cliff, and sandstone glade. Across the site, botanical diversity is extremely high and average coefficient of conservatism is exceptional. The proposed reserve resides within the Western Shawnee Conservation Opportunity Area (COA).

Registration of the proposed site as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve should be considered for the following qualifying features and/or reasons:

1. Permanent protection of 12.7 acres of INAI
2. Verified extant populations of three state-listed species: yellow honeysuckle (*Lonicera flava*, SE), butternut (*Juglans cinerea*, SE), and a state-threatened reptile
3. Provides habitat for 29 SGCN including 19 avian species that are confirmed as breeding, and
4. Supports various IWAP campaigns.

Within the proposed reserve, the landowner reserves the right to:

1. Maintain the pre-existing railroad bed, which is approximately 8 ft. wide, as dirt or gravel substrate for pedestrian and bicycle traffic; and maintain existing foot trails.

2. Create a small foot traffic trail along the base of cliff line, assuming its location does not impact sensitive resources as determined by the Natural Areas Preservation Specialist (NAPS).
3. Allow the activity of rock climbing and rappelling on pre-existing climbing routes, as well as the development of new climbing resources on vertical cliff faces unless otherwise noted as excluded in the master plan (i.e., the petroglyph site) and/or the management plan/schedule. Existing rock-climbing locations are identified. Development includes the installation of climbing anchors, maintenance of user trails, staging areas at the base of climbing routes, and the stabilization of staging areas if needed using local materials (e.g., rocks or logs). Rock climbing routes will specifically avoid vegetated paths and climb dry, bare sections of rock.
4. Host festivals open to the public for native flora, rock climbing events, etc.; and trail days to benefit the site.
5. Create a historical display, which may be a kiosk and/or small structure, near the petroglyph site assuming its location does not impact sensitive resources as determined by the NAPS.

REPORT

Kevin Sierzega
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Registration Approval

Item 11:* Kankakee County – Guiding Star Savanna Land and Water Reserve,

Registration

The Community Development Corporation of Pembroke-Hopkins Park (CDCPHP) owns and manages a 39.5-acre tract of land in Pembroke Township, Kankakee County and wishes to register in perpetuity 25.4 acres as the Guiding Star Savanna Land and Water Reserve. It lies in the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. The proposed LWR supports dry-mesic sand savanna and old field/sand prairie communities and numerous Wildlife SGCN. The proposed Guiding Star Savanna LWR is one of the many natural areas in the Kankakee Sands contributing to the ecological significance of Pembroke Township, which supports the largest concentration of high-quality sand savannas in the Midwest. It also immediately abuts Guiding Star Savanna Nature Preserve on its southern boundary and promotes good conservation design for the larger Guiding Star Savanna complex (INAI #0974). Uses and management of the proposed LWR will be compatible with the site's long-term conservation, and include the creation of a foot trail, hiking, nature observation, scientific study, archery hunting, collection of wild edibles and medicinal plants for personal use, geocaching, removal of undesirable trees for firewood, horses and leashed dogs on approved trails, and primitive camping for small groups. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission staff recommend the permanent registration of the 25.4-acre Guiding Star Savanna as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve.

REPORT

Kim Roman
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Registration Approval

Item 12:* Mason County - Quiver Sand Prairies and Dunes Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The proposed Quiver Sand Prairies and Dunes Land and Water Reserve is owned and managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The 288.21-acre site lies within Sand Ridge State Forest located in Mason County in the Illinois River Section of the Illinois River and Mississippi River Sand Areas Natural Division. The goals for Illinois State Forests, as identified in the State Forest Action Plan (IDNR, 2020), include managing timber with wildlife habitats, site ecology, soil and water resources, outdoor recreation, aesthetics, and forest health. When qualifying features identified on the INAI are present, IDNR seeks to enroll lands in INPC Programs to comply with the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act (525 ILCS 30). Registration of the proposed Quiver Sand Prairies and Dunes LWR is recommended to focus management on enhancing the remnant natural communities and sand species that are found within the Quiver Prairies INAI site (#0123). The site was added to the INAI in 1978 due to the presence of 6 acres of Grade B high-quality Dry Sand Prairie. Two additional acres of high-quality Grade B Dry Sand Prairie were added to INAI #0123 in 2023, bringing the total to 8 acres. The remainder of the proposed 288.21-acre LWR is primarily comprised of what was historically Dry Sand Savanna that is now succeeding to Dry Sand Forest due to the lack of prescribed fire (Marcum et al, 2017). Future management of the site will include a prescribed fire regime and woody vegetation control. If approved, the proposed Quiver Sand Prairies and Dunes LWR will bring increased focus to these rare sand natural communities in Illinois. Registration of this LWR will preserve high-quality Dry Sand Prairie within the Illinois River Section of the Illinois and Mississippi River Sands Area Natural Division in INPC Programs. Finally, the 7200-acre Sand Ridge State Forest surrounding the proposed LWR serves as a natural buffer to these high-quality natural communities. This in turn provides a larger habitat base to support various SGNC as identified in IWAP found on the site, support the historic site ecology highlighted in the Illinois Forest Action Plan, and support conditions favorable for public hunting. Staff of the IDNR and INPC recommend registration of the proposed 288.21-acre Quiver Sand Prairies and Dunes Land and Water Reserve to enhance the management of these significant features.

Allowed uses include:

1. IDNR is allowed via management activities to utilize the site to promote additional populations of threatened or endangered plant species that would occupy Dry Sand Prairie or Dry Sand Savanna habitats in accordance with established policies and procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, reintroductions of umbrella sedge (*Cyperus grayoides*), bent milk vetch (*Astragalus distortus*), and broomrape (*Orobanche ludoviciana*). There is an active recreational hunting program that occurs within the boundaries of the proposed LWR. Hunting will be allowed to continue under statewide regulations and via IDNR's Site Plan of Work process.

2. The IDNR will continue to implement sustainable forest management practices within the forested areas of the proposed LWR that benefit the rare remnant natural communities. Sustainable forest management practices may include commercial harvest, which is allowable on Illinois State Forests and in accordance with Section 4010.260 and 4010.270 of the Administrative Rule: Register of Land and Water Reserves (17 ILCS 4010). All proposed sustainable forest management practices, including harvest, will be coordinated with IDNR Office of Resource Conservation Divisions, approved in the INPC management schedule, and will be discussed via the Site Plan of Work process.

REPORT

Eric Smith
Department of Natural Resources

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Registration Approval

Item 13:* Ogle County – Sherwood’s Forest Addition to Nachusa Grasslands Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Linda Giesen, Trustee of Sherwood’s Forest Land Trust proposes the Sherwood’s Forest Addition to Nachusa Grasslands Land and Water Reserve to permanently protect 14.54-acres in Ogle County, adding to the 1,704.4-acre Nachusa Grasslands Land and Water Reserve owned by The Nature Conservancy. Sherwood’s Forest is located along the Rock River in the Oregon Section of the Rock River Hill Country Natural Division and consists of dry-mesic upland forest, mesic upland forest, and a recreated prairie. Registration increases interconnectivity of conservation lands along a progressively more connected 10-mile natural corridor, directly buffers Lowden-Miller State Forest, and buffers threatened and endangered species found on Nachusa Grasslands LWR. As part of both the Rock River COA and the Nachusa-Franklin Creek-Castle Rock-Lowden Miller COA, this parcel achieves IWAP goals of (1) implementing sustainable forestry practices to enhance oak-dominance and (2) securing forest tracts to increase ecological connectivity among forests and riparian corridors.

The owner would like to reserve the following unique rights:

1. Continue upland game and deer hunting in accordance with INPC’s and IDNR’s management policies .
2. Continue mushroom harvesting practices.
3. Collect firewood from dead trees,
4. Maintain and repair the three mini chapels currently present along the driveway or trails.

REPORT

Kaleb Baker
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Registration Approval

Item 14:* Adams County – Addition to Allendale Spring Nature Preserve, Preliminary

Dedication

Allendale Spring is located in southern Adams County in the Galesburg Section of the Middle Mississippi Border Natural Division. The proposed nature preserve addition consists of approximately 5.2 acres and lies directly north of the existing preserve. The addition and the preserve are owned by Edward Behrensmeyer. The site contains suitable habitat supporting two state and 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 at least five SGCN as defined by the IWAP. Protection and management of the addition will expand the size of the preserve to 7.5 acres and will serve to help fulfill goals within both the Streams, and Forest and Woodland IWAP campaigns.

The landowner has reserved the right to:

1. Collect water from the spring that runs along the Eastern edge of the preserve. This includes maintaining the water collection infrastructure. There are three places the spring exits the hillside; the existing water collection structure is setup on one of those openings and consists of a concrete and PVC pipe structure to deliver the water to the springhouse/weir. The springhouse and weir are located just outside the preserve. The landowner has not sold the water for many years but wants to reserve the right to do so in the future.
2. The landowner wishes to reserve the right to graze a small number of goats on the nature preserve to keep the invasive exotic woody species from encroaching. He has done this for many years and has created no erosion issues.
3. He also reserved the right to cut hay off the small portion of the hayfield that is in the preserve and contains some of the archaeological resources. This would help prevent woody encroachment/invasion of this area.

The control of invasive shrubs also reduces erosion by promoting more desirable soil-holding vegetation. Management of archaeological features typically involves some form of surface mowing to reduce vegetative height and reduce deep-rooted woody vegetation. Thus, both the haying and the grazing would benefit the maintenance of the archaeological feature.

REPORT

Angella Moorehouse
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 15:* Jackson County – Fountain Bluff Nature Preserve, Preliminary Dedication

The Thurmond family, owners of WPFT, LLC, seek dedication of 11.7 acres of NP as the Fountain Bluff Nature Preserve in southwestern Jackson County, Illinois. The proposed preserve is in the Greater Shawnee Hills Section of the Shawnee Hills Natural Division. It protects 11.7 acres of the currently unprotected 3995-acre Fountain Bluff INAI site #0589 (Categories II, IV, and VI) in perpetuity. Significant features of the NP include suitable habitat for numerous state-threatened (ST) and state-endangered (SE) species, unusual concentrations of vascular flora, presence of relict northern plant

species, and unusual concentrations of reptiles and amphibians. Natural communities range from high-gradient small stream at the lowest topographical relief (420 feet), to dry sandstone cliff, sandstone glade, dry-woodland, dry-mesic woodland, and loess hill prairie at the highest topographic relief (620-640 feet). Across the site, botanical diversity is extremely high and average coefficient of conservatism is exceptional. The proposed preserve resides within the Western Shawnee COA.

Dedication of the proposed site as an Illinois Nature Preserve should be considered for the following qualifying features and/or reasons:

1. Permanent protection of 11.7 acres of INAI #0589,
2. Verified extant populations of four state-listed species: yellow honeysuckle (*Lonicera flava*, SE), crested coralroot orchid (*Hexalectris spicata*, SE), butternut (*Juglans cinerea*, SE), and a state-threatened reptile,
3. Historic populations of two state-listed species: Allegheny barberry (*Berberis canadensis*, SE) and heartleaf nettle (*Urtica chamaedryoides*, ST),
4. Provides habitat for 31 SGCN including 19 avian species that are confirmed as breeding, and
5. Supports various IWAP campaigns.

Within the proposed preserve, the landowner reserves the right to maintain pre-existing foot trails and to manage white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*; per INPC 2005 Deer Management Guideline) per the most recent Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) wildlife regulations.

REPORT

Kevin Sierzega
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 16:* Jo Daviess County – Casper Bluff Nature Preserve and Nature Preserve Buffer, Preliminary Dedication

Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JD CF) seeks approval for the dedication of 62.62 acres as Nature Preserve and 26.88 acres as Nature Preserve Buffer, 113.17 acres total, on the property known as Casper Bluff located in Jo Daviess County and the Wisconsin Driftless natural division. Currently, 89.50 acres are registered as Casper Bluff Land and Water Reserve. The LWR was created in 2008 (69.82 acres, INAI #1782, Cat. III) to protect a significant portion of the Aiken Mound Group, a series of Native American earthen mounds, including the only intact thunderbird effigy mound within the State of Illinois, which are significant cultural (archaeological) resources. An addition to Casper Bluff LWR was registered in 2021 (19.68 acres) as an expansion. The site has the federally endangered rusty patch bumblebee (*Bombus affinis*) and buffers a population of state threatened cliff goldenrod (*Solidago sciaphilia*). Since 2008, much of the site has been restored to woodland, savanna, and prairie communities. A small dolomite hill prairie remnant also exists on the site.

Upon dedication, the Nature Preserve Buffer area will serve a dual purpose of (1) Protecting existing natural and cultural features, and (2) Facilitating the reinterment of prehistoric Native American human remains, grave artifacts, and funerary objects

that were unearthed and removed from their original burial locations after Euro-American colonization of the region. Casper Bluff provides long-term protection for an important part of the Wisconsin Driftless Forest COA as well as a significant Native American cultural/archaeological site. Dedication further increases protections for these unique cultural/archaeological features and the natural communities, which benefits current and future visitors, researchers, and residents of the Galena area by preserving unique natural and cultural heritage in northwestern Illinois.

The unique reserved rights the owner requests are:

1. Harvest and sale of a small number of trees, primarily black walnut and cherry, to provide additional funds for ecological restoration and management of the site.
2. Repair or reconstruct the Native American mounds for educational interpretation and historical preservation in accordance with the Illinois Human Remains Protection Act (HRPA) and with permission from affiliated tribes.
3. Archaeological researchers with an approved permit will be allowed to park vehicles, trailers and/or temporary structures on the preserve during periods of archaeological investigations.
4. Permit Tribes to rebury human remains, grave artifacts, and funerary objects within the Nature Preserve Buffer provided that such activities are conducted in compliance with the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and HRPA.
5. Permit Indigenous peoples to harvest traditional foods, medicines, and other natural resources used for Native American cultural purposes, provided that no harvesting activity harms any feature protected by the Nature Preserve and Nature Preserve Buffer.
6. Permit Indigenous peoples to access and utilize the preserve for ceremonial, religious, cultural, and educational purposes, provided that no such activity harms any feature protected by the Nature Preserve and Nature Preserve Buffer.

Staff of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, Illinois State Museum, Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin, and Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation recommend permanent dedication of the 62.62-acre Nature Preserve and 26.88-acre Nature Preserve Buffer.

REPORT

Jim Johannsen
Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation
Kaleb Baker
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 17:* Pope County – Spivey Valley Glade Nature Preserve Addition and Nature Preserve Buffer Addition, Preliminary Dedication

The Spivey family seeks dedication of 18 acres of nature preserve and 71 acres of NP buffer, summing to 89 acres, as the Spivey Valley Glade Additions to the Spivey Valley Glade Nature Preserve in northeastern Pope County, Illinois. The site is in the Lesser Shawnee Hills Section of the Shawnee Hills Natural Division. Spivey Valley Glade NP (preserve #274) received final approval for dedication as an Illinois NP at the 157th INPC public meeting in 1998. The proposed NP additions comprise 6.7 acres of Grade

B dry-woodland and 11.3 acres of Grade A and B dry-mesic woodland. This protects the entirety of the Category I acreage in the Spivey Valley Glade INAI (#1526, Categories I, II, and III). The NP buffer additions include 4.5 acres of Grace C dry-woodland and 66.5 acres of old field natural communities of varying successional stages and quality. Collectively, this acreage buffers the Category I features. Thirty-five of these acres are comprised of pasture largely dominated by native forbs and grasses. The remaining old field acreage was planted in young oaks 25 years ago. The proposed preserve additions coupled with the existing NP protect 104 acres of natural lands in perpetuity. The preserve resides in the East Shawnee COA.

Dedication of the proposed site as an Illinois Nature Preserve should be considered for the following qualifying features and/or reasons:

1. Permanent protection of 18 acres of Category I high-quality natural communities within INAI#0589 including Grade B dry-woodland and Grade A and B dry-mesic woodland;
2. Verified extant populations of two state-listed species: Chuck-wills-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*, ST) and Eastern narrow-mouthed toad (*Gastrophryne carolinensis*, ST);
3. Historic populations of three state-listed species: loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*, SE), northern long-eared bat (federally threatened [FT], SE); and Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*, SE);
4. Provides 89 additional acres of habitat for 37 SGCN including gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*, FE, SE) and 28 avian species that are confirmed as breeding on or proximate to the preserve; and
5. Supports various IWAP campaigns.

Within the proposed NP addition, the landowner reserves the right to:

1. Manage white-tailed deer (per INPC 2005 Deer Management Guideline) and the most recent IDNR wildlife regulations, and
2. Remove downed-woody debris (e.g., cedar slash) off the preserve from glade and woodland communities to decrease fuel loads prior to prescribed burning.

Within the proposed NP buffer addition, the landowner reserves the right to:

1. Maintain mowed paths north of the NP, and around the two ponds,
2. Maintain an existing mowed primitive camping location,
3. Construct an up to four-car parking area at a pre-determined location to ensure access to the site in the future (Figure 1),
4. Allow an elderly horse to lightly graze a 10-acre section of pasture within the old field community until it passes away (Figure 1),
5. Manage the old field communities as grassland or early successional habitat, or allow to succeed into woodland,
6. Construct vernal wetlands in the old field communities,
7. Manage white-tailed deer, and
8. Remove downed-woody debris (e.g., cedar slash) off the preserve from woodland communities and to decrease fuel loads prior to prescribed burning.

REPORT

Kevin Sierzega
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

**Item 18:* Logan County - Sandra Miller Bellrose Nature Preserve Buffer Addition,
Final Dedication**

The 76.174 acre Sandra Miller Bellrose Nature Preserve which is owned by Ron Bellrose and Sandra Miller Bellrose was dedicated in 2002 at the 176th meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. The Bellrose's received preliminary approval at the 246th meeting for 306.6 acre, more or less, as Buffer Addition which would bring the total dedicated acres to 382.774 acres, more or less. The Bellrose's are seeking final approval for dedication of the proposed Buffer Addition. The site is located in Logan County in the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. The existing NP consists of a 0.8 mile segment of the Sugar Creek-Salt Creek Drainage INAI (#1521) and adjacent woodlands. It was recognized for the high diversity of freshwater mussels which was the qualifying feature at the time of dedication. The proposed buffer addition consists of prairie plantings, wetland creations and woodlands which will provide additional buffer for this stretch of Sugar Creek. The buffer addition will provide habitat for a variety of wildlife and including a larger block of forest cover as the tree plantings mature, providing additional habitat for area sensitive forest bird species.

The landowners reserve the following rights:

1. To utilize their vehicles and UTVs on the existing trails for management access and monitoring of the preserve. These trails will also be used by IDNR and INPC staff for UTV and vehicular access for monitoring and management purposes. Any additional trails cannot exceed 15 feet in width, need to be approved in writing by INPC staff prior to any construction and the total miles of trails shall not exceed 2.5 miles.
2. Maintain and use one existing metal machine shed building and the powerline leading to the building in the old farmstead area.
3. To remove the old non inhabitable farmhouse along with several old farm buildings, corn crib, and several pieces of old farm machinery from the property.
4. Deer hunting, archery and firearm per INPC 2005 Deer Management Guideline and the most recent IDNR wildlife regulations for population control management purposes. Only temporary ground blinds will be allowed to be used in order to prevent damage to trees. The use of UTV's and vehicles will not be allowed for the removal of deer or other recreational purposes.

REPORT

Byron Paulsen
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 19:* Monroe County – Heather’s Hollow Nature Preserve and Heather’s Hollow Nature Preserve Addition of Mineral Rights, Final Dedication

The proposed Heather’s Hollow Nature Preserve is an 11.3-acre site in the bluffs of southwestern Illinois, south of St. Louis. Heather’s Hollow is part of the 679-acre Columbia Hill Prairies INAI site (#201). The proposed preserve consists of 2 acres of Grade B limestone glade in several remnant patches intermingled with approximately 9 acres of Grade C mature, second-growth dry upland forest, 1/3 acre of Duck Creek and mowed highway frontage along State Route 156. The proposed preserve also contains large populations of the state-endangered woolly buckthorn (*Bumelia lanuginosa*), and a state-threatened reptile. The site is adjacent on 2 ½ sides to the 594-acre Salt Lick Point LWR.

The proposed Heather’s Hollow Nature Preserve is owned by Theresa Mueller. The site has been owned by Theresa and her late husband, Bruce, since 2001. Mr. and Mrs. Mueller enrolled the property in the Illinois Natural Heritage Landmark program in 2010. Mrs. Mueller is committed to permanently protecting her natural area and excited about preserving and managing the significant natural resources found on the property.

The mineral rights to this property were severed January 12, 1945, when they were conveyed to Columbia Quarry Company. The mineral rights were conveyed from Columbia Quarry Company to the Village of Valmeyer by Special Warranty Deed May 31, 1995, and recorded May 31, 1995 at the Monroe County Recorder’s Office. The Village of Valmeyer is dedicating the mineral rights as an Addition to the Heather’s Hollow Nature Preserve.

The owners reserve the right to remove downed wood along firebreaks and any trees that would come down outside of the proposed preserve near the residence or yard. As per the county highway Right-of-Way and Ameren powerline corridors, normal maintenance will occur in these locations, including mowing and spraying to treat invasive species.

REPORT

Debbie S. Newman
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication
Final approval for Dedication of the
Mineral Rights

Item 20:* McLean County – Mackinaw River Land and Water Reserve, Proposed Parking Lot and Shed Expansion/Office and Education Facility

ParkLands Foundation is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1967 to protect, restore, and manage natural lands in the Mackinaw River watershed of Central Illinois. Their long-term goal is to create a network of conservation lands corridors along the Mackinaw River and its tributaries. These lands are protected by the Foundation to preserve biological diversity of native plants and animals, for passive public recreation, environmental education, and scientific research. ParkLands owns/manages

approximately 3,500 acres, in McLean and Woodford Counties. They currently own or manage three sites dedicated as NP and own three registered LWRs totaling over 1660 acres in INPC programs.

The 639-acre Mackinaw River LWR is entirely within the 723.5-acre ParkLands owned Merwin Preserve of which 78 acres have been dedicated as the Merwin Savanna NP. The site is located within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division, in northern McLean County. The LWR was registered in 2007 to protect a 1.9-mile stretch of the Mackinaw River INAI (#788); to buffer the Merwin Savanna NP and to protect and enhance habitats used by the then state-threatened Henslow's sparrow (*Centronyx henslowii*), and the state-threatened cerulean warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*). When the site was registered, the Mackinaw River Natural Area was listed on the INAI for the presence of the then state-threatened slippershell (*Alasmidonta viridis*), and spike (*Elliptio dilatata*) mussels, and a proposed Category VI designation as a high-quality medium-gradient river. The Natural Area was also recognized as an outstanding example of the rivers and creeks within the Illinois River drainage.

The 2006 registration proposal noted the presence of nine gated entryways around the perimeter of the LWR, also specifying the location of two gravel parking areas (used for visitor access). ParkLands reserved the right to double the size of each of these lots. Additionally, a metal storage shed, associated drive and parking located along the Keller Highway boundary near the south gate entrance of the LWR was to be maintained for storage of equipment used to manage natural community restorations at the Merwin Preserve. The proposal also referenced an extensive trail system at the Preserve.

The shed currently houses equipment that is used at all of ParkLands' preserves. The shed has deteriorated, is in danger of collapse and must be replaced. ParkLands is requesting that the Commission allow construction of a facility that is both larger and multi-purpose compared to the existing structure. The new structure would have sufficient space for the storage and repair of existing equipment, three offices for staff, restrooms, a conference/educational room, and an outdoor pavilion. ParkLands continues to expand environmental education opportunities to McLean, Woodford and other counties in the region. The new facility will increase ParkLands' ability to reach more residents of Central Illinois.

The expansion and upgrades would include the gravel parking lot and driveway as well as connection to utilities. Prior to registration, this area had already been developed. The area surrounding the current shed, drive and parking lot is cool season, mowed grass, surrounded by early successional and invasive tree species. The upgraded facility

would be within the footprint of the original developed service area. This location provides an access point to the trail system for visitors.

REPORT

Byron Paulsen, INPC for
ParkLands Foundation
Kelly Neal
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval for Shed Replacement,
Expansion of Footprint of Building and
Parking Lot

Item 21:* Election of INPC Officers

REPORT

Commissioner Szafoni

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Election of Officers

Item 22:* Election of INPC Advisors and Consultants

REPORT

Commissioner Szafoni

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Election of Advisors and Consultants

Item 23:* Review of Closed Meeting Minute

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
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Determination if closed minutes should
remain closed

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 include on the agenda.

Item 26: Adjournment