



To: Natalie Finnie, Director

From: Mike Wefer, Chairman, Illinois Habitat Fund Advisory Committee

Date: September 29, 2023

Subject: Illinois Habitat Fund Advisory Committee Action

The Illinois Habitat Fund Advisory Committee held their annual meeting on October 26, 2022. The Committee's responsibility is to review and recommend the allocation of funds in the Illinois Habitat Fund.

Summary of Recommendations

Grants to governmental and not-for-profits for Habitat Projects	\$ 666,652.42
Designated for IDNR Land Acquisition from the Endowment Trust Fund	\$ 3,300,650.80

Total October FY2022 Committee Recommended Funding \$ 3,967,303.22

The Committee recommended designating the excess funds in the Illinois Habitat Endowment Trust Fund, Fund #390, which would be all funds above \$10,000,000 corpus, to be available for transfer to the Illinois Habitat Fund for the purposes of DNR Land Acquisition, as needed, as future parcels become available. Upon the request of the Director, The Comptroller and the State Treasurer shall transfer amounts not to exceed the actual investment income earned from the Trust Fund to the Illinois Habitat Fund from time to time as needed for expenditures from the Illinois Habitat Fund in accordance with appropriations. (ILCS 520 25/20)

The Committee recommended funding the seven highest scoring grant applications.

- \$ 234,564.62 Pheasants Forever – Request to fund six Farm Bill Biologists in NRCS offices working with private landowners on habitat improvements in Eastern Central, West Central, and South East Illinois counties. Match is \$703,873.89.
- \$ 100,000.00 Pheasants Forever – Restore approximately 20 wetland basins within prairie grassland habitat in North East Illinois, Eastern Central and West Central Illinois counties. Match is \$215,955.20.
- \$ 34,935.00 Logan County SWCD -Replacement of a high-work-hours 20 year old Drill Planter previously purchased by the Habitat Fund 20 years ago. Match is \$11,645.00.

- \$ 55,000.00 Quail and Upland Game Alliance – Request to fund one Habitat Specialist to work with private landowners on habit improvements. Match is \$30,000.00
- \$ 15,700.00 Lake County Forest Preserve – Purchase of prescribed burns tools and supplies for an increased volunteer work force of 55 volunteers working on five forested locations. Match is \$9,511.20
- \$191,452.80 Shawnee Resource Conservation and Development – Oak Forest habitat restoration on privately owned land parcels that includes invasives removal, prescribed burns and forest stand improvements. Match is \$60,000.00.
- \$ 35,000.00 Quail and Upland Game Alliance – Request to purchase a drill planter to be stored in DuQuoin, Illinois for Southern Illinois areas.

The Committee recommended not funding seven other applications. Those seven grant proposals scored lower than the required median score for funding.

For any review of the materials considered by the Committee as well as the grant proposals themselves there is a shared file location at [2024 Habitat Fund Grant Applications - All Documents \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.illinois.gov/2024/HabitatFundGrantApplications-AllDocuments).

Any questions about the meeting materials or the grant proposals should be directed to Mike Wefer, IDNR Chair. Any technical questions about grant processes should be directed to Susan J. Duke IDNR Grant Administrator for the Illinois Habitat Fund.

Please indicate approval of the Office of Resource Conservation funding recommendations by signing below. Funds are currently available to award the recommended projects. Upon your decision staff of the Special Funds Section of the Office of Grant Management and Assistance will inform the Illinois Habitat Fund Advisory Committee, grantees and IDNR staff of the intent on the use of FY2023 Habitat Funds.

Office Recommendation

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

Chris, Young Director
Office of Resource Conservation

Habitat Chair Recommendation

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

Michael Wefer
Digitally signed by Michael Wefer
Date: 2023.10.02 07:33:43 -05'00'

2 October 2023

Mike Wefer
Office of Resource Conservation
Chair of the Illinois Habitat Fund Committee

AGENCY DIRECTOR SIGN-OFF

APPROVE

DISAPPROVE

Natalie Finnie 10/3/23
Natalie Finnie
Date

Director of Illinois Natural Resources