

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA  
TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH MEETING

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

September 12, 2017, 10:00 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 226<sup>th</sup> Meeting, May 9, 2017

Item 4: Next meeting dates and locations

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

Item 5:\* INPC Staff Report

Item 6: IDNR Staff Report

Item 7\*: Endangered Species Protection Board Report

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

A. Nomination of Advisors

Current Advisors:

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

B. Nomination of Consultants

Current Consultants:

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

C. Nomination of Officers

Current Officers:

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

Item 9:\* Marshall Co. – Lot# 341 Addition to Hopewell Hill Prairies Nature Preserve, Dedication

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

REPORT  
Justin Dillard  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 10:\* Ogle Co./Winnebago Co. – Buffer Addition to Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve, Dedication

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

REPORT

John C. Nelson  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 11:\* Ogle Co./Winnebago Co. – Hall Creek Buffer Addition to Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Byron Forest Preserve District (BFPD) owns and manages the Howard Colman Hall Creek Preserve that is located adjacent to the Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve owned and managed by the Natural Land Institute. The BFPD seeks dedication of 195.2 acres as the Howard Colman Hall Creek Buffer Addition to the Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve (INAI 0931). The existing nature preserve owned by the NLI is 54.69 acres and is located in Winnebago County. In a separate proposal, the NLI seeks dedication of approximately 37.86 acres as buffer addition on their adjacent property located in Ogle County. If both dedication proposals are approved, the existing Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve will increase to 287.75 acres. The proposed buffer addition consists of restored dry-mesic upland forest, former agricultural fields planted to dry-mesic prairie, high-gradient small stream, old fields, oak savanna, and wet-mesic prairie. This buffer addition to the Howard D. Colman Dells Nature Preserve represents a unique opportunity to further protect the dells geologic feature, its groundwater resource, and natural communities important to a wide variety of native plants and animals. This dedication proposal is being presented to the INPC in conjunction with dedication proposals from two other adjacent landowners – the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District and the Natural Land Institute. With approval and execution of these three separate landowner dedications, the total acreage of nature preserve lands legally protected at the Severson-Colman Dells Nature Preserve complex will increase from 94.5 acres to 361.1 acres.

REPORT

Russell Brunner  
Byron Forest Preserve District

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 12:\* Peoria Co. – Buffer Addition to Singing Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Peoria Park District seeks preliminary approval for a 40-acre proposed buffer addition to Singing Woods Nature Preserve. The existing Singing Woods Nature Preserve (695.85 acres) is also owned by

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

REPORT  
Angella Moorehouse  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 13:\* Winnebago Co. – Buffer Addition to Severson Dells Nature Preserve, Dedication

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

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

REPORT  
John C. Nelson  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 14:\* Cook Co. – Glenview Naval Air Station Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

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

REPORT

Steve Byers

Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 15:\* Cook Co. – Addition and Buffer Addition to Kennicott’s Grove Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Glenview Park District seeks final approval for dedication of a 44.7-acre addition to the 50-acre Kennicott’s Grove Nature Preserve. The proposed addition includes 23.2 acres as nature preserve and 21.5 acres as nature preserve buffer. Both Kennicott’s Grove Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located within the 144.7-acre property owned by the Glenview Park District that is referred to as “The Grove”. Kennicott’s Grove Nature Preserve received final approval for dedication at the Commission’s 155<sup>th</sup> Meeting in May 1997 (Resolution # 1359). This addition received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission’s 226<sup>th</sup> Meeting in May 2017 (Resolution #23840. “The Grove” includes the Kennicott House, Redfield House, and Interpretive Center and was recognized by the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 and was granted National Historic Landmark status in 1976. The proposed 44.7-acre addition lies adjacent to the Kennicott’s Grove INAI site (INAI # 1469) and includes Grade C mesic upland forest and ponds located within the nature preserve addition and a prairie restoration within the nature preserve buffer addition. The existing nature preserve and proposed nature preserve addition provide suitable habitat for two State-listed species; the swollen sedge (*Carex intumescens*) and Kirtland’s snake (*Clonophis kirtlandii*). Kennicott’s Grove Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in the northeastern part of Cook County, Illinois. In 1973, when it appeared that much of “The Grove” would be converted to other uses, the Save the Grove Committee was formed to protect the site. That work continues to this day. Protection of Kennicott’s Grove Nature Preserve and the proposed addition supports several elements of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan “the Plan”. The site provides suitable nesting habitat for 10 bird species, 2 amphibian species, and 2 reptile species identified in the Plan as “Species in Greatest Need of Conservation.” Formal protection of the two parcels totaling 44.7 acres will protect Grade C mesic upland forest and pond communities, protect a portion of the original prairie grove first described by Dr. John Kennicott in 1850, will increase the size of Kennicott’s Grove Nature Preserve from 50 to 94.7 acres,

will further protect Kennicott’s Grove Nature Preserve from incompatible land uses, and is consistent with the original proposal that recommended dedication of all surviving portions of the original prairie grove. Finally, Kennicott’s Grove Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are a fitting companion to the designation of “The Grove” as a National Historic Landmark.

REPORT  
Steve Byers  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 16:\* Lake Co. – Donnelley Buffer Addition to Almond Marsh Nature Preserve, Dedication

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

REPORT  
Steve Byers  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 17:\* McLean Co. – Addition to Stubblefield Woodlots Nature Preserve, Dedication

A 5.56-acre tract of land is being proposed as the James Stubblefield nature preserve addition to the 11.7-acre Stubblefield Woodlots Nature Preserve, which consists of two tracts (5.22 acres and 6.49 acres) that are not adjacent, but separated from each other by about 90 feet. The James Stubblefield nature preserve addition is adjacent to both of these tracts, and would connect the two initial tracts, establishing the Stubblefield Woodlots Nature Preserve as one contiguous preserve. The preserve and the proposed addition are owned by the Sugar Grove Foundation in McLean County. All of the current preserve and the proposed addition are grade B mesic upland forest, part of the Funks Grove Natural Area (INAI #721). The 1,005-acre Funks Grove Natural Area is a remnant of a prairie grove (i.e., a wooded area surrounded by prairie) that once encompassed about 3,000 acres, and is located within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. The most obvious and impressive trees are the large sugar maples (*Acer saccharum*), bur oaks (*Quercus macrocarpa*), and black walnuts (*Juglans nigra*). A notable component of this forest is blue ash (*Fraxinus quadrangulata*). Stubblefield Woodlots Nature Preserve is

open to the public, although there are no established trails, and none are planned. Management of the site will focus on controlling non-native and invasive species. The Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan and Strategy would be supported by this dedication through the Forest, Land and Water Stewardship, and Invasive Species campaigns. The James Stubblefield addition to Stubblefield Woodlots Nature Preserve was given preliminary approval for dedication at the 226<sup>th</sup> commission meeting on May 9, 2017 (Resolution # 2387).

REPORT  
Justin Dillard  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 18:\* Kane Co. – Bliss Woods Nature Preserve, Supplemental Remedial Action Plan

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

REPORT  
Valerie Njapa  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Approval for the Supplemental RAP

Item 19: Election of INPC Officers

REPORT  
David Thomas  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Election of Officers

Item 20: Election of INPC Advisors and Consultants

REPORT  
David Thomas  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Election of Advisors and Consultants

Item 21: Review of Closed meeting minutes

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Commissioners must review closed minutes at least twice a year to determine if they must still remain closed. The following meetings had closed minutes and need to be reviewed: August 2, 2005; May 2, 2006; May 6, 2008; May 5, 2009; May 7, 2013; and September 10, 2013.

REPORT  
Tom Lerczak  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Determination if closed minutes remain closed

Item 22: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Item 23: Other Business

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

Item 24: Adjournment