

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA
TWO HUNDRED NINETEENTH MEETING

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702

January 27, 2015, 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 218th Meeting, September 9, 2014

Item 4: Next meeting date and location

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:* INPC Staff Report

REPORT

Randy Heidorn

Nature Preserves Commission

Item 6: IDNR Staff Report

REPORT

Ann Holtrop

Department of Natural Resources

Item 7: Endangered Species Protection Board Staff Report

REPORT

Anne Mankowski

Endangered Species Protection Board

Item 8:* Cook County – Addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy seeks final approval for dedication of two lots, totaling 0.956 acres, as a nature preserve addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve addition consists of Grade A mesic sand prairie. Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve is part of the Indian Boundary Prairies that include Dropseed Prairie Nature Preserve, Paintbrush Prairie Nature Preserve, Sundrop Prairie Nature Preserve, and Markham Prairie East Nature Preserve totaling 417.96 acres. The proposed nature preserve addition received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission's 208th Meeting in May 2011

and represents the 15th addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve. Both Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in Markham, Illinois. The proposed nature preserve addition lies within the boundaries of the Gensburg-Markham Prairie Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI #400) and the National Registry of Natural Landmarks designated by the U.S. National Park Service. Dedication of this addition is consistent with the recommendations of an approved Master Plan, tenets of good preserve design, the “*Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region*”, and elements of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan; specifically action steps to restore and manage high-quality prairie communities. Dedication of the proposed nature preserve addition (0.956) acres will increase the size of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve from 200.316 to 201.72 acres.

REPORT
Steve Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 9:* 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 # Cumberland001) for its Grade B dry-mesic upland forest (~18.1acres) and Grade B mesic upland forest (~2.3acres) 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 Spitler Woods as a Nature Preserve helps fulfill the goals of the Ecosystem Partnership and the Embarras River Watershed Resource Management Plan. Conservation of John Clyde Spitler Woods supports action steps identified in the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan for the Forest 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. No Illinois nature preserves or land and water reserves occur in Cumberland County, and, upon dedication, John Clyde Spitler Woods will be the first Illinois nature preserve in Cumberland County. John Clyde Spitler Woods was given preliminary approval for dedication at the 218th Meeting in September 2014. (Resolution #2308)

REPORT
Mary Kay Solecki
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 10:* 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). 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. Burnside Forest is located about 2 miles southwest of Vandalia on the west bank of the Kaskaskia, in the Effingham Plain Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division of Illinois.

Burnside Forest received preliminary approval for dedication at the 218th meeting the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (Resolution #2309).

REPORT
Bob Edgin
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 11:* Winnebago County – Culvert Project at Johns Mound Group Land and Water Reserve

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is requesting approval for permanent and temporary easements on 0.09 and 0.02 acres, respectively, of Johns Mound Group Land and Water Reserve, to complete a culvert project. The Reserve, owned by the Smeja Homestead Foundation, is located along the west side of IL 2 for approximately 1600 feet. This Reserve is recognized for its significant cultural resources and there are 22 documented mound features. The culvert located near the south edge of the Reserve is in serious condition with the potential to collapse if it is not replaced. IDOT is proposing to replace the culvert and move it 37 feet south of its current location in order to (1) avoid impacting the panther effigy mound feature on the Reserve; and (2) better align it with the existing drainage channel. Elimination of the culvert is not an option because it carries drainage from the Reserve to the Rock River on the east side of IL 2. Due to the depth of the existing culvert, IDOT determined that replacement in its current location would cause more impacts to the Reserve, including the panther effigy mound. If approved, this project will temporarily disturb 0.02 acres of the Reserve for construction purposes, and 0.09 acres will be required for a permanent easement, to be used for construction and future maintenance of the new culvert.

REPORT
Mark Nardini
Illinois Department of Transportation
John C. Nelson and Valerie Njapa
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval of Temporary and Permanent
Easements

Item 12: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Item 13: INPC 5-Year Strategic Planning Effort: Strategy Development

- A. Review and agreement on goals developed and prioritized at the INPC Special Meeting January 26, 2015 (Randy Heidorn)
- B. Break Out: Strategy Development
 - a. Commissioners, Advisors, Consultants, Staff and others present will divide into work groups based of priority goals and draft strategies for selected priority goals.
 - b. Written notes and digital recording will be kept for each work group.
 - c. A spokesperson will be selected by each work group.
- C. Report Out: Strategies: The selected spokesperson will report the strategies for each work group.
- D. Strategy Prioritization:
 - a. Commissioners, Advisors, Consultants, INPC Staff and IDNR staff will be given up to ten dots and will be able to spend their dots on the Strategies they believe are the most important.
 - b. Randy Heidorn will summarize the results and suggest the next steps in the development of the INPC Strategic Plan.
 - i. Staff compilation, review, development of SMART objectives. (February 2014)
 - ii. Sent for written comments to Advisors, Consultants and Commissioners. Comments sent to INPC Staff (March 2015)
 - iii. Draft Strategic plan presented at 220th Meeting for preliminary approval. (May 2015)
 - iv. Public comment
 - v. Strategic Plan Final Approval 221st Meeting (September 2015).

Item 14: Other Business

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

Item 15: Adjournment