ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE 149TH MEETING

MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE, WILMINGTON, IL

25 FEBRUARY 2011
(Approved at the 150th meeting, May 13, 2011)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice-chair Glen Kruse, Secretary John Clemetsen, Dr. Joyce Hofmann, Ms. Susanne Masi, Mr. John Rogner, Ms. Laurel Ross, Dr. Jeff Walk.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Chairman Dan Gooch, Dr. Mike Retzer, Dr. John Taft.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Ed Anderson, Ms.Maggie Cole, and Dr. James Herkert (Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Resource Conservation); Mr. Ed Britton, Mr. Jeramie Strickland, and Mr. Eric Tomasovic (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service); Mr. Dan Thompson (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County); and, Ms. Anne Mankowski (Endangered Species Protection Board).

149-1 Call to Order. Welcome and Introduction of Guests
Vice-chair Kruse called the 149th meeting of the ESPB to order at 10:00 A.M. and asked Ms. Mankowski to call roll. He then noted that there was a quorum and asked meeting attendees to introduce themselves.

149-2 Adoption of Agenda
Vice-chair Kruse asked if there were any changes to the agenda. None were noted and Ms. Ross moved to adopt the agenda, Dr. Hofmann seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

149-3 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting
Vice-chair Kruse asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 148th meeting. Secretary Clemetsen moved to approve the minutes of the 148th meeting, Dr. Walk seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

149-4 ESPB Staff Report
Anne Mankowski, Director of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, gave her report (Attachment A).

149-5 IDNR Staff Report
Maggie Cole, Regional Administrator with the IDNR Division of Natural Heritage, gave her report (Attachments B and D).

149-6 INPC Staff Report
Vice-chair Kruse indicated that no representative from the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission was able to attend the meeting and referred members to the copy of a report that Mr. Heidorn had submitted to Ms. Mankowski prior to the meeting (Attachment C).

Dr. Walk noted that INPC staff Steve Byers had included brief mention about continuing work on efforts for establishment of the USFWS Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge and asked if

anyone could provide more information. Mr. Rogner stated that work was ongoing and the study and analysis of alternatives is underway, with anticipated late spring 2011 release a range of options for public comment, and maybe a decision by the end of the calendar year. Ms. Ross noted that the open houses that were held were very positive and well attended. Secretary Clemetsen indicated that he had also heard a few concerns expressed about citizens potentially losing their land or possibly certain use allowances to the process. Mr. Rogner stated that the USFWS policy is to only acquire land from willing sellers and noted that the USFWS was making efforts to meet with and address as much as possible the concerns of different user and interest groups.

Dr. Herkert made the Board aware that the US House of Representatives had passed Continuing Resolution #1 for FFY11 in which the State Wildlife Grant (SWG) program was zeroed-out; Illinois usually receives about $2.0 – 2.5 million dollars annually from the federal program. He stated that the resolution would soon be considered by the Senate. Mr. Rogner indicated that IDNR had submitted to the entire delegation and the House letters of support for restoring the funding and indicated that the IDNR would do the same with members of the Senate. He asked if the Board might be interested in expressing similar support. Vice-chair Kruse asked for a motion for the Board to send to Senators Durbin and Kirk letters of support for restoring SWG funding. Ms. Masi so moved, Ms. Ross seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Vice-chair Kruse asked Ms. Mankowski to draft and send the letters.

149-7 ESPB Budget

Ms. Mankowski reported that there was no change to the status of the FY11 budget and that the Board's FY12 budget request had been included in the IDNR budget request and in the Governor's FY2012 Budget Book, which represents his budget request. She noted that these are significant milestones for the Board since it had no budget from 2002 – 2010 and expressed appreciation to the IDNR and the Governor's office for the continued support. She indicated that she continued working with IDNR on details of the FY11 and FY12 budgets. The IDNR engages in frequent budget exercises, including budget reduction scenarios, spending plans, and mandate reviews. Ms. Mankowski coordinates with the IDNR to provide information relative to the Board's budget and needs.

Vice-chair Kruse agreed with Ms. Mankowski expression of appreciation to the IDNR and asked Mr. Rogner to pass along to IDNR Director Miller the Board's appreciation for the IDNR's support. Mr. Rogner indicated he would do so.

149-8 Board Appointments

Ms. Mankowski reviewed that the Board currently has full membership and noted that it was again, support from the IDNR that was largely responsible for helping to move along appointments and reappointments. Terms expire May 15, 2011 for Susanne Masi, Dr. Retzer, and Dr. Taft.

Ms. Mankowski then reviewed the process for appointments and reappointments, noting that the Board makes recommendations to IDNR Director Miller and asks for his endorsement of nominees and conveyance of such to the Governor's office. The Board's nomination process is a supplement to the required self-nomination web-tool at Appointments.Illinois.Gov administered by the Governors Office of Executive Appointments. Board-recommended nominees for appointment and reappointment must also complete the on-line self nomination process.

Vice-chair Kruse asked Ms. Masi if she wished to continue serving and she indicated that she did. Vice-chair then asked Ms. Mankowski if Drs. Retzer and Taft had expressed to her their interest in continuing service as Board members. Ms. Mankowski indicated that Dr. Taft had conveyed his interest in continuing service, but Dr. Retzer had not yet replied. Ms. Mankowski suggested that if it were acceptable to the Board, the Board could vote about the nominations for each of the three current members and once she confirmed Dr. Retzer's interest, she would generate the letters of recommendation that would be sent to IDNR Director Miller and Governor Quinn. Vice-chair Kruse suggested that the Board vote and asked for a motion to recommend reappointment for Susanne Masi, Dr. Walk so moved, Secretary Clemetsen seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously. Vice-chair Kruse asked for a conditional motion to recommend reappointment for Dr. Retzer if he chooses to seek reappointment, Dr. Hofmann so moved, Ms. Ross seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously. Vice-chair Kruse asked for a motion to recommend reappointment for Dr. Taft, Ms. Masi so moved, Ms. Ross seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

149-9 Board Publication: Endangered and Threatened Species of Illinois: Status and Distribution – Volume 4: 2009 and 2010 Changes to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Animal and Plant Species.

Ms. Mankowski reported that she had completed the document and it will be posted to the Board's webpage upon completion.

149-10 ESPB Research Program – (FY11 cycle status review)

Ms. Mankowski reviewed that there were no outstanding contracts from previous fiscal years and that since the Board's 148th meeting, the IDNR released the Board's FY11 Wildlife Preservation Fund allocation and Ms. Mankowski issued contracts for the projects listed below.

FY11 Projects

Contract #	Title	Researcher/ Institution	Award Amount	Start Date	End Date
RC11E04W	Investigating the role of genetic diversity and pollination biology as potential causes for reproductive failure in *Asclepias lanuginosa* (wooly milkweed).	Jeremie Fant and David Zaya / CBG and UIC	$7,632	Upon Execution	02/28/2012
RC11E02W	Gene Flow among Populations of the Four-Toed Salamander, *Hemidactylium scutatum*.	Abigail J. Maley / INHS/UIUC	$5,000	03/01/2011	12/31/2011
RC11E03W	Evaluation of Distribution, Movements, and Habitat Use of River Redhorse (*Moxostoma carinatum*) and Greater Redhorse (*Moxostoma valenciennisi*) in the Upper Illinois River Basin.	David H. Wahl / INHS/UIUC	$8,500	04/01/2011	03/31/2012
RC11E01W	Baseline monitoring and molecular characterization of the state endangered Enigmatic Cavesnail, *Fontigens antroecetes* (Hubricht 1940)	Steven J. Taylor, Marlis Douglas, Jeremy Tiemann, and Robert Weck / INHS/UIUC and individual	$2,878	Upon Execution	10/15/2011

149-11 Mammal ESTAC Recommendations about Cave Bat Status and White-Nose Syndrome Management

Ms. Mankowski reviewed that at the 148th meeting, the Board had asked her to compile relevant information and consult with the ESPB Mammal Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee about this agenda item. She reviewed that she sent a query to the ESTAC and a few other individuals for cave bat species population data. She indicated that in response, she received data from Tara Kieninger (Illinois Natural Heritage Database), Andy King (USFWS), Tim Carter (Ball State University), and Rod McClanahan (USFS). She distributed to Board

members a document summarizing previous Board discussions, additional information from other states and agencies, and data compiled from her request. She advised that the data, to date, are insufficient to speak to trends for any species, noting that breeding season data is scarce for listed species and even more so for un-listed species. Due to the paucity of data, she did not ask the ESTAC for further evaluation. She indicated that she intended to present to the Board the information obtained to date, and ask if and how the Board would like to proceed.

Dr. Hofmann agreed with Ms. Mankowski that it is a hard group to get a handle on and getting additional breeding season data, especially for non-listed species, will be very difficult and what new data is obtained will still likely be insufficient. She added that availability of hibernacula data will be better, but for species that are widely distributed, that may be insufficient, as well. Ms. Mankowski reviewed that the Board is concerned with Illinois populations and if we are strictly using hibernacula data, those may not be Illinois-breeding bats. There isn't a lot of data for un-listed species, this is always a problem, and we could possibly use data for listed species as a surrogate for some of the un-listed species in this case, but we probably still don't have enough data for that effort. She indicated that she reviewed the ESTAC and Board information used in evaluating the listing status of the Rafineque's and Southeastern Myotis, and it was a combination of the usual types of information and data – some hibernacula data was used, the presence of a limited range in Illinois, small and limited populations, what percent of habitat (hibernacula and maternity colony) was protected, etc. She reviewed again the three recently passed Wisconsin DNR Administrative Rules (listing *Geomyces destructans* as a prohibited invasive species; the management of white-nose syndrome in bats; and, the listing as state-threatened four bat species - big brown, little brown, long-eared, and Eastern pipistrelle) and noted that Wisconsin's process for allowing exemptions under its incidental take law differs from Illinois'.

Ms. Mankowski and Dr. Hofmann reiterated that listing bat species will not stop the advance of WNS. Dr. Hoffman added that it may be impossible to limit bat-to-bat contact and that measures that limit human contamination of caves is one way to try to slow the spread of the fungus. The Board discussed the matter further. Mr. Rogner asked if there was clear evidence that humans are responsible for the spread of the disease. Dr. Hofmann said there is increasing anecdotal evidence such as where a clean cave became infected immediately following a visit by cavers who had not decontaminated their gear and that some of the long-range geographic leaps made cannot be explained purely by bat movement because the bats involved aren't known to move such great distances.

Vice-chair Kruse asked Mr. Rogner and Dr. Herkert if the IDNR was working on a management plan for WNS. Dr. Herkert indicated that the IDNR is working on a response action plan that seeks to limit human access to caves and uses a tiered approach that follows the USFWS guidance (*December 2009 USFWS WNS Structured Decision Making Initiative and WNS Management Implementation Guidelines*). Ms. Mankowski asked Dr. Herkert about the status of cave closures by the IDNR. Dr. Herkert responded that there are six caves owned by IDNR, four are already gated, the fifth is very hard to find and is posted "no trespass", and the sixth, Illinois Caverns, had not been closed, but the IDNR is using the USFWS guidance and some guidance developed in Missouri to evaluate that potential.

Vice-chair Kruse then reviewed what had been discussed - that the data was not very robust, additional species listings would not slow the spread of the fungus, additional species listings may have unintended consequence by restricting activities that are not currently considered threatening to unlisted species which may result in an unrealistic administrative burden with

regard to IDNR permit and incidental take programs, and the affect of listings would not necessarily provide additional protections for species in this instance, because the threat would not be mitigated by listing. He then asked members if they felt comfortable making any recommendations at this time. Dr. Hofmann indicated that she felt landowner education would be helpful as it may encourage limiting access to privately owned caves or increase caver equipment decontamination efforts.

The Board considered its authority under the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act to list species on what may be a precautionary principle; that although a threat has not yet affected the Illinois population, it could be considered imminent based on current scientific evidence. Vice-chair Kruse suggested that evaluating the degree of threat to a species is obviously a major factor when considering listing, but he believes the Act does not specifically address this issue. He stated that he believes past practice has always been to use evidence of an existing/occurring threat or impact in such evaluation and the Board has never used anticipation of a threat, but that the advance of WNS into Illinois is probably more of a certainty than any other threat the Board has considered previously. Dr. Herkert added that he is unaware of any previous listing that did not use existing data demonstrative of a current threat that met the threshold of "endangered" or "threatened" as defined in the Act. Ms. Mankowski agreed with Vice-chair Kruse and Dr. Herkert and added that when she communicated in early 2010 with seven other states about the issue, they all expressed the same conclusion at that time. She added that in its listing of the four bat species, Wisconsin considered the anticipated threat of WNS to be defensible scientific evidence based on all information known at the time, and this different interpretation and approach is why the Board was reviewing the situation in Illinois.

Vice-chair Kruse suggested that the discussion indicated that the Board is not ready to make any recommendations at this time and encouraged members and staff to keep an eye on relevant information.

149-12 Species Updates

Items 1 – 10 were included in Ms. Mankowski's written report submitted to the Board prior to the meeting. Item 11 was reported by Dr. Walk. Items 12 was reported by Ms. Masi. Items 13 – 20 were submitted by Joe Kath (IDNR) and are presented as received.

(Items 1 – 10 are reported by Anne Mankowski, ESPB)

1. **Species listings and status changes that have already received preliminary approval by the Board – keeping this entry in Species Updates as an earmark**. A public hearing and consideration of comments received is required prior to the Board making a final approval of a listing recommendation for a state-listed species. As discussed at the 147th meeting, due to the administrative burden associated with conducting a public hearing and making amendments to Ad Rules, the Board agreed to wait until after it had an opportunity to review the IDNR's forthcoming *Peregrine Falcon Post-delisting Management and Monitoring Plan* (see #3) and re-evaluate that species before scheduling public hearings and how to proceed with any proposed interim list changes. Species status changes for which the Board has already made preliminary approval include:

***Penstemon brevisepalus* (short-sepaled beard tongue)** – proposed to be de-listed.
***Mentzelia oligosperma* (stickleaf)** – proposed as endangered.
***Utricularia subulata* (hair bladderwort)** – proposed as endangered.

Additionally, in 2009 the Board de-listed ***Isotria medeoloides* (Small Whorled Pogonia).** Based on a review of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act and Ad Rule for the list of Illinois endangered

and threatened flora, it appears the Board does not actually have the authority to remove a federal species from the Illinois list. Board staff recommends the species is re-listed as Illinois endangered when the Board proceeds with other plant list changes. This action does not require a public hearing by the Board.

2. Ms. Mankowski continues working with the USFWS Rock Island Field Office, IDNR, and several other partners on a draft of a ***Decurrent False Aster (Boltonia decurrens** – federally and IL threatened) Conservation Agreement/Management Agreement for Managed Lands in the Illinois River and Mississippi River Floodplains*.

3. As outlined in several 2009 and 2010 Board meetings minutes, the Board and IDNR are working together to develop and coordinate materials necessary to re-evaluate the listing status of the **peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)**. At the request of the Board, the IDNR is preparing a *Post de-listing management and monitoring plan for the peregrine falcon*. The Board agreed that it would await finalization and Board approval of the plan prior to reconsidering the listing status of the peregrine falcon. As of this writing, the IDNR has not completed the first draft of the plan.

4. Ms. Mankowski continues project management of an IDNR SWG grant for the recovery of the **barn owl *(Tyto alba)*** in Illinois (T-35-P-1). The recovery team (Dr. Jeff Walk, Terry Esker, Maggie Cole, Mark Alessi, and Anne Mankowski) held an annual plan of work meeting to schedule activities for CY2011. Bob Bluett, IDNR Division of Wildlife, is assisting the team with field work and is pursuing Fish and Wildlife federal aid funding for out-year activities. Ms. Mankowski also completed and submitted the required SWG project annual report to the USFWS.

5. **Bats / White-Nose Syndrome -** see agenda item *#149-11 Mammal ESTAC Recommendations about Cave Bat Status and White-Nose Syndrome Management*.

6. A January article in The Southern newspaper reported on IDNR funded **Rice Rat (*Oryzomys palustris*)** research being conducted by researchers at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. The $160,000 project is headed Eric Hellgren, director of the Cooperative Wildlife Research Laboratory at SIUC, and allows for four years of fieldwork and data analysis to assess the current status and distribution of the species.

7. Species for which the US Fish and Wildlife Service conducted information requests and/or outreach during this quarter included:
- ***Trifolium stoloniferum* (Running Buffalo Clover) -** not known to be extant in Illinois; federally endangered, undergoing a five-year review.
- ***Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica* (Rabbitsfoot Mussel) -** Illinois endangered; proposed for federally endangered – includes a critical habitat review.

8. No incidental take authorizations were submitted by the IDNR to the Board for review and comment during the last quarter.

9. From the **Whooping Crane** Eastern Partnership website: http://www.bringbackthecranes.org/)
In December 2010, the "Class of 2010", represented by 10 cranes arrived in Florida. These 10 cranes are the 10th group to be guided by ultralights to Florida from Necedah NWR in Wisconsin. In addition to the ultralight-led birds, 10 additional cranes were reared and released in the company of older cranes from whom the young birds will learn the migration route as part of the Direct Autumn Release program. The DAR and ultralight-led chicks this year are joining two wild-hatched chicks in the 2010 cohort.

10. The Illinois Audubon Society purchased the 40-acre Hartman Spring Natural Area Inventory Site in Pulaski County. The parcel contains a population of the state-endangered **Spotted Dusky Salamander** (Desmognathus conanti).

(Item 11 was reported by Dr. Walk.)

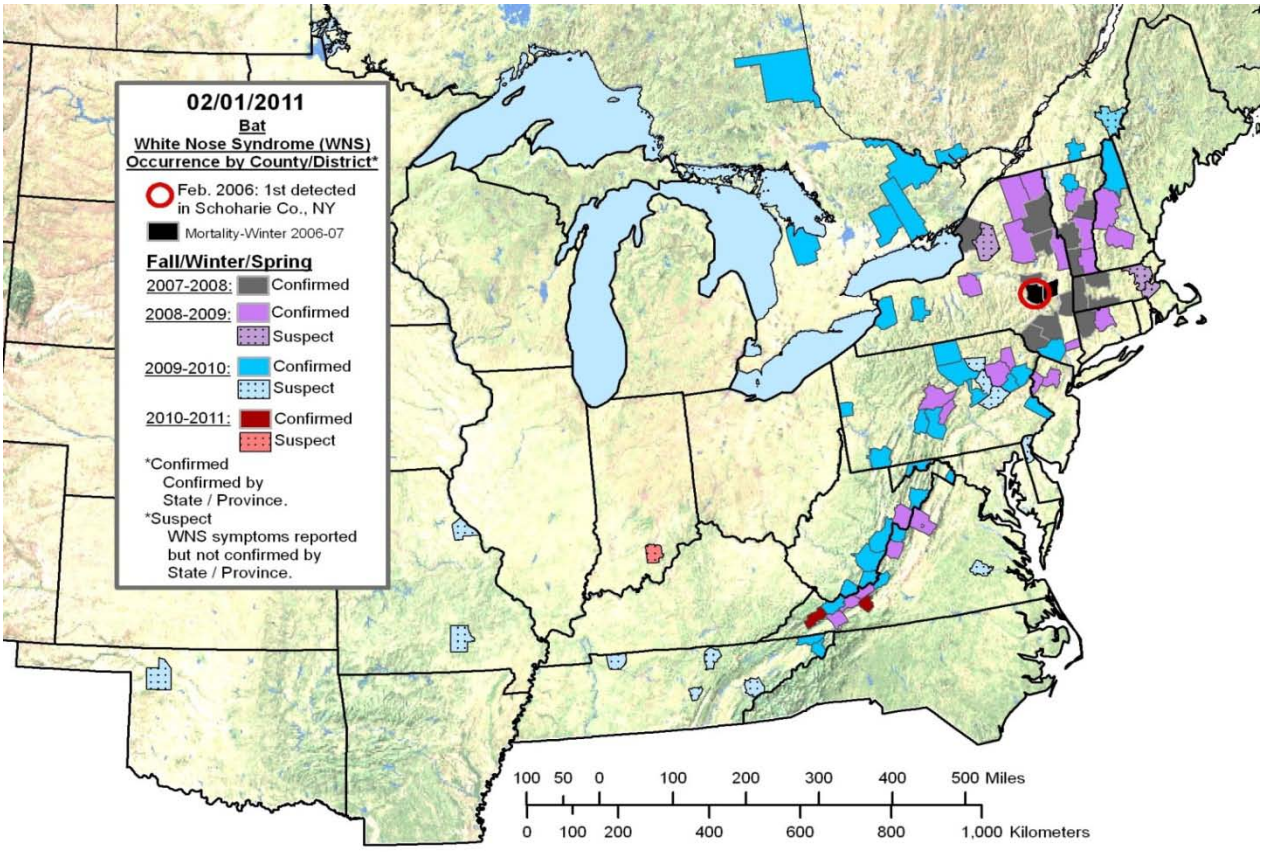
11. The Illinois Audubon Society (IAS) also is working with the Shawnee National Forest to purchase a cave entrance in Pope County that contains a hibernacula for the **Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*)**. Additionally, the IAS purchased 200 acres in Marion County further protecting more than 30 threatened and endangered species occurring at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area. That purchase was made possible by grants from Grand Victoria and Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundations and provides special protection to12-Mile Prairie Natural Area Inventory Site, maintained by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) through a scenic easement with the Illinois Department of Transportation.

(Item 12 was reported by Ms. Masi)

12. The Plants of Concern Program is meeting with landowners and managers to review species status and distribution data in preparation for the 2014 review and revision of the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species.

(Items 13 – 20 were submitted by Mr. Joe Kath, IDNR, and are presented as submitted.)

13. **White Nose Syndrome (bats)**
Unfortunately the State of Indiana announced the detection of WNS in a Washington Co., cave on February 1, 2011. It has been classified as "suspect" since it appears no histological results are back yet. There will likely be more reports from Indiana in the near future – unfortunately. We regretfully welcome Indiana to the riddled and rattled WNS raft. Please see most current WNS map below:



Map by: Cal Butchkoski, PA Game Commission

The State of Illinois has conducted winter hibernacula surveys of 5-6 important Indiana bat caves thus far in 2010/2011 and no visible signs of WNS have been detected. A survey of the large Magazine Mine Complex in Alexander County will occur on Feb. 12-14. A brief survey of the Blackball Mine Complex in LaSalle County was coordinated by DHB Dan Kirk and Joe Kath on Feb. 8. No visible signs of WNS were observed during this abbreviated survey.

14. **USFWS Proposed Listing and Critical Habitat Rule for the Rabbitsfoot mussel**
Per the USFWS Rock Island Field Office: The FWS is completing a listing rule for the rabbitsfoot mussel (*Quadrula cylindrica*). If you have any information status and distribution data for the rabbitsfoot that you can share, please send it to Tara Kieninger, Illinois Natural Heritage Database Manager (tara.kieninger@illinois.gov), to ensure that the Illinois Natural Heritage Database has the info and Tara will then compile a submission for the USFWS. Information can also be sent directly to the Rock Island USFWS Field Office, via Kristen Lundh.

15. **USFWS Proposed Listing of Sheepnose mussel and Spectaclecase mussel**
On January 19, 2011, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a rule in the Federal Register proposing two freshwater mussels, the sheepnose (*Plethobasus cyphyus*) and the spectaclecase (*Cumberlandia monodonta*), for listing as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973. In Illinois, the sheepnose is found in the following rivers: Mississippi, Kankakee, Ohio, and Wabash. Likewise, in Illinois, the spectaclecase is found in the following rivers: Mississippi and Ohio. The public comment period for the Service's Federal Register proposed rule closes March 21, 2011, at which time they will consider the comments received in a final rule. For additional information about the sheepnose and spectaclecase mussels, contact Kristen Lundh at 309-757-5800, extension 215.

16. **IDNR/INHS Northern Riffleshell and Clubshell Recovery Effort Update**
Please note the following meeting and IDNR/INHS poster presentation that will soon be available:
April 11-15, 2011, Seelbach Hilton Louisville, Louisville, KY: *Managing Your Mollusks: Reflecting on the Past, Preparing for the Future.*
A plenary session will open the meeting and provide updates freshwater mollusk conservation and habitat restoration. In 2011, the focus will be on state and regional management of mollusks. Platform and poster session categories covering all taxa of mollusks (gastropods and bivalves) will include:

IDNR/INHS Poster Presentation Abstract:

NORTHERN RIFFLESHELL REINTRODUCTION IN ILLINOIS: SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES FROM 2010

Jeremy S. Tiemann[1], Robert E. Szafoni[2], Joseph Kath[2], and Kevin S. Cummings[1]
[1]Illinois Natural History Survey – Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability at the University of Illinois, 1816 South Oak Street, Champaign, IL 61820 [2]Illinois Department of Natural Resources, 1 Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702

17. **Barn Owl Recovery Team Meeting (01/06/11)**
*All information below reported and provided by Anne Mankowski, ESPB Director:
Meeting Agenda: 1)status of recovery plan; 2)status of SWG project, budget, and deliverables; 3)Dr. Jeff Walk's (TNC) Outdoor Illinois article; 4)"nest box spreadsheet/database" ; 5)field work we got done in 2010; 6)field work we need to get done in 2011 – who is doing it, do we need additional resources, schedule, etc. ; 7)In his review of the barn owl recovery plan, Bob Bluett (IDNR-Wildlife) expressed interest in assisting with implementation and so will join us. Also, Bob Bluett will talk about his proposal for combining the barn owl and osprey recovery plans into W-99-R funding.

18. **Northern Illinois Barn Owl Release Program - Update from FPD of DuPage County (12/09/10)**
In mid September, 2010 the ESPB worked with the IDNR, and the Barn Owl Recovery Team to develop recommendations about issuing IDNR permits for requested activities by outside entities (i.e. FPD of DuPage County and other institutions) and that could also be applied to any other requests for permits to propagate barn owls in Illinois and/or release propagated owls in Illinois.
Satellite Tracking of wild barn owls as part of scientifically-designed effort to track an adequate sample

of wild barn owls and statistically address a set of explicit research questions may provide useful information without interfering with recovery efforts. We (ESPB/Barn Owl Recovery Team) would endorse this activity and recommend that DNR issue permits for such work if it were supported by a peer-reviewed proposal that demonstrates how this activity contributes to the recovery of the species in Illinois and is consistent with the recovery plan. The Illinois Barn Owl Recovery Team is always willing to review any proposals.

19. **Peregrine Falcon Banding and Recovery Work in Illinois – 2010 Summary**
*2010 Nesting Season Peregrine Observations – Info. Reported by: Rob Sulski, Glenview, IL: Locations of 2010 Birds Observed (singles and/or pairs): Reliable Materials Lyons Quarry, Torrence Ave. RR Bridge, Old Sears Tower, Peoria Associated Bank Building, and the Schaumburg Elgin-O'Hare Expressway at Thorndale Ave.

Spring Nesting: During Spring 2010 adult Peregrines were observed frequenting 4 sites and YOY peregrines were for the first time seen at 2 of those sites. A juvenile was observed flying with an adult female at a quarry in Thornton, IL, and a juvenile was seen on a light post in Schaumburg, IL. Teams were unable to band any juveniles because they were either fledged by the time they were discovered or the eiries are inaccessible.

Fall Banding: During fall 2010, teams caught 10 immature Tundra Peregrines (*Falco peregrinus tundrius*) and salvaged feathers from and banded same. All 10 Peregrines were caught at Chiwaukee (Pleasant Prairie), Kenosha Co., WI. The nearby hawk counters recorded 80 Peregrines migrating through Illinois Beach State Park this last fall. Teams banded and released approximately 70 other raptors at the Lake County Water Plant and Chiwaukee Prairie sites. Overall, weather conditions for observing and catching raptors were poor.

Future Plans: This program is presently 95% of the way towards meeting its capture goal of 100 migrant Peregrines. Teams should be able to conclude the Peregrine feather sampling and measurement elements of the project in 2011. Peregrine eirie searches will continue and juvenile banding will occur where possible and practical. The Great Lakes Falconers Association has volunteered to construct and place Peregrine nest boxes at several locations where adult have been present during the nesting season.

20. **Incidental Take (ITA) Update - As of February 3, 2011**
*3 Final ITA's sent to applicants and still awaiting final signatures by applicant and IDNR
-Tyler Creek/Big Timber Road (Slippershell mussel)
-Kaskaskia Road /Monroe County (Narrowmouth toad) – **currently being revised**
-Loon Lakes East and West (Various small fish species) – **currently being revised**

*2 Final ITA packages are now complete and signed by the Applicant and the IDNR – filed away
- Kickapoo Trail (Franklin's ground squirrel)
-Cisco/Monticello Road – FAS 1531 (EMR)

*4 ITA packages – officially submitted to IDNR and Final ITAs due on the following dates:
-Scott County Rural Water Cooperative – Phase II Distribution System - Due April 23, 2011
-Blivin Road/McHenry County (Black sandshell mussel) – Due March 24, 2011
-Lowell Eells Property/Vermilion County (Various mussel species) – Due March 18, 2011
-Marseilles Lock & Dam Project #13351(Greater redhorse/River redhorse) – Due March 12, 2011

*3 new letters sent to Applicants asking them to formally apply for an ITA:
-FAP 301/IDOT (US 20) – JoDaviess County
-American Wind Energy/Sugar Creek Wind Farm – Logan County
-Affinity Wind Farm – Pike County

*Notification that at least 3-4 more Conservation Plans/Incidental Take Application packages are anticipated for submission by March 15, 2011. Once again, many are large wind facilities with documented Indiana bat occurrences. Ongoing meetings continue with the USFWS is to try and address this issue and achieve consensus between the 2 agencies as far as recommendations to avoid/minimize take – this is proving to be very complex and arduous.

REPORT END

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via phone/e-mail. Thanks – Joe.

149-13 Presentations: USFWS Lost Mound Unit Activities with the Peregrine Falcon, Plains Hog-nosed Snake, and Ornate Box Turtle

Ed Britton reviewed the Lost Mound Unit's program to provide peregrine falcon nest boxes to landowners along the Upper Mississippi River Refuge area. He noted that the boxes are constructed by Clinton High School students and the program is very popular with landowners.

Mr. Britton briefly reported that the Lost Mound Unit will be continuing research activities on Refuge land and private properties involving the Plains Hog-nosed snake. He noted that they hope the research will lead to better conservation of snake and other sand prairie associates.

Mr. Britton, Jeramie Strickland, and Eric Tomasovic, then made a presentation about their ongoing research for the Ornate Box Turtle. He noted that there are multiple partners in the project and much of the work is conducted by a hard-working corps of volunteers. As part of the presentation Mr. Britton and his staff were requesting that the Board review their proposed 2011 field activities, consider endorsing them and making recommendation to the IDNR to allow those activities via an IDNR Endangered and Threatened Species Permit. The Board engaged Mr. Britton, Mr. Strickland, and Mr. Tomasovic in considerable discussion about the specifics of their research. The Board commended the USFWS staff for their significant efforts and dedicated work on the research and noted that the materials presented to the Board were very thorough and did a good job of addressing concerns expressed by the Board in 2009. The Board reviewed that head-starting activities may benefit populations when the egg and hatchling age classes are being negatively affected and recruitment is a problem, but reiterated that head-starting does not automatically include the prospect of translocation. The Board went on to express concerns about potential impacts to proposed donor populations and some expectations of success for the proposed translocation.

After further discussion and deliberation, Vice-chair Kruse asked if any Board member wanted to make a motion in regards to the request from the presenters. Dr. Walk proposed a motion to endorse the following activities and make recommendation that the IDNR issue an E&T Possession Permit to allow for such:

1) Continue mark and recapture and radio-telemetry studies.
2) Head-starting of up to 25 eggs from one specified USFWS-owned property, with 50% of surviving young being returned to place of origin and 50% being translocated to Lost Mound.
3) Keep the four 2009 head-started turtles at Lost Mound and not return them to place of origin.
4) Cage nests for 3-4 weeks to protect against predators.
5) Continue genetic testing and analysis of compatibility of Nebraska populations.
6) Translocation / relocation of animals to Lost Mound in imminent danger of mortality from decimation of habitat on Local Redevelopment Authority property. Movement of all other

"rescued" animals will adhere to 2010 permit specifications, which is to move animals to immediately adjacent appropriate habitat up to one kilometer away.

Dr. Hofmann seconded the motion. Vice-chair Kruse asked if there was any further discussion. Mr. Britton asked for amendment that #6 should also include the Riverport Railroad property. Dr. Walk and Dr. Hofmann approved the amendment and the Board approved unanimously the motion as amended. Ms. Mankowski stated that she would summarize the recommendations and send it to the IDNR and copy Mr. Britton on the correspondence. She then thanked Mr. Britton, Mr. Strickland, and Mr. Tomasovic for coming and making their presentations.

149-14 Next Meeting Information (Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, May 13, 2011)

149-15 Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Vice-chair Kruse acknowledged a member of the audience who wished to make a public comment and asked that he introduce himself at the beginning of his comment.

Dan Thompson of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, thanked Vice-chair Kruse and the Board for the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Thompson stated that he did not have a prepared statement, but wanted to see the discussion about the Ornate Box Turtles because he is in a similar situation regarding the Blanding's Turtle and is currently awaiting renewal of his permit to continue work with the Blanding's Turtle in DuPage County and was hoping for feedback, but understands that the public comment portion of the meeting does not allow for interactive discussion with the Board. He stated that he has spoken to Ms. Mankowski about working with her to get feedback about Board concerns regarding his permit request and also wants to address the concerns of the Board and wants the Board to realize that this is a program he took over from Dan Ludwig who started it in 1996 before the species was listed. He said that he realizes that since the Board down-graded the species to endangered in 2009, it shows the urgency of the work at hand. There is a lot of work going on and he realizes that it is a lot to take on with various agencies involved and that the Board will be more comfortable working with an established recovery plan in place, but he wants to express his deepest concern that he doesn't want to see his permit held-up and see a lack of opportunity to do the head-starting because nest depredation is so severe in the Chicago region. One thing he can say is that since the program has progressed in time they have learned a lot and continue to improve and he is very proud of where they are at and admits they have a long way to go, but he is here to say that they are here to work with the Board. This project is certainly not just him, but like Ed Britton, it is a collaboration with many partners – Brookfield Zoo, Lincoln Park Zoo, Shedd Aquarium, Peggy Notebaert, University of Illinois, Wheaton College – they are trying to learn what they need to be doing in the best interest of the species, as well. He feels they are doing that and they have a long way to go, but would hate to see a loss of this year's production of eggs. He thinks in 1996, they hit a high of 95% of eggs hatching-out successfully and last year they hit a high of 262 hatchlings and you know what's going to happen if they don't intercede – the raccoons are going to find nests and that would be a tremendous waste for an endangered species. He thinks this all became an issue when they asked to do a translocation to James Pate Philip State Park, which to him is just a continuation of the Pratt's Wayne population. So, he wants to sit down with Ms. Mankowski to get a better handle on what the concerns are and he doesn't know if he needs to be on the agenda for the May meeting, but is willing to do so, but hope he can get a quick answer to this. Again, he is willing to play by any guidelines and rules that may be required, but some of those may not be established until a

recovery plan is in place. So, whatever we can do to work out a situation that will be beneficial both ways, he is certainly willing to address that.

Mr. Thompson thanked the Board and Vice-chair Kruse thanked Mr. Thompson for his comment.

149-16 Other Business

There was none.

149-17 Adjournment

Secretary Clemetsen moved to adjourn, Ms. Masi seconded the motion, and the Board approved it unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 P.M.

Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board staff report
for the 149th Meeting, February 25, 2011
Submitted by Anne Mankowski, Director

The Board currently only has one staff, its Director, contractually employed by IDNR. All activities were conducted by Ms. Mankowski, unless otherwise noted. Because the Board has reduced staff and had been without any fulltime staff from 2002-2007 and then without any staff from 2007-2008, Ms. Mankowski has not been able to complete all required work in the course of a 40-hour work week. Since the last staff report, Ms Mankowski has contributed the following overtime hours toward ESPB and IDNR duties: November = 18.0; December = 6.0; January = 24.25.

1. ESPB Audit
Ms. Mankowski completed and returned to the Office of the Auditor General, an Audit Survey for FY2007 – FY2009 operations of the ESPB.

3. ESPB Budget
Ms. Mankowski continued working with IDNR on details of the FY11 and FY12 budgets. The IDNR engages in somewhat frequent budget exercises, including budget reduction scenarios, spending plans, and mandate reviews. Ms. Mankowski coordinates with the IDNR to provide information relative to the Board's budget.

4. ESPB Research Program
Ms. Mankowski engaged in correspondence related to issuance of contracts on the FY11projects that were recommended for funding by the Board and approved by IDNR Director Miller.

5. ESPB Status and Distribution and Thirty Years of the Illinois List Publications
Ms. Mankowski completed work on the Status and Distribution publication that reflects 2009 and 2010 changes to the list, including status and distribution information for newly listed species. IDNR Natural Heritage Database staff Tara Kieninger and Jeannie Barnes provided considerable assistance in the development and review of the document. Ms. Mankowski will distribute the final copy to Board members at the 149th meeting and the document will be published to the Board's webpage as a pdf. Ms. Mankowski continues working on drafts of the Thirty Years of the Illinois List publication.

6. Meetings, Presentations, and other Publications
Ms. Mankowski attended the November 17, 2010 meeting of the Illinois Wildlife Action Team at IDNR headquarters in Springfield, Illinois. The Board is a member of the team. Ms. Mankowski is working with Jody Shimp, Regional Administrator with IDNR ORC Division of Natural Heritage, on a proposal to possibly include in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan plant species in greatest need of conservation. She provided an update to the team about other state efforts to incorporate plants into their plans.

Ms. Mankowski attended the February 9, 2011 meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission at IDNR headquarters in Springfield, Illinois, and presented a report on activities of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board.

Ms. Mankowski attended the February 16, 2011 meeting of the Illinois Wildlife Action Team at IDNR headquarters in Springfield, Illinois. Ms. Mankowski and Jody Shimp, Regional Administrator with IDNR ORC Division of Natural Heritage, provided the team with an update about possibly including in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan plant species in greatest need of conservation.

Ms. Mankowski met several times with IDNR Procurement staff, and Board Vice-chair Glen Kruse joined her on one occasion, to discuss the Board's research program and contracting process as it relates to procurement rules under SB51.

7. Coordination with IDNR and INPC:

Ms. Mankowski coordinated with the Endangered Species Program ORC, Division of Wildlife ORC, Impact Assessment Section OREP, Office of Land Management, Office of Law Enforcement, Office of Legal Counsel, Office of Public Services, Media Relations, and Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, on multiple matters, including:

-Prepared and presented to IDNR Executive Staff for consideration in its strategic planning effort, a summary of what the ESPB does, fiscal and staffing status, and issues.

-Prepared for IDNR Fiscal staff, a summary of ESPB and IDNR unfunded or underfunded programs under the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act.

-Provided IDNR OREP with review and comments relative to a proposed MOU between IDNR and IEPA regarding IDNR endangered and threatened species consultation requirements for pesticide application under National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits.

-Coordinated with IDNR Natural Heritage Database Manager, Tara Kieninger, in developing draft informal requests for proposals for two projects intended to update historic endangered and threatened animal element occurrence records in the database. The informal RFPs will be sent to several major universities.

-Assisted IDNR Natural Heritage and Legal Counsel with compilation of materials relative to a FOIA request for data and reports about the Illinois Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris illinoensis*).

-Provided materials to IDNR Legal Counsel in response to a FOIA request for audio copies of audio recordings for the ESPB 141st meeting (February 20, 2009) and the ESPB 142nd meeting (May 15, 2009).

-Provided IDNR ORC review and comment on a *Proposed Recovery Outline & Pre-planning Tool for the Osprey (Pandion haliaetus).*

- Continues participating in an IDNR Incident Command System training committee. Prepared for and presented to IDNR Executive Staff, a proposed IDNR Incident Command System Training Program outline.

-Continued project management of the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) recovery planning and implementation State Wildlife Grant project (T-35-P-1). The recovery team held an annual plan of work meeting to schedule activities for CY2011. Ms. Mankowski also completed and submitted the required SWG project annual report to the USFWS.

-Continued working with IDNR ORC to provide advice to USFWS about research for the ornate box turtle.

-No incidental take authorizations were submitted by the IDNR to the Board for review and comment during the last quarter.

- Fielded and referred 28 requests to IDNR for E&T consultation, incidental take, data, permits, etc.

- Directly responded to 41 requests for ESPB and E&T information from the public and other state and federal agencies

8. Coordination with other Agencies

- Ms. Mankowski continues working with the USFWS Rock Island Field Office, IDNR, and several other partners on a draft of a *Decurrent False Aster (Boltonia decurrens – federally and IL threatened) Conservation Agreement/Management Agreement for Managed Lands in the Illinois River and Mississippi River Floodplains*.

- Ms. Mankowski, working with the Board's ESTACs and Tara Kieninger, IDNR Natural Heritage Database Manager, provided data to the USFWS in response to information requests for several species including the five-year review of *Trifolium stoloniferum* (Running Buffalo Clover, not known to be extant in Illinois, federally endangered) and the proposed listing and critical habitat review for *Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica* (Rabbitsfoot Mussel, IL E, proposed for Fed E).

- Ms. Mankowski coordinated with Tara Kieninger, Illinois Natural Heritage Database Manager, to provide the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) status and distribution information for the Crooked-stem Aster (*Symphyotrichum prenanthoides*).

9. Field Work

None.

10. Other General Administration and Clerical Work

- Prepared and routed Board member and staff travel vouchers.
- Regularly distributed information to Board and ESTAC members via internet and hardcopy mailings.
- Made updates to the ESPB webpage on the IDNR website.
- All aspects of preparation for the February 24, 2011 strategic planning special meeting and the February 25, 2011 149th meeting.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources report to the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board at the 149th meeting, February 25, 2011

Natural Heritage Resident Interns
We held interviews in Springfield for 8 Natural Heritage Resident Interns. The resident intern is a one-year, paid, full-time position with DNR where students working on a Masters degree in biology gain work experience by assisting Natural Heritage Biologists or Nature Preserves Commission Preservation Specialists in the field. 4 interns are being hired to assist DHBs, 3 will assist NAPS and 1 will be in the Springfield office assisting the endangered species and database programs. There have been 58 resident interns since the program began in 1993.

Natural Heritage Database
The Database Program mapped and did data entry for 237 plant E and T occurrences during January including new occurrences plus updates and remapping of existing occurrences.

Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month
May will be Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month again this year with the goal of increasing public awareness of the problems with invasive species. The River to River Cooperative Weed Management Area in Marion is putting together a website and calendar of events. Those planning an event can submit details to the Natural Heritage Division.

Wildlife Preservation Fund Grants
Applications are being accepted for the next round of Wildlife Preservation Fund grants. There's a large grant and a small grant (less than $2000) component to the program. The grant application is available on line and applications are due to DNR by April 1. The Wildlife Preservation Fund is now in its 28th year. The Fund generates about $180,000 in donations each year.

Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) update
A summary update and slides of a powerpoint presentation prepared by John Wilker are appended to the very end of these ESPB 149th meeting minutes (Attachment D).

To: Endangered Species Protection Board

From: Randy Heidorn

Date: February 23, 2011

Subject: Report the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

I. Protection Program:

A. Staff met with landowners and managers to plan and draft protection proposals that are on the agenda for the 207th meeting.

B. Natural area approved for registration as a Land and Water Reserve (LWR) at the 207th meeting of the INPC :
Cuba Marsh LWR, Lake Co. 767 acres (Lake County Forest Preserve), complex of wetlands and uplands including savanna, marsh, sedge meadow and prairie supporting several endangered and threatened bird species.

C. Natural area given preliminary approval for dedication as NP at the 207th meeting of the INPC:
1. Sarah and Robert Allgyer Addition to Skokie River NP, Lake Co., 0.9 acres, (private), prairie buffer.
2. Buffer addition to Sand Prairie Scrub Oak NP, Mason Co.,50 acres (IDNR).

D. Natural areas given final approval for dedication as NP at the 207th meeting of the INPC include:
1. Hildy Prairie, Grundy Co., 8.5 acres (privately owned) provides habitat for a state-endangered flower and a federally-threatened flower in the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division.
2. Gene Korando addition to Lovets Pond Nature Preserve, Jackson Co., 62.39 acres characterized by six natural communities, including pond, shrub swamp, swamp, marsh, floodplain forest, and successional field in the Southern Section of the Lower Mississippi River Bottomlands Natural Division.
3. Addition to Pembroke Savanna Nature Preserve, Kankakee Co., 97 acres (The Nature Conservancy) supports dry and dry-mesic sand savanna, sand flatwoods, and an old agricultural field reverting to wet-mesic sand prairie in the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division.
4. Buffer addition to MacArthur Woods Nature Preserve, Lake Co., 41.5 acres (Lake County Forest Preserve District) upland forest in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division.
5. Buffer addition to Middlefork Savanna Nature Preserve, Lake Co., 115.1 (Lake County Forest Preserve District) acres grade C dry-mesic savanna, grade C/D wet Prairie, Grade C/D sedge meadow and a cultural community located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division.
6. Buffer addition to Wadsworth Prairie Nature Preserve, Lake Co., 604.1 acres (Lake County Forest Preserve District) grade C dry-mesic savanna, grade C/D freshwater marsh, grade C/D sedge meadow, grade C/D wet, wet-mesic, and mesic prairie, grade C/D graminoid fen and a cultural community undergoing restoration for 25 years located in the Morainal Section fo the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division.
7. Elm Road Woods, Lake Co., 84 acres as NP and 54 acres as buffer (Lake County Forest Preserve District) grade B/C dry-mesic upland forest and grade B/C northern flatwoods in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division.
8. Boger Bog, McHenry Co., 36.9 acres (McHenry County Conservation District) graminoid fen in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division.
9. Detrana Fen buffer addition to Fel-Pro Triple R Fen Nature Preserve, McHenry Co., 56.2 acres (McHenry County Conservation District) grade B/C graminoid fen and calcareous seep, grade C sedge meadow, freshwater marsh, spring run, and grade C dry-mesic upland forest in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division.

E. Steven Byers:
1. Represented the IDNR and INPC on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proposed Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge feasibility study team.
   a. Drafted an IDNR letter of support for the refuge for IDNR Assistant Director Rogner.
   b. Gave a presentation on the proposed Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge to CW Corporate Council and at the CW Congress.
   c. Hosted USFWS “open houses” about the proposed refuge and gave a presentation to regional land trust organizations about their role in a proposed refuge.

2. Coordinated with CW partners to identify, evaluate, and respond to Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding opportunities.
3. Angella Moorehouse participated in a meeting with the Rock Island County SWCD and Interstate Resources Conservation and Development to coordinate meetings for the development of an implementation plan for the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) for the Quad Cities in support of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP).
4. Tom Lerczak began working on two IDNR proposals for sites in the Mason County Sand Areas COA.

F. Mary Kay Solecki:
1. Met with Prairie Rivers Network staff and provided input into draft action plan for the Vermilion River COA.
2. Participated in two meetings of watershed constituents to create an action plan for the Vermilion River COA.

II. Inventory and Monitoring:

A. Several field staff assisted INAI staff with updating and collecting inventory data on sites in their areas or providing landowner contact information.

B. John Nelson updated natural community maps for Boone Creek Fen NP, Gladstone Fen NP, and Hereen Prairie NP.

C. Angella Moorehouse conducted two Midwinter Bald Eagle Surveys along the Mississippi River for Iowa and Illinois.

D. Tom Lerczak:
1. Conducted site surveillance at 12 NPs, LWRs or Natural Heritage Landmarks (NHLs).
2. Conducted overwintering bird surveys with emphasis on the red-headed woodpecker, at Walden West LWR and Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak NP.

E. Mary Kay Solecki:
1. Conducted site surveillance/monitoring at Howard's Hollow Seep NP, Little Vermilion River LWR (and site inventory at potential addition), Baber Woods NP, Middle Fork Woods NP, and Russell M. Duffin NP.
2. Participated in mussel survey of two streams in Edgar County.

F. Bob Edgin:
1. Participated in the Jasper County Christmas Bird Count.
2. Co-authored published manuscript entitled: "Fire History of a post oak (*Quercus stellata* Wang.) woodland in Hamilton County, Illinois U.S.A."
3. Completed 2010 INAI site surveillance forms for 34 sites.
4. Completed Annual Monitoring Forms for Padgett Pin Oak Woods LWR, Padgett Brothers Sweet Gum Woods LWR, Karl Bartel Wildlife Sanctuary LWR, Richard R. and Jean W. Graber Grasslands LWR, Marjorie J. Brines White Oak Woods LWR, Edward V. Price Woods LWR, and Lost Creek Marsh LWR.

III. Land Acquisition:

A. John Nelson recommended IDNR accept a land donation to Moraine Hills State Park.

B. Kim Roman:
1. Assisted Friends of the Kankakee with evaluating properties for purchase near Iroquois Sands LWR.
2. Discussed land acquisition options with a Pembroke area neighbor of a LWR.

C. Tom Lerczak:
1. Facilitated discussion on the possible purchase of an archaeological site.
2. Provided information and advice to a landowner interested in selling his INAI site.

D. Mary Kay Solecki worked on acquisition of Rock Cut Road Botanical Area INAI site and Warbler Woods NP.

IV. Defense Program:

A. Jenny Skufca:
1. Responded to seven reviews for IDNR's Comprehensive Environmental Review Program (CERP) and 25 reviews for IDNR's consultation program.
2. Has been in the process of preparing Class III Groundwater Petition packets for six NPs to be submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), including George B. Fell NP, Goose Lake Prairie NP, Spring Grove Fen NP, Trout Park NP, Cotton Creek Marsh NP, and Gladstone Fen NP.
3. Participated in a conference call on December 15, 2010, with West Shore Pipeline Company and other stakeholders related to an oil release across New Avenue from Long Run Seep NP. No impacts to the

NP have been identified. IDNR Contaminant Assessment staff and the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) consultants are providing recommendations to the responsible party and providing updates to INPC.

4. Gave a presentation to the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives manager's meeting to discuss protections in place for Illinois NPs and LWRs. Rights-of-way and easement discussions with electric cooperatives are ongoing.
5. Participated in meetings and conference calls with wind energy development companies with potential projects adjacent to Illinois NPs or LWRs. Provided correspondence to Monroe County regarding potential impacts to natural areas from wind development.

B. Angella Moorehouse consulted with IDNR Consultation staff on the potential impacts of a proposed wind power installation in northern McDonough County in the vicinity of two INPC sites (Short Fork Seep NP and Thistle Hills LWR), Sciota Railroad Prairie INAI, and several element occurrence records (EORs).

C. Mary Kay Solecki:
1. Worked with IDNR Consultation staff to determine and minimize impacts of the E.ON Pioneer Trail wind farm on Clarence RR Prairie East INAI Site, Clarence RR Prairie West INAI Site, Pellville Cemetery INAI site and Prospect Cemetery Prairie NP.
2. Worked with concerned citizens and the owner of Pellville Cemetery INAI site to alleviate a mowing threat to the prairie. A neighbor to the prairie publicized on local TV news his belief that the prairie should be mowed. In response, Grand Prairie Friends and Ms. Solecki worked with local conservationists to focus attention on the value of the prairie as an unmowed natural area.

D. Threats to Sites within INPC programs:
1. **Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP, Champaign County – Mary Kay Solecki**
   a. Issue: The wind turbine proposed by the University of Illinois on adjacent property potentially will cast shadow flicker on to the NP.
   b. Threat: Shadow flicker and noise has the potential to disrupt communities within the NP.
   c. Status: Ongoing. Worked with IDNR Consultation staff and Barnhart Prairie Restoration Board to mitigate impacts of proposed wind turbine.
2. **Bluff Spring Fen NP, Cook County – Steven Byers, John Nelson, Jenny Skufca**
   a. Issue: Salt storage. Up to 50,000 tons of road de-icing salt is being stored on the property owned by Bluff City Materials (BCM) which is located immediately south of the NP.
   b. Threat: At concentrations above 45 mg/L, chlorides (salt) are a known pollutant that can alter the chemical composition of groundwater that sustains fen wetland systems and are documented to promote a shift from a diverse assemblage of plants to monotypic stands of salt-tolerant plants.
   c. Status: Ongoing. A meeting was held at the IDNR headquarters on September 14, 2010, with representatives of BCM, INPC staff, and IDNR Legal Counsel. BCM representatives described current and future plans for the salt pile. INPC staff reiterated concerns regarding the salt piles' lack of containment, potential for contamination of fen due to exposure to wind and precipitation, and observed spillage at the loading and unloading area. A follow-up conference call was held on November 3, 2010, between BCM representatives and INPC staff during which BCM again provided a review of its plans. BCM was reminded by Randy Heidorn that the INPC will continue to monitor the situation since road salt is a substance known to degrade fens. As a result of this call and on advisement from IDNR legal counsel, the INPC submitted a letter to BCM on December 13, 2010, to document concerns regarding the inappropriate location of the salt pile, the fact that minimum industry standards for storing salt were not being met, and to inform BCM of the INPC's intention to refer the matter to the Illinois Attorney General if salt movement was detected toward the fen. On January 13, 2011, correspondence was received from BCM outlining its commitment to best management practices and to preserving the integrity of the fen while honoring its contractual obligation to the salt supplier. On January 25, 2011, a conference call was held between representatives of BCM and INPC staff. BCM reported that all salt had been shipped, and the yard was empty. INPC staff informed BCM that we would continue to monitor any potential salt movement toward the fen, and we would continue to consult with the IEPA as groundwater authorities.
2. **DesPain Wetlands LWR, St. Clair County – Debbie Newman, Jenny Skufca**
   a. Issue: A neighbor to the LWR had a survey done and posted boundaries on the LWR, claiming an additional 30-50' for his property.
   b. Threat: The neighbor's survey contradicts the LWR landowner's previous survey suggesting encroachment into the LWR.
   c. Status: Ongoing. No response was received to the August 30, 2010, letter submitted to the LWR neighbor. The neighbor's surveyor refused to provide a copy of his survey when contacted by INPC staff. The LWR landowner has requested that INPC staff send a certified, receipt-requested

follow-up letter to the neighbor informing him that the survey they hold will serve as the legal boundary until such time that the neighbor can provide evidence to the contrary.

3. **Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid NP, Lake County – Steven Byers**
   a. Issue: The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) intends to widen Route 22. The proposal for dedication of this site provided for this construction, to include construction of a berm in order to reduce the width of the road project.
   b. Threat: Indirect threat posed by sedimentation and subsequent increase in reed canary grass, which threatens the long-term viability of the federally-threatened orchid.
   c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff submitted a letter to IDOT District 1 Engineer, Peter Harmet, requesting that IDOT purchase the NP fee-title or establish a memorandum of understanding with the landowner that allows IDOT access of site for monitoring and management. IDOT has determined that the road-widening project will impact the orchids. INPC staff met with all parties. IDOT is currently exploring options to acquire the tract and support a management effort in order to expedite the permitting process with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the USFWS.
4. **Goodenow Grove NP, Will County – Kim Roman**
   a. Issue: Construction of an I-394 sound barrier along the edge of the NP.
   b. Threat: Personnel safety during management activities and proposed tree cutting within the NP.
   c. Status: Resolved. Plans were adjusted to accommodate management and minimize impacts to trees.
5. **Gillespie Prairie LWR, Macoupin County – Tom Lerczak, Jenny Skufca**
   a. Issue: An adjacent landowner to this IDNR-owned site proposed to clean out a ditch adjacent to Route 16 and along the LWR boundary.
   b. Threat: Encroachment to the LWR.
   c. Status: Resolved. After discussion among the landowner, INPC staff, and IDNR staff, the INPC provided stipulations for the work to be completed minimizing impacts to the LWR. INPC and IDNR staff monitored the heavy equipment work and photo-documented the successful ditch clean out with no impact to the LWR except for flattened vegetation at the boundary.
6. **Little Vermilion River LWR, Vermillion County – Mary Kay Solecki, Kelly Neal**
   a. Issue: An underground coal refuse pile within the LWR caught fire which presented a public safety hazard and necessitated its excavation and extinguishment.
   b. Threat: Damage to the LWR resources and the public hazard.
   c. Status: Resolved. Coordinated INPC and IDNR staff review of IDNR specifications to extinguish the coal refuse pile fire. Compiled the comments with the appropriate stipulations and prepared the INPC's approval. The fire appears to have gone out.
7. **Middlefork Savanna NP, Lake County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca**
   a. Issue: The adjacent landowner, Knollwood Club, dredged a golf course pond and piped sediment into the NP.
   b. Threat: Direct and indirect impact on aquatic resources/ephemeral ponds in the NP and at the Knollwood Club. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined wetlands are "jurisdictional." The Knollwood Club has prepared a remedial action plan, a portion of which has been implemented.
   c. Status: Ongoing. The INPC submitted a letter to the Knollwood Club on August 27, 2010, enumerating the impacts, the violations to the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act (INAPA), and a recommendation to engage in mitigation strategies with potential of referral to Illinois Attorney General. Response correspondence was received from the Knollwood Club on December 22, 2010, requesting the INPC's assistance in resolving this issue with the landowner (Lake County Forest Preserve District) and noting that all parties' concerns have been met by their proposed remediation plan and its willingness to create a "buffer zone." The INPC will review the plan and be a party to an enforcement action from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which may lead to permanent protection and stewardship of approximately 10 acres owned by the Knollwood Club.
8. **Nenawakwa LWR, McDonough County – Angella Moorehouse, Jenny Skufca**
   a. Issue: The landowner discovered a grading encroachment within the LWR.
   b. Threat: Unauthorized intrusion into the LWR, including tire ruts and a large graded area leading to neighbor's property.
   c. Status: Ongoing. IDNR Conservation Police filed a report on or around August 21, 2010, with the McDonough County State's Attorney's Office (SA) for review. The SA filed criminal trespass charges against the responsible party on or around September 23, 2010. Upon the landowner's request, the INPC submitted correspondence on October 8, 2010, to the SA outlining additional potential offenses under INAPA and provided bids for restoration of the damage to the LWR. A

bench trial was set and then delayed due to the amended charges. A new trial date was set for January 24, 2011, but was continued due to a change in the defendant's attorney. INPC staff and the landowner are working with the SA and the defendant's attorney to attempt a reasonable settlement prior to the court date.

9. **Old Plank Road Prairie NP, Cook County – Kim Roman**
   a. Issue: Spoil pile containing dirt and rock located within the NP.
   b. Threat : Direct destruction of the NP resources.
   c. Status: Resolved. Correspondence requesting removal was submitted to the landowner responsible, Rich Township. The intrusion was subsequently removed.
10. **Romeoville Prairie NP, Will County – Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca**
   a. Issue: Enbridge pipeline break less than one-half mile from the NP boundary.
   b. Threat: Potential for crude oil constituents to contaminate surface and groundwater in the NP affecting a diversity of flora and fauna, including numerous federally-listed and state-listed species.
   c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff are working with landowner (Forest Preserve District of Will County), IEPA, IDNR, and ISGS staff to monitor the oil's movement and document any adverse modifications. On November 16, 2010, INPC staff participated in a meeting with the landowner and consultants to Enbridge to identify potential projects that would benefit the NP. INPC, IDNR, and ISGS staff, acting as technical advisors to IEPA, have recently reviewed and provided comments regarding Enbridge's Site Investigation Report.
11. **Short Fork Seep NP, McDonough County – Angella Moorehouse, Jenny Skufca**
   a. Issue: The landowner discovered that herbicide had been used within the NP, approximately 17 feet from the roadway associated with power line maintenance.
   b. Threat: Direct impact to flora and fauna in the NP causing damage to the vegetation and soils within the high-quality portion of the seep/sedge meadow of the NP.
   c. Status: Ongoing. The INPC submitted a letter to the McDonough Power Cooperative on November 18, 2010, with an accompanying estimate for restoration of the damaged area. A response was received from the Cooperative's attorney on December 16, 2010, purporting to have a prescriptive easement and suggesting that this was a public use under Section 14 of INAPA. The attorney stated that McDonough Power did not believe replacing the impacted flora was a reasonable long-term solution. IDNR Legal Counsel is reviewing the letter and will advise on the INPC's response.
12. **Salt Lick Point LWR, Monroe County – Debbie Newman**
   a. Issue: An individual bulldozed approximately one-fourth of an acre across the LWR line.
   b. Threat: Encroachment in the LWR.
   c. Status: Resolved. INPC staff worked with the IDNR Conservation Police and the local Valmeyer Police. INPC staff, a Conservation Police Officer (CPO), and an officer from the Valmeyer Police visited the neighbor and discussed the situation. The CPO issued a ticket which required a court appearance. Prosecution resulted in the neighbor receiving a fine of $257, including court costs, and one year supervision. The neighbor also agreed to clean up trash dumped on the LWR which was left decades ago by someone else. This action has been completed.
13. **Sterne's Fen NP, McHenry County – Steven Byers**
   a. Issue: An adjacent landowner has requested that the Crystal Lake Park District (owner of the site) review the hydrology at the site. That landowner is concerned that altered hydrology has led to increased incidence and severity of flooding.
   b. Threat: Fen wetlands are sensitive to changes in hydrology/surface water that enter fen wetlands. Fen plant communities are sensitive to altered surface water chemistry, temperatures, and frequently increased amounts of pollutants.
   c. Status: New. INPC staff met with staff of the Crystal Lake Park District (CLPD) and the MCCD at a site visit. A number of issues were raised regarding the current and original surface water flow paths and the source of apparently increased amounts of surface water. The INPC has asked the CLPD and the MCCD (responsible for maintenance of a regional bike trail) not to clear any drainage ways until some of the questions raised during the site visit can be resolved. Those investigations are pending.
14. **Tallmadge Sand Forest LWR, Kankakee County – Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca**
   a. Issue: 88 white oak trees were removed from within the LWR in 2009.
   b. Threat: Direct impact to the LWR. Unauthorized removal of trees, over 4,000 feet of up to 18-inch ruts were created throughout the interior of the LWR, and signs were removed.
   c. Status: Ongoing. IDNR Conservation Police are investigating. The Nature Conservancy, as landowner, has filed a civil lawsuit. INPC staff is working closely with IDNR Legal Counsel.

VII. Stewardship Program:

A. Kelly Neal:
   1. Attended two meetings of the Volunteer Stewardship Network with representatives from volunteer groups in northern and central Illinois.
   2. Attended the annual Plants of Concern Advisory Group meeting.
   3. Developed an application form for management activities that have not been previously approved in a management plan.

B. Tom Lerczak coordinated the Fiscal Year 2011 sign and herbicide orders.

C. Mary Kay Solecki:
   1. Reviewed and provided input on the Invasive Plant Policy for Master Gardeners of Champaign County and east central Illinois.
   2. Participated in reintroduction of the northern riffleshell mussel into a stream in the Vermilion River system.

D. Bob Edgin discussed management and other issues with owners of Big Creek Woods Memorial NP, Karcher's Post Oak Woods NP, Allison Gravel Prairie NHL, Carroll Cox Forest NHL, Dry Fork Woods NHL, Ping Prairie at Huskey Hollow NHL, and Wade Heiser Woods NHL.

E. Stewardship Planning:
   1. Kelly Neal reviewed:
      a. 21 management schedules, nine unscheduled management activities and three management related CERPs at INPC sites.
      b. Deer management plans for five sites in Lake County and four sites in Will County.
      c. Prepared comments for IDNR's Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) Recovery Outline.
   2. John Nelson wrote new or updated management plans for Boone Creek Fen NP, Gladstone Fen NP, Yonder Prairie NP, and Hereen Prairie NP.
   3. Steven Byers:
      a. Had discussions with Davey Resources Group, City of Elgin, and Friends of Trout Park the regarding management that would be acceptable to the INPC at Trout Park NP.
      b. Met with The Conservation Foundation staff to review priorities for allocation of funds held for stewardship at Bluff Spring Fen NP, Trout Park NP, Brewster Creek Fen NP, Sleepy Hollow Ravine NP, Dixie Fromm Briggs Prairie NP, Sterne's Fen NP, and Fox River Fen NP.
      c. Presented a PowerPoint presentation for Libertyville Township about the INPC, Liberty Prairie NP and issues regarding the need to reroute trail at this NP, and discussions with the Township and the Liberty Prairie Conservancy.
      d. Provided a five-year management schedule and management goal statement for Bluff Spring Fen NP in support of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit for a stewardship project.
      e. Coordinated a grant to CW to conduct stewardship at Del Webb Sedge Meadow and Grove NP.
   4. Kim Roman:
      a. Provided technical assistance/guidance to ComEd to avoid/reduce impact to the prairie remnant under its transmission lines during major maintenance activities adjacent to Goose Lake Prairie NP.
      b. Developed/updated management plans for three sites.
      c. Discussed LWR rules, management strategies, and development plans with new staff of the landowning agency of Butterfield Creek Headwaters LWR.
      d. Met with and coordinated volunteer efforts at Old Plank Road Prairie NP and its addition.
   5. Angella Moorehouse:
      a. Met with the Peoria Park District and Tri-County Development to determine stewardship projects and funding options for Springdale Cemetery Savanna NHL and NPs owned/managed by the Park District.
      b. Coordinated with the Rock Island County SWCD and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to implement a National Forest Service Hazardous Fuels Grant to reduce fuel loads, control invasive species, and implement fire management at Black Hawk Forest NP and Josua Lindahl Hill Prairies NP.
      c. Coordinated with IDNR Office of Resource Conservation (ORC) staff, Prairie Rivers Network and local partners to develop long-term plans for the Upper Mississippi River COA to achieve goals set by the IWAP.
   6. Tom Lerczak:
      a. Met with Friends of McNaughton Park (Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR) to discuss natural area restoration options and planning for 2011.

b. Attended a Bureau County SWCD Board of Directors meeting to discuss management of McCune Sand Prairie LWR.
c. Met with partners involved with the Mason County Sand Areas COA to discuss management and protection options.
d. Completed new 2011 prescribed burn plans for Mettler Woods NP and McCune Sand Prairie LWR.

7. Mary Kay Solecki:
   a. Attended a meeting of the Barnhart Prairie Board regarding stewardship at Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP.
   b. Wrote or updated management schedules for Sibley Grove NP and Embarrass Bluffs NHL.
   c. Wrote a prescribed burn plan and/or permit for Embarrass Bluffs NHL and Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP.
8. Debbie Newman participated in day-long meeting in Sparta with IDNR, ORC, and Land Management staff about stiltgrass and the overall IDNR invasives strategic plan and policy.
9. Bob Edgin developed an Annual Reporting Form for LWRs.

F. Stewardship project implementation: Staff continued to coordinate and administer stewardship projects, including the Hill Prairie Project, funded by Landowners Incentive Program (LIP), State Wildlife Grant (SWG), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program, an IEPA 319 Grant, the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund, CW Grants, and INPC operations fund. These projects involve meeting with landowners, securing landowner agreements, preparing grant applications, preparing bid packages, supervising contractors, and assisting in conducting restoration activities. Contractor work included prairie reconstruction and seed purchase, exotics and woody species control, dump cleanup, erosion control, boundary survey, fence construction, sign posting, prescribed burn site preparation, and burn crews. Sites where this kind of work occurred include:

1. Area 1 (Nelson): Freeport Prairie NP, eight NP sites in the Boone Creek Watershed, and Kinnikinnick Creek NP.
2. Area 2 (Byers): Wolf Road Prairie NP.
3. Area 3 (Kim Roman): Kankakee River NP, and federal Great Lakes money to implement exotics control at Superior Street Prairie LWR.
4. Area 4 (Moorehouse): Harper's Woods NP, Black Hawk Forest NP, Josua Lindahl Hill Prairies NP, Milan Bottoms (Andalusia Slough) INAI site.
5. Area 5 (Lerczak): Ridgetop Hill Prairie NP, Wiegand Prairie NHL, Chandlerville Cemetery Hill Prairie LWR, Crevecoeur NP, McCune Sand Prairie LWR, Walden West LWR, Illinois River Sand Areas LWR.
6. Area 6 (Solecki): Doris Westfall Prairie Restoration NP and Baber Woods NP.

G. Land management conducted by staff includes site surveillance, prairie reconstruction and seed purchase, exotics and woody species control, dump cleanup, erosion control, boundary survey, fence construction, sign posting, coordinating and working with volunteers, prescribed burn site preparation, and participating in or leading prescribed burns. Sites where this kind of work occurred and additional management related activities include:

1. Area 1 (Nelson):
   a. Kinnikinnick Creek NP, Freeport Prairie NP, Boone Creek Fen NP, Wilson Prairie NP, Harlem Hills NP.
   b. Participated in nine prescribed burns at protected sites and acted as burn boss on three of the burns.
2. Area 2 (Byers):
   a. Del Webb Sedge Meadow and Grove NP, Powderhorn Prairie and Marsh NP, Raceway Woods NHL, Bluff Spring Fen NP, Sleepy Hollow Ravine NP, Wolf Road Prairie NP.
   b. Led or participated in burns at Sterne's Fen NP, Gladstone Fen NP, Boloria Fen and Sedge Meadow NP, Boone Creek INAI, and Bluff Spring Fen NP.
2. Area 3 (Kim Roman): Sweet Fern Savanna LWR, Goose Lake Prairie NP, Green River INAI site, Kankakee River NP, Short Pioneer Cemetery Prairie NP, Grant Creek Prairie NP, Superior Street Prairie LWR, Old Plank Road Prairie NP, and the proposed Hildy Prairie Nature Preserve.
3. Area 5 (Lerczak):
   a. Chandlerville-Snyder Hill Prairie Natural Area.
   b. Burn boss at Walden West LWR, assisted with prescribed burn at Beaver Dam State Park, coordinated burn preparation activities with partners at Carpenter Park NP, and Tomlin Timber NP.
4. Area 6 (Solecki): Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP, Loda Cemetery Prairie NP, Prospect Cemetery Prairie NP, Margaret Guzy Pothole Wetlands LWR, Elwin Camassia INAI site, and Allerton Park.

5. Area 8 (Edgin):
    a. Beadles Barrens NP, Beall Woods NP, Big Creek Woods Memorial NP, Emma Vance Woods NP, Lost Creek Marsh NP and LWR, Rock Cave NP, Marjorie J. Brines White Oak Woods LWR, Padgett Pin Oak Woods LWR, Carroll Cox Forest NHL, Green Prairie NHL, Wade Heiser Woods NHL.
    b. Assisted IDNR Heritage Biologist Roger Jansen with a prescribed burn at Margaret Guzy Pothole Wetlands LWR.

V. Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) Operations:

A. Randy Heidorn, Angella Moorehouse, and selected Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Natural Heritage staff conducted interviews for hiring new Natural Heritage Resident Interns. INPC will have residents located in Area 1 (Nelson), 4 (Moorehouse) and 8 (Edgin). It is hoped that the residents will start within the next month.

B. At the INPC Chair's request, INPC staff developed a Facebook page.
    1. A design and operation plan for the page was written by Randy Heidorn with input by INPC staff and Chair Rosenthal. Mr. Heidorn drafted and then published the page on January 1, 2011.
    2. Kim Roman serves as the lead administrator of the page with Randy Heidorn serving as a backup.
    3. Randy Heidorn, Deborah Stone, Kelly Neal, and Jenny Skufca will also serve as administrators, primarily for monitoring purposes. Debbie Reider will serve as a backup monitor as needed.
    4. Staff has promoted four events, including the INPC meeting, on the page. Photo albums centered on volunteer work days, INPC activities, and protected features of the Nature Preserve System have been posted.

Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) update

The following is a summary update and slides of a powerpoint presentation prepared by John Wilker, IDNR Natural Areas Program Manager

The Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Contract which was initiated in June 2007 will be completed in Oct 2011. A synopsis of progress to date is that 3863 Potential INAIs Inventory sites have been identified in 102 Illinois counties. Potential INAI sites were then screened through a combination of aerial and ground surveys. Aerial Surveys have been conducted in 99 counties so far. During that process, approximately 50% of the sites were eliminated as non-qualifying. In a break from past practices, it was required to obtain landowner permission before getting access to private property. Landowner contact has been more difficult than originally anticipated. It was initially anticipated that because of a change in social attitudes toward government in the intervening years that a high percentage of landowners would deny access permission. What was not anticipated was that it just simply became much harder get the landowners to respond in any fashion at all. Of the 2362 landowners identified to be contacted, 4% denied permission, 36% granted access, 42% either did not respond or still require some type of follow up and 18% still remain to contacted for this field season. Field Surveys have been conducted in 93 counties so far with around 70% of sites being determined to be non-qualifying. It appears to be a simple numbers game in that the identification of potential survey sites has yielded new INAI site nominations. There will remain a lot of sites that will remain unevaluated due to unsuccessful landowner contact.

To date, there have been 56 nomination packets received with an expected 52 to be brought forward resulting from the 2010 field season. It is expected that there will be another 50 to 100 resulting from sampling this last field season. The types of sites that have been found are mature forest / woodlands, inherently small sites like sedge meadows, hill prairies, glades and sites that have been under management. This last category is very satisfying in that it shows that the effort of proper stewardship pays off in the long run. The nominations are under review by the natural areas program and will soon be available for review by the DHB's and NAPS. After consensus, they will be voted on by the Natural Areas Evaluation Committee.

Based upon the numbers and the expected outcome of the 2011 field season, it appears that a fair amount of potential natural areas still exists on the landscape.

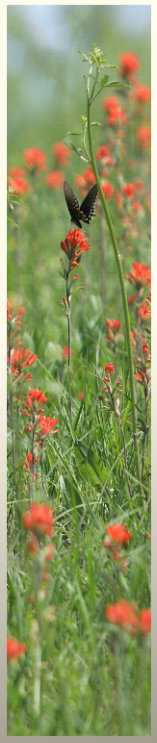
A recheck of existing Category I INAI sites was funded by a consortium of foundations and private business and was initiated in the 2009 field season. Currently of the 659 category I INAI sites 313 containing 455 high quality natural communities have had quantitative data collection done on them along with natural quality assessment. 322 natural communities have increased or retained natural quality, 123 decreased slightly in natural quality and 65 decreased significantly in natural quality. Historically, since the completion of the INAI, 70 sites containing 98 high quality natural communities have been deleted from the INAI. A preliminary analysis shows that freshwater marsh, sand prairie and hill prairie have collectively declined in the greatest numbers. In fact, high quality freshwater marsh may no longer exist in Illinois. Factors leading to the maintenance or increase in natural quality are; recognition of value (protection), burning and exotics control (stewardship) and offsite impacts (defense). Again, this is as expected and lends support to the core missions of the

Endangered Species Protection Board, the Division of Natural Heritage and the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.

Lastly, another component of the INAI update that was funded through outside forces is the Strategic Natural Areas Vision plan that is being compiled by Deanna Glosser. The final reports are at the editor for review and should be posted online in March or April. You will be informed when these reports are available.

INAI Update

- June 2007 - Oct 2011
- Identification of Potential INAIs - 102 counties
  - 3863 sites
- Screening
  - Aerial Surveys Conducted - 99 counties
    - > 50% PNAs eliminated
  - Landowner Contact
    - 2362 landowners to be contacted (so far)
      - Still needing contact – 18%
      - Did not respond or need follow-up – 42%
      - Denied permission – 4%
      - Granted permission – 36%
  - Field Survey – 93 counties
    - > 70% remaining PNAs eliminated



INAI Update

- Electronic data collection
- INAI Nominations
  - 56 to date
  - 52 from 2010 field season
  - 50 to 100 expected from 2011 field season
- Types of Sites
  - Mature forest / woodlands
  - Inherently small sites like sedge meadows, hill prairies, glades
  - Sites under management
- NAEC review
- Likely that a number of sites will remain

INAI Update

- Category I re-check
  - Currently 659 category I INAI sites
  - So far conducted quantitative data collection on and natural quality assessment of 313 sites with landowner permission
    - 322 natural communities increased or retained natural quality
    - 123 decreased slightly in natural quality
    - 65 decreased significantly in natural quality
  - Preliminary analysis
    - Freshwater marsh, sand prairie and hill prairie
    - Recognition of value (protection), burning and exotics control (stewardship) and offsite impacts (defense)

INAI Update

- Strategic Natural Areas Vision
  - Deanna Glosser
- Posted online March/April