

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION

Minutes of the 232nd Meeting
(Subject to approval at the 233rd Meeting)

Crystal Lake Park District
Rotary Building
431 N. Walkup Ave.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

May 14, 2019

232-1) **Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees**

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

Commissioners Present: George Covington, Donald Dann, Pen Daubach, Abigail Derby-Lewis, William McClain, Jo-Elle Mogerman, Deborah Stone, David Thomas

Crystal Lake Park District: Jason Herbster, Executive Director, Crystal Lake Park District, welcomed everyone. Jason explained that Steve Byers has been his contact and a tremendous resource for the Crystal Lake Park District, specifically noting the Sterne's Fen Nature Preserve project which Steve headed up. Jason thanked Steve for his dedication to this project and wished him well in his retirement.

Commission Advisors Present:

Commission Consultants Present: Fran Harty, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Joseph Roth, Kerry Leigh, Natural Land Institute (NLI); Jim Herkert, Illinois Audubon Society (IAS)

Others Present: Marni English, Valerie Njapa, Kelly Neal, Steven Byers, Angella Moorehouse, Kim Roman, Sami Childerson, Debbi Newman, Byron Paulsen, John Griesbaum and John Nelson, Illinois nature Preserves Commission (INPC); Connie Waggoner, IDNR Office of Realty and Capital Planning (ORCP); Todd Strole, IDNR Division of Natural Heritage (DNH); Julie Paschal, David Suring, Don Gadzaca, Keith Bodger, Rob Pusert and Stan Janusz, Nicor Gas; Ken Spale, Salt Creek Greenway Association; Susanne Masi, Plants of Concern (INPC); Kara Wry, Burns & McDonnell; Jill Kennay, National Land Institute (NLI); June Keibler, Dundee Township Open Space; April Sanderson, Southern Company Gas; Brad Semel, Philip Cox, Maggie Cole, Division of Natural Heritage (IDNR); Brandon Janile, Mark Frieders, Environmental Engineering; Dave Brandt, Carolyn Campbell, McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD); John McCabe, Forest Preserve Cook County; Don English, Bev English, English Prairie Kempton; Jim Anderson, Mike Tully, Lake County

Forest Preserve; Randy Schietzelt, Endangered Species Protection Board (ESPB); Nancy Williamson, Friends of Hachmatack NWR; Domerico D'Alesandro, D'Alessandro & Associates; David Holman

Director Colleen Callahan: Director Callahan introduced herself to the group and thanked staff for their dedication to the department. Staff were then asked to stand to be publicly recognized for their commitment to the mission of Natural Resources. Director Callahan stated there is likely no other department in state government that has more “direct” contact with the public than Natural Resources and the responsibility is not taken lightly. The condition of our parks, preserves, and natural resources reflect the condition of our government. We must work together to communicate, collaborate and connect to be successful.

232-2) **Adoption of Agenda**

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

Commissioner Covington read the following:

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission wishes to recognize the leadership and contributions of Thomas V. Lerczak during 22 years of service as a Natural Areas Protection Specialist and Field Representative for the Commission upon his recent retirement. During his tenure, Tom was instrumental in the permanent protection of 19 nature preserves and 23 land and water reserves encompassing approximately 5,000 acres. Tom’s contributions to natural areas conservation are many and varied, and one of the standouts of his career has been the registration of large forested blocks providing protected habitat for breeding birds. While working for the Commission, he supervised two Resident Interns, both of whom have secured careers in natural resources. During staff shortfalls, for two and a half years, Tom took on additional responsibilities and performed administrative duties to ensure the Commission’s work continued to operate smoothly. He served as a trusted advisor to his colleagues, other staff and conservation partners, and Commissioners. For many years, he coordinated the statewide Commission staffs’ purchases of herbicides, and preserve and reserve signs. Tom’s commitment to and advocacy for the Commission’s programs is greatly appreciated and his legacy of land protection and stewardship will continue for generations.

Commissioner Covington asked for a motion and approval of the Tom Lerczak Resolution.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas seconded by Commissioner Daubach and carried that the Tom Lerczak Resolution be approved.

232-3) **Approval of Minutes for the 231st Meeting, January 29, 2019**

Commissioner Covington asked for a motion and approval of the 231st Meeting minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner Derby-Lewis seconded by Commissioner Daubach and carried that the minutes from the 231st Meeting be approved.

Steve Byers read the following:

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission wishes to recognize the outstanding contributions of Ms. Valerie Spale to the conservation community in Illinois and her tireless leadership for protection and stewardship of Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve.

Valerie instinctively knew that Wolf Road Prairie was special and that its savannas, prairies, and sidewalks offered the casual visitor an opportunity to know and love the prairie and to learn from the past. Also special was Valerie's passion for protecting this prairie. Valerie spent years building a coalition of individuals and organizations who literally worked lot-by-lot and block-by-block to save the prairie. And it was through these efforts, that Valerie assumed a variety of leadership roles including serving as Executive Director of Save the Prairie Society, Director of the Westchester Historical Society, Director of the Fullersburg Historic Foundation, and President of the Salt Creek Greenway Association. In her leadership positions, Valerie led efforts to expand and preserve Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve and acquire Tomlin Timbers Nature Preserve in Mason County. In addition, Valerie served nine years on the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission from February 1987 to February 1996, including two years as its Chair. Valerie later served as a Consultant to the Commission from August 1996 until her passing in 2018.

Be it resolved on this day, May 14, 2019, that the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission publicly recognizes Ms. Valerie Spale for her lifetime of contributions to conservation and for the leadership she provided the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. Her legacy as a "conservation leader" will endure. And for those who knew her, the array of spring and summer wildflowers at Wolf Road Prairie Nature Preserve will bring a smile of remembrance and a reminder that indeed, one person can make a difference. For, Wolf Road Prairie would not exist today without Valerie Spale!

Kenneth Spale: Mr. Spale thanked Steve for the glowing tribute to Valerie. Kenneth explained that Valerie's first love was nature and read her memorial to the group.

Commissioner Stone asked for a motion and approval of the Valerie Spale Resolution.

It was moved by Commissioner Mogerman seconded by Commissioner Daubach and carried that the Valerie Spale Resolution be approved.

Commissioner Covington read the following:

At the 231st Meeting of the INPC, held on January 29, 2019, at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, Illinois, legal protection was completed by the Commission for 9 tracts of land totaling 339.09 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 Allendale Spring Land and Water Reserve; Curt and Helen Simonson Land and Water Reserve; Sand Farm Land and Water Reserve; the Oneota Addition to Wapello Land and Water Reserve; additions to Sweet Fern Savanna Land and Water Reserve; Allendale Spring Nature Preserve; Eagle Cliff Prairie Nature Preserve and Renault Karst 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 394 dedicated nature preserves totaling 59,286 acres; and there are 192 land and water reserves totaling 53,616 acres.

232-4) **Next meeting dates and locations**

September 10, 2019 Douglas-Hart Nature Center, Mattoon, IL

232-5) **INPC Staff Report**

APPENDIX I

Valeria Njapa presented the INPC staff report.

Commissioner Covington commented he has worked with Steve longer than anyone. He also stated that Steve is enormously talented as a great speaker, Botanist and time served in the National Guard. He is a pleasure to work with and we look forward to seeing him in the future. Commissioner Covington also thanked Valerie Njapa for working two jobs for a very long time. With the lack of a Director and Administrative positions, it has been very difficult on the group. The positions are essential, and the hope would be to fill these positions very soon.

232-6) **IDNR Staff Report**

APPENDIX II

Todd Strole presented the IDNR staff report

Abigail Derby-Lewis asked two questions:

1. Of the 20 other states where EAB Bio control has been developed, what can be expected in a best-case scenario?
2. Do we know anything about the competitive or ecological overlap between the native and non-native parasitoid wasps in the regions it has been used?

Todd answered that there is a native parasitic wasp that can attack the larvae form of the EAB but it is not very effective. It did go thru a vetting process to assure no conflict or unintended consequences and to the best of our knowledge there is none.

Dr. Daubach asked for a thorough report 1 week prior to the September 10, 2019 meeting regarding the Cash River and incidental takes.

Todd answered he would send the report out 1 week prior to the meeting.

Dr. Daubach gave a formal thank you to Todd and Fran on all the hard work they have put forth on the Natural Areas Stewardship Grant Program. She is very pleased to see this moving forward.

232-7) **Endangered Species Protection Board Staff Report**

APPENDIX III

Randy Scheitzel presented the ESPB staff report

232-8) **Cook Co. – Harms Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication**

Steve Byers, on behalf of, The Forest Preserves of Cook County, requested preliminary approval for dedication of 170 acres of the 342-acre Harms Woods Forest Preserve as Harms Woods Nature Preserve. The eastern 107.6 acres of the Harms Woods Forest Preserve was dedicated as the Harms Flatwoods Nature Preserve at the Commission's 225th Meeting in January 2017. The proposed Harms Woods Nature Preserve was included on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI # 1573) as a Category II site and consists of a mosaic of Grade B and Grade C mesic woodland, Grade C mesic upland forest, floodplain forest, and a small cultural community undergoing woodland restoration. The high-quality ranking for the mesic woodland stems from vegetative sampling conducted in 2017 by staff of the Illinois Natural History Survey. A total of 7 State-listed plant species (3 endangered and 4 threatened) have been reported from the proposed Harms Woods Nature Preserve. The proposed Harms Woods Nature Preserve lies at the boundary of the Chicago Lake Plain and Morainal Sections of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in the northern part of Cook County. At least 12 archaeological sites are known from the proposed nature preserve. Of these, only one has been professionally excavated. Because the proposed nature preserve includes a portion of the North Branch of the Chicago River, it is likely the site includes additional, intact archaeological resources. Harms Woods supports elements of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan. The Forest Preserves of Cook County reserves the right to continue adaptive management strategies for the site and to monitor and implement projects designed to maintain or improve surface hydrology. The Forest Preserves further reserves the right to maintain the existing unpaved walking trail and to provide trail modifications and amenities as may be necessary with the approval of the Commission. Protection of Harms Woods as part of the Illinois Nature Preserves System is consistent with the recommendations of the Next Century Conservation Plan and the Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan for the Forest Preserves of Cook County. INPC staff acknowledges the long-term interest and support of the Forest Preserves of Cook County, especially Toni Preckwinkle and Arnold Randall. Rebecca Collins, Chip O'Leary, and John McCabe of the Forest Preserves are also acknowledged for their unflagging support.

Commissioner Derby-Lewis commented on the tremendous work of the Balaban's and staff. Their efforts are greatly appreciated and the gains that have been made are tremendous.

Commissioner Stone recused herself from items 8, 12, 13 & 17 as a possible conflict of interest.

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

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of Harms Woods as an Illinois Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 8 of the agenda for the 232nd meeting.

(Resolution)

232-9) **Lake Co. - Wright Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication**

Steve Byers, on behalf of, The Lake County Forest Preserve District, requested preliminary approval for dedication of 287.8 acres of Captain Daniel Wright Woods Forest Preserve as Wright Woods Nature Preserve. Captain Daniel Wright Woods Forest Preserve (750.2 acres) includes Lloyd's Woods Nature Preserve (142.1 acres) and Elm Road Woods Nature Preserve (141.5 acres), and is part of a much larger corridor of land (exceeding 4000 acres) extending along the east bank of the Des Plaines River that has been protected by the Lake County Forest Preserve District. The proposed Wright Woods Nature Preserve includes high-quality (Grade B) mesic upland forest and northern flatwoods that extend south from Lloyd's Woods Nature Preserve, Grade C dry-mesic forest, Grade C floodplain forest, and a small cultural community being restored to forest. Notably, the 67.5 acres of northern flatwoods located within the proposed nature preserve represent a 44% increase in the amount of this forested community Statewide. Two State-listed plant species have been reported from the proposed Wright Woods Nature Preserve. The proposed Wright Woods Nature Preserve lies within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division and borders the Des Plaines River in the southern part of Lake County. The large block of forest, including the proposed Wright Woods Nature Preserve, assembled along the east bank of the Des Plaines River is critically important to migratory and resident avifauna. Surveys of Captain Daniel Wright Forest Preserve reveal the following wildlife assemblages; 173 bird species, 22 mammal species, 8 reptile species, 9 amphibian species, and an extensive list of invertebrate species. Protection of the proposed nature preserve supports elements of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). Additionally, the site provides suitable nesting habitat for 5 bird species, 2 amphibian species, and 3 insects that have been identified in the IWAP as "Species in Greatest Need of Conservation". The Lake County Forest Preserve District reserves the right to maintain the existing trail network that includes a regional multi-use trail and hiking trails and to provide trail amenities as deemed appropriate. The District also reserves the right to continue an adaptive management strategy that specifically includes the opportunity to conduct tree-thinning and other management activities consistent with the Southern Des Plaines Woodland Habitat Restoration Project (previously approved by the Commission for other District-owned nature preserves). Those management activities (including tree thinning) are currently underway in the proposed nature preserve. The proposal includes detailed management plans for each of the natural plant communities, as well as a list of on-going management activities for the site. INPC staff acknowledges the long-term interest and support of the Lake County Forest Preserve District in assembling, protecting, and managing the forests that extend along the Des Plaines River. The Lake County Forest Preserve District Board of Trustees,

Executive Director Ty Kovach, and staff (including Jim Anderson, Rebecca Hegner, and Ken Klick) are acknowledged.

Commissioner Dann stated it gives him great pleasure to support this addition as it is a beautiful place and one he has used for many years and will continue to do so.

Commissioner Derby-Lewis asked if there could be conversations or considerations regarding the acknowledgement of tribal homelands of the most recent owners of these lands as it is brought up for dedication.

The Commission agreed that this should be discussed.

Jim Anderson with Lake County Forest Preserve commented that the responses we have seen for this project have been phenomenal. LCFPD board approved four new sites for future submission.

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

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of Wright Woods as an Illinois Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 9 of the Agenda for the 232nd meeting.

(Resolution)

232-10) **McHenry Co. – Buffer Addition to Lake in the Hills Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication**

Steve Byers, on behalf of, The McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD), requested preliminary approval for dedication of 141 acres as a nature preserve buffer addition to the 211.65-acre Lake in the Hills Fen Nature Preserve. The “larger” nature preserves (352.6 acres) lies within the 577.8-acre Lake in the Hills Fen Conservation Area. Lake in the Hills Fen Nature Preserve is owned in part by the Village of Lake in the Hills (133.8 acres), the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (73.3 acres), and MCCD (4.55 acres). The entire site, however, is subject to an agreement designating MCCD as the primary land management agency. The existing nature preserve, and a portion of the proposed addition encompass the Lake in the Hills Fen INAI site (INAI # 1011). The hallmark of Lake in the Hills Fen Nature Preserve is the array of graminoid fen, calcareous seep, sedge meadow wetlands, and dry gravel prairies that collectively support 17 State-listed plant species and 4 State-listed wildlife species. The proposed addition, however, includes Grade C dry gravel prairie, a low-gradient stream, and three cultural communities. The cultural communities include a prairie restoration, an old field being restored to prairie, and an artificial pond. No State listed plant or animal species have been recorded from the proposed addition. The proposed addition, however, does lie within the Class III – Special Resource Ground-water Area identified for Lake in the Hills Fen Nature Preserve. Lake in the Hills Fen Nature Preserve and the proposed nature preserve buffer addition are in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Division in the southeastern part of McHenry County. Protection of the proposed addition supports elements of the updated Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). Additionally, the site provides suitable nesting habitat for 13 bird species, 1 fish species, and 2 reptile species identified in the updated IWAP as “Species in Greatest Need of Conservation”.

*One additional bird species listed on the Illinois Watch List is also present. A hiking trail, with a primitive overlook, currently exists within the proposed addition. MCCD reserves the right to continue with a master planning process for the site to determine appropriate public access and passive recreational opportunities. The proposal does reserve the right for MCCD to route a regional bike trail along and outside the western border of the proposed addition and across (and just inside) the northern perimeter of the proposed addition. Finally, MCCD reserves the right to continue with an adaptive management strategy, to include measures to control whitetail deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), and to maintain or restore both surface and groundwater hydrology. INPC staff acknowledges the long-term interest and support of MCCD in protecting and managing Lake in the Hills Fen Nature Preserve. Those management efforts date back to 1987. The MCCD Board of Trustees, Executive Director Elizabeth Kessler, and staff (including Ed Collins, Brad Woodson, Jeff Murray, Laurie Ryan, Gail Brown, and Cindy Rindel) are acknowledged.*

Commissioner Stone commented that she is happy to see water designations noted in staff work as moving forward. This is great news.

Elizabeth Kessler commended the great work of Steve Byers and Jen Myers with helping the districts in donating properties. They and others involved have done excellent and she is proud to be a part of such an amazing team.

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

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of the Buffer Addition to Lake in the Hills Fen Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 10 of the agenda for the 232nd meeting.

(Resolution)

232-11) **Pope Co. – Round Pond South Addition to Round Pond Nature Preserve, Dedication**

*Sami Childerson, on behalf of, The Illinois Audubon Society (IAS), requested preliminary approval to dedicate 347.436 acres as the Round Pond South Addition to Round Pond Nature Preserve #378 in southern Pope County. Round Pond INAI site#812 (Categories I, II, III) is a 526-acre site containing Grade B swamp, six state-listed plant species (Cypress knee sedge [*Carex decomposita*], winged sedge [*Carex alata*], Narrow-leaved crabapple [*Malus angustifolia*], Storax [*Styrax americana*], swollen sedge [*Carex intumescens*], and narrow-leaved sunflower [*Helianthus angustifolius*]), historical element occurrence records for a State-listed amphibian and State-listed reptile, a heron rookery, and numerous rare plant and animal species. This site is located in the Bottomlands Section of the Coastal Plain Natural Division and is a spring fed swamp complex that sits upon a historic lake terrace. Ownership is divided among the IAS, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and private landowners. TNC dedicated their portion (206 acres) as Round Pond Nature Preserve #378 at the 217th INPC meeting (Item 21, Resolution 2300) in 2014. The Round Pond South Addition includes 213 acres of INAI site comprised of 44.5 acres of Grade B swamp, 29 acres of Grade C swamp, 7.45 acres of Grade D*

*swamp, 62 acres of Grade C wet floodplain forest, 7.5 acres of wet-mesic floodplain forest, and 85.55 acres of Grade E agriculture that converted to forest. The remaining 131.5 acres are 110.5 acres of Grade C wet /wet-mesic floodplain forest and 31 acres of agriculture. Agriculture was taken out of production in fall 2018 and reforestation efforts began in winter 2019 via tree plantings. Dedication of this addition supports the Forest, Wetland, and Invasive Species Campaigns of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan. Wetland-dependent Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) such as prothonotary warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) are abundant breeders at the site. Management goals are collaborative between IAS, TNC, and INPC and are to maintain and restore the natural structure, hydrology, and characteristics of swamp and floodplain forest natural communities, control exotic plant species, and maintain and enhance populations of State-listed species. The Round Pond South Addition permanently protects most of the INAI site and coupled with surrounding private Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easements, ensures inundation of wetland habitat can occur across the landscape as it once did historically.*

Commissioner Dann stated the site is so like Herron Pond and the boardwalk at Herron Pond is hugely popular. He encouraged Round Pond to do likewise as they would get a lot of patronage.

Commissioner McClain asked if any emphasis will be given to inventory of insects at the site? He proposed that this would be a good project for a graduate student.

Sami said she would hope so.

Jim Herkert spoke on behalf of the Audubon Society and said Round Pond is a very special project and a spectacular place to visit. Also stated that contracts are in place with special emphasis on plants and birds for the future. He thanked great partners such as the Illinois Clean Air Energy Foundation that made the acquisition possible. He also thanked Kevin, Sami and the Commission for doing such a great job.

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 Round Pond South Addition to Round Pond Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 11 of the Agenda for the 232nd meeting.

(Resolution)

232-12) **Cook Co. – Addition to Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve, Dedication**

Steve Byers, on behalf of, The Forest Preserves of Cook County, requested final approval for dedication of 82.2 acres of the Thornton-Lansing Road Forest Preserve as a nature preserve addition to the 340-acre Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve. The proposed addition received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission's 231st Meeting in January 2019. 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, 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. 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 82.2-acre nature preserve addition to Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve supports elements of the IWAP. Additionally, the site provides suitable nesting habitat for 4 bird species and one amphibian identified in the Plan as "Species in Greatest Need of Conservation." The proposed addition encompasses virtually the entire balance of the Thornton-Lansing Road INAI site. Protection of the 82.2-acre nature preserve addition to Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve is consistent with the recommendations of the Next Century Conservation Plan and the Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan for the Forest Preserves of Cook County. 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 have provided unflagging support for protection and management of this nature preserve and proposed addition.

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 the Addition to Thornton-Lansing Road Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 12 of the Agenda for the 232nd meeting.

(Resolution)

232-13) **Cook Co. – Wampum Lake Nature Preserve, Dedication**

Steve Byers, on behalf of, The Forest Preserves of Cook County, requested final approval for dedication of 380.5 acres of the 412-acre Wampum Lake Forest Preserve as the Wampum Lake Nature Preserve. The proposed Wampum Lake Nature Preserve received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission's 231st Meeting in January 2019. 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. Four State-listed plant species are known from the site. 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. Embedded within the proposed 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 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.) and that the significance of this site can “not be overstated”. Over 2000 features (houses, pits, burial sites, hearths, ceramic vessels, stone tools, copper items, and an assemblage of floral and faunal remains) have been recorded from the site. Protection of Wampum Lake supports elements of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). Additionally, the site provides suitable nesting habitat for 4 bird species identified in IWAP as “Species in the 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 Next Century Conservation Plan and the Natural and Cultural Resources Master Plan for the Forest Preserves of Cook County. 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 are also acknowledged for their unflagging support.

John McCabe commented on the value of cultural resources throughout the state and on this project. It is very important that we don’t forget about these resources. John also stated a grant was just received to redo their nature center that is close by and part of that will speak to the native American background.

Commissioner Derby-Lewis stated we do a great job calling out the historic pasts of the many archeological sites, but she would also like to see called out traditional homelands of those who are still alive today within the forest reserves.

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

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of Wampum Lake Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 13 of the Agenda for the 232nd meeting. (Resolution)

232-14) **Henderson Co. – Ellison Creek Sand Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication**

Angella Moorehouse, on behalf of, The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, requested to dedicate the 40-acre Ellison Creek Sand Prairie located in central Henderson County. 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 of 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.

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 Ellison Creek Sand Prairie Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 14 of the Agenda for the 232nd meeting.

(Resolution)

232-15) **Livingston Co. – English Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication**

Kim Roman, on behalf of Donath & Beverly English, requested final approval of English Prairie located in Livingston County, is a very high-quality prairie remnant owned by Donath and Beverly English. It 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 has been enrolled in the Natural Heritage Landmark program since 1984 and has been regularly burned by the English's 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.

Kim Roman acknowledged the English's and asked them to stand up. Their property has been in the Natural Heritage Landmark Program since 1984. Their property doesn't compare to any other prairie, it is beautiful.

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

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of English Prairie Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 15 of the Agenda for the 232nd meeting.

(Resolution)

232-16) **McHenry Co. – Alden Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve, Dedication**

Steve Byers, on behalf of, McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD), requested final approval for dedication of 304.5 acres of the 958.6-acre Alden Sedge Meadow/Winding Creek microsite as Alden Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve. The proposed Alden Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission's 231st Meeting in January 2019. 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 six State-listed animal species have been recorded from the proposed nature preserve. The proposed Alden Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve is in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in the northern part of McHenry County. 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 site. Protection of Alden Sedge Meadow as an Illinois Nature Preserve supports elements of the IWAP. The site provides suitable nesting habitat for 27 species of wildlife identified in the Plan as “Species in Greatest Need of Conservation” and include 17 birds, 2 reptiles, 3 fish, 2 mussels and 3 butterflies. Dedication of the proposed nature preserve will protect the vast majority of the Alden Sedge Meadow INAI site and supports 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 Dann, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of Alden Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 16 of the Agenda for the 232nd meeting.

(Resolution)

232-17) **Cook Co. – Busse Forest Nature Preserve Pipeline Relocation/Replacement Project**

Julie Paschal presented

Nicor Gas is requesting conditional approval to relocate and replace two natural gas pipelines at Busse Forest Nature Preserve (NP), owned by the Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC) and located in unincorporated Arlington Heights, Cook County, Illinois. The current location of the pipeline corridor is along Route 2, as shown and described in the supporting documentation for this agenda item. Route 2 is in the interior of the NP, and when the need arose for replacement of the pipelines to protect their integrity, an alternate route materialized and is being pursued. The preferred route is Route 1, also shown and described in the supporting documentation. Route 1 is located along the northern boundary of the NP, south of Interstate 90. Utilizing Route 1 will result in less overall ecological impact to the NP (compared to Route 2) and will prevent recurrent fragmentation of the interior forest habitat with the retirement of the current alignment. The FPCC and INPC staff support Nicor’s proposal. The four conditions listed in the INPC Staff Recommendation must be met before final approval is secured. These include (1) final approval granted by the FPCC at their May 2019 Board Meeting; (2) completion of an Amendment to the existing License Agreement allowing replacement and maintenance of pipelines along Route 1 with no additional infrastructure rights; (3) retirement of pipelines and grouting in place with termination of infrastructure rights along Route 2; and (4) approval by the FPCC and INPC of a mitigation plan for restoration activities at the NP.

Commissioner Covington asked what the depth of the trench would be?

Julie Paschal stated it the trench would be five feet deep. Julie stated they are proposing open cutting.

Commissioner Dann asked how the did the original pipeline get built under the forest preserve?

Steve Byers stated the original forest preserve granted Nicor Gas the right to dig the pipeline back in September 1958.

Valerie Njapa stated that anytime a project is proposed to the commission for consideration, we try our best to prevent impacts or minimize to the maximum extent. Routes 3-5 were not feasible options. Route 1 was determined to be the best route for long term ecological development.

Steve Byers stated that route 2 would be decommissioned. Valerie put together conditions that must be met. Ultimately this project will have to be approved by the Forest Preserves of Cook County. What we are asking is approval with several contingencies that must be met.

Commissioner Covington asked how does this impact control burns?

Steve Byers stated that the provisions of the new federal regulations dictate the owners of the infrastructure clear the entire right of way to provide for access to inspect this infrastructure on a fairly routine basis.

John McKabe who is the land owner states that Nicor Gas has been great to work with and that he does recognize the value of the site. He is very supportive of the project.

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

The Commission approved for the pipeline relocation/replacement project at Busse Forest Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 17 of the Agenda for the 232nd meeting.

(Resolution)

232-18) **Lake Co. - Illinois Beach Nature Preserve Shoreline Erosion Update**

Brad Semel presented

Illinois Beach, dedicated in 1964, was the first Illinois nature preserve. It often is referenced as the “crown jewel” of the Nature Preserve system. Indeed, Illinois Beach is one of the richest and most biologically diverse natural areas in the state. The dune and swale topography, juxtaposition to Lake Michigan, and its unique edaphic and climatic conditions have resulted in a diversity and number of natural communities unlike that found in any other preserve. The 14 distinct community types, including globally rare wetlands and beach and foredune communities, in turn provide habitats that support over 500 plant and 300 animal species. Of those, 55 species are listed as State endangered or threatened and four are federally-listed: Eastern prairie fringed orchid, Dune thistle, Rusty patched bumble bee, and Piping plover.

Although the preserve’s lakeshore represents the highest quality dune and swale coastal ecosystem remaining along the western shoreline of Lake Michigan, natural geologic processes and near historic high-water levels have rapidly accelerated the erosional loss of the most significant beach, foredune and interdunal wetlands representative of the natural shoreline communities. Along one

segment of the shoreline preserve that is only a half mile in length, over 40 acres of land have been lost, including rare panne wetlands and high quality dry and mesic sand prairies. Increased lake sedimentation and lost carbon storage are also of significant concern. Following collaborative efforts to better understand the bathymetry, littoral drift rates, wave energy dynamics, and off-shore sediment depths, we now recognize what has been lost to erosional forces and what is predicted to be lost in the near future. If we wish to slow this unprecedented loss of rare plant and animal communities, we must consider using engineered alternatives for directing sediment deposition. The ultimate question is whether fourth generation structural designs and the construction of off-shore tuned structures (i.e., submerged reefs and islands) can mitigate erosional losses of high-quality natural areas while allowing natural geological processes to continue and not to distract from the biological and ecological significance of the site.

Commissioner Derby-Lewis asked to what extent has your team worked with the International Joint Commission for the Great Lakes? They are developing a regional strategy and regional networks. Are you working with them?

Brad Semel explained that they are working with Coastal Management Programs, Army Core of Engineers and currently Lake County is looking at physical mathematical modeling. These models are looking at changes in predictions.

Commissioner Covington asked how much money is budgeted for this project?

Brad Semel stated that the Capital Development Board has \$44 million set aside for doing lake shore protection.

Jim Anderson, LCFPD explained the initiatives that have been going on for the past 8 years. He would like this initiative to be put at the forefront by talking with leadership. He stated we met with state legislators and we now need to meet with Senator Durbin and Duckworth and really get it out there to make everyone aware of what is going on and figure out how to get some funding for this project. Have already spent \$6 million and we don't want that to get washed away.

Commissioner Covington asked that this be an agenda item at least once a year.

232-19) **Review of Closed Minutes**

It was approved by Commissioner Dann, seconded by Commissioner Daubach.

232-20) **Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)**

None.

232-21) **Other Business**

No other business.

232-22) **Adjournment**

Commissioner Dann motioned to adjourn. It was seconded by Commissioner Derby-Lewis and approved. The INPC adjourned at 3:05pm.