

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION

Minutes of the 227th Meeting
(Approved at the 228th Meeting)

Noble Center
1125 W. Lake Ave.
Peoria, IL 61614

Tuesday, September 12, 2017

227-1) Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

Commissioner Dann called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and read the roll call.

Commissioners Present: George Covington, Donnie Dann, Pen Daubach, Abigail Derby Lewis, William McClain, Deborah Stone and David Thomas

Commissioners Absent: Jo-Elle Mogerman and Charles Ruffner

Commission Advisors Present: Kevin O'Brien, Director of the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center and Interim Director of the Illinois State Water Survey; Thomas Emerson, Illinois State Archaeological Survey

Commission Consultants Present: Joseph Roth, Openlands; Jim Herkert, Illinois Audubon Society

Others Present: Steven Byers, Justin Dillard, Bob Edgin, Marni English, Tom Lerczak, Angella Moorehouse, Kelly Neal, John Nelson, Debbie Newman, Valerie Njapa, Kim Roman and Kevin Sierzega, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC); Chris Young, Ann Holtrop, Dawn Cobb, Lisa Hebenstreit, Christina Feng, Morgan Walder, Nancy Williamson, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR); Elsa Fischer, Lorin Ottlinger, Glenview Park District; Sarah Surroz, Conserve Lake County; Jill Kennay, Natural Land Institute (NLI); Kathleen O'Connor, Libertyville Township; Todd Tucker and Russell Brunner, Byron Forest Preserve District; Mike Groves, Winnebago County Forest Preserves; Mike Miller, Peoria Park District, George Rose, Friends of Sangamon Valley; Vanessa Voelker, Peoria Wilds; Emiko Yang and Maury Brucker

Commissioner Dann thanked Mike Miller, Peoria Park District, for the field trip tour of Singing Woods Nature Preserve. He also recognized Kevin Sierzega, the new Area 9 field representative for the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.

227-2) Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Covington, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, and carried that the Agenda be adopted.

227-3) Approval of Minutes for the 226th Meeting, May 9, 2017

Commissioner Dann asked for a motion and approval of the 226th Meeting minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Daubach, and carried that the minutes from the 226th Meeting be approved.

Commissioner Dann read the following:

At the 226th Meeting of the INPC, held on May 9, 2017, at Byron Park District's Jarrett Prairie Center, Byron, Illinois, legal protection was completed by the Commission for 5 tracts of land totaling 1,193.35 acres. These areas are privately owned by individuals, corporations or not-for-profit groups who donated the value of the protection agreement to the public. This private land was permanently preserved without further acquisition of the land by the State. Lands protected included Bobolink Meadow Land and Water Reserve, an addition to Ryan Wetland and Sand Prairie Land and Water Reserve, a buffer addition to Dixie Briggs Fromm Nature Preserve, the Donnelley Buffer Addition to Liberty Prairie Nature Preserve and an addition to Elkhart Hill Grove Nature Preserve.

Protection of these lands came about because the Commission had seven staff in the field working with private and public landowners. There are now 388 dedicated nature preserves totaling 58,745 acres and 184 land and water reserves totaling nearly 51,900 acres.

227-4) Next meeting dates and locations

January 23, 2018	Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, IL
May 8, 2018	The DeSoto House, Galena, IL
September 11, 2018	Cache River Wetlands Center, Cypress, IL

227-5) INPC Staff Report

APPENDIX I

Tom Lerczak reported there is no movement on new Commissioner appointments from the Governor's office. An Assistant Director position to the Office of Resource Conservation is in the pipeline and posting is expected anytime. This position will act as the Administrative Support to the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board. The Protection Program Manager and Operations Program Manager are also in the pipeline for posting as well as the Natural Areas Preservation Specialist for Area 6.

- Bob Edgin, Area 9, will be retiring at the end of the year and hopefully his replacement can be hired as an identical equivalent before the end of the year to allow Bob Edgin to train them. Bob requested that his position not be left open too long so that the management performed at sites is not reversed.

- Emma Plotts, Angella Moorehouse's resident intern, created a wildflower guide with photos taken in the field and assisted with two nature preserve proposals before her internship ended August 31st.
- Kim Roman has been working with adolescents in the field doing restoration work at the Kankakee Sands area and its new National Wildlife Refuge through the Youth Conservation Corps funded by USFWS and The Field Museum.
- Debbie Newman has spent a lot of time on defense issues in her area and has been instrumental in raising awareness to the IDNR and INPC of the effects of Dicamba, herbicide drift, on nature preserves, natural areas and ag fields. She hosted a field trip for staff to see the effects on oak trees. She works hard updating our Facebook page and indicated we have 4,000 followers. Her and Bob Edgin have stood out in accomplishing summer burns.
- Bob Edgin worked with IDNR staff to produce an outreach video of the Beadles Barrens Nature Preserve which is available on YouTube.
- Angella Moorehouse has continued working to track down the rusty patch bumblebee and worked with IDNR staff to produce a video of the BioBlitz held at Singing Woods Nature Preserve.
- Steve Byers has been working with the Sand Management Working Group in studying the sand erosion, deposition and ways in maintaining the Lake Michigan coastline.

Tom updated commissioners on the Gillespie Prairie Land and Water Reserve threat issue listed on the staff report where the work done within the land and water reserve was not within the scope of the license agreement and created negative impacts. Tom and Valerie worked with IDNR Legal Counsel which resulted in a check to IDNR from the offending party in the amount of \$44,700 to be used for restoration.

Tom mentioned that on August 25, 2017, Governor Rauner signed the Natural Area Stewardship Act, which will allow grants to be given from NAAF to 501(C)-3 Land Trusts in order for them to do restoration work on dedicated nature preserves and registered land and water reserves without having to go through the Natural Areas Preservations Specialist or District Heritage Biologist to get the work contracted.

227-6) IDNR Staff Report

APPENDIX II

Commissioner Derby Lewis asked what was specifically controversial about the Woodland Classification.

Chief Holtrop answered that it seems to be a gradient from the transition of what is a forest and what is a woodland, understanding the density of canopy and the composition and structure of the two communities. When you look at the grading criteria it differs depending on which community you call it initially. The controversial part is figuring out the continuum of naming it in the first place.

Commissioner Stone asked if there was any budgeting of the re-appropriations from NAAF for projects that had already been approved.

Chief Holtrop answered no but there are some projects that they are looking to pay from other appropriations. The Heritage Operational Budget, for example, they are trying to fund from other lines. There were a few lines from the Capital Budget that were brought over to the Operational budget that will allow Federal Grants to move forward. State Wildlife Grants that focused on public land stewardship are moving again and we are hoping to get more stewardship on the ground. The limitation is that much of our match for Federal Grants came from the Capital lines of NAAF Stewardship and we are trying to fill all the match with these other funding sources in our operational budget. As much as we can match this we will leverage it with federal dollars.

227-7) Endangered Species Protection Board Staff Report

APPENDIX III

227-8) Committee of the Whole Meeting to propose nominations for Illinois Nature Preserves Commission Advisors, Consultants and Officers (Committee Chair: Dave Thomas)

A. Nomination of Advisors

Current Advisors:

Wayne A. Rosenthal IL Dept. of Natural Resources (Statutory Advisor)	Dr. Lee Solter IL Natural History Survey (Statutory Advisor)	Dr. Michael Wiant IL State Museum (Statutory Advisor)
Dr. Misganaw Demissie Illinois State Water Survey	Dr. Thomas E. Emerson Illinois State Archaeological Survey	Ryan Prehn Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Richard C. Berg Illinois State Geological Survey	Dr. Mark Ryan Prairie Research Institute	Dr. Kevin O'Brien Illinois Sustainable Technology Center
Joyce Hofmann Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board	Dr. Brian Anderson Prairie Research Institute	

Commissioner Thomas named the three statutory advisors: **Dr. Lee Solter**, Director, IL Natural History Survey (INHS); **Michael Wiant**, Director, Illinois State Museum (ISM); and **Wayne Rosenthal**, Director, IDNR. He also stated that the Directors of the INHS and ISM are required by statute to make recommendations to the Governor for board membership and have statutory requirements they need to fill.

The following current Advisors have been contacted and are willing to serve and may be nominated:

- **Richard Berg**, Director, IL State Geological Survey
- **Thomas Emerson**, Director, IL State Archaeological Survey
- **Joyce Hoffman**, Chair, IL Endangered Species Protection Board
- **Kevin O'Brien**, Director, IL Sustainable Technology Center and Interim Director, IL State Water Survey
- **Mark Ryan**, Director, Prairie Research Institute

New Advisors to be nominated:

- **Heidi Brown-McCreery**, Director, IDNR History Preservation Division; she is replacing Ryan Prehn who is now the Chief of Parks for the IDNR Division of Lands.

Dr. Brian Anderson, Prairie Research Institute; and **Dr. Mike Demissie**, Illinois State Water Survey, have each retired; therefore, are no longer able to serve on behalf of their respective agencies.

Commissioner Thomas asked for any recommendations, suggestions or comments on the proposed slate of Advisors.

B. Nomination of Consultants

Current Consultants:

Gerald Adelman	Jill Allread	Michelle Carr
Tom Clay	Harry Drucker	Kenneth Fiske
Fran Harty	Randy R. Heidorn	Kerry Leigh
Jill Riddell	Lauren Rosenthal	Bruce Ross-Shannon
Joseph Roth	John Schwegman	Valerie Spale
John White		

The following current Advisors are willing to serve and may be nominated:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerald Adelman • Jill Allread • Harry Drucker • Kenneth Fiske • Fran Harty • Randy Heidorn • Kerry Leigh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jill Riddell • Lauren Rosenthal • Bruce Ross-Shannon • Joseph Roth • John Schwegman • Valerie Spale • John White |
|---|---|

New Consultants to be nominated:

- **Jim Herkert**, Executive Director, Illinois Audubon Society; he is replacing Tom Clay who took a position with Door County Land Trust.

Michelle Carr, TNC, wishes to be removed.

It was moved by Commissioner Covington, seconded by Commissioner Derby Lewis, and carried for the slate of advisors and consultants to be approved.

C. Nomination of Officers

Current Officers:

Chair: Donnie Dann
Vice Chair: George Covington
Secretary: Abigail Derby Lewis

It was moved by Commissioner Daubach, seconded by Commissioner McClain, and carried for the slate of current officers to remain another year.

227-9) Marshall Co. – Lot# 341 Addition to Hopewell Hill Prairies Nature Preserve, Dedication

Justin Dillard, on behalf of Maury Brucker and Emiko Yang, requested preliminary approval of a 5.09-acre tract of land being proposed as lot #341 nature preserve addition to the 11.0-acre Hopewell Hill Prairies Nature Preserve, in Hopewell IL. The preserve and the proposed addition are owned by Dr. Maury Brucker and Ms. Emiko Yang. The current preserve consists of grade A glacial drift hill prairie, grade B glacial drift hill prairie, and grade C mesic-upland forest. The proposed addition consists of grade C mesic-upland forest and the eastern boundary of the original INAI grade A glacial drift hill prairie community. The entirety of the current preserve, and approximately 34% of the proposed addition, are within the 78-acre Hopewell Estates Hill Prairies Natural Area (INAI # 231), which is also included within the Peoria Wilds Resource Rich Area and Middle Illinois River Conservation Opportunity Area. The Hopewell Estates Hill Prairies Natural Area is located west of the Illinois River valley in the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. The proposed addition abuts lot #117 of the current preserve, on which the largest patch of grade A glacial drift hill prairie of the entire natural area can be found. Notable species present on lot #341 include: great Indian plantain (*Cacalia muhlenbergii*), rough false foxglove (*Agalinis aspera*), American spikenard (*Aralia racemosa*), smooth aster (*Aster laevis*), large yellow lady's-slipper orchid (*Cypripedium pubescens*), New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), and silvery spleenwort (*Athyrium thelypteroides*). Great Indian plantain, squirrel corn (*Dicentra canadensis*), and Bishop's cap (*Mitella diphylla*), among other species, are present on the proposed addition, but have not been found elsewhere in the current preserve. The state-threatened fibrous-rooted sedge (*Carex communis*) is present on nearby lot #119, and likely to occur on the proposed addition, which contains the same ravine habitat on which the nearby population exists. Eleven bird species in Greatest Need of Conservation have been observed at the Hopewell Estates Hill Prairies Natural Area. The dedication of the proposed addition would further the campaign of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan to "restore and manage high-quality examples of all prairie communities." Hopewell Hill Prairies Nature Preserve is privately owned, and permission is required for entry. Management of the proposed addition will continue to focus on controlling non-native, invasive, and opportunistic woody species; to collectively foster oak regeneration on the upland forests and encourage expansion of the adjacent grade-A glacial drift hill prairie community.

Commissioner Dann asked if the eleven bird species have been observed during the breeding season.

Justin answered that we have observations across all years of the month and was unsure if they were documented during the breeding season but they have several years of data.

Commissioner Thomas commented that it is Table II in the proposal.

It was moved by Commissioner McClain, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of the Lot #341 addition to Hopewell Hill Prairies Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 9 of the Agenda for the 227th Meeting.

(Resolution 2393)

Commissioner McClain commended Emiko Yang and Maury Brucker for their intense interest in preserving prairies and natural areas not only with protection but with management.

John Nelson requested a change in his presentation order as follows: Item 13, Item 10 and Item 11.

227-13) Winnebago Co. – Buffer Addition to Severson Dells Nature Preserve, Dedication

John Nelson, on behalf of the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District requested preliminary approval for dedication of 88.3 acres as buffer addition to the existing Severson Dells Nature Preserve (39.8 acres). If approved, the Severson Dells Nature Preserve will encompass a total of 128.1 acres. The existing Severson Dells Nature Preserve was dedicated in 1982 and protects a series of dolomite cliffs, or dells, that rise nearly 50 feet above the narrow floodplain of Hall Creek (INAI 0931). Extant boreal species of native white pine (*Pinus strobus*) and Canada yew (*Taxus Canadensis*) still persist here due to the cool and moist micro-climate provided by natural springs in association with the narrow canyons of the dells. The Severson Dells Nature Preserve is open to the public and is used as part of outdoor education programs offered at the Severson Dells Environmental Education Center, which is also located within the Severson Dells Forest Preserve. The general character of the proposed buffer addition is native oak woodland and planted prairie on gently rolling uplands. Hall Creek meanders along gentle terrain on the northern portion of the proposed buffer addition, before entering the dells. Dedication of the proposed buffer addition to Severson Dells Nature Preserve is recommended to further protect the dells geologic feature, the groundwater resource, and potential recharge zones for springs and seeps that sustain the unique flora of the area. Adjacent to the Severson Dells Nature Preserve is the Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve (54.7 acres) which is owned and managed by the Natural Land Institute.

This dedication proposal is being presented to the INPC in conjunction with dedication proposals from two other adjacent landowners – the Natural Land Institute and the Byron Forest Preserves District. With approval and execution of these three separate landowner dedications, the total acreage of nature preserve lands legally protected at the Severson-Colman Dells Nature Preserve complex will increase from 94.5 acres to 361.1 acres.

Commissioner Derby Lewis asked if with the steep topography and the increase of recent storm events with storm water, if erosion, scouring, issues of water quality or quantity and threats to the system have been noticed.

John answered no since they had just done a fish survey after a major flood event. He indicated there was debris but in the flood plain he seen no damage. The water quality was turbid and still recovering but fish species was encouraging.

Commissioner Derby Lewis asked if it is a cold water or cool water stream.

John answered it would be cool. It isn't cold to support trout but has a very strong ground water influence and shade helps keep it cool.

Commissioner Derby Lewis asked if there are any climate considerations in the management plan.

John answered the best thing to happen to this system would be to reduce sedimentation and water input from the headwater part which is row crop agriculture and if that could be naturalized and sedimentation and runoff reduced would be the best way to mitigate if storms are increasing due to climate change.

Commissioner Derby Lewis asked if there was any thought about doing redundancy of these communities in different areas throughout what would now be one continuous theory of nature preserve.

John answered it is opportunistic so if we can bring a landowner into the puzzle that can create that continuum or if we have the money to acquire the land, we would.

Commissioner McClain asked if there are any animals species like snails or fish that tie into the borial concept.

John answered not that they know of yet but getting the IDI for fish and invertebrates is leading in that direction. He thought they might make some new discoveries but did not think they would find any unique relics from past climate.

Commissioner Dann asked if the former agricultural row crop fields that have oak regeneration have value as a prairie.

John answered that it does but historically it was some type of timber cover. Letting it go back to that is a controlled manner which is beneficial to many plants and animals.

Commissioner Dann asked that what you gain in the ultimate oak woodland, you lose the value of the prairie that was there temporarily.

John answered yes there would be that transition but it would not be fast.

Commissioner Dann asked if it is a worthwhile trade off.

John answered that it will not be a one hundred percent going from prairie planting to an oak woodland. It will be patchy, let nature get it going in the right direction and through management allow the system to recover on its own.

Commissioner Thomas asked if there was a way to differentiate between a fairly, open timber, like a savanna that had grasslands between oak trees from a more forest type habit.

John answered you can but you can get a relative sense of where timber was denser and where it more open by the distance the trees are from other trees depending on if it was upland or wetland.

It was moved by Commissioner Covington, seconded by Commissioner Daubach, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of a buffer addition to Severson Dells Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 13 of the Agenda for the 227th Meeting.

(Resolution 2394)

227-10) Ogle Co./Winnebago Co. – Buffer Addition to Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve, Dedication

John Nelson, on behalf of the Natural Land Institute (NLI), requested preliminary approval for dedication of approximately 37.86 acres of land as a buffer addition on property located to the south in Ogle County. NLI owns and manages the Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve. The existing nature preserve is 54.69 acres in size and is located in Winnebago County adjacent to Severson Dells Nature Preserve (INAI 0931). If approved, this dedication will result in a 92.55-acre nature preserve. The existing Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve protects a series of dolomite cliffs, or dells, that rise nearly 50 feet above the narrow floodplain of Hall Creek. Extant boreal species of native white pine (*Pinus strobus*) and Canada yew (*Taxus Canadensis*) still persist at this natural area due to the cool and moist micro-climate provided by natural springs in association with the narrow canyons of the dells. The general character of the proposed buffer addition is native oak woodlands and planted prairie on gently rolling uplands. Hall Creek flows through the northeast portion of the proposed buffer addition. This dedication proposal is being presented to the INPC in conjunction with dedication proposals from two other adjacent landowners – the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District and the Byron Forest Preserves District. With approval and execution of these three separate landowner dedications, the total acreage of nature preserve lands legally protected at the Severson-Colman Dells Nature Preserve complex will increase from 94.5 acres to 361.1 acres.

It was moved by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of a buffer addition to Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 10 of the Agenda for the 227th Meeting.

(Resolution 2395)

227-11) Ogle Co./Winnebago Co. – Hall Creek Buffer Addition to Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve, Dedication

Russell Brunner, Byron Forest Preserve District (BFPD), requested preliminary approval for dedication of 195.2 acres as the Hall Creek Buffer Addition to the Howard D. Colman Dells

Nature Preserve (INAI 0931). BFPD owns and manages the Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve that is located adjacent to the Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve owned and managed by the Natural Land Institute. The existing nature preserve owned by the NLI is 54.69 acres and is located in Winnebago County. In a separate proposal, the NLI seeks dedication of approximately 37.86 acres as buffer addition on their adjacent property located in Ogle County. If both dedication proposals are approved, the existing Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve will increase to 287.75 acres. The proposed buffer addition consists of restored dry-mesic upland forest, former agricultural fields planted to dry-mesic prairie, high-gradient small stream, old fields, oak savanna, and wet-mesic prairie. This buffer addition to the Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve represents a unique opportunity to further protect the dells geologic feature, its groundwater resource, and natural communities important to a wide variety of native plants and animals. This dedication proposal is being presented to the INPC in conjunction with dedication proposals from two other adjacent landowners – the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District and the Natural Land Institute. With approval and execution of these three separate landowner dedications, the total acreage of nature preserve lands legally protected at the Severson-Colman Dells Nature Preserve complex will increase from 94.5 acres to 361.1 acres.

Commissioner Derby Lewis asked if there are any other milkweed species present on the site besides poke and butterfly weed.

Russell answered whorled milkweed and common milkweed are found on the site but no swamp milkweed on our plant list thus far.

Commissioner Thomas commended John Nelson on bringing these three sites together. He asked if there is enough data to see what some changes might be for birds and other animals.

Russell answered there is some baseline data.

Commissioner Dann commented this would be a great site for a field trip.

Commissioner McClain commented that these sites are seeds of hope and seeing this made him happy.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Covington, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of Hall Creek Buffer Addition to Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 11 of the Agenda for the 227th Meeting.

(Resolution 2396)

Break for lunch from 11:50 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

227-12) Peoria Co. – Buffer Addition to Singing Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

Angella Moorehouse, on behalf of the Peoria Park District, requested preliminary approval for dedication a 40-acre buffer addition to Singing Woods Nature Preserve. The existing Singing Woods Nature Preserve (695.85 acres) is also owned by the Peoria Park District and was

dedicated in May 2001. While none of the proposed buffer addition is included within the Singing Woods Natural Area (INAI #1634) the area consists of low grade C mesic and dry-mesic upland forest habitat and provides valuable buffer to the southwestern portion of the existing preserve. Singing Woods Nature Preserve is located on the western edge of the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois. The nature preserve protects a large block of oak forest considered significant for its size, one acre of grade B glacial drift hill prairie, and provides habitat for two state-listed species: downy arrowwood (*Viburnum molle*) and black-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*). The buffer addition contains contiguous forested habitat and will expand the amount of protected forest which currently supports 32 wildlife “Species of Greatest Need of Conservation”. The proposed buffer will be open to public visitation but there are no existing trails or plans for the development of trails. Currently there primitive hiking trails located within the unprotected Tawny Oaks portion of the park district land (south and east of the proposed buffer) extend into the current nature preserve.

Commissioner Thomas asked how much information we have on how to create larger, enhanced ephemeral pools.

Angella answered that they have detailed manuals on how Heritage staff have done this. It does seem extensive but does heal quickly. She highly recommended this be done and will require bringing in small bobcats and dozers by someone who knows how to do it. She also commended the Peoria Park District on their partnership with the Commission.

It was moved by Commissioner Daubach, seconded by Commissioner Derby Lewis, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of a buffer addition to Singing Woods Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 12 of the Agenda for the 227th Meeting.

(Resolution 2397)

227-14) Cook Co. – Glenview Naval Air Station Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steve Byers, on behalf of the Glenview Park District, requested final approval for dedication of the 30.24-acre Glenview Naval Air Station Prairie as an Illinois Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve is located within the 32.0-acre Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie/Evelyn Pease Tyler Center and encompasses the Glenview Naval Air Station Prairie INAI site (INAI # 1495). Preliminary approval for dedication was granted at the Commission's 226th Meeting in May 2017 (Resolution #2385). Glenview Naval Air Station Prairie was included on the INAI as a Category II site in recognition of the presence of one State-listed animal and three State-listed plant species. The proposed Glenview Naval Air Station Prairie Nature Preserve supports Grade C mesic and wet-mesic prairie, Grade C wet prairie, and Grade C freshwater marsh. The proposed Glenview Naval Air Station Prairie Nature Preserve is located in the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in the northeastern part of Cook County, Illinois. The namesake for the proposed nature preserve is the Glenview Naval Air Station that remained in operation from 1942 until 1995. Upon its closure, the base was conveyed to the Village of Glenview. In 2007, the Village of Glenview conveyed the prairie to the Glenview Park District. Protection of the Glenview Naval Air Station Prairie supports several elements of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan ("the Plan"). The site provides suitable nesting habitat for 8 bird species and one reptile species identified in the Plan as "Species in Greatest Need of Conservation." Most notably, the mesic and wet-mesic prairies at this site (totaling 23.22 acres) are considered G-2 or "imperiled globally". Their protection as part of the Illinois Nature Preserves System is consistent with the recommendations of the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan. The Commission acknowledges the long-term interest and support of the Village of Glenview, the Glenview Park District, and volunteer steward Kent Fuller for long-standing efforts to protect and steward the prairie.

Commissioner Derby Lewis commended Glenview Park District for their conservation ethic. She stated she is proud to be a resident of Glenview and to sit on the commission and able to approve this dedication.

Commissioner Dann commented that this site is a very neat place for 30 acres.

It was moved by Commissioner Covington, seconded by Commissioner Derby Lewis, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of Glenview Naval Air Station as an Illinois Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 14 of the Agenda for the 227th Meeting.

(Resolution 2398)

227-15) Cook Co. – Addition and Buffer Addition to Kennicott's Grove Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steve Byers, on behalf of the Glenview Park District, requested final approval for dedication of a 44.7-acre addition to the 50-acre Kennicott's Grove Nature Preserve. The proposed addition includes 23.2 acres as nature preserve and 21.5 acres as nature preserve buffer. Both Kennicott's Grove Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located within the 144.7-acre property owned by the Glenview Park District that is referred to as "The Grove". Kennicott's Grove Nature Preserve received final approval for dedication at the Commission's 155th Meeting in May 1997

(Resolution # 1359). This addition received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission's 226th Meeting in May 2017 (Resolution #23840. "The Grove" includes the Kennicott House, Redfield House, and Interpretive Center and was recognized by the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 and was granted National Historic Landmark status in 1976. The proposed 44.7-acre addition lies adjacent to the Kennicott's Grove INAI site (INAI # 1469) and includes Grade C mesic upland forest and ponds located within the nature preserve addition and a prairie restoration within the nature preserve buffer addition. The existing nature preserve and proposed nature preserve addition provide suitable habitat for two State-listed species; the swollen sedge (*Carex intumescens*) and Kirtland's snake (*Clonophis kirtlandii*). Kennicott's Grove Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in the northeastern part of Cook County, Illinois. In 1973, when it appeared that much of "The Grove" would be converted to other uses, the Save the Grove Committee was formed to protect the site. That work continues to this day. Protection of Kennicott's Grove Nature Preserve and the proposed addition supports several elements of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan "the Plan". The site provides suitable nesting habitat for 10 bird species, 2 amphibian species, and 2 reptile species identified in the Plan as "Species in Greatest Need of Conservation." Formal protection of the two parcels totaling 44.7 acres will protect Grade C mesic upland forest and pond communities, protect a portion of the original prairie grove first described by Dr. John Kennicott in 1850, will increase the size of Kennicott's Grove Nature Preserve from 50 to 94.7 acres, will further protect Kennicott's Grove Nature Preserve from incompatible land uses, and is consistent with the original proposal that recommended dedication of all surviving portions of the original prairie grove. Finally, Kennicott's Grove Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are a fitting companion to the designation of "The Grove" as a National Historic Landmark.

Steve thanked Judy Beck, Grove Heritage Association, for her leadership; Glenview Park District for their continued support; and Steve Swansen. Her thanked and recognized Lorin Ottlinger, who will be replacing Steve Swansen.

Lorin Ottlinger commented that they will continue to manage and protect these parcels and this dedication will make that easier. This dedication will help with future land acquisition as they recapture adjacent parcels that were once part of the original Kennicott Land Holdings, as they become available. The Illinois Nature Preserve status helps with their grant applications. She thanked the Commission for their consideration of this site and thanked Steve for his hard work and assistance through this process.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Covington, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of an addition and buffer addition to Kennicott's Grove Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 15 of the Agenda for the 227th Meeting.

(Resolution 2399)

227-16) Lake Co. – Donnelley Buffer Addition to Almond Marsh Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steve Byers, on behalf of Libertyville Township, requested final approval for dedication of the 52.7-acre Donnelley Nature Preserve Buffer Addition to Almond Marsh Nature Preserve. Almond Marsh (a 110-acre parcel) received final approval for dedication as Almond Marsh Nature Preserve at the Commission's 129th Meeting in November 1990 (Resolution # 1048). Since then there have been four additions to Almond Marsh Nature Preserve totaling 47.5 acres. This proposed addition received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission's 226th Meeting in May 2017 (Resolution #2386). Additional lands located in the vicinity of Almond Marsh Nature Preserve have been protected; Oak Openings Nature Preserve (73.29 acres) and Ryhan Tract Land and Water Reserve (13.72 acres). Almond Marsh was included in the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI # 1253) and features Grade B freshwater marsh and Grade B sedge meadow wetlands. The proposed Donnelley Nature Preserve Buffer Addition includes Grade C freshwater marsh (20 acres) and Grade C savanna (9 acres) and croplands (24 acres) that are being restored to prairie and savanna. Almond Marsh Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are centrally located within the 5,770-acre Liberty Prairie Reserve located in south-central Lake County, Illinois in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. Protection of the proposed addition supports elements of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan. The proposed Donnelley Nature Preserve Buffer addition will provide water quality benefits to Almond Marsh and provide a large block of restored grasslands for birds, and further buffer Almond Marsh Nature Preserve from incompatible land uses. The proposed Donnelley Nature Preserve Buffer Addition (52.7 acres) will increase the size of Almond Marsh Nature Preserve from 157.5 acres to 210.2 acres. The Commission acknowledges the vision of Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley for a large, protected landscape at Liberty Prairie Reserve and the long-term interest and support of Libertyville Township in the protection and stewardship of Almond Marsh Nature Preserve.

Commissioner Covington recused himself from voting due to his professional relationship with Libertyville Township.

It was moved by Commissioner Daubach, seconded by Commissioner Stone, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of the Donnelley Buffer Addition to Almond Marsh Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 16 of the Agenda for the 227th Meeting.

(Resolution 2400)

Steve recognized Kathleen O'Connor with Libertyville Township.

Kathleen O'Connor thanked Steve Byers, the Commission, Conserve Lake County, the Forest Preserve District of Lake County and George Covington, as their attorney, for all of their partnerships and hard work.

227-17) McLean Co. – Addition to Stubblefield Woodlots Nature Preserve, Dedication

Justin Dillard, on behalf the Sugar Grove Foundation, requested final approval for dedication a 5.56-acre James Stubblefield addition to the 11.7-acre Stubblefield Woodlots Nature Preserve, which consists of two tracts (5.22 acres and 6.49 acres) that are not adjacent, but separated from

each other by about 90 feet. The James Stubblefield nature preserve addition is adjacent to both of these tracts, and would connect the two initial tracts, establishing the Stubblefield Woodlots Nature Preserve as one contiguous preserve. The preserve and the proposed addition are 1 in McLean County. All of the current preserve and the proposed addition are grade B mesic upland forest, part of the Funks Grove Natural Area (INAI #721). The 1,005-acre Funks Grove Natural Area is a remnant of a prairie grove (i.e., a wooded area surrounded by prairie) that once encompassed about 3,000 acres, and is located within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. The most obvious and impressive trees are the large sugar maples (*Acer saccharum*), bur oaks (*Quercus macrocarpa*), and black walnuts (*Juglans nigra*). A notable component of this forest is blue ash (*Fraxinus quadrangulata*). Stubblefield Woodlots Nature Preserve is open to the public, although there are no established trails, and none are planned. Management of the site will focus on controlling non-native and invasive species. The Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan and Strategy would be supported by this dedication through the Forest, Land and Water Stewardship, and Invasive Species campaigns. The James Stubblefield addition to Stubblefield Woodlots Nature Preserve was given preliminary approval for dedication at the 226th commission meeting on May 9, 2017 (Resolution # 2387).

Commissioner Thomas asked if the blue ash trees have been affected by the emerald ash borer.

Justin answered that they do not have emerald ash borer taking over but

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Derby Lewis, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of an Addition to Stubblefield Woodlots Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 17 of the Agenda for the 227th Meeting.

(Resolution 2401)

Commissioner Dann read the following:

Resolution in Recognition of
Randy Heidorn

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission wishes to recognize the leadership and contributions of Randy Heidorn upon retirement after 33 years of service as a Natural Heritage Biologist for the Illinois Department of Conservation and for the Commission as Deputy Director for Stewardship, Assistant Director, Acting Director and finally, Director. During his tenure Randy was instrumental in the permanent protection of 156 nature preserves, 5 of which were during his time as a Natural Heritage Biologist; as well as 180 land and water reserves. Randy's contributions include conducting the first forest and bird surveys at what is now Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and leading the Northeastern Illinois Wetland Survey for Endangered and Threatened Birds for eleven years. He was instrumental in the creation of the Illinois Prescribed Fire Act and served as a charter board member of the Illinois Prescribed Fire Council. He served on the board of directors for the Natural Areas Association for 17 years, holding office as Treasurer, Vice President and President. Randy implemented the first stewardship contract and was integral in developing the IDNR stewardship contracting system. Randy's continuing commitment to and advocacy for the Commission's Programs is greatly appreciated while his legacy of land protection and stewardship will continue for generations.

By resolution of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, September 12, 2017.

(Resolution 2402)

Commissioner Dann commented that it is one career in conservation in which we can all be proud of and he is grateful to Randy for his leadership.

227-18) Kane Co. – Bliss Woods Nature Preserve, Supplemental Remedial Action Plan

Valerie Njapa explained the need for a Supplemental Remedial Action Plan (Supplemental RAP) pursuant to a Consent Order filed on January 27, 2015 in the Circuit Court for the 16th Judicial Circuit, Kane County, Illinois (with First Modification filed on September 20, 2016). Parties to the Consent Order include the People of the State of Illinois, Attorney General of the State of Illinois, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, Plaintiffs; and the Aurora Sportsmen's Club (ASC), Defendant. Completion of the Supplemental RAP by the ASC is a requirement of the Consent Order and is intended to address residual lead impacts at Bliss Woods Nature Preserve and Bliss Woods Forest Preserve, both owned by the Forest Preserve District of Kane County. The lead contamination was caused by the operation of a gun club on property adjacent to Bliss Woods. Three areas of concern have been identified within Bliss Woods. Of the two areas requiring active remediation to comply with the Consent Order, one is located within Bliss Woods Nature Preserve.

Commissioner Derby Lewis asked why permitting was allowed for a gun range next to a nature preserve. She also asked if there is ability to increase civil penalties since it took about eight years to recap \$15,000 for cost of remediation, which seems low if that included staff time.

Valerie agreed with Commissioner Derby Lewis on the amount of the penalty. She answered that she couldn't speak to the permitting process of the gun club.

Commissioner Derby Lewis asked that it was a nature preserve before there was a gun club.

Valerie answered the nature preserve was dedicated about the time attention was given to operation of the shooting range and that she couldn't answer all of Commissioner Derby Lewis' questions now. Valerie agreed that the penalties seem low and indicated that the financial resources of the responsible party played a factor in what was negotiated in terms of penalty fees with the realization that the remediation would be very costly. She did not know yet what the cost of remediation would be. None of the work has been done and they are in the process of getting an Army Corps of Engineer permit because of the forested wetland area has a hydrological connection to Blackberry Creek. The most significant contamination is within an area that Blackberry Creek runs through. She also indicated it was her understanding that IEPA was not actively involved and that it took a couple of years to engage them and pursue action in conjunction with IDNR in referring to the Attorney General's office. Valerie indicated that the penalties were negotiated before she became involved and did not think there was any recourse for penalties since the consent order had already been approved and entered in to the court.

Commissioner Dann asked what choice we have but to approve even if we do not agree.

Commissioner Daubach asked if the Commission approved the consent order or approve the process leading to the consent order.

Valerie answered yes. The consent order was finalized when Randy was still involved and it went through his approval. She indicated this is something that might not typically come before the Commission for approval but because we do not have a Director, INPC staff felt more comfortable seeking approval by the Commission of the Supplemental Remedial Action Plan to clearly comply with the terms of the consent order.

Commissioner Daubach commented that her records indicated that this has been in earlier defense reports and is not the first time we have had reports on this. She stated that it nice to finally see action taken to fix it but it would be more comforting to see greater penalties. She asked if the Aurora Sportsmans Club still owns the property.

Valerie answered no.

Commissioner Daubach asked if the new landowner has had to assume much of the costs.

Valerie answered that the current owner is responsible for remedial action that will take place on the former gun club property.

Commissioner Daubach commented that would be very expensive and asked if the money IDNR received is from the penalties would be used.

Valerie agreed and answered that IDNR just received the penalty fee and the Aurora Sportsmans Club would be responsible for all costs associated with the remedial action plan implementation and subsequent restoration activities that will be required for the Forest Preserve property and Nature Preserve property.

Commissioner Covington commented, referring to Commissioner Derby Lewis' question, that it is a question of local zoning and there is no permitting process for a gun club. They are not entitled to deposit lead off of their property and was the trespass that they committed. He also asked what kind of monitoring would be done and how long would it continue.

Valerie answered that the monitoring would be for a period of three years. This is why the new deadline extension date goes to 2022 so there would be time to get the Army Corps of Engineers permit which each landowner will need to have. The landowner of the former gun club property is cooperating and coordinating with Mostardi Platt and the Aurora Sportsman's Club to complete remediation of the forested wetland area. Staging of heavy equipment will happen on the former gun club property to minimize impacts to the nature preserve. The three years of monitoring will include restoration activities determined to be needed by INPC staff, Steve Byers, and Forest Preserve District of Kane County staff.

Commissioner Thomas asked if removal is required at 400 milligrams per kilogram.

Valerie answered that the Consent Order requires it.

Commissioner Thomas suggested that in the future maybe the Commission be included on discussions and giving input on alternatives for remediation.

Valerie answered that we have that thought process. She indicated that the Forest Preserve has marked certain trees that they do not want removed and some plant rescue before the soil is removed in certain areas.

Commissioner Daubach asked if the Forest Preserve District of Kane County could share their results, follow-up and studies in the remediation with the Commission.

Valerie answered she would be happy to share more information as she gathers it in a couple years.

It was moved by Commissioner Daubach, seconded by Commissioner Covington, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants approval for the Supplemental Remedial Action Plan for Bliss Woods Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 18 of the Agenda for the 227th Meeting.

(Resolution 2403)

227-19) Election of INPC Officers

Commissioner Thomas requested the approval for the slate of nominated officers described under Item 8C of the Agenda for the 227th Meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Daubach, that the following remain as officers to the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission: Donnie Dann, Chair; George Covington, Vice Chair; and Abigail Derby Lewis, Secretary.

(Resolution 2404)

227-20) Election of INPC Advisors and Consultants

Commissioner Thomas asked for a motion to elect the slate of advisors and consultants nominated under Items 8A & 8B of the Agenda for the 227th Meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Covington, seconded by Commissioner Daubach, that in addition to statutory advisors that Dr. Richard Berg, Dr. Thomas E. Emerson, Joyce Hoffman, Heidi Brown-McCreery, Dr. Kevin O'Brien and Dr. Mark Ryan, be elected as Advisors; and that Gerald Adelman, Jill Allread, Michelle Carr, Harry Drucker, Kenneth Fiske, Fran Harty, Randy R. Heidorn, Kerry Leigh, Jill Riddell, Lauren Rosenthal, Bruce Ross-Shannon, Joseph Roth, John Schwegman, Valerie Spale and John White, be elected as Consultants to the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.

(Resolution 2405)

227-21) Review of Closed meeting minutes

Tom Lerczak reported he spoke to Connie Waggoner of IDNR's Office of Realty and Environmental Planning and requested that the closed meeting minutes remain closed.

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Commissioners are to review the closed minutes at least twice a year to determine if they must still 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; and September 10, 2013.

It was moved by Commissioner Daubach, seconded by Commissioner Covington, the following resolution be approved:

The Commission agreed that the closed meeting minutes from August 2, 2005; May 2, 2006; May 6, 2008; May 5, 2009; May 7, 2013; and September 10, 2013, remain closed, as described in the proposal presented under Item 16 of the Agenda for the 227th Meeting.

(Resolution 2406)

227-22) Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

No Public Comments.

227-23) Other Business

Commissioner McClain asked if there was any recent information on the Btk at Starved Rock.

Kelly Neal answered that no reports have been received from the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

227-24) Adjournment

Commissioner Thomas motioned to adjourn. It was seconded by Commissioner Stone and approved. The INPC adjourned at 2:14 PM.