

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA
ONE HUNDRED NINETY SEVENTH MEETING

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Lakeview Conference Room A and B
Springfield, IL

January 31, 2008 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 of the 196th Meeting Minutes, October 23, 2007

Item 4: Proposed 2008 Meeting Schedule

May 6, 2008	9:00 a.m.	Ramada Hotel, Galena
August 5, 2008	10:00 a.m.	Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon
October 28, 2008	10:00 a.m.	World Shooting & Recreational Complex, Sparta

Item 5: INPC Staff Report

REPORT
Randy Heidorn and John Nelson
Nature Preserves Commission

Item 6: IDNR Staff Report

REPORT
Glen Kruse
IDNR, Office of Resource Conservation

Item 7: Endangered Species Protection Board Report

REPORT
Endangered Species Protection Board

Item 8:* Iroquois Co. – Addition to Iroquois Sands Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The Friends of the Kankakee wish to register a 1.5-acre addition to Iroquois Sands Land and Water Reserve. The proposed addition consists of five lots, and it buffers the higher quality natural area of Iroquois Sands. The addition may prove to support

the state-endangered and threatened species found in the original Land and Water Reserve once additional site surveys are conducted and management is initiated. The proposed addition and the Land and Water Reserve are located in the Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois. The state-endangered species found on the Land and Water Reserve include: Carey’s heartsease (*Polygonum careyi*), shore St. John’s wort (*Hypericum adpressum*), eastern blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium atlanticum*), and crowded oval sedge (*Carex cumulata*). The state-threatened regal fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*) can also be found at Iroquois Sands. The permanent registration of the proposed addition also supports objectives in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP), by protecting habitat for wildlife species of conservation concern such as the red-headed woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) and northern bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*), and by protecting remnants of sand flatwoods, a key conservation objective within the Kankakee Sands. The approval of the registration of this addition will increase the size of Iroquois Sands Land and Water Reserve from 70 to 71.5 acres.

REPORT
Cindi Jablonski
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Registration Approval

Item 9:* Pope Co. – Big Grand Pierre Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The proposed Big Grand Pierre Land and Water Reserve is a 330.61-acre natural area (Illinois Natural Areas Inventory [INAI] #369) owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The area contains dry upland forest, dry-mesic upland forest, mesic upland forest, bottomland forest, and a high-quality creek. It is located in the Shawnee Hills Natural Division, Lesser Shawnee Hills Section. The Lesser Shawnee Hills Section is characterized by rugged terrain, with many bluffs and with an area of sinkholes. The area is significant because it is a large block of forest complex that has frontage on the Big Grand Pierre Creek and provides habitat for several state-endangered or threatened species. State-endangered species found at the proposed land and water reserve include: smooth false indigo (*Amorpha nitens*), swollen sedge (*Carex intumescens*), wild lettuce (*Lactuca hirsuta*), and squirting cucumber (*Melothria pendula*). The state-threatened climbing milkweed (*Matelea obliqua*) was recently located at the site. The state-endangered southeastern Myotis bat (*Myotis austroriparius*), has been found on the site in mature bottomland forests. The federally endangered gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*) forages over the creek, within one kilometer of the cave where it lives. Big Grand Pierre is in the Eastern Shawnee Conservation Opportunity Area and its preservation helps to meet the goals of the IWAP.

REPORT
Judy Faulkner Dempsey
Nature Preserves Commission
Bob Lindsay
Department of Natural Resources

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Registration Approval

Item 10:* Cook Co. – Addition to Dropseed Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Nature Conservancy seeks preliminary approval for dedication of a 1.176-acre addition to Dropseed Prairie Nature Preserve. Dropseed Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in Cook County, Illinois. Dropseed Prairie is part of the Indian Boundary Prairies that include Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve, Paintbrush Prairie Nature Preserve, and Sundrop Prairie Nature Preserve. The proposed addition consists of high-quality mesic prairie and is located just east of Dropseed Prairie Nature Preserve within the boundary of this INAI site (#425). Dropseed Prairie received final approval for dedication at the Commission’s 164th Meeting in August 1999. Dedication of this addition of high-quality mesic prairie is consistent with preserve design recommendations outlined in the original proposal for dedication, tenets of good preserve design, the “*Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region*,” and elements of the IWAP; specifically, action steps to restore and manage high-quality wetland and prairie communities. Four of five habitat-restricted papaipema moths (*Papaipema beeriana*, *P. maritime*, *P. sciata*, and *P. silphii*), a tortricid moth (*Eucosma bipunctella*), Byssus skipper (*Problema byssus*), and two-spotted skipper (*Eupheys bimacula*) recorded from Dropseed Prairie are listed by the IWAP as “...species in greatest need of conservation.” Dedication of the proposed addition (1.176 acres) will increase the size of Dropseed Prairie from 13 to 14.176 acres and protect the balance of this INAI site.

REPORT

Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval

Item 11:* Cook Co. -- Addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Nature Conservancy seeks final approval for dedication of 14.716 acres, consisting of 37 lots totaling 10.472 acres and an additional 4.244 acres through vacation of streets, as an addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve. Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve is part of the Indian Boundary Prairies (IBP) that includes Dropseed Prairie Nature Preserve, Paintbrush Prairie Nature Preserve, and Sundrop Prairie Nature Preserve. The proposed addition lies adjacent to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve within an area referred to by The Nature Conservancy IBP – Preserve Design map as Gensburg-Markham Prairie North. The proposed addition received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission’s 194th Meeting in May, 2007 (Resolution #1949). Both Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in Markham, Illinois. The proposed addition lies within the boundaries for both the INAI site (#400) and the National Registry of Natural Landmarks designated by the U.S. National Park Service. Elements of grade B and grade C wet-mesic prairie, mesic sand prairie, and sedge meadow occur within the proposed addition and support a population of the state-endangered grass pink orchid (*Calopogon tuberosus*). Dedication of this addition is consistent with the recommendations of an

approved Master Plan for this site, tenets of good preserve design, the “*Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region*”, and elements of the IWAP; specifically, action steps to restore and manage high-quality wetland and prairie communities. Dedication of the proposed addition (14.716) acres will increase the size of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve from 157.763 (currently the number of acres that have received preliminary approval for dedication) to 172.478 acres.

REPORT
Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 12:* Cook Co. -- Stein Addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Nature Conservancy seeks final approval for dedication of 19.026 acres, consisting of 73 lots, as an addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve. These lots are subject to a conservation easement referred to as the Stein easement. The Grantor conveyed the lots to The Nature Conservancy “...in perpetuity over the protected property...” in an easement which stated both the Grantor and Grantee shall “...conserve the natural values” ... “conserve and protect the animal and plant populations, and prevent the use or development of that property for any purpose which would conflict with” ... “its natural, scenic, and open condition for both this generation and future generations.” Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve is part of the IBP that include Dropseed Prairie Nature Preserve, Paintbrush Prairie Nature Preserve, and Sundrop Prairie Nature Preserve. The proposed addition lies adjacent to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve within an area referred to by The Nature Conservancy IBP – Preserve Design map as Gensburg-Markham Prairie North. The proposed addition received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission’s 194th Meeting in May, 2007 (Resolution #1949). Both Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in Markham, Illinois. The proposed addition lies within the boundaries for both the INAI site (#400) and the National Registry of Natural Landmarks designated by the U.S. National Park Service. Elements of grade B and grade C wet-mesic prairie, mesic sand prairie, and sedge meadow occur within the proposed addition and support a population of the state-endangered grass pink orchid (*Calopogon tuberosus*). Dedication of this addition is consistent with the recommendations of an approved Master Plan for this site, tenets of good preserve design, the “*Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region*,” and elements of the IWAP; specifically, action steps to restore and manage high-quality wetland and prairie communities. Dedication of the proposed addition (19.026) acres will increase the size of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve from 172.478 to 191.504 acres.

REPORT
Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 13:* Cook Co. – Addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

Northeastern Illinois University seeks final approval for dedication of 1.43 acres, through vacation of a street, as an addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve. Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve is part of the Indian Boundary Prairies that include Dropseed Prairie Nature Preserve, Paintbrush Prairie Nature Preserve, and Sundrop Prairie Nature Preserve. The proposed addition lies within the 86.5 acre core of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve as described in a Master Plan approved by the Commission at its 95th Meeting in August, 1983 (Resolution #750). Both Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in Markham, Illinois. The proposed addition lies within the boundaries for both the INAI site (#400) and the National Registry of Natural Landmarks designated by the U.S. National Park Service and consists of grade B wet-mesic prairie. Dedication of this addition is consistent with the recommendations of an approved Master Plan, tenets of good preserve design, the “*Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region*,” and elements of the IWAP; specifically, action steps to restore and manage high-quality wetland and prairie communities. Dedication of the proposed addition (1.43) acres will increase the size of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve from 191.504 to 192.934 acres.

REPORT
Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 14:* Lee Co. – Hazelwood Forest Nature Preserve, Dedication

Leslie Pratt is seeking final approval for dedication of 43.7 acres as Hazelwood Forest Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve is part of the larger 98-acre Lowell Park INAI site (#1622). Lowell Park was added to the INAI in 2002 as a category I site containing grade B dry-mesic upland forest and grade B mesic upland forest. The proposed nature preserve is located within the Oregon Section of the Rock River Country Natural Division. Protection and restoration of this site supports action steps for the Wetlands Campaign, Forests Campaign, and Invasive Species Campaign of the IWAP. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for the dedication at its 196th Meeting in October, 2007 (Resolution #1972).

REPORT
John Nelson
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 15:* Lee Co. – Lowell Forest Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Dixon Park District is seeking final approval for dedication of 49.5 acres as Lowell Forest Nature Preserve. The original proposal was for 54.3 acres, but with the revision to exclude an historic pavilion and overlook to the Rock River, this final

dedication proposal is for protection of 49.5 acres. INPC staff recommended the exclusion to address concerns expressed by the Park District Board regarding public use of the pavilion and potential for construction of an observation tower in the future. The proposed Lowell Forest Nature Preserve is part of the larger Lowell Park natural area. This site is located in the Oregon Section of the Rock River Country Natural Division. In 2002, the site was added to the INAI (#1622) as a category I site containing grade B dry-mesic upland forest and grade B mesic upland forest. Protection and restoration of this area supports several action steps for the Forests Campaign and Invasive Species Campaign of the IWAP. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 195th Meeting in August, 2007 (Resolution #1963).

REPORT
John Nelson
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 16:* McLean Co. – Duncan R. Funk Addition to Stubblefield Woodlots Nature Preserve, Dedication

Duncan R. Funk is seeking final approval for dedication of a 7.52-acre tract within the Funks Grove Natural Area (INAI #721) as a nature preserve addition to Stubblefield Woodlots Nature Preserve. The proposed addition consists of two separate parcels (5.22 acres and 6.49 acres). Except for a modest gravel road crossing the site, the proposed addition is completely forested with grade B mesic upland forest representative of the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. Large canopy trees include sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), and bur oak (*Q. macrocarpa*). Dedication of this addition will directly support the implementation of the IWAP, particularly the Forests Campaign under action item #7: “Restore and manage high-quality examples of all forest, savanna and barrens communities, including all grade A and B Illinois Natural Inventory sites...” This nature preserve addition will increase the size of Stubblefield Woodlots Nature Preserve from 11.7 acres to 19.2 acres, significantly enhancing the ecological viability of this small nature preserve. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 196th Meeting in October, 2007 (Resolution #1973).

REPORT
Tom Lerczak
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 17:* Alexander County, Pulaski County, Union County - Introduction of an experimental sub-sample of the Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*) to sites in the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission System

An official IDNR-approved Endangered Species Recovery Plan for the endangered alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*) was approved in February, 2006 by all Divisions of the IDNR Office of Resource Conservation (ORC) and Office

Director Mike Conlin. The most current research shows no genetic variation between turtles within the Mississippi River drainage (which includes Illinois, Arkansas, and Louisiana). Under the guidance of the Reptile and Amphibian Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee (ESTAC), the IDNR is seeking permission from the INPC to release a maximum of ten yearling/juvenile alligator snapping turtles at either: the Nature Preserve at Horseshoe Lake Conservation Area (Alexander County), the Nature Preserve at Heron Pond-Little Black Slough State Natural Area (Pulaski County), or LaRue Swamp Nature Preserve (Union County) in the spring/early summer of 2008 [please note that only one site will be chosen, but this has yet to be agreed upon by staff of the ORC (including Region 5 district personnel) and the Reptile and Amphibian ESTAC]. Each of these animals will be affixed with a radio-transmitter as well as implanted with a passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag. This will be considered a sub-sample pilot study in order to help us determine if more animals should be released in the future. The goal is to track animals during three critical periods: the first few weeks after release to assess dispersal; late summer drought; and the first over-winter period. The above-listed sites have been chosen because they are legally protected and contain prime habitat for the alligator snapping turtle.

REPORT
Joe Kath
Department of Natural Resources
Kelly Neal
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval of the Project

Item 18:* Clark Co. – Miller’s Rocky Branch Land and Water Reserve, Ownership Correction

Miller’s Rocky Branch Land and Water Reserve, owned by D. Paul and Anna B. Miller, was registered at the 166th meeting of the INPC in February, 2000 (Resolution #1518). It has recently come to light that the Land and Water Reserve is owned by a family trust and not by Mr. and Mrs. Miller as individuals. The original registration agreement states that Mr. and Mrs. Miller own the property. The land and water reserve registration agreement has been corrected to show that the D. Paul and Anna B. Miller Revocable Trust owns the property, and D. Paul Miller and Anna B. Miller signed the agreement as Trustees for the Trust.

REPORT
Mary Kay Solecki
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval of Revised Document

Item 19:* McDonough Co. – Request for Rural Waterline Placement, Nenawakwa Land and Water Reserve

The West Prairie Water Cooperative of McDonough County requests permission for a rural waterline along the western border of Nenawakwa Land and Water Reserve. The waterline was installed in August, 2007, without the knowledge/permission of the INPC or the IDNR. The owners of the Land and Water Reserve, Edward Card

and Margaret Ovitt, signed an easement granting permission for the waterline prior to the installation. However, the easement document contained an incorrect legal description (for a residential inholding adjacent to the Land and Water Reserve which Mr. Card and Ms. Ovitt sold before the waterline request). The owners have not signed an easement document with the corrected legal description and are waiting for the INPC and the IDNR to grant permission for the waterline before they sign.

REPORT

Angella Moorehouse
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval of Waterline Placement

Item 20: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Item 21: Other Business

Item 22: Adjournment