

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA
TWO HUNDRED SIXTEENTH MEETING

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Lakeview Conference Rooms A-C
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702

January 28, 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 the 215th Meeting Minutes, September 10, 2013

Item 4: Next meeting dates and locations:

May 6, 2014, 9:00 a. m.

Four Rivers Environmental Center, Channahon, IL

September 9, 2014, 10:00 a. m.

Ballard Nature Center, Altamont, IL

Item 5:* INPC Staff Report

REPORT

Randy Heidorn

Nature Preserves Commission

Item 6: IDNR Staff Report

REPORT

Don McFall

Department of Natural Resources

Item 7: Endangered Species Protection Board Staff Report

REPORT

Anne Mankowski

Endangered Species Protection Board

Item 8:* Iroquois Co. – Additions to Iroquois Sands Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Friends of the Kankakee propose to register three separate tracts, totaling approximately 1.8 acres, comprised of mesic to wet-mesic sand prairie and sand flatwoods, as additions to Iroquois Sands Land and Water Reserve. Iroquois Sands Land and Water Reserve is located in the northeastern corner of Iroquois County, and is owned and managed by Friends of the Kankakee, Incorporated. Approximately 70 acres of the site was registered in 2006, and an

additional 1.5 acres were registered in 2008. Iroquois Sands is comprised of dry-mesic sand savanna, sand flatwoods, sand prairie, and old field, and it provides habitat for the state-endangered crowded oval sedge (*Carex cumulata*), shore St. John's wort (*Hypericum adpressum*), Carey's heartsease (*Polygonum careyi*), eastern blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium atlanticum*), highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), primrose violet (*Viola primulifolia*), and state-threatened regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*) and reptile, and at least seven wildlife species in greatest need of conservation. This site and its proposed additions lie within the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois, and are in very close proximity to three other sites permanently protected in the Illinois Nature Preserves system. The proposed additions have been disturbed by past agricultural use. Despite past disturbances, they have succeeded to mesic to wet-mesic sand prairie and sand flatwoods communities, both dominated by native species. Registration of these lots protects native habitat, buffers the existing Iroquois Sands Land and Water Reserve and the state-listed species within it, and promotes continuity of natural features on this significant landscape. Registration of these tracts will bring the total registered acreage of this site to approximately 73 acres.

REPORT
 Kim Roman
 Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
 Registration Approval

Item 9:* Lake Co. – Buffer Addition to Reed Turner Woodland Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Long Grove Park District (LGPD) seeks preliminary approval for dedication of all or a portion of three parcels totaling 4.318 acres as a buffer addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve. The proposed buffer addition consists of grade B/C dry-mesic upland forest and provides habitat for the state-threatened pale vetchling (*Lathyrus ochroleucus*). Reed-Turner Woodland and the proposed buffer addition are located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southern Lake County. The LGPD reserves the right to maintain the existing trail system that currently occurs within the proposed buffer addition and to provide appropriate, compatible amenities with the approval of the Commission. In addition, the LGPD is bound by the terms of the plat of survey for the Woodland Ridge Subdivision to provide for ingress, egress, and public utilities. The most obvious feature is a gravel lane that is approximately 14 feet wide that provides vehicular access to Lot 2 and to Lot 3 of the Woodland Ridge Subdivision. The current configuration of the gravel lane will not be altered without the approval of the Commission. Protection and management of the proposed buffer addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve support elements of the Forests Campaign identified in the IWAP 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 these parcels will increase the size of Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve from 38.216 to 42.5334 acres and further protect the Nature Preserve from incompatible land use changes.

REPORT
 Steven Byers
 Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
 Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 10:* Lake Co. – Covington Buffer Addition to Grainger Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

George Covington seeks preliminary approval for dedication of 18.2 acres as a buffer addition to Grainger Woods Nature Preserve. Grainger Woods Nature Preserve was granted final approval for dedication at the Commission’s 204th Meeting in January 2010 (Resolution 2061). Grainger Woods Nature Preserve and the proposed buffer addition are located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southern Lake County. The proposed buffer addition includes grade C northern flatwoods, grade C wet-mesic upland forest, grade D wet prairie, and an old field. Approximately 8.3 acres of the proposed buffer addition are located within the Grainger Flatwoods INAI site (#0667). The state-threatened brome hummock sedge (*Carex bromoides*) has been recorded from the proposed buffer addition. Mr. Covington conveyed a Grant of Conservation Right and Easement to the Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) in May 2013. The “Conservation Purposes” pertain to preservation of natural plant and animal communities. The easement provides the Grantee (LCFPD) with the right to preserve and protect the native flora, fauna, soils, water table and drainage patterns, and other conservation values. The Grantor reserves the right to construct a shed, use an all-terrain vehicle to facilitate access for the physically impaired, construct a foot trail, place ten beehives on the property, and maintain the existing unpaved driveway. Mr. Covington may adopt and use an adaptive management approach to restoration and management of the proposed buffer addition to achieve and maintain the conservation values of the property. The management approach provides both the owner and the Grantee the right to monitor plants, wildlife, or surface and ground water hydrology as may be necessary to achieve the conservation values of the property. Protection and stewardship of the proposed buffer addition supports several elements of the IWAP; specifically the forests campaign and efforts to “...restore and manage high-quality examples of all forest communities.” The wet-mesic upland forest and the northern flatwoods communities located in the proposed buffer addition are considered critically imperiled globally and imperiled globally, respectively, by the Chicago Region Biodiversity Council. Results of the initial INAI revealed the presence of only 61 acres of high-quality wet-mesic upland forest and 86 acres of high-quality northern flatwoods. Protection of the proposed George M. Covington buffer addition will increase the size of Grainger Woods Nature Preserve from 169.4 acres to 187.6 acres and further buffer the Nature Preserve from incompatible land use changes.

REPORT

Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 11:* Monroe Co. – Illinois Ozarks Nature Preserve, Dedication

The proposed Illinois Ozarks Nature Preserve is a 34.18-acre site owned by Mike and Joann Fricke. A portion of the proposed nature preserve is registered as the Martha & Michelle Prairies Land and Water Reserve. The Frickes are strengthening and expanding this original land and water reserve with the proposed Illinois Ozarks Nature Preserve. The proposed area includes 31.79 acres of nature preserve (including all of the 20-acre Martha & Michelle Prairies LWR), 2.39 acres of buffer, and a 10-foot wide driveway access easement. The site is comprised of 1.75 acres of grade A loess hill prairie, 0.25 acre of grade C hill prairie, 0.5 acre of grade B limestone glade intermingled with approximately 31 acres of grade C mature second growth dry-mesic and dry upland forest. The proposed site is part of the 724-acre

Potato Hill INAI site (#200) located in the Northern Section of the Ozark Natural Division. The proposed nature preserve also contains populations of the state-endangered woolly buckthorn (*Bumelia lanuginosa*), state-threatened bluehearts (*Buchnera americana*), occurrences of a state-threatened reptile, and several species of greatest need of conservation listed in the IWAP. Besides protecting the loess hill prairie and limestone glade natural communities and several state-listed species, dedication of this site supports several campaigns identified in the IWAP, including the Forests, Invasive Species, and Land and Water Stewardship campaigns. The site is located within IWAP's Bluff Corridor Conservation Opportunity Area, and the Southwestern IWAP partnership. This site is part of a large complex (more than 1200 acres) of preserved lands in the bluffs of western Monroe County.

REPORT
Debbie Newman
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 12:* Whiteside Co. – Hahnman Sand Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

Hahnman Sand Prairie is a high-quality sand prairie located in southeastern Whiteside County which provides site suitable habitat for the state-endangered plains sedge (*Carex heliophila*) and four state-threatened species: broomrape (*Orobanche ludoviciana*), a butterfly, and two reptiles. The owner, Greg Wahl, wishes to dedicate the highest quality portion, totaling 14.6 acres, as an Illinois nature preserve. The area proposed for dedication includes the only recently documented (since 1980s) population of the plains sedge within the State. The site was added to the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI #003) in 2013, Category II. The proposed nature preserve is located within the Green River Lowland Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois and is within the Grand Prairie State Acres for SAFE Focus Area identified by the Farmland and Prairie Campaign of the IWAP. The site also provides habitat for at least 13 species of greatest need of conservation as identified by the IWAP.

REPORT
Angella Moorehouse/Jared Ruholl
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 13:* McHenry Co. – Buffer Addition to Oakwood Hills Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Village of Oakwood Hills seeks final approval for dedication of 18 acres as a buffer addition to Oakwood Hills Fen Nature Preserve. Oakwood Hills Fen Nature Preserve was granted final approval for dedication at the Commission's 108th Meeting in March 1986 (Resolution 886). Both the Nature Preserve and proposed buffer addition are located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southeastern McHenry County. The proposed buffer addition lies adjacent to the Bates Fen INAI site (#0708). This INAI site includes both Oakwood Hills Fen Nature Preserve and Bates Fen Nature Preserve which support a variety of high-quality wetland communities. The proposed buffer addition is located on a steep east-facing slope overlooking Oakwood Hills Fen Nature Preserve and consists of grade C/D dry-mesic forest that serves as an important recharge zone for the graminoid fens arrayed along the toe of the slope in the Nature Preserve. The Village of

Oakwood Hills reserves the right to maintain a sledding hill and an existing network of trails, continuation of the forest restoration plan as resources become available, and to restore a ravine system as resources become available. Dedication of this site as a buffer addition to Oakwood Hills Fen Nature Preserve is consistent with recommendations from the IWAP that call for improving "...the condition of existing natural and artificial wetlands" and a recommendation to enhance "...ecological connectivity among forests and other habitat patches." Although no wetlands occur on the site, protection of the steep slopes overlooking the wetlands will provide better infiltration and less disruption of the surface and groundwater hydrology upon which the fen wetlands in the Nature Preserve are dependent. Protection of this site is also consistent with the Silver Creek Watershed Plan and will increase the size of Oakwood Hills Fen Nature Preserve from 14.819 acres to 32.819 acres. The site received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission's 215th Meeting in September, 2013 (Resolution 2257).

REPORT
Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 14:* Washington Co. – Bohbrink Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

The IDNR seeks final approval for dedication of 10 acres near Nashville in southwestern Illinois as Bohbrink Woods Nature Preserve. The site is comprised entirely of grade B southern flatwoods natural community and is located in the Mount Vernon Hill Country Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division. The site is one-half of the Bohbrink Woods INAI site (#0868). Approximately 657 acres of grade A or B southern flatwoods remain in Illinois with only portions of eight of the 18 remaining sites having protection status. In addition to protecting the rare southern flatwoods natural community, dedication of Bohbrink Woods supports several campaigns identified in the IWAP, including the Forests, the Invasive Species, and the Land and Water Stewardship campaigns. The site received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission's 215th Meeting in September, 2013 (Resolution 2259).

REPORT
Debbie Newman
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 15:* Historic Properties in the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission System Protection Guideline

This guideline discusses the value of historic properties pursuant to the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act and identifies procedures for including archaeological site assessments and protection in both nature preserve and land and water reserve nominations and management plans. These procedures are internal to the INPC and do not affect future interaction with the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency pursuant to the Illinois State Agency Historic Resources Preservation Act (20 ILCS 3425) or the Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act (20 ILCS 3440). Historic properties (significant archaeological sites and historic standing structures eligible for inclusion onto the National Register of Historic Places) are an important part of the Illinois landscape. These resources extend back in time to the first prehistoric inhabitants of Illinois, about 12,000 years ago and may be as recent as only 50

years ago. Historic properties may occur anywhere in Illinois. The Illinois State Agency Historic Resources Protection Act (20 ILCS 3040) and the Archaeological and Paleontological Resources Protection Act (20 ILCS 3425) protect historic properties, but this protection is afforded mostly to historic properties on public lands. Protection is extended to lands owned and managed by the State of Illinois, local municipalities, and units of local government or undertakings by state agencies regardless of land ownership. The Human Skeletal Remains Protection Act (20 ILCS 3440) protects from disturbance all human graves and grave markers found both in and outside prehistoric mounds and in unregistered cemeteries over 100 years old regardless of ownership. There is little protection for historic properties on private land, with the exception of human graves. Although landowners may exercise measures to protect historic properties on their property, these actions may not provide long-term protection once the property is sold. The inclusion of historic properties within either nature preserves or land and water reserves can ensure the long-term protection of these important resources especially when located on private property. Both nature preserves and land and water reserves provide a unique avenue for protecting historic properties.

REPORT
Hal Hassen, Ph.D.
Department of Natural Resources

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval of Protection Guideline

Item 16: Update on Development of Joint INPC/ESPB/IDNR Animal Translocation Policy

At the 215th Meeting of the INPC, May 2013, Commissioners directed staff to draft a joint animal translocation policy that would allow for staff level review/approval of requests to translocate animals into INPC sites. Kelly Neal continues to work with Jim Herkert (IDNR-ORC) and Anne Mankowski (ESPB) on details of a policy. The group has met with IDNR Office of Legal Services staff for their input. The drafting of changes to the Endangered Species Administrative Rule, to include “Translocation Permits,” is in process. Changes to the Administrative Rule will need to be approved by the ESPB. The group still intends to use the biological features of the ESPB’s Animal Translocation Policy as a framework for the policy. Participants continue to refine the details focusing on the work flow process, and balancing appropriate approvals and reviewers for specific situations.

REPORT
Kelly Neal
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
None at this Time

Item 17: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Item 18: Other Business

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

Item 19: Adjournment