

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION

Minutes of the 231st Meeting
(Subject to approval at the 232nd Meeting)

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Lake Level Conference Rooms A, B & C
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702

January 29, 2019

231-1) **Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees**

Commissioner Covington called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and Valerie Njapa read the roll call.

Commissioners Present: George Covington, William McClain, Charles Ruffner, David Thomas, Pen Daubach, Deborah Stone, Jo-Elle Mogerma, Abigail Derby Lewis

Commissioner Dann participated via phone until it became difficult to keep him connected.

Commission Advisors Present: Joyce Hofmann, Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board

Commission Consultants Present: John White, Ecological Services; Jim Herkert, Illinois Audubon Society (IAS); Fran Harty, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Others Present: Marni English, John Nelson, Steven Byers, Valerie Njapa, Kelly Neal, Angella Moorehouse, Heather Osborn, Kim Roman, Kevin Sierzega, Debbie Newman John Griesbaum, Byron Paulsen and Sami Childerson, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC); Ann Holtrop, Todd Strole, Morgan Walder, Christina Feng, Sean MacDonald, Leon Hinz, Leigh Ann Henline, Sandra Yost, Nick Steijn, Beth Weber, Eric Smith, John Wilker, Bridget Henning, Michelle Simone, Russell Blogg, IDNR Division of Natural Heritage (DNH); Jeannie Barnes, Emily Feng, Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS); Chris Young, Tammy Miller, IDNR Private Lands (ORC); Connie Waggoner, IDNR Office of Realty and Capital Planning (ORCP); Dawn Cobb, IDNR Consultation Section; Tammy Miller, IDNR ORC Private Lands; Julie Paschal, Nicor Gas; Kara Wry, Burns & McDonnell; Chip O'Leary, Forest Preserves of Cook County; Gertie and Bob Eshom; Nancy Williamson; Curtis and Chris Simonson; Dawn and John Swanson; Laurie Simonson Cunniff and Ryne Cunniff; Barbara White; Michael and Carrie Jennings; Carl Daubach; Roger Berdles; Bob Edgin

231-2) **Adoption of Agenda**

Approved after Item 3

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

231-3) **Approval of Minutes for the 230th Meeting, September 11, 2018**

Commissioner Covington asked for a motion and approval of the 230th Meeting minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Ruffner, seconded by Commissioner Daubach, and carried that the minutes from the 230th Meeting be approved.

Commissioner Covington read the following:

At the 230th Meeting of the INPC, held on September 11, 2018, at The Cache River Wetlands Center, Cypress, Illinois, legal protection was completed by the Commission for 4 tracts of land totaling 319.33 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 Sangamon Bottoms Land and Water Reserve; Zoeller Farm Land and Water Reserve; an addition to Cecil White Prairie Land and Water reserve; and an addition to Liberty Prairie Nature Preserve

Protection of these lands came about because the Commission had nine staff in the field working with private and public landowners. There are 391 dedicated nature preserves totaling 59,254 acres; and there are 189 land and water reserves totaling 53,309 acres.

231-4) **Next meeting dates and locations**

May 14, 2019	Crystal Lake Park District, Crystal Lake, IL
September 10, 2019	Douglas-Hart Nature Center, Mattoon, IL

231-5) **INPC Staff Report**

APPENDIX I

Valerie Njapa presented the INPC staff report.

231-6) **IDNR Staff Report**

APPENDIX II & III

Ann Holtrop, Chief of the Division of Natural Heritage reported. See attached **Appendix II**.

Commissioner Covington asked if Director Rosenthal was still present at the IDNR.

Chief Holtrop answered that he was still functioning as the Director.

Commissioner Stone asked when the Commission would see something in writing regarding the reorganization of INPC.

Chief Holtrop answered that the discussions were not at that stage yet or a timeframe worked out with Central Management Services (CMS).

Commissioner Thomas asked if there were plans to keep working towards the connectivity of the Cache River Wetlands SNA and hydrology.

Chief Holtrop answered that they are continuing to work with the drainage districts in the Cache River area to improve hydrology there. There is not a management plan for the new parcel but it is being worked on. She indicated she would have an update at the next meeting.

Chief Holtrop introduced Connie Waggoner, Assistant Director of the Office of Realty and Capital Planning, who reported on IDNR land acquisitions. See attached **Appendix III**.

Commissioner McClain asked how many acres were owned by IDNR in the Cache River area.

Ms. Waggoner answered she would get those acres and provide them.

231-7) **Endangered Species Protection Board Staff Report**

APPENDIX IV

Dr. Joyce Hofmann reported.

Commissioner Derby Lewis asked what the pattern was for the species being shifted from threatened to endangered.

Dr. Hofmann answered that it was the experts on the Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee (ESTAC) looking at the population trends and some species listed as threatened but should have been listed as endangered.

231-8) **Adams Co. – Allendale Spring Land and Water Reserve, Registration**

Heather Osborn requested to present Item 19 following item 8 and it was approved.

Heather Osborn, on behalf of Edward Behrensmeyer, requested registration of 20.01-acres as the Allendale Spring Land and Water Reserve. The site lies on the border of the Western Forest-Prairie Division, in the Galesburg Section and the Middle Mississippi Border Division, in the Glaciated Section, and contains moderate quality dry mesic woods and a stream that contributes to Pigeon Creek. This site is within the Mississippi River Conservation Opportunity Area identified by the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP), and supports two endangered species of bats (Indiana bat, *Myotis sodalis*, and Northern long-eared bat, *Myotis septentrionalis*), and at least five Species in Greatest Need of Conservation. Protection and management of this reserve will help meet the goals of two IWAP campaigns: Forest and Woodlands, and Streams. Reserved rights: ATV access, primitive camping, harvesting of maple syrup, turkey and mushroom hunting. There will be no public access.

Commissioner Daubach asked how many approximate acres Mr. Behrensmeyer owns in the area.

Heather answered that Mr. Behrensmeyer owns approximately 430 acres.

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

The Commission grants approval for the registration of Allendale Spring as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 8 of the agenda for the 231st meeting.

(Resolution 2442)

230-19) **Adams Co. – Allendale Spring Nature Preserve, Dedication**

Heather Osborn, on behalf of Edward Behrensmeyer, requested the dedication of 2.27 acres as the Allendale Spring Nature Preserve. This site is located in southern Adams County in the Galesburg Section of the Middle Mississippi Border Natural Division. The site is not presently listed on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory but it qualifies as a Category II site for suitable habitat supporting two 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 a least five Species in Greatest Need of Conservation as defined by the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). Protection and management of the site will serve to help fulfill goals within both the Forest and Woodland and Streams IWAP campaigns.

Commissioner McClain asked if there was any evidence to support the former existence of prairie instead of woodland where the hayfield exists.

Angella Moorehouse answered that it has been looked at restoring as a prairie or woodland has been looked at but restoring as a prairie would be easier to help keep out invasive plant species.

Commissioner Daubach asked what the landowner was most interested in doing in terms of the hayfield.

Angella answered that he has goats on it now and would like to keep them. They are doing no harm and without the resources to restore it at this time, burning it would be the most economical way to manage the hayfield.

Commissioner Daubach agreed and would be more concerned if the landowner wanted to transform the hayfield.

Angella commented that the landowner is very willing and open to suggestions.

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

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of Allendale Spring Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 19 of the Agenda for the 231st meeting.

(Resolution 2443)

231-9) **JoDaviess Co. – Oneota Addition to Wapello Land and Water Reserve, Registration**

John Nelson, on behalf of the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JDCF), requested registration of 160.22 acres as the Oneota Addition to Wapello Land and Water Reserve. The proposed Oneota Addition is in the Wisconsin Driftless Natural Division and will protect significant Native American cultural resources. It will also protect an approximately 1.2-mile segment of the west half of the Apple River Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Site (INAI #1647). This INAI site was recognized in 2003 by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) as a Category II site providing suitable habitat for one state-threatened animal species. The INAI also designates this same portion of the Apple River as a Category VI site as a high-quality mussel stream segment. The preservation of Native American cultural resources at the original Wapello Reserve was the first time such features were used to justify inclusion of a property into the Illinois Nature Preserves System (2006). Since that time, the JDCF has established itself as the leading non-profit conservation organization in Illinois that protects unique Native American cultural resources, while restoring and re-creating native wildlife habitats. If approved, the total area of land protected at the Wapello Land and Water Reserve will increase to 333.67 acres.

Commissioner Thomas asked if there were any management strategies for the river and its banks.

John answered there was not other than combating Japanese knot weed. By taking the farmland out of production and converting it to prairie, soil erosion will be reduced which will help maintain and improve water quality.

Commissioner Derby Lewis asked what participation and interest by the Ho-chunk Nation there would be by involving them in conversation.

John answered that it was important for the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation to reach out to the Ho-chunk Nation Representatives to come visit the sites in case there are ancestral connections to the land.

Commissioner Covington asked about permit guidelines if the University wanted to do research.

John answered that they would go through the Special Use Permit application process which is reviewed by Kelly Neal and would have to be approved by the JoDaviess Conservation Foundation. He explained there are strict guidelines in the management plan to explain what is allowed.

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

The Commission grants approval for the registration of the Oneota Addition to Wapello Land and Water Reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 9 of the agenda for the 231st meeting.

(Resolution 2444)

231-10) **Kankakee Co. – Additions to Sweet Fern Savanna Land and Water Reserve, Registration**

Kim Roman, on behalf of Dr. Marianne Hahn, requested registration for additions to Sweet Fern Savanna, located in the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. Sweet Fern Savanna was originally registered by Dr. Marianne Hahn as a land and water reserve in 2001, and was 62 acres in size. Subsequent additions to the land and water reserve, registered by both Dr. Hahn and the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (occurring in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2018), have increased the size of the land and water reserve to approximately 163 acres. Sweet Fern Savanna Land and Water Reserve is recognized on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI # 1581) for its high-quality dry-mesic sand savanna and for the habitat it provides for 15 state-threatened or endangered plants, and the state-threatened bird, reptile, and butterfly. Sweet Fern Savanna also provides habitat for an additional 5 insect species and 15 vertebrate Species in Greatest Need of Conservation. This proposal is for the registration of two lots totaling 3.3 acres comprised of Grade C dry-mesic sand savanna and a former agricultural field as additions to Sweet Fern Savanna. The registration of these additions will provide habitat for many Species in Greatest Need of Conservation, protect known occurrences of the state-endangered primrose violet (*Viola primulifolia*), buffer high-quality natural communities, and promote more efficient management of the land and water reserve. Allowable uses are consistent with previous registrations, and management activities will target the maintenance of the unique features for which the site was originally registered.

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

The Commission grants approval for the registration of the additions to Sweet Fern Savanna Land and Water Reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 10 of the agenda for the 231st meeting.

(Resolution 2445)

231-11) **LaSalle Co. – Curt & Helen Simonson Land and Water Reserve, Registration**

Kim Roman, on behalf of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), requested approval for the registration of 51.5 acres as the Curt and Helen Simonson Land and Water Reserve. The IDNR acquired this property from the Simonson Family which is immediately adjacent to Starved Rock Nature Preserve in LaSalle County and in the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. The property has been in the Simonson Family for five generations, and the IDNR is honoring them by registering and naming its Starved Rock State Park acquisition the “Curt and Helen Simonson Land and Water Reserve” (Simonson LWR). This site was operated as a family campground for 50 years, and includes many significant features, including a canyon and stream, sandstone bluffs, habitat for the state-endangered red-berried elder (*Sambucus racemosa* subsp. *pubens*), significant archaeological resources, and adjacency to Starved Rock Nature Preserve. It also is likely to benefit 21 wildlife Species in Greatest Need of Conservation, identified in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan. The Simonson LWR is open to the public. Its uses and management will be consistent with the long-term preservation of the site’s unique natural and cultural resources. It is a key conservation holding in the Starved Rock State Park complex, promoting good preserve design for the nature preserve. It is therefore the recommendation of the proposal’s authors that the Curt and Helen Simonson Land and Water Reserve be approved by the

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. Reserved rights include trails, fencing, picnic tables, shelters and parking expansion.

Commissioner McClain asked if the leatherwood shrub exists at this site.

Kim asked Russell Blogg, DHB, who thought it does.

Randy Heidorn commented that this was an ongoing project when he was still with the INPC and thanked the Simonsons for their efforts to protect this site, as well as all of the INPC staff and IDNR to meet this commitment to the Simonsons.

Commissioner Derby Lewis asked if there were any thoughts of an expanded hiking trail system to connect to this site and the new acquisition with Matthiessen and Starved Rock State Parks.

Kim answered that it has been discussed and referred to Russell Blogg.

Russell commented that there has been discussion of connecting them but nothing final at this time.

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

The Commission grants approval for the registration of Curt and Helen Simonson Land and Water Reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 11 of the Agenda for the 231st meeting.

(Resolution 2446)

Curt Simonson commented that this is a special place that will now forever be protected and thanked the Commission, especially Kim Roman and Connie Waggoner.

Applause.

Commissioner Covington thanked Mr. Simonson and commented that it is family like his that makes the Commissioners' jobs so much more rewarding and easier.

231-12) **Ogle Co. – Sand Farm Land and Water Reserve, Registration**

John Nelson, on behalf of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), requested registration of 72.0 acres as the Sand Farm Land and Water Reserve, located in the Oregon Section of the Rock River Hill Country Natural Division. The proposed reserve provides important grassland habitat in close association with the much larger Nachusa Grasslands complex (~3,100 acres) that is owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). This grassland complex consists of prairie remnants, restorations, and reconstructions. It is one of the largest grassland sites in Illinois and is the first site east of the Mississippi River to reintroduce a “free roaming” bison herd to a tallgrass prairie ecosystem. The area proposed for registration is adjacent to the Nachusa Grasslands Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI #0685) which encompasses over 5,000 acres of natural communities and agricultural lands. This INAI site is recognized for its numerous high-quality relict natural communities, extensive grassland habitat, and suitable habitat

for several state-listed plants and animals. The proposed reserve consists of 72 acres of reconstructed grasslands. This acreage is below the 80-acre minimum recommended for a grassland to be eligible for registration. However, this 72-acre grassland is connected to a much larger grassland complex. Reserved rights are research, bison grazing, prairie seed harvesting using machines, hunting and public access.

Commissioner Thomas commented that one of the strategies the TNC has been promoting is developing corridors connecting the natural areas and making them more resilient to climate change. This site is a great area and fits with TNC's more global priorities and provides better opportunities for plant and animal species.

John commented that IDNR has a huge investment in the number of acres it owns and TNC is rising to that same level.

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

The Commission grants approval for the registration of Sand Farm Land and Water Reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 12 of the Agenda for the 231st meeting.
(Resolution 2447)

231-13) **Cook Co. – Addition to Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve, Dedication**

Steve Byers, on behalf of the Forest Preserves of Cook County, requested preliminary approval for dedication of 100 acres of the Thornton-Lansing Road Forest Preserve as a nature preserve addition to the 340-acre Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve. Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission's 4th Meeting in September 1964 and was granted final approval for dedication in January 1965 as the 12th Illinois Nature Preserve. The proposed addition lies within the Thornton-Lansing Road INAI site (INAI # 096) and includes Grade C dry-mesic sand savanna, Grade A and Grade C mesic and wet-mesic sand prairie, Grade B sedge meadow, and Grade C sand flatwoods. Of the 18 State-listed plant species recorded from Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve, at least two have been recorded from the proposed addition. Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in the southern part of Cook County, Illinois. Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve (340 acres), together with the proposed 100-acre addition, Jurgensen Woods Nature Preserve (120 acres), and the proposed Wampum Lake Nature Preserve (380 acres) totals 940 acres. Embedded within the proposed nature preserve addition are two sites (11CK426 and 11CK04) that are associated with the "Hoxie Farm Complex" archaeological site that extends into the proposed Wampum Lake Nature Preserve. In addition, five other sites of archaeological significance are known from the proposed addition, one of which (11CK550) may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Protection of this 100-acre nature preserve addition to Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve supports several elements of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). Additionally, the site provides suitable nesting habitat for four bird species and one amphibian identified in the IWAP as Species in Greatest Need of Conservation. The proposed addition to Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve encompasses virtually the entire balance of the Thornton-Lansing Road INAI site. Protection of the 100-acre nature preserve addition to Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve is consistent with the recommendations of the Natural and Cultural

Resources Master Plan for the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the IWAP. The Forest Preserves of Cook County do reserve the right to continue to restore natural communities (as has been approved at Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve) through removal of invasive canopy and sub-canopy trees and shrubs. INPC staff acknowledges the long-term interest and support of the Forest Preserves of Cook County, especially Toni Preckwinkle and Arnold Randall. Daniel Spencer, Chip O’Leary, and John McCabe of the Forest Preserves provided useful information critical to the preparation of the proposal and review of the document.

Commissioner Stone recused herself from voting since she works for Cook County.

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

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of an addition to Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 13 of the Agenda for the 231st meeting.

(Resolution 2448)

231-14) **Cook Co. – Wampum Lake Nature Preserve, Dedication**

Steve Byers, on behalf of the Forest Preserves of Cook County, requested preliminary approval for dedication of 380 acres of the 412-acre Wampum Lake Forest Preserve as the Wampum Lake Nature Preserve. Wampum Lake was included on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI # 094) in recognition of Grade B sand seep and Grade A eroding bluff natural communities. The site also supports a Grade C freshwater marsh, Grade C dry-mesic sand savanna, Grade C wet floodplain forest, and a low-gradient stream. The proposed Wampum Lake Nature Preserve also supports four State-listed plant species. The proposed Wampum Lake Nature Preserve is located in the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in the southern part of Cook County, Illinois. The proposed nature preserve, together with nearby Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve and its proposed addition, and Jurgensen Woods Nature Preserve, totals 940 acres. Embedded within the proposed nature preserve and nearby Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve are several outstanding cultural resources, one of which (11CK4 – Hoxie Farm Site) is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. To date, 24 sites of archaeological significance have been recorded from the proposed nature preserve. Paula Porubcan with the Illinois State Archaeological Survey has stated that its significance “cannot be overstated”. She noted that there is well-documented evidence of continuous human occupation dating back to the Archaic period (from 8,000 to 1,000 B.C.). Outstanding features of this site include the presence of a “fortified village” (dating from 1,300 to 1,500 AD) consisting of a wooden palisade and a series of excavated ditches and the nearly 2000 features (houses, pits, burial sites, hearths, ceramic vessels, stone tools, copper items, and an assemblage of floral and faunal remains) recorded from the site. Protection of Wampum Lake as an Illinois nature preserve supports several elements of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). Additionally, the site provides suitable nesting habitat for four bird species identified in the IWAP as Species in Greatest Need of Conservation. The proposed Wampum Lake Nature Preserve encompasses the entire Wampum Lake Seepage Area INAI site and a portion of the Thornton-Lansing Road INAI site. Most notably, the sand seepage areas at this site represent virtually all of the 9.7 acres of the high-quality sand seeps reported by the INAI. Protection of Wampum Lake as part of the Illinois Nature Preserves System is consistent with the recommendations of the Natural and Cultural

Resources Master Plan for the Forest Preserves of Cook County and the IWAP. The Forest Preserves of Cook County do reserve the right to continue to restore natural communities (as has been approved at Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve) through removal of invasive canopy and sub-canopy trees and shrubs. INPC staff acknowledges the long-term interest and support of the Forest Preserves of Cook County, especially Toni Preckwinkle and Arnold Randall. Daniel Spencer, Chip O’Leary, and John McCabe of the Forest Preserves provided useful information critical to the preparation of the proposal and review of the document.

Commissioner Stone recused herself from voting since she works for Cook County.

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

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of Wampum Lake Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 14 of the Agenda for the 231st meeting.

(Resolution 2449)

Commissioner Covington expressed his gratitude, on behalf of the Commission, to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and their President, Toni Preckwinkle.

Chip O’Leary, Forest Preserve District of Cook County, thanked the Commission for considering this site since it has an unusual design.

Break for lunch from 12:25 to 12:55.

231-15) **Henderson Co. – Ellison Creek Sand Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication**

Angella Moorehouse, on behalf of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, requested preliminary approval for dedication of the 40-acre Ellison Creek Sand Prairie. The site lies within the Mississippi River Section of the Illinois River and Mississippi River Sand Area Natural Division of Illinois and contains moderate quality sand prairie and sand savanna communities with a relatively large population of the state-endangered large-flowered beard tongue (*Penstemon grandiflora*). Located 2.5 miles east of the Mississippi River, the site is within the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Opportunity Area identified by the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP) and supports at least four wildlife Species in Greatest Need of Conservation. Protection and management of this preserve will help meet the goals of multiple IWAP campaigns including: Farm and Grassland, Forest and Woodlands, Streams, Land and Water Stewardship, and Invasive Species.

Commissioner Thomas asked if burn strategies change because of the unique insects at this site.

Angella answered that only half would be burnt in order to not disturb all plant nesting insects.

Commissioner Derby Lewis asked if pollinator surveys would become a standard practice at sites.

Angella answered that she would pick six sites a year and do a four to five-year rotation for pollinator surveys.

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

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of Ellison Creek Sand Prairie Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 15 of the Agenda for the 231st meeting.

(Resolution 2450)

230-16) **Livingston Co. – English Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication**

Kim Roman, on behalf of Donath and Beverly English, requested the preliminary approval for the dedication of English Prairie Nature Preserve. This site lies in the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois, just south of Kempton. The prairie is one-half acre in size, and is included on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) due to its Grade A prairie. English Prairie was enrolled as a Natural Heritage Landmark in 1984, and has been regularly burned by the Englishes since that time. It has retained its very high quality over the decades, and is one of the best examples of mesic prairie in Illinois. The English Family wishes to permanently protect English Prairie as a dedicated Illinois nature preserve for future generations.

Jack White explained to the Commissioners his research of English Prairie.

Commissioner Daubach asked if any bacterial or fungal studies of the soil been done.

Jack White answered there had not been any studies of the soil microflora.

Commissioner Daubach asked if it was a study Jack would recommend or extend his study to that level.

Jack answered that it would be terrific!

Commissioner McClain asked what it is that is keeping this community stable.

Jack answered that he felt that this prairie has had no disturbance in the past.

Commissioner Derby Lewis commented that Jack's research is exactly the kind of work that is a critical component that needs to be done to learn about system structure and functionality in order to have evidence-based strategies for management in the long term.

Commissioner Daubach commented that she would be interested to see Jack's research continue and even see reports on his research. She felt that it was vital for the research to continue.

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

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of English Prairie Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 16 of the Agenda for the 231st meeting.

230-17) **McHenry Co. – Alden Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve, Dedication**

Steve Byers, on behalf of the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD), requested preliminary approval for dedication of 301.6 acres of the 958.6-acre Alden Sedge Meadow/Winding Creek macrosite as Alden Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve. Alden Sedge Meadow was included on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI # 1262) in recognition of Grade A and B graminoid fen, Grade B sedge meadow, Grade B pond, Grade B low-gradient stream, and Grade C freshwater marsh. MCCD also recognizes the presence of Grade A wet mesic prairie, Grade A calcareous seep, Grade C dry-mesic savanna, and an old field cultural community. The proposed Alden Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve also encompasses a short length of the Nippersink Creek INAI site (INAI # 1506). Four State-listed plant species and one State-listed animal species have been recorded from the proposed nature preserve (INAI # 1262). MCCD has also reported the presence of three additional State-listed animal species from the proposed nature preserve. In addition to these species, two State-listed fish species have been reported from Nippersink Creek. The proposed Alden Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in the northern part of McHenry County, Illinois. Although sites of archaeological significance are located nearby, none have been reported from the proposed nature preserve. To date, MCCD staff have recorded 87 species of birds, 5 species of mammals, 15 species of amphibians and reptiles, 20 species of fish, 6 species of mussels, 23 species of dragonflies and damselflies, 31 species of butterflies, and an undetermined number of aquatic invertebrates from the proposed Alden Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve. Protection of Alden Sedge Meadow as an Illinois nature preserve supports elements of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). Additionally, the site provides suitable nesting habitat for 27 species of wildlife identified in the IWAP as Species in Greatest Need of Conservation and include 17 birds, two reptiles, three fish, two mussels and three butterflies. Protection of the 301.6-acre Alden Sedge Meadow as an Illinois nature preserve is consistent with a resolution adopted by the MCCD Board of Directors in May 2018 (Resolution # 18-15) to move forward with dedication of a number of sites. Additionally, dedication of the proposed nature preserve will protect the vast majority of the Alden Sedge Meadow INAI site and supports several elements of the IWAP. MCCD reserves the right to conduct a master planning process to determine appropriate public access and recreational opportunities with the approval of INPC. The proposed Alden Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve lies within the footprint of one of the core areas identified for Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge. INPC staff acknowledges the support of the Board of Directors and staff of MCCD, especially Elizabeth Kessler, Ed Collins, Laurie Ryan, Cindy Rendl, and Gail Brown.

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

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of Allen Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 17 of the Agenda for the 231st meeting.

(Resolution 2452)

230-18) **Monroe Co. – Milles Fleurs Nature Preserve, Dedication**

Debbie Newman, on behalf of Penelope P. and D. Carl Daubach, requested preliminary approval for dedication of Milles Fleurs Nature Preserve (NP). The site is 12 acres and is located in southwestern Illinois' Sinkhole Plain located in the Northern Section of the Ozark Natural Division. The site is within the 545-acre Sutterville Sinkhole Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) site (#1966). The proposed preserve contains eight acres of dry-mesic upland forest, with numerous sinkholes and sinkhole ponds, and four acres of old field in successional restoration. The site contains breeding populations of the state-threatened reptile and the state-threatened bird. Besides protecting the two listed species, the proposed Milles Fleurs NP harbors breeding populations of Species in Greatest Need of Conservation (SGNC) listed in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP), including wood frog (*Lithobates sylvatica*), pickerel frog (*Lithobates palustris*), Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*), Kentucky warbler (*Oporonis formosus*), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), and bobcat (*Lynx rufus*). The site supports several campaigns identified in the IWAP, including the Farmland and Prairies Campaign, the Forests Campaign, the Invasive Species Campaign, and the Land & Water Stewardship Campaign. The site is located within IWAP's Karst Conservation Opportunity Area, and the Southwestern Illinois Wildlife Action Plan partnership area. The Daubachs are long-time conservationists and have owned the property for 17 years, working to improve the ecological value of the site and to protect the resources, including the listed species using the proposed preserve.

Commissioner Daubach recused herself from voting.

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

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of Milles Fleurs Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 18 of the Agenda for the 231st meeting.

(Resolution 2453)

230-20) **Monroe Co. – Eagle Cliff Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication**

Debbie Newman, on behalf of Monroe County, requested the dedication of 1.08 acres as the Eagle Cliff Prairie Nature Preserve (NP) and Nature Preserve Buffer. The site is comprised of 0.83 acres of Grade A loess hill prairie and an approximately 0.25-acre access road. There is a small section of Grade A cliff associated with the hill prairie. The site contains a listed species, the state-threatened sand prairie flat sedge (*Cyperus grayoides*). The proposed preserve includes more than half of the main Grade A loess hill prairie in the 89-acre Miles Prairie Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (#202) located in the Northern Section of the Ozark Natural Division. Besides protecting the loess hill prairie and limestone glade natural communities and a state-listed species, dedication of the proposed Eagle Cliff Prairie NP supports several campaigns identified in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP), including the Farmland and Prairies Campaign, the Invasive Species Campaign, and the Land & Water Stewardship Campaign. The site is located within IWAP's Bluff Corridor Conservation Opportunity Area, and the Southwestern Illinois Wildlife Action Plan partnership area. The proposed preserve is part of a 25-mile corridor of numerous preserved lands in the bluffs of Monroe and Randolph Counties. The site is adjacent to the historic

Miles Cemetery. The proposed 0.25-acre buffer access road travels through cemetery property to the prairie.

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

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of Eagle Cliff Prairie Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 20 of the Agenda for the 231st meeting.

(Resolution 2454)

230-21) **Monroe Co. – Renault Karst Nature Preserve, Dedication**

Debbie Newman, on behalf of Robert Eshom requested the dedication of 28.71 acres as the Renault Karst Nature Preserve (NP) and Nature Preserve Buffer. The site is located in the heart of southwestern Illinois' Sinkhole Plain karst region, and is part of the Collier Springs Recharge Area and the area defined by karst/cave biologists and geologists as the Renault Karst. The site is located approximately 600 feet from the current boundary of the 10,467-acre Renault Karst Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) site (#1597). The site contains one documented, small cave known as Skylight Cave, which dead-ends on the property. The Collier Spring Recharge Area, however, is hydrologically connected to the Fogelpole Cave system, Illinois' largest and most biologically diverse cave system, listed in the INAI as having Grade A, B, and C terrestrial cave communities and a Grade B aquatic cave community. The Fogelpole Cave system, along with the other large cave systems in the Renault Karst INAI site (Illinois Caverns, Dry-Run Cave), contain populations of the federally and state-endangered Illinois cave amphipod (*Gammarus acherondytes*), and Fogelpole contains large populations of the federally and state-endangered Indiana bat, (*Myotis sodalis*) and gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), and the federally and state-threatened Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), as well as a host of globally rare cave invertebrates. One of the main entrances to Fogelpole Cave is located one mile from the proposed Renault Karst NP, making the proposed preserve likely used as summer roost/maternity habitat of two of the listed bat species. The site is located in the Northern Section of the Ozark Natural Division and supports several campaigns identified in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP), including the Forests Campaign, the Invasive Species Campaign, and the Land & Water Stewardship Campaign. The site is located within IWAP's Karst Conservation Opportunity Area, and the Southwestern Illinois Wildlife Action Plan partnership area. The proposed preserve is located in between and 1-3 miles from over 2300 acres of protected or conservation-managed lands. The proposed preserve consists of approximately 22 acres of mature and undisturbed dry-mesic upland forest containing more than 20 sinkholes, and a 7-acre old field. The site contains 26.33 acres being proposed for nature preserve dedication, and 2.38 acres proposed for nature preserve buffer. Two structures exist on the property, within the proposed buffer; the Instrument of Dedication includes an agreement for eventual removal of the two structures.

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

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of Renault Karst Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 21 of the Agenda for the 231st meeting.

(Resolution 2455)

Bob Eshom, on behalf of his wife and himself, thanked the Commissioners and Debbie Newman.

230-22) **Schuyler Co. - Legal Description Correction for Williams Creek Bluff Land and Water Reserve**

Valerie Njapa requested the correction of the legal description for Williams Creek Bluff Land and Water Reserve. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources received approval for registration of 75.25 acres as the Williams Creek Bluff Land and Water Reserve at the Commission's 183rd meeting (Resolution #1783). The registration agreement was recorded in Schuyler County on August 6, 2004, and this land and water reserve is part of Weinberg-King State Park. Errors in the legal description were discovered during an environmental review for a proposed project in the campground area of the state park in 2017. A working group, including IDNR staff with the Nature Preserves Commission; and Offices of Realty and Capital Planning, Resource Conservation, and Land Management; was organized to review the legal description and determine what corrections were needed. Due to the complexity of the proposed corrections, which include changes in boundary lines and total acreage, approval by the Commission is being sought.

Commissioner Covington asked if surveys are now done prior to all registration and dedications.

Valerie answered that we are having boundary surveys done by professional surveyors.

Commissioner Stone asked if the severely degraded portion of this site was degraded before or after it became a land and water reserve.

Angella Moorehouse answered that it has always been degraded.

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

The Commission grants approval for the legal description correction to Williams Creek Bluff Land and Water Reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 22 of the Agenda for the 231st meeting.

(Resolution 2456)

230-23) **Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board Appointment**

Valerie Njapa requested that Kelly Neal represent the INPC on the Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board (IPBMCB). With Bob Edgin's retirement a new representative is needed. Tom Lerczak recommended that Kelly Neal be appointed as INPC representative to the Board. Kelly has a strong knowledge of prescribed burning as the Stewardship Project Manager and has participated in at least one meeting of the Board.

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

The Commission grants approval of Kelly Neal as the INPC representative to the Illinois Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Board, as described in the proposal presented under Item 23 of the Agenda for the 231st meeting.

(Resolution 2457)

231-24) **Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)**

None.

231-25) **Other Business**

No other business.

231-26) **Adjournment**

Commissioner Ruffner motioned to adjourn. It was seconded by Commissioner Thomas and approved. The INPC adjourned at 2:44 p.m.