



Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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www.dnr.illinois.gov

JB Pritzker, Governor
Colleen Callahan, Director

To: Colleen Callahan, Director
From: Mike Wefer, Chairman, Illinois Habitat Fund Advisory Committee
Date: October 27, 2022
Subject: Illinois Habitat Fund Advisory Committee Action

The Illinois Habitat Fund Advisory Committee held their annual meeting on October 26, 2022. The Committee's responsibility is to review and recommend the allocation of funds in the Illinois Habitat Fund. I was called away unexpectedly. Don Kahl served as my designee and chaired the meeting.

Summary of Recommendations

Grants to governmental and not-for-profits for Habitat Projects	\$ 591,643.98
Designated for IDNR Land Acquisition from the Endowment Trust Fund	\$ 2,759,461.17

Total October FY2022 Committee Recommended Funding **\$ 3,351,105.15**

The Committee recommended designating the excess funds in the Illinois Habitat Endowment Trust Fund, Fund #390, which would be all funds above \$10,000,000 corpus, to be available for transfer to the Illinois Habitat Fund for the purposes of DNR Land Acquisition, as needed, as future parcels become available. Upon the request of the Director, The Comptroller and the State Treasurer shall transfer amounts not to exceed the actual investment income earned from the Trust Fund to the Illinois Habitat Fund from time to time as needed for expenditures from the Illinois Habitat Fund in accordance with appropriations. (ILCS 520 25/20)

The Committee recommended funding the five highest scoring grant applications.

- \$ 121,648.19 Pheasants Forever - Habitat Strike Team for the IDNR IRAP Program working on private lands, personnel salaries, fringe benefits, travel, supplies, training, telephone costs for four positions, purchase of a 16 foot equipment trailer. Match is \$71,255.
Timeframe – March 1, 2023 thru December 31, 2023.
- \$ 99,312.24 National Wild Turkey Federation - Contractual costs and indirects to provide technical assistance to landowners in preparing forest management plans to submit habitat improvement plans/applications with NRCS. Match is \$349,879.68.
Timeframe –September 1, 2023 thru August 31, 2025.
- \$ 151,396.02 Lewis and Clark Community College, National Great Rivers - Habitat Strike Team for the area 90 miles radius around East Alton, Illinois. Match is \$152,963.98.
Timeframe – November 1, 2022 thru October 31, 2024.

\$180,450.53 Pheasants Forever - Farm Bill Biologist Program - personnel salaries, fringe benefits, travel, supplies, training, telephone costs for five positions. Match is \$721,802.13.
Timeframe – January 1, 2023 thru December 31, 2024.

\$ 38,837.00 Ducks Unlimited - Mermet Lake SFWA Moist-soil Restoration Project, install water level control infrastructure berm, culvert and pipe. Match is \$13,000.
Timeframe - November 1 thru September 30, 2023, with a possible extension through September 30, 2024 if there are excessively wet conditions during the 2023 construction season.

The Committee recommended not funding eleven applications.

These eleven grant proposals were scored lower, and there were insufficient funds to fund these after the highest scoring proposals were funded.

\$ 16,234.14 Citizens for Conservation - Barrington Greenway Initiative - Purchase pull behind native seed harvester equipment.

\$ 85,000.00 Kane County Forest Preserve -Removal of invasive species of buckthorn and honeysuckle from 200 acres at Big Rock FP - mechanical and foliar treatments, and restoring 52 acres to tallgrass prairie.

\$ 124,350.00 Will County Forest Preserve - Removal of Invasive Species on 211 acres adjacent to Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve, RX burn 83 acres, restoration of 31 acres to dolomite prairie.

\$ 30,624.88 Heartlands Conservancy - Poag Terrace - restore Illinois Chorus Frog Habitat.

\$ 160,000.00 Itasca Park District - Springbrook Nature Center Wetland Habitat Restoration - herbicide removal of invasive species, native wetland seeding and Rx burns in the fall.

\$ 78,500.00 Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation - To fund the Norwest Illinois Stewardship Co-op Crew of 3 technicians and one crew leader - habitat restoration strike team - invasives removal, prescribed fire, native seeding or seedlings woodland canopy improvements.

\$ 30,000.00 Kendall County Forest Preserve - Little Rock Creek Cropland Conversion, Prairie Restoration and Invasive Species Removal - including installation of tree seedlings from the DNR Mason State Tree Nursery.

\$ 31,599.00 Lake Forest Open Lands Association - Derwen Mawr Nature Preserves - purchase a seeder/spreader, do prescribed burns, and perform invasive species control and removal.

\$ 30,000.00 Quail and Upland Game Alliance - Habitat Specialist position - Personnel salary and travel costs.

\$ 70,400.00 Quail and Upland Game Alliance - Setting back woody succession - contractual skidsteer work removing woody plants along field edges or open fields on private lands with a cost share by the landowner.

\$ 50,000.00 Village of Bannockburn - Restoration of Riparian, in-stream, upland and wetland habitat at Telegraph Road and Lakeside Drive Retention Pond, contractual services by Tall Grass Restoration LLC.

A sharepoint server file is available of all grant application materials is at:

<https://dnr.portal.illinois.gov/teams/orc/SpecialFunds/HabitatFund/default.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fteams%2Forc%2FSpecialFunds%2FHabitatFund%2FShared%20Documents%2F2023%20Habitat%20Fund%20Grant%20Apps&FolderCTID=0x0120008B6439D2647EDB48B0FCD053124A12F6&View={8A48E09E-F393-4874-ACE9-7BEE6C0BE780}>

For any review of the materials considered by the Committee as well as the grant proposals themselves. Any questions about the meeting materials or the grant proposals should be directed to Mike Wefer, IDNR Chair. Any technical questions about grant processes should be directed to Susan J. Duke IDNR Grant Administrator for the Illinois Habitat Fund.

Please indicate approval of the Office of Resource Conservation funding recommendations by signing below. Funds are currently available to award the recommended projects. Upon your decision staff of the Special Funds Section of the Office of Grant Management and Assistance will inform the Illinois Habitat Fund Advisory Committee, grantees and IDNR staff of the intent on the use of FY2023 Habitat Funds.

Office Recommendation

Christopher L Young Digitally signed by Christopher L Young
Date: 2022.11.03 12:18:35 -05'00'
Chris, Young Director Date
Office of Resource Conservation

APPROVE



DISAPPROVE



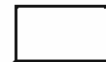
Habitat Chair Recommendation

Michael Wefer Digitally signed by Michael Wefer
Date: 2022.11.03 12:09:51 -05'00' 11/3/22
Mike Wefer Date
Office of Resource Conservation
Chair of the Illinois Habitat Fund Committee

APPROVE



DISAPPROVE



AGENCY DIRECTOR SIGN-OFF


Colleen Callahan Date
Director of Illinois Natural Resources

APPROVE



DISAPPROVE



