

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA
TWO HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH MEETING

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF WILL COUNTY

Four Rivers Environmental Center

Grand Hall

25055 W. Walnut Lane,

Channahon, IL 60410

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

*Documentary Material Enclosed

Item 1: Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

Item 2:* Adoption of Agenda

Item 3:* Approval of Minutes for the Special Meeting, January 27, 2014 and the 216th Meeting, January 28, 2014

Item 4: Next meeting date and location

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

Ballard Nature Center, Altamont, IL

Item 5:* INPC Staff Report

REPORT

Randy Heidorn

Nature Preserves Commission

Item 6: IDNR Staff Report

REPORT

Ann Holtrop

Department of Natural Resources

Item 7: Endangered Species Protection Board Staff Report

REPORT

Anne Mankowski

Endangered Species Protection Board

Item 8:* LaSalle County – Dayton Bluffs Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Dayton Bluffs is a 253-acre site owned by The Conservation Foundation (TCF); it will be co-managed by the landowner and City of Ottawa. It is located in LaSalle County within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. Dayton Bluffs is located along the lower Fox River, an Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI #1444) known for its

high biological quality and for providing habitat for the state-threatened river redhorse (*Moxostoma carinatum*). The proposed Land and Water Reserve is comprised of various Grade C natural communities including, dry-mesic upland forest, mesic upland forest, wet-mesic floodplain forest, and agricultural field. Dayton Bluffs lies within the Lower Fox River Conservation Opportunity Area, as determined by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (2005), and furthermore, Dayton Bluffs is one of 18 significant natural areas identified in IDNR's Native Habitat Inventory of the Lower Fox River (1999). Dayton Bluffs also contains a group of 14 prehistoric mounds, which makes this archaeological site eligible for listing onto the national Register of Historic Places. This site was purchased in 2013 by TCF, will be leased to the City of Ottawa, and is open to the public for passive recreation. Management will focus on maintaining and restoring the wooded communities on site, planting native vegetation in the former agricultural fields, protecting and stabilizing steep slopes and eroding ravines, and promoting nature education and appreciation. Allowable uses and reserved rights include hiking, interpretive signs, viewing platforms, benches, primitive camping and bonfires in designated areas, a canoe landing, deer and turkey hunting, fishing, the creation of a vehicle access lane, water/sewer/electric utilities along access lane, a small parking area, toilet facilities, a picnic shelter, and information kiosk. Also allowed is a new utility easement on the property installed via directional boring under the Fox River and wooded bluffs, and via traditional installation methods in the former agricultural fields on site. Bicycles and horses will be restricted to designated trails, located mostly within the old fields, and prohibited in the wooded bluffs, steep slopes, and ravines. The registration of Dayton Bluffs as a Land and Water Reserve is to help ensure uses and management of the site will be compatible with the long-term preservation of its natural and archaeological features.

REPORT
 Kim Roman
 Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
 Registration Approval

Item 9:* Knox County –Forever Fields Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Pheasants Forever seeks to permanently register 506 acres of former strip mine as Forever Fields Land and Water Reserve to provide protection for a large grassland supporting several species of grassland sensitive breeding birds. Forever Fields is located within northeast Knox County within the Galesburg Section of the Western Forest-Prairie Natural Division. The grasslands provide critical habitat for seven species on the Species in Greatest Need for Conservation (SGNC) list as well as three different species on the Illinois Endangered Species List: Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), and Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). Forever Fields falls into the Grand Prairie State Acres for Wildlife Enrichment (SAFE) focused on creating large areas of treeless grassland for grassland obligate species. The large tract of continuous grassland also accomplishes one of the main objectives of the Farmland and Prairie Campaign identified within the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan.

REPORT
 Jared Ruholl and Angella Moorehouse
 Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
 Registration Approval

Item 10:* Woodford County –Letcher Basin Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The Parklands Foundation seeks approval for permanent registration of 172.4 acres as the Letcher Basin Land and Water Reserve (LWR). Letcher Basin is located within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. It includes four segments (0.06, 0.63, 0.64, and 0.19 miles in length) of the Mackinaw River Natural Area (INAI #788), a grade B, medium-gradient, medium-stream community. The state-threatened mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*) has been recorded at Letcher Basin, as well as ten other Species in Greatest Need of Conservation as recognized in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). Letcher Basin covers a gradient of communities as the landscape rises from the Mackinaw River to grade C dry-mesic upland forest with white oak (*Quercus alba*), red oak (*Q. rubra*), bur oak (*Q. macrocarpa*), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), and shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*). The four stream segments included within the proposed reserve are lined with 28.22 acres of grade C wet-mesic floodplain forest, characterized by silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), and eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*). There is a low lying oxbow with 3.6 acres of grade C wet floodplain forest dominated by sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*). Prior to the ParkLands Foundation acquiring ownership, most of the proposed reserve was under agricultural production; 53 acres have since been restored to grade D mesic prairie, which is dominated by species such as brown-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), gray-headed coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), and Canada wild rye (*Elymus canadensis*); while the rest is currently old field or in agricultural production. The ParkLands Foundation plans to continue their restoration efforts on this remaining area, but cropping on 33.4 acres may continue for as much as ten years unless sufficient restoration funding becomes available first. As part of their mission to preserve, protect, and ecologically restore historic natural lands in the middle and upper Mackinaw Valley watershed, the ParkLands Foundation intends to manage Letcher Basin in concert with their other nearby properties, including Chinquapin Bluffs LWR and Ridgetop Hill Prairie Nature Preserve. Registration of Letcher Basin would support the following IWAP campaigns: Streams, Forests, Farmland and Prairies, Wetlands, Invasive Species, and Land and Water Stewardship.

REPORT

Bridget Henning
Department of Natural Resources
Tom Lerczak
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Registration Approval

Item 11* Lake County –Berkeley Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Lake County Forest Preserve (LCFPD) seeks to dedicate 15.7 acres of the 17.5-acre Berkeley Prairie Forest Preserve as the Berkeley Prairie Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve includes Grade B/C mesic and wet-mesic prairie, Grade C/D dry-mesic savanna, and an old field. Although Berkeley Prairie is not currently included on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI), the site was included on the INAI in 1977 in recognition of extant Grade C mesic prairie. The reason for this site’s removal from the INAI remains unclear. The site supports five State-listed plant species; four known from the IDNR Natural Heritage Database and include the State-endangered queen of the prairie (*Filipendula rubra*) and State-threatened small sundrops (*Oenothera perennis*), slender wheat grass (*Agropyron*

trachycaulum), and golden sedge (*Carex aurea*). The LCFPD recently documented the presence of the State-endangered Kalm's St. John's wort (*Hypericum kalmianum*) at the proposed nature preserve. The proposed nature preserve is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southeastern Lake County, Illinois. The site has been actively managed since 1968 and those efforts have included controlled burning and control of invasive woody and herbaceous species. The LCFPD reserves the right to implement an adaptive management approach to the site and to maintain the existing mown grass trail. A deed restriction held by The Nature Conservancy states that the property "shall forever be held as a nature preserve". Protection and stewardship of Berkeley Prairie as an Illinois Nature Preserve supports several "action" steps identified in the Farmland and Prairie Campaign section of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan (the Plan). Berkeley Prairie Forest Preserve provides habitat for three species identified in the Plan "in greatest need of conservation" and include blue-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), and northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). Dedication of Berkeley Prairie as an Illinois Nature Preserve supports other elements of the Plan that call for "...collaboration among the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, IDNR, and other agencies, organizations, and institutions on recovery plans and actions for rare and declining species."

REPORT

Jim Anderson and Ken Klick
 Lake County Forest Preserve District

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 12* Lake County –Buffer Addition to Hybernia Nature Preserve, Dedication

Georgene Gullicksen, A.P. Properties, The Goldie House Trust, and Hybernia Area Homeowners Association seek preliminary approval for dedication of three lots totaling 0.52 acres. Dedication of these three lots will enable the City of Highland Park to vacate approximately 0.45 acres of Cardinal Lane which is also proposed for dedication. The three lots (0.52 acres) and Cardinal Lane (0.45 acres) represents a 0.97-acre nature preserve addition to Hybernia Nature Preserve. The proposed addition consists of Grade C wet-mesic prairie and Grade C sedge meadow and is surrounded by Hybernia Nature Preserve and the Hybernia – Highmoor Prairie INAI site (INAI No. 1235). Hybernia Nature Preserve supports populations of the State-threatened small sundrops (*Oenothera perennis*) and a federally listed plant species. The federally listed species was reported from the proposed addition in 2009. Hybernia Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southeastern Lake County, Illinois. Hybernia Nature Preserve received final approval for dedication at the Commission's 128th Meeting in August 1990 (Resolution # 1050). In October 2004, the Commission granted final approval for dedication of a 0.46-acre nature preserve addition at its 183rd Meeting (Resolution # 1787). The owners of the three lots proposed for dedication as an addition to Hybernia Nature Preserve have agreed to transfer their ownership of those lots and the interests in Cardinal Lane associated with its vacation by the City of Highland Park to the Hybernia Area Homeowners Association. The Hybernia Area Homeowners Association reserves the right to adopt an adaptive management strategy with Commission approval. Protection and management of the proposed nature preserve addition to Hybernia Nature Preserve will eliminate the threats to the site posed by these in-holdings and represents good preserve design. Dedication of the addition at Hybernia Nature Preserve

supports elements of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan; specifically action items to improve the condition of existing natural wetlands, and restoring and enhancing acreage for rare/extirpated species and native plant communities. Formal protection of these in-holdings (the 3 lots and a portion of Cardinal Lane to be vacated) have long been recognized as a priority for this site and dedication of this addition (0.97 acres) will increase the size of Hybernia Nature Preserve from 27.46 to 28.43 acres.

REPORT
Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 13:* Lake County –Buffer Addition to Reed Turner Woodland Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Long Grove Park District (LGPD) seeks preliminary approval for dedication of 3.986 acres as a nature preserve addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve. The proposed addition consists of Grade B/C mesic upland forest, Grade B/C wet-mesic floodplain forest, and a medium-gradient small stream of undetermined quality and lies within the Reed-Turner Woodland INAI site (INAI No. 228). Reed-Turner Woodland and the proposed addition are located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southern Lake County, Illinois. The Commission’s partnership with Reed-Turner Woodland dates back to 1972. At the 42nd Meeting of the Nature Preserves Commission, the Commission encouraged Mr. and Mrs. Harold (Barbara) Turner to preserve the forest on their property (Resolution 243). Then, in August 1980 at the Commission’s 80th Meeting, the Commission granted final approval for dedication of 32 acres of Reed-Turner Woodland as an Illinois Nature Preserve (Resolution 559). In October 1992, at the Commission’s 137th Meeting, two additional parcels were conferred final approval (Resolution 1156 and Resolution 1157). At the Commission’s 192nd Meeting in 2006, an additional 2.216 acres were granted final approval for dedication (Resolution 1926). In January 2014, at the Commission’s 216th Meeting, the Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication of a 4.318-acre nature preserve buffer addition (Resolution 2276). That addition will be presented for final approval at the Commission’s 217th Meeting in May 2014. This proposed 3.986-acre addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve is part of the 45-acre tract the Commission referred to in 1972 when the Commission encouraged the Turners to preserve their property. The LGPD reserves the right to route and construct a foot trail with the approval of the Commission. Protection and management of the proposed nature preserve addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve supports elements of the forests campaign identified in the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan that includes efforts to restore and manage high-quality examples of all forest communities and a recommendation to contribute to ecological connectivity among forests and other habitat patches. Formal protection of this nature preserve addition (3.986 acres) represents the fifth addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve and will increase its size from 42.534 acres (pending final approval of the most recent proposed addition) to 46.52 acres. Finally, dedication of this parcel will realize protection of all the woodlands that the Commission “encouraged” Harold and Barbara Turner to protect in 1972 (over 40 years ago!).

REPORT
Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 14:* Monroe County – Paul Wightman Subterranean Nature Preserve, Dedication

The proposed Paul Wightman Subterranean Nature Preserve (NP) is a 535-acre Monroe County site owned by Clifftop NFP (Not for Profit). The owners are seeking to dedicate the site’s subsurface only at this time. Clifftop recently acquired the 535-acre farm to protect karst features associated with the Fogelpole Cave system, which is part of the 10,467-acre Renault Karst Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI No. 1597). The Renault Karst and associated cave systems are recognized on the INAI for high-quality aquatic and terrestrial cave communities and the presence of three state- and federally-endangered species, including two bats and an invertebrate. Fogelpole cave system is Illinois’ largest cave system, and the 51st largest in the United States, and hosts the largest number of troglobitic species (species that live and reproduce only in caves) in Illinois. The proposed Paul Wightman Subterranean Nature Preserve completely surrounds the Illinois Department of Natural Resources’ 27-acre Fogelpole Cave Nature Preserve, and is located one mile from the 64.5-acre Storment Hauss Nature Preserve. Besides protecting the aquatic and terrestrial cave communities, and state and federally listed species, dedication of the proposed preserve supports two campaigns identified in the IWAP, including the Streams Campaign and the Land & Water Stewardship Campaign. The dedication also supports goals in the Southwestern Illinois Wildlife Action Plan and the Illinois Cave Amphipod Recovery Plan. Clifftop is an active land trust in southwestern Illinois, and jointly owns with HeartLands Conservancy, Mascoutah, Illinois, the 306-acre White Rock Nature Preserve and 168-acre White Rock Land and Water Reserve, both in Monroe County, and the 115-acre Mill Creek Natural Area, Randolph County. The organization is dedicating the preserve in honor of Rev. Paul Wightman, who developed the initial maps of Fogelpole Cave and advanced scientific knowledge of the cave through recharge area delineations and various expeditions in the cave. Rev. Wightman has maintained his interest and efforts on behalf of the cave for more than 65 years.

REPORT
Dr. Steve Taylor
Illinois Natural History Survey
Dr. Carl DauBach
Clifftop NFP
Debbie Newman
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary approval for Dedication

Item 15:* Will County – Buffer Addition to Messenger Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC) seeks preliminary approval for dedication of a 7.01-acre parcel as a buffer addition to Messenger Woods Nature Preserve. Messenger Woods and the proposed buffer addition are located in northern Will County in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division and are owned and managed by the FPDWC. In 1994, 407 acres were dedicated as a nature preserve and buffer with a 2.8-acre buffer addition in 1999. The proposed buffer addition consists of dry-mesic, mesic upland forest communities, a freshwater marsh and an old field that has undergone prairie reconstruction. It also buffers habitat for the state-threatened four-toed salamander (*Hemidactylum scutatum*) and 25 other species identified in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan

(IWAP) as in greatest need of conservation. Within the proposed buffer addition, the FPDWC reserves the right to maintain and use an old home site and driveway for management access and parking as well as maintenance and operation of a water control structure located south of the marsh. Protection and management of the proposed buffer addition support actions found in the IWAP including the Wetlands Campaign, Forest Campaign, the Farmland & Prairie Campaign and the Invasive Species Campaign. Protection of this parcel will increase the size of Messenger Woods Nature Preserve to approximately 417 acres.

REPORT

Thomas Engbrecht and Kim Roman
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 16:* Kane County – Fox River Forested Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Forest Preserve District of Kane County (FPDKC) seeks final approval for dedication of the 27.176-acre Fox River Forested Fen as an Illinois Nature Preserve. The site has been enrolled in the Illinois Natural Heritage Landmark program since 1989 and received preliminary approval for dedication as the Forested Fen at the Commission’s 205th Meeting in May 2010 (Resolution No. 2074). The proposed nature preserve encompasses much of the Chicago Junior School Area Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI No. 0968) and includes elements of Grade B forested fen and Grade B calcareous seep wetlands and elements of Grade C/D dry-mesic and mesic forest. Only 14.5 acres of forested fen and 16.1 acres of calcareous seep wetlands survive in the State of Illinois and both are considered “globally imperiled, G-3” by The Nature Conservancy. The forested fen is characterized by the presence of white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) and the calcareous seep supports the State-threatened common bog arrow grass (*Triglochin maritima*). In 1923 Dr. Henry C. Cowles wrote:

“The wonderful group of arbor vitae ... is one of the most notable plant colonies in Illinois. I have long known of the place and love it for its beautiful springs and evergreens. There is no place like it in the whole state.”

The proposed nature preserve is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in northeastern Kane County, Illinois. The site was owned by the Fox River Country Day School when it was submitted for preliminary approval and has benefited from the school’s long-standing commitment to its protection and stewardship. Unfortunately, the school property was foreclosed on in 2011. Ultimately through a collaborative partnership involving in part the Conservation Foundation, the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (The Tollway) and Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation (MMWF) committed to an acquisition plan that conveyed the property to the City of Elgin. Acquisition of the property by The Tollway will satisfy the Chicago District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineer’s request for wetland mitigation associated with an I-90 road-widening project. The City, in turn, conveyed a portion of the property to the MMWF and the Fox River Forested Fen to the FPDKC. The FPDKC, upon receipt of the property, assumes responsibility for presenting the site for dedication as an Illinois Nature Preserve and for meeting specific management objectives. Dedication of this site is consistent with recommendations of the Chicago Region Biodiversity Council and elements of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan; specifically actions to restore and manage high-quality wetlands.

REPORT
Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 17:* Lake Co. – George M. Covington Buffer Addition to Grainger Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

George M. Covington, as Trustee of the George M. Covington Declaration of Trust, seeks final approval for dedication of 18.13 acres as a nature preserve buffer addition to Grainger Woods Nature Preserve (169.4 acres). The George M. Covington Nature Preserve buffer addition received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission’s 216th Meeting in January 2014 (Resolution 2277). Grainger Woods Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southern Lake County, Illinois. The buffer addition includes Grade C northern flatwoods, Grade C wet-mesic upland forest; Grade D wet prairie, and an old field. Approximately 8.3 acres of the proposed addition are located within the Grainger Flatwoods INAI site (INAI No. 0667). The State-threatened brome hummock sedge (*Carex bromoides*) has been recorded from the proposed addition. George M. Covington conveyed a Grant of Conservation Right and Easement to the Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) in May 2013 for the preservation of natural plant and animal communities. The easement provides the Grantee (LCFPD) with the right to preserve and protect the native flora, fauna, soils, water table and drainage patterns, and other conservation values. The Grantor reserves the right to construct a shed, use an all-terrain vehicle to facilitate access for the physically impaired, construct a foot trail, place ten beehives on the property, and maintain the existing unpaved driveway. George M. Covington and the Grantee may adopt and use an adaptive management approach to achieve and maintain the conservation values of the property. Protection and stewardship of the proposed addition supports several elements of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan; specifically the forests campaign and efforts to “...restore and manage high-quality examples of all forest communities.” The wet-mesic upland forest and the northern flatwoods communities located in the proposed addition are considered critically imperiled globally and imperiled globally, respectively, by The Nature Conservancy. Protection of the proposed George M. Covington Nature Preserve buffer addition will increase the size of Grainger Woods Nature Preserve from 169.4 acres to 187.53 acres and further buffer the existing nature preserve from incompatible land use changes.

REPORT
Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 18:* Lake Co. – Nature Preserve Buffer Addition to Reed Turner Woodland Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Long Grove Park District (LGPD) seeks final approval for dedication of all or a portion of three parcels totaling 4.318 acres as a nature preserve buffer addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve. The proposed addition consists of Grade B/C dry-mesic upland forest and provides habitat for the State-threatened pale vetchling (*Lathyrus ochroleucus*). Reed-Turner Woodland and the proposed addition are located in the Morainal Section of the

Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southern Lake County, Illinois. The Commission's partnership with Reed-Turner Woodland spans a period from 1972 to the present. At the 42nd Meeting of the Nature Preserves Commission in May 1972, the Commission encouraged Mr. and Mrs. Harold (Barbara) Turner to preserve the forest on their property (Resolution #243). Since that time, the Commission has granted final approval for dedication of Reed-Turner Woodland (August 1980) and granted final approval for dedication of three separate additions. This proposed 4.318-acre nature preserve buffer addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve represents the fourth addition and consists of Lot 1, a portion of Lot 2, and Out-Lot B of the Woodland Ridge Subdivision. That portion of Lot 2 that includes the home in which Barbara Turner currently resides is not included in the proposed addition. The LGPD reserves the right to maintain the existing trail system and to provide appropriate, compatible amenities with the approval of the Commission. In addition, the LGPD is bound by the terms of the plat of survey for the Woodland Ridge Subdivision to provide for ingress, egress, and public utilities. The most obvious feature is a gravel lane that is approximately 14 feet wide that provides vehicular access to Lot 2 and to Lot 3 of the Woodland Ridge Subdivision. The current configuration of the gravel lane will not be altered without the approval of the Commission. Protection and management of the proposed nature preserve buffer addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve supports elements of the forests campaign identified in the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan that includes efforts to restore and manage high-quality examples of all forest communities and a recommendation to contribute to ecological connectivity among forests and other habitat patches. Formal protection of these parcels (4.318 acres) as a nature preserve buffer addition was given preliminary approval at the 216th Meeting of the INPC (Resolution 2276) and will increase the size of Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve from 38.216 to 42.534 acres further protecting the existing nature preserve from incompatible land use changes.

REPORT

Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 19:* Mason County –Buffer Addition to Matanzas Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The IDNR seeks final approval for dedication of 54.155 acres of buffer to Matanzas Prairie Nature Preserve. The proposed buffer addition is located in the Illinois River Section of the Illinois River and Mississippi River Sand Areas Natural Division. The proposed buffer addition provides habitat for several state-listed species, including a State-endangered reptile, a State-threatened amphibian, the State-threatened regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*), the State-threatened tubercled orchid (*Platanthera flava* var. *herbiola*), and the State-threatened ear-leafed foxglove (*Tomanthera auriculata*). In addition, the site provides habitat for ten Species in Greatest Need of Conservation as recognized in the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan. Dedication of this buffer addition to Matanzas Prairie Nature Preserve will increase the size of the Preserve to approximately 81.80 acres. Additionally, dedication of this parcel will provide buffer to aid in protection of high-quality wet-mesic and mesic sand prairie communities on the adjoining Nature Preserve, allow for the continuing restoration of similar communities on the proposed addition, and provide habitat for several State-listed species and Species in Greatest Need of Conservation. The 54.155-acre buffer addition to Matanzas Prairie Nature Preserve was given preliminary

approval for dedication at the 215th meeting of the INPC in September 2013 (Resolution 2256).

REPORT
Tom Lerczak
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 20:* Monroe Co. – Illinois Ozarks Nature Preserve, Dedication

The proposed Illinois Ozarks Nature Preserve (NP) is a 34.36-acre site owned by Mike and Joann Fricke. The site is comprised of 1.75 acres of Grade A loess hill prairie, 0.25 acre of Grade C hill prairie, 0.5 acre of Grade B limestone glade intermingled with approximately 31 acres of Grade C mature second growth dry-mesic and dry upland forest. The proposed Illinois Ozarks NP is part of the 724-acre Potato Hill Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (#200) located in the Northern Section of the Ozark Natural Division. The proposed preserve also contains populations of the state-endangered woolly buckthorn (*Bumelia lanuginosa*), state-threatened bluehearts (*Buchnera americana*), occurrences of a state-threatened reptile, and several Species in Greatest Need of Conservation (SGNC) listed in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). The proposed preserve is part of a large complex (more than 1200 acres) of preserved lands in the bluffs of western Monroe County. The mineral rights to this property were severed February 25, 1931, when they were conveyed to Columbia Quarry Company. The mineral rights were conveyed from Columbia Quarry Company to the Village of Valmeyer by Special Warranty Deed, May 31, 1995, and recorded May 31, 2005 at the Monroe County Recorder's Office. The Village of Valmeyer is dedicating the mineral rights to the Illinois Ozarks Nature Preserve. A portion of the proposed preserve is registered as the Martha & Michelle Prairies Land and Water Reserve (LWR). The proposed area includes 31.79 acres of nature preserve (including all of the 20-acre Martha & Michelle Prairies LWR), and 2.574 acres of nature preserve buffer, including a 10' wide driveway access. The proposed Illinois Ozarks Nature Preserve was given preliminary approval at the 216th INPC Meeting, January 28, 2014 (Resolution 2278).

REPORT
Debbie S. Newman
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final approval for Dedication
Final approval for Dedication of the Mineral Rights

Item 21:* Pope County –Round Pond Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Nature Conservancy seeks to dedicate approximately 206 acres as Round Pond Nature Preserve. Round Pond is one of a handful of biologically-rich bottomland lakes found in the valley of the historic Cache River that formed in the abandoned channels of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. Round Pond is located in southeastern Pope County, approximately two miles northwest of New Liberty and is within the Bottomlands Section of the Coastal Plain Natural Division. It is listed on the INAI (#0812). The proposed nature preserve is biologically diverse, hosting a great blue heron rookery and several rare plants, including the State-endangered cypress knee sedge (*Carex decomposita*), the State-threatened storax (*Styrax americana*), the State-endangered winged sedge (*Carex alata*), and State-threatened swollen sedge (*Carex intumescens*). A significant feature of this site, noted by the

INAI inventory, is grade B and grade C swamp. It also includes examples of rare wet bottomland forests, wet-mesic bottomland forests and one of the few swamps of its kind remaining in the Illinois Coastal Plain Natural Division or in the Upper East Gulf Coastal Plain Ecological Region. Conservation of Round Pond supports several action steps identified in the Streams and Wetlands Campaign of the IWAP. The approximately 206 acres of land as Round Pond Nature Preserve was given preliminary approval for dedication as a nature preserve at the 215th Meeting of the INPC (Resolution 2258).

REPORT
Tracy Boutelle Fidler
Shawnee Resource, Conservation
and Development Area, Inc.

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 22:* Whiteside Co. – Hahnman Sand Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

Gregory S. Wahl and Elizabeth A. Wahl wish to dedicate 15.6-acres of their property in southwestern Whiteside County as Hahnman Sand Prairie Nature Preserve. The site is recognized by the Illinois Nature Areas Inventory (Whiteside 003) as a Category II site, having site suitable habitat supporting one State-endangered species, plains sedge (*Carex heliophila*), and four State-threatened species including: broomrape (*Orobanche ludoviciana*), two reptiles and a butterfly. The site also contains high-quality (Grades A, B, and C) dry and mesic sand prairie communities and is currently under consideration for Category 1 status for this feature. Located within Green River Lowland Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division, the site lies within the Grand Prairie State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Focus Area. This sand prairie provides essential habitat for grassland species and helps accomplish goals established for the Farmland and Prairie Campaign identified within the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan. This site was given preliminary approval for dedication as a nature preserve at the 216th Meeting of the INPC (Resolution 2279).

REPORT
Angella Moorehouse
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 23:* Millennium Reserve Natural Areas Protection Compact

The Illinois Coastal Management Program, an office of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, requests the approval of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission for the Millennium Reserve Natural Areas Conservation Compact (Compact). The Compact has been developed collaboratively over the past six months by representatives of IDNR, INPC, The Nature Conservancy, Chicago Park District, and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (the Parties). The Millennium Reserve is a partnership to catalyze improvements in Illinois' Calumet Region (mainly in southeastern Cook County) including an emphasis on ecological restoration. The Compact focuses on the 23 Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites within the Millennium Reserve. The Parties agree to collaborate on planning, protection, restoration, and management of the 23 INAI sites and improving habitat quality at those sites where it has been degraded. Once it has been approved, the Parties will work together to develop a structure for ongoing collaboration.

REPORT
John Legge
Department of Natural Resources

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval of Compact

Item 24:* Update on Development of Joint INPC/ESPB/IDNR Animal Translocation Policy

At the 215th Meeting of the INPC, May 2013, Commissioners directed staff to draft a joint animal translocation policy that would allow for staff level review/approval of requests to translocate animals into INPC sites. Kelly Neal continues to work with Jim Herkert (IDNR-ORC) and Anne Mankowski (ESPB) on details of a policy. The group met with IDNR Office of Legal Services staff for input and decided to propose the modification of the Endangered Species Administrative Rule to include animal translocation language. Draft changes to include “Translocation” in the “Possession of Specimens or Products of Endangered or Threatened Species” in the Endangered Species Administrative Rule for permits have been prepared and reviewed. ESPB Director comments on behalf of the ESPB indicated that the ESPB believes a separate translocation-specific permit administrative rule be developed to capture permit activities other than possession. Any changes to the Administrative Rule will need to be approved by the ESPB, IDNR and the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, a joint committee of the State Legislature.

REPORT
Kelly Neal
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
None at this Time

Item 25: Natural Areas Acquisition Fund FY2014 and FY2015 Defense Program

Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF) capital appropriation for Defense in FY2011 through FY2012 included \$225,000 each and \$250,000 in FY2013 through 2014 to fund contractual natural area defense activities needed on properties included in one of the INPC’s protection programs. NAAF defense projects that were begun in years prior to FY2014 and continued or completed during FY2014 include: funding the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) to collect and review groundwater data needed to assess impacts of proposed off-site development, threats or damages, prepare Class 3 Special Resource Groundwater petitions to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for INPC program sites and provide groundwater consulting services for the INPC staff. In FY 2014, there was a new contract for the continuation of the aforementioned groundwater consulting services and Class III delineations from the ISGS. The FY2014 project was funded at the level of \$148,000 (April 1, 2014-March 31, 2015). This is an \$18,000 increase over previous contracts which have not changed for several years. Approximately \$276,000 of the 4 years of appropriation authority remains unassigned to specific projects. This appropriation authority remains available to address threats that may arise provided dollars are available within NAAF. Based on the Governor’s FY2015 budget proposal, \$350,000 may be available for allocation to defense from this year’s appropriation. Specific projects will be selected as needed but will likely include a continuation of the aforementioned groundwater data and consultation services at some level. In addition we are investigating using this source of funding to collect status information on resources within the preserves and reserves to improve INPC’s ability to monitor the status resources prior to threats occurring. Specific projects funded during FY2015 will be reported in May, 2015.

REPORT
Randy Heidorn
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval of FY2015 Defense Program
Plan

Item 26: Natural Areas Acquisition Fund: FY2015 Land Acquisition Program

The Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF) is administered by the IDNR with review and recommendation of projects by the INPC. As of April 17, 2014 the State budget has not been approved. The capital budget for land acquisition from NAAF has not been established, and a final decision on the amount of money to be used for land acquisition in FY 2015 has not been made. There are 10 parcels remaining from the approved FY09 list totaling 1150 acres and approximately \$4,400,000. The approved FY13 list contains 9 parcels totaling 627 acres and approximately \$2,000,000 which is in excess of the \$1,500,000 budgeted. The approved FY14 list contains 8 parcels totaling 3,667 acres and approximately \$7,600,000 which is far in excess of the \$2,000,000 budgeted. Depending on the amount available remaining parcels from the FY09 list will be targeted and more expenditure will be applied to the approved FY13 and FY14 lists. If additional parcels receive favorable regional review they will be brought before the commission at a later date. The INPC is asked to review and approve a longer list than there is funding as matching money will be sought to stretch NAAF dollars and negotiations with some landowners will not be successful. All of the proposed parcels 1) are identified on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory or, 2) buffer a nature preserve or land and water reserve owned by the IDNR or, 3) provide habitat for endangered or threatened species of animals or plants.

REPORT
John Wilker
Department of Natural Resources

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval of FY2015 Acquisition Program

Item 27: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Item 28: Other Business

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

Item 29: Adjournment