

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA  
TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-FOURTH MEETING

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
One Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, IL 62702

January 22, 2020, 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 233rd Meeting, September 10, 2019**

**Approval of AMENDED Minutes from the 232<sup>nd</sup> Meeting, May 14, 2019**

**Item 4: Next meeting dates and locations**

January 21, 2020	Special Meeting – Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, IL
January 22, 2020	234 <sup>th</sup> Meeting - Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, IL
May 12, 2020	235 <sup>th</sup> Meeting - Starved Rock State Park Lodge, Oglesby, IL
September 15, 2020	236 <sup>th</sup> Meeting - Olney Central College, Olney, IL

**Item 5:\* INPC Staff Report**

REPORT  
Valerie Njapa  
Nature Preserves Commission

**Item 6:\* IDNR Staff Report**

REPORT  
Ann Marie Holtrop  
Division of Natural Heritage

**Item 7: Endangered Species Protection Board Report**

REPORT  
Joyce Hofmann  
Endangered Species Protection Board

**Item 8:\* Hancock Co. – Crystal Glen Land and Water Reserve, Registration**

The proposed Crystal Glen Land and Water Reserve (LWR), owned by Duane and Joyce Taylor, is a 79.1-acre site located 2.5 miles northeast of Warsaw and just east of Cedar Glen LWR. The property, which has remained in the Taylor family for 140 years, lies entirely within the Cedar Glen Kibbe Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Macrosite (INAI #565). This INAI site is 3,845 acres in size and includes three nature preserves sites owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources: Cedar Glen Nature Preserve (NP) which is 616.9 acres, Mississippi River Sand Hills NP (45 acres), and Cedar Glen LWR (269.5 acres). The INAI site is recognized for its Category I high quality communities including sand seep, sand hill prairie, limestone cliff, dry-mesic barren, dry barren, and dry-mesic sand savanna; Category II for the presence of nine State-listed species; Category III for the existing NPs and LWR; Category IV for outstanding exposure of Keokuk Limestone; and Category VI for a high diversity mussel bed. The proposed LWR lies in the Glaciated Section of the Middle Mississippi Border Natural Division of Illinois and is characterized by steep limestone bluffs, wide rocky creeks, geodiferous rocks and forested uplands with scattered hill prairie, barrens, and savanna communities. While there are no listed species known at the Crystal Glen site, its addition to the nature preserves system will expand the large block of protected forested lands for the benefit of forest-sensitive wildlife and maintain the scenic limestone cliffs. Registration of the proposed site will increase the number of INPC-protected acres in the INAI site from 931.4 to 1,010.5. INPC staff recommends approval for this LWR.

**REPORT**

Angella Moorehouse  
Nature Preserves Commission

**ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED**

Approval for Registration

**Item 9:\* Perry Co. – Sawyer-Coffel Land and Water Reserve, Registration**

The HARRISS LAKE TRUST #1 seeks to register ~101 acres of natural land in perpetuity to ensure that their portion of Harriss Lake is kept in natural quality while maintaining recreational waterfowl-hunting opportunities. The reserve is in the Mount Vernon Hill Country Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division of Illinois. It is in the Pickneyville Township of central Perry County. It is comprised of 81 acres (60 acres of Grade B shrub swamp and 21 acres of Grade C wet-floodplain forest) of the Harriss Lake Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Site (INAI; Category I site) #1959 and 20 acres of Grade C wet-floodplain forest with shrub swamp inclusions. The reserve supports wetland and aquatic habitats that once dominated the landscape along the Big and Little Muddy River tributaries in Perry & Jackson Counties. Despite the disturbance associated with land clearing, modern drainage improvements, and strip-mining operations, the quality of this wetland is exceptional and represents the last and best remaining habitats of this kind in the region. Highly conservative wetland-dependent plants such as mosquito fern (*Azolla mexicana*), frog's bit (*Limnobium spongia*), hairy primrose willow (*Ludwigia leptocarpa*), humped bladderwort (*Utricularia gibba*), nipped water meal (*Wolffia braziliensis*), and blade duckweed (*Wolffiella gladiata*) are found within the shrub swamp.

Qualifying features include:

1. Permanent protection of 81 acres of INAI#1959;
2. Two state-listed wetland bird species breed in the reserve, the state-threatened (ST) least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) and state-endangered (SE) common gallinule (*Gallinula galeata*);
3. Wetland-dependent avian Species in Greatest Need of Conservation (SGNC), as identified in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP), breed in the reserve, namely the prothonotary warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) and pied-billed grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*);

4. Permanent protection of >100 acres of wetland complex; and
5. Support of the Wetland and Invasive Species Campaigns of the IWAP.

REPORT  
 Kevin Sierzega  
 Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
 Approval for Registration

**Item 10:\* Cook Co. – Elizabeth Conkey Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication**

The Forest Preserves of Cook County owns the 240-acre Elizabeth Conkey Woods, and wishes to dedicate 180 acres in perpetuity as the Elizabeth Conkey Woods Nature Preserve. This site is found near Palos Heights in southwest Cook County, and it straddles the Chicago Lake Plain and Morainal Sections of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division of Illinois. Elizabeth Conkey Woods contains one of the region’s most important archaeological sites, the Huber site, which contains examples of human habitation dating back 10,000 years, including important cultural resources from the Huber Phase, the time of earliest contact between native peoples and European trappers/traders. Additionally, Elizabeth Conkey Woods contains mesic woodlands, mesic floodplain forest, and a creek that contain seven Species in Greatest Need of Conservation identified in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan. It is connected to an additional 3,500 acres of Forest Preserve lands, including an extensive band of woodlands and forest along the banks of Tinley Creek. Dedication of this site as a nature preserve will help ensure the protection of the vital cultural and natural resources contained within its boundaries for future generations.

REPORT  
 Kim Roman  
 Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
 Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Charles O’Leary  
 Forest Preserves of Cook County

**Item 11:\* Kane Co. – Powers Road Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication**

Ms. Linda LaGod seeks preliminary approval for dedication of 27.6 acres as the Powers Road Fen Nature Preserve. The proposed Powers Road Fen Nature Preserve was included on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI # 1576) initially as a Category II site in 2000 because of the presence of a State-endangered plant. The INAI was upgraded in 2004 to include Category I status because of the presence of Grade B and Grade C graminoid fen and sedge meadow wetlands. The site also supports Grade C freshwater marsh, dry-mesic savanna, mesic prairie, and wet-mesic prairie communities. Collectively, these natural communities support 205 plant species. The proposed Powers Road Fen Nature Preserve lies within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in the northern part of Kane County. The site is located in close proximity to the 1269-acre Freeman Kame-Meagher Forest Preserve owned by the Kane County Forest Preserve District. Protection and management of Powers Road Fen supports elements of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, including a key element of the Wetlands Campaign: “...to improve the condition of existing natural and artificial wetlands.” The owner reserves the right to continue adaptive management strategies for the site and to monitor and implement projects designed to maintain or improve surface and groundwater hydrology. The owner further reserves the right for her, or a future owner, to develop an unpaved walking trail and to provide trail modifications and amenities as may be necessary with the approval

of the Commission. Protection of Powers Road Fen as part of the Illinois Nature Preserves System is consistent with the recommendations of the Illinois Sustainable Natural Areas Vision that calls for "...a new conservation of connectivity paradigm...from an individual site protection approach to one that connects core natural areas to the landscape around them, enlarging them to sustain greater biodiversity, and resilient enough to adapt to climate change and other ecological and cultural threats." INPC staff acknowledges the long-term interest and support of Ms. Linda LaGod and recommend dedication of Powers Road Fen as an Illinois Nature Preserve.

REPORT  
Steven Byers  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

**Item 12:\* Kankakee Co. – Guiding Star Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication**

The Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) owns and manages a portion of Guiding Star Savanna Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI #974) and wishes to dedicate 82.5 acres of it in perpetuity as the Guiding Star Savanna Nature Preserve. Guiding Star Savanna, located in Kankakee County and lying in the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois, is recognized on the INAI for its high-quality dry and dry-mesic sand savanna. It is also known to provide habitat for the state-threatened regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria regalia*). Dedication of this natural area promotes the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan by targeting conservation efforts on habitat for the red-headed woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) and other wildlife Species in Greatest Need of Conservation. It is also located in the Kankakee Sands Conservation Opportunity Area and lies in close proximity to many other high-quality natural areas. Guiding Star Savanna INAI site is one of the best quality natural areas in the State of Illinois, and is a key conservation holding in the Kankakee Sands. Dedication of this site as a nature preserve will help ensure its natural character is protected and managed for future generations.

REPORT  
Kim Roman  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

**Item 13:\* Lake Co. – Sturm Woods Buffer Addition to Wright Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication**

William and Angelica Sturm seek preliminary approval for dedication of 5.0 acres as the Sturm Woods Buffer Addition to Wright Woods Nature Preserve. The proposed addition is part of a much larger 4000-acre wooded corridor extending along the east bank of the Des Plaines River in Lake County. Virtually all that corridor has been protected by the Lake County Forest Preserve District. The proposed Sturm Woods Buffer Addition lies immediately adjacent to Wright Woods Nature Preserve owned by the Lake County Forest Preserve District. The proposed addition includes dry-mesic upland forest, elements of a northern flatwoods, and a cultural community being restored to prairie. Collectively, these plant communities support 123 native plant species. The proposed Sturm Woods Buffer Addition to Wright Woods Nature Preserve lies within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southeastern Lake County. The large block of forest arrayed along the east bank of the Des Plaines River, of which this proposed addition is a part, is critically important to migratory and resident avifauna. Surveys of the adjacent 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. It is very likely that many of these species utilize the natural communities within the proposed addition. Protection of the proposed nature preserve buffer addition to Wright Woods Nature Preserve supports elements of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, most notably elements of the Forest Campaign that call for “ecological connectivity among forests.” William and Angelica Sturm reserve the right to maintain the existing trail network and to provide trail amenities as deemed appropriate with approval of the Commission. In addition, the owners reserve the right to maintain/replace the existing drive, buried infrastructure (electric, natural gas, water, cable) located adjacent to the drive, and a septic field. The owners also reserve the right to continue an adaptive management strategy. The owners first implemented management (control of invasive species) over 20 years ago and the proposal includes management priorities. Protection of the 5.0-acre Sturm Woods Buffer Addition to Wright Woods Nature Preserve is consistent with the Illinois Sustainable Natural Areas Vision that calls for “...a new conservation of connectivity paradigm...from an individual site protection approach to one that connects core natural areas to the landscape around them, enlarging them to sustain greater biodiversity, and resilient enough to adapt to climate change and other ecological and cultural threats.” The proposed Sturm Woods Buffer Addition will increase the size of Wright Woods Nature Preserve from 287.8 to 292.8 acres in size. INPC staff acknowledges the long-term interest and support of William and Angelica Sturm in protecting and managing their privately-owned portion of the extensive forests that extend along the Des Plaines River. Ken Klick, with the Lake County Forest Preserve District staff, is acknowledged for assisting with plant surveys.

REPORT  
Steve Byers  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

**Item 14:\* Lee Co. – John Husar Memorial Addition to Franklin Creek Nature Preserve, Dedication**

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources proposes to dedicate 62.8 acres as an addition to their Franklin Creek Nature Preserve. Both Franklin Creek Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located within the 945-acre Franklin Creek State Natural Area. The proposed addition is located in the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division and is eligible for dedication by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) due to its designation as part of the Franklin Creek Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) Site (#1068) as a Category II due to the presence of State-listed plant species, Category III due to the prior Franklin Creek Nature Preserve dedication, and Category IV due to the presence of outstanding geological features. The INAI consists of moderate quality dry-mesic and mesic upland forest, wet-mesic floodplain forest, forested seep, dry dolomite prairie, and cliff communities. The proposed addition has natural areas of similar quality to those found in the original nature preserve. If approved, this addition to Franklin Creek Nature Preserve will bring the total acreage of protected land at this site to 260.1 acres. It is recommended by the INPC field staff that this 62.8-acre parcel be dedicated in perpetuity as the John Husar Memorial Addition to Franklin Creek Nature Preserve.

REPORT  
John Nelson  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

**Item 15:\* Monroe Co. -- Addition to Storment Hauss Nature Preserve, Dedication**

The Storment Hauss Nature Preserve is a 64.5-acre site in Monroe County dedicated March 1, 2002 (Resolution #1641). The site includes all of the Storment Hauss Woods Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI #1617). The site is listed on the INAI as a Category I for high-quality upland forest and Category VI for the presence of snake hibernacula. The preserve’s previous owner, the late David Storment, proposed to add an adjacent 10 acres to the preserve in 2007, when a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract expired on that field. Those 10 acres were given preliminary approval for dedication at the 194<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission on May 1, 2007 (Resolution #1950—see Appendix A). David Storment intended to eventually dedicate another 10 acres of CRP when the contract on that parcel expired. David passed away in the summer of 2019. In his will, he left provisions for the two 10-acre parcels to be added to the Storment Hauss Nature Preserve. David’s son, James Storment, seeks to fulfill the provisions of the will and dedicate the additional 20 acres to the preserve. This proposal primarily covers the second 10-acre parcel, with some mention of updated status of the 10 acres given preliminary approval in 2007. If preliminary approval is given for the second 10 acres, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) Staff will provide one Instrument of Dedication at a later INPC meeting to include the entire 20 acres. The proposed addition and previous preliminarily-approved addition will square off the boundaries of the existing nature preserve. The fields are comprised of native prairie and non-native pasture grasses, old field native and exotic herbaceous plants, and native tree plantings. The long-term goals of the late landowner were to convert the early-successional fields to dry-mesic upland forest, providing a larger and seamless forest community in the future. INPC staff plans to continue forest restoration of the sites.

REPORT  
Debbie S. Newman  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

**Item 16:\* Monroe Co. – Maher’s Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication**

The proposed Maher’s Woods Nature Preserve (NP) is a 25-acre site in the bluffs of southwestern Illinois, south of St. Louis. Maher’s Woods is part of the 724-acre Potato Hill Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) site (#200). The proposed preserve consists of 1.0 acre of Grade A loess hill prairie intermingled with approximately 24 acres of Grade C mature, second-growth dry woodland, and Grade A limestone cliff community. The proposed preserve contains a small population of the state-endangered stickleaf (*Mentzelia oligosperma*). The site supports several campaigns identified in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP), including the Forests Campaign, the Invasive Species Campaign, and the Land & Water Stewardship Campaign. The site is located within the IWAP’s Bluff Corridor/Karst Conservation Opportunity Area (COA), and the Southwestern Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (SWIWAP) partnership area. Dedication of the proposed preserve would assist in fulfilling the goals of the partnership’s strategic plan. These include preserving and stewarding additional acres of hill prairie, glade and forest and their associated species in the COA; addressing invasive species in the COA; encouraging landholders and policy makers to adopt sound land and wildlife management practices; and seeking resources and funding to implement goals of the SWIWAP. The proposed Maher’s Woods Nature Preserve is owned by Gertrude ‘Sue’ Parada. The proposed preserve has been in Mrs. Parada’s family for many decades. Mrs. Parada is committed to permanently protecting her family’s land and excited about preserving and managing the significant natural resources found on the property.

REPORT  
Debbie S. Newman  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

**Item 17:\* McHenry Co. – Buffer Addition to Lake in the Hills Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication**

The McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) seeks final approval for dedication of 137.9 acres as a nature preserve buffer addition to the 211.65-acre Lake in the Hills Fen Nature Preserve. Both the nature preserve, and proposed addition are located 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 four 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 Groundwater Area identified for Lake in the Hills Fen Nature Preserve. Lake in the Hills Fen Nature Preserve and the proposed buffer addition are located 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. Additionally, the site provides suitable nesting habitat for 13 bird species, one fish species, and two reptile species identified as Species in Greatest Need of Conservation. 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 also reserves 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. The proposed addition will increase the size of Lake in the Hills Fen Nature Preserve from 211.65 to 349.55 acres.

REPORT  
Steven Byers  
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Final Approval for Dedication

**Item 18:\* Monroe Co. – Salt Lick Point Land and Water Reserve, Request for New Waterline Easement**

The City of Waterloo seeks approval for a new waterline easement within an existing utility corridor at Salt Lick Point Land and Water Reserve (LWR). The new waterline is needed to meet the demands associated with development and population growth in western Monroe County, where the LWR is located. The 594.5-acre LWR is part of the Columbia Hill Prairies Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Site (INAI # 201) and was registered (original in 2005 with addition in 2008) to protect a mosaic of high-quality natural communities including loess hill prairie, limestone glade, limestone cliffs, upland forest, and additionally, several State-listed species. At the time of the original registration, there were pre-existing easements for powerlines, a waterline, and a natural gas pipeline within the existing utility corridor. When registering the LWR addition in 2008, the Village of Valmeyer (Village) reserved the right to install future underground utilities. However, this same future right was not reserved when the original LWR was registered. HMG Engineers, Inc., Consultant for the City of Waterloo, analyzed three location options with the preferred route being within the existing utility corridor. The preferred route is not expected to adversely impact any of the high-quality plant communities within the LWR, but there are some native plants interspersed with invasives in the location where the new waterline is proposed. Given the likelihood of disturbance to natural vegetation during installation, the Commission, in conjunction with approval consideration, must also make a finding that the proposed action is in the public interest. The Village has approved the request from the City of Waterloo, and INPC staff also support the request and believe the new waterline is in the public interest and will benefit the City of Waterloo, the Village and other nearby communities.

REPORT  
Justin Vonder Haar  
HMG Engineers, Inc.

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED  
Approval for Proposed Waterline

Debbie S. Newman and Valerie Njapa  
Nature Preserves Commission

**Item 19: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)**

**Item 20: Other Business**

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

**Item 21: Adjournment**