

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA
ONE HUNDRED NINETY EIGHTH MEETING

Ramada Hotel
11383 Route 20 West
Meadow View East Meeting Room
Galena, IL

May 6, 2008 9:00 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 197th Meeting Minutes, January 29, 2008 and Special Meeting Minutes, January 28, 2008

Item 4: 2008 Meeting Schedule

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:* Jo Daviess Co. – Casper Bluff Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JD CF) seeks to register 69.82 acres of an 80-acre tract to be known as Casper Bluff Land and Water Reserve. JD CF purchased the initial 52-acre tract in July 2007 with grants from the Illinois Clean Energy

Community Foundation and the McKnight Foundation. In October 2007, another 33 acres were acquired from the Caspers by JDCF through funds provided by the Grand Victoria Foundation. Casper Bluff includes a significant archaeological feature known as the Aiken Mound Group and is located in the Wisconsin Driftless Natural Division. The Aiken Mound Group is part of the larger Effigy Mound culture that existed between A.D. 700-1000 in Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois. The Aiken Mound Group was first formally documented by William Baker Nickerson around 1900. Nickerson documented 51 mounds. These mounds include the following shapes, 38 linear, 12 conical, 2 circular, 1 elliptical and 1 thunderbird effigy. Effigy mounds are rare in Illinois. The site is unique in that it includes the only known intact thunderbird effigy mound within the State of Illinois. The Illinois Nature Preserves System considers significant archaeological resources as a qualifying feature for protection in nature preserve dedication and land and water reserve registration programs. Additionally, the proposed reserve provides habitat for at least 6 bird species identified as Species of Conservation Concern in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan. This will be the first site within the Illinois Nature Preserve System to be protected based exclusively on its' significant archaeological features.

REPORT

Angella Moorehouse
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval for Registration

Item 9:* Jo Daviess Co. – Addition to Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources proposes to dedicate a 3rd addition, totaling 48.4 acres, to Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve located in the Wisconsin Driftless Natural Division about 1.5 miles southwest of Hanover. The Hanover Bluff INAI site (INAI #1058) includes approximately 1,390 acres and is recognized as a Category I (high quality dry dolomite prairie and sand hill prairie), Category II (12 State listed species), and Category III (dedicated nature preserve natural area). The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) dedicated 361.7 acres as Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve at the 113th meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC), resolution #929 (recorded May 5, 1987). At the 183rd meeting, the INPC approved the dedication of a 48.466-acre addition, owned by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), to Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve. The INPC approved dedication of a 2nd addition to the preserve (67.09 acres), also owned by TNC, at the 185th INPC meeting. If approved, this proposal to dedicate a 3rd addition totaling 48.4 acres will increase Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve to 525.66 acres. Of that total, 410.1 acres are owned by IDNR. The remaining 115.56 acres of dedicated land are owned by TNC. Twelve State-listed species, composed of 10 plants and 2 animals, are found within the Hanover Bluff area. Hanover Bluff provides sanctuary for one of the few viable populations of a State-threatened reptile remaining in northwest Illinois. In addition, the proposed nature preserve provides habitat for numerous Species of Conservation Concern as identified in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan including bobcat, a State-threatened reptile, and several forest interior bird species.

REPORT
Angella Moorehouse
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 10:* Kane Co. – Meissner-Corron Prairie and Sedge Meadow, Dedication

The Forest Preserve District of Kane County seeks preliminary approval for dedication of the Meissner-Corron Prairie and Sedge Meadow as an Illinois Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve, consisting of 20 acres as nature preserve and 78 acres as nature preserve buffer, is located within the larger 224.2 acre Meissner-Corron Forest Preserve owned by the Forest Preserve District of Kane County. The proposed nature preserve was recognized by the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI # 1442) for extant high-quality wet-mesic prairie and for the presence of the State-threatened white lady's slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*). The proposed nature preserve includes all of the Russell Prairie (INAI # 1442) and is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in Elgin (Kane County, Illinois). Dedication of the proposed nature preserve will protect a small, 1-acre remnant of high-quality wet-mesic prairie (only 125 acres of this prairie community survive statewide) and is consistent with the recommendations of the "*Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region*" and elements of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan; specifically action steps to restore and manage high-quality wetland and prairie communities. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission staff is pleased to collaborate with staff and elected representatives of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County in recommending dedication of the 98-acre Meissner-Corron Prairie and Sedge Meadow as an Illinois Nature Preserve.

REPORT
Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 11:* Cook Co. –Addition to Dropseed Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Nature Conservancy seeks final approval for dedication of a 1.176 acre addition as nature preserve 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, which includes high-quality mesic prairie, lies within the boundary of the Dropseed Prairie Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (#425). The proposed addition to Dropseed Prairie received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission's 197th Meeting in February 2008 (Resolution # 1892). Dedication of the addition is consistent with preserve design recommendations in the original proposal for dedication, tenets of good preserve design, the "*Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region*", and elements of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan (the Plan), 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*), all recorded from Dropseed Prairie, are listed by the Plan as Species in Greatest Need of Conservation. Dedication of the proposed addition (1.41 acres) will increase the size of Dropseed Prairie from 13.0 to 14.41 acres and protect the balance of this Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site.

REPORT
Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

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

The Board of Trustees of 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 (Resolution # 750) in August 1983. 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 site boundaries for both the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (#400) and the National Registry of Natural Landmarks designated by the U.S. National Park Service, and it 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 Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan; 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 159.57 to 161.0 acres.

REPORT
Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 13:* McDonough Co.-Request for Rural Waterline placement, Nenawakwa Land and Water Reserve

The West Prairie Water Co-operative of McDonough County proposes an agreement among the Cooperative, INPC, IDNR and the owners of Nenawakwa Land and Water Reserve to resolve management concerns related to the repair and restoration of native vegetation in the area of the reserve that was damaged by the installation of the waterline. The waterline was installed in August, 2007 without the permission of

INPC and IDNR. The agreement calls for the INPC and IDNR approval of the owner providing the cooperative with an easement that would be subject to the provisions of the land and water reserve conservation easement on the property. Restoration of the damaged area as well as future maintenance of the waterline and potential impacts to the reserve have been addressed in the agreement as well as an amendment to the management schedule for the reserve.

REPORT

Angella Moorehouse
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval of Agreement

Item 14:* Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Stewardship Program for FY 2009

The Natural Areas Stewardship Program uses monies provided by the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (10% of NAAF capital appropriation) to fund management activities on both state-owned and private nature preserves and land and water reserves. From proposed FY09 appropriations, \$600,000 will be available for natural areas stewardship needs statewide. Proposed projects will match an additional \$110,000 in non-state funds for natural areas management.

REPORT

Bob Szafoni
IDNR, Office of Resource Conservation
Randy Heidorn
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval of Program

Item 15:* Natural Areas Acquisition Fund: Review of FY2008 Natural Areas Defense Program

The Natural Areas Defense Program uses monies provided by the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (5% of NAAF capital appropriation) to fund contractual natural area defense activities needed on properties included in one of the INPC's protection programs. In FY2008, \$475,000 were available to defend natural areas statewide. To date in FY2008, NAAF Defense dollars have been or will be used to pick up asbestos containing material in North Dunes Nature Preserve and Illinois Beach Nature Preserve; collect hydrological data required for permit applications to allow reconstruction and restoration of hydrology and prevent drainage in the Cache River System which includes Heron Pond/Little Black Slough Nature Preserve and the Cache River Land and Water Reserve; to fund the Illinois State Water Survey and Illinois State Geological Survey to collect and review groundwater data needed to assess impacts of proposed off site development, threats or damages, prepare Class 3 Special Resource Groundwater petitions to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for INPC program sites and provide groundwater consulting services for the INPC staff; fence off hazardous mine air shafts that have been preventing management and address wildfire management at the Sand Prairie Scrub Oak Nature Preserve. In FY2009, \$300,000 of NAAF capital will be allocated for defense projects. Specific projects will be selected as needed, but will likely include a

continuation of the groundwater data and consultation services. Specific projects funded during FY2009 will be reported in May 2009.

REPORT
Randy Heidorn
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval of Program

Item 16: Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Acquisition Program for FY 2009

The Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF) is administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) with review and recommendation of land acquisition projects by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC). The acquisition plan for Fiscal Year 2009 includes acquisition of 27 tracts of land at 24 different natural areas in 18 counties. All of the proposed parcels 1) are identified on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory or, 2) buffer a nature preserve or land and water reserve owned by the IDNR or, 3) provide habitat for endangered or threatened species of animals or plants. The proposed acquisitions total 2450 acres and will cost approximately \$9,273,600.

As of April 15, 2008 the State budget has not been approved. The amount budgeted from NAAF for FY '09 natural area acquisition is \$5,100,000. INPC is asked to review and approve a longer list than there is funding for because matching money will be sought to stretch NAAF dollars and negotiations with some landowners will not be successful.

REPORT
Don McFall
IDNR, Office of Realty and
Environmental Planning

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval of Program

Item 17: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Item 18: Other Business

Item 19: Adjournment