

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission  
Minutes of the 198<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
(Subject to approval at the 199<sup>th</sup> Meeting)

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

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

198-1) Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

At 9:05 a.m., pursuant to the Call to Order of Chair Ross-Shannon, the meeting began.

Deborah Stone read the roll call.

Members present: Jill Allread, Harry Drucker, Richard Keating, Mare Payne, Jill Riddell, Lauren Rosenthal, Bruce Ross-Shannon, and John Schwegman.

Members absent: Ronald Flemal

Others present: Steven Byers, Bob Edgin, Judy Faulkner Dempsey, Randy Heidorn, Tom Lerczak, Angella Moorehouse, Kelly Neal, John Nelson, Debbie Newman, Kim Roman, Jenny Skufka, and Mary Kay Solecki, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC); Ed Anderson, Glen Kruse, Nancy Rogers, and Bob Szafoni, Office of Resource Conservation (ORC), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR); Bill Richardson, Legal Counsel, IDNR; Kathi Davis, Tracy Evans, Tom Flattery, Steve Hamer, Don McFall, and Connie Waggoner, Office of Realty and Environmental Planning (OREP), IDNR; Jeff Hensal, Site Superintendent, Apple River Canyon State Park; Sue Dees, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT); Brian Anderson, Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) and INPC Advisor; Fran Harty, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Leslie Spraggins, TNC and INPC Consultant; Marilyn Campbell, Endangered Species Protection Board (ESPB) and INPC Consultant; Jim Payne, Grand Prairie Friends; Chris Kirkpatrick, Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JD CF); Jill Kennay, Natural Land Institute (NLI); and Brian Bielema.

198-2) Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Allread, seconded by Riddell, and carried that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

198-3) Approval of Minutes of the Special Meeting, January 30, 2008, and the 197<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes, January 31, 2008

It was moved by Keating, seconded by Allread, and carried that the Minutes of the Special Meeting, January 30, 2008, be approved.

Glen Kruse asked for a correction to the 197<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes for Item 197-6. The Minutes referred to Scott Simpson as the District Heritage biologist. He stated that Mr. Simpson is actually the site manager of Prairie Ridge State Natural Area.

It was moved by Keating, seconded by Allread, and carried that the Minutes of the 197<sup>th</sup> Meeting be approved as amended.

198-4) 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

Chair Ross-Shannon stated that the Commission will discuss the meeting schedule for 2009 at the August 5, 2008 meeting.

Chair Ross-Shannon thanked Chris Kirkpatrick, JD CF, for the great program on May 5, 2008 at Casper Bluff. Hal Hassen, IDNR, led part of that program but could not be at today's meeting. Chair Ross-Shannon also thanked Ed Anderson, IDNR, for the trip to Hanover Bluff.

Chair Ross-Shannon reported that at the 197<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the INPC, held on January 31, 2008, at the IDNR headquarters in Springfield, legal protection for six tracts of land, totaling 459.286 acres was approved by the Commission. Of these, four areas totaling 79.16 acres are owned by private individuals or not-for-profit corporations who donated the value of the protection agreement to the public. The dollar value of the tracts of land is \$939,800 based on conservative estimates of the fair market value of the land. This private land was permanently preserved without acquisition of the land by the State. Private lands protected without State acquisition at INPC's 197<sup>th</sup> Meeting were two additions to Gensburg-Markum Prairie Nature Preserve, Cook County; an addition to Iroquois Sands Land and Water Reserve, Iroquois County; and Hazelwood Forest Nature Preserve, Lee County. Protection of this land came about because the Commission has nine staff members in the field working with private land owners. There are now 341 dedicated nature preserves in 82 counties, totaling 45,454.577 acres and 147 land and water reserves in 61 counties, totaling 41,105.271 acres.

198-5) INPC Staff Report

Randy Heidorn presented the INPC staff report, and it is attached as Exhibit A.

198-6) IDNR Staff Report

Glenn Kruse presented the IDNR staff report, and it is attached as Exhibit B.

198-7) Endangered Species Protection Board Report

Marilyn Campbell reported that the ESPB is currently reviewing the list of endangered and threatened species, as required every five years. She stated that the ESPB did not receive funding

for several years; therefore, the ESPB had no staff during that period. The ESPB received grant money in 2007 which allowed it to hire Randy Nyboer as a staff person. That contract expired in October, 2007, and the ESPB has been without staff since that time. Ms. Campbell stated that there is another contract coming through with the INHS which will allow the hiring of a staff person.

The next meeting of the ESPB will take place May 16, 2008 at Giant City State Park. Ms. Campbell stated that the ESPB is struggling to keep things on track without staff. The volunteer board members are doing the work. Ms. Campbell stated that Dr. Ebinger assisted in getting the plant and animal books revised, and Dan Gooch has been working on the Biennial Report. Some research projects have also been approved.

Currently, all of the Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees (ESTAC) are meeting and reviewing the lists. The bird ESTAC group met in March, 2007 to review the birds on the list.

The herpetological and fish reports will be presented at the May 16, 2008 ESPB meeting. The mammals, birds, and invertebrates reports, along with the preliminary review of plants, will be presented at the August, 2008 ESPB meeting. Ms. Campbell stated that the ESPB is on track to have its preliminary listing recommendations for all of the groups at its November, 2008 meeting.

#### 198-8) Jo Daviess Co. – Casper Bluff Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Angella Moorehouse presented a proposal on behalf of the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JDCF) to permanently register 69.82 acres of an 80-acre tract to be known as Casper Bluff Land and Water Reserve. The JDCF 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, an additional 33 acres were acquired from the Caspers by the 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 700-1000 A.D. in Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and Illinois. The Aiken Mound Group was first formally documented by William Baker Nickerson around 1900. Nickerson documented 54 mounds. These mounds include the following shapes: 38 linear, 12 conical, two circular, one elliptical, and one 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 land and water reserve provides habitat for at least six bird species identified as species of conservation concern in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). This will be the first site within the Illinois Nature Preserve System to be protected based exclusively on its significant archaeological features.

Ms. Moorehouse stated that allowable uses for this site include viewing of the archeological sites and use of hiking trails and wooden boardwalks, and viewing stations to overlook the river. Parking lots, picnic shelters, restrooms, etc. will be placed outside of the proposed land and water reserve if at all possible.

It was moved by Schwegman, seconded by Allread, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of Casper Bluff in Jo Daviess County as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 8 of the Agenda for the 198<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 1989)

Chair Ross-Shannon complimented and thanked Mr. Kirkpatrick on his work and hoped the Commission could do more work with the JDCF in the future.

198-9) Jo Daviess Co. – Addition to Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve, Dedication

Angella Moorehouse presented a proposal on behalf of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to dedicate a third addition, totaling 48.4 acres, to Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve located in the Wisconsin Driftless Natural Division approximately 1.5 miles southwest of Hanover. The Hanover Bluff INAI site (#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 IDNR dedicated 361.7 acres as Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve at the 113<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the INPC in February, 1987. At the 183<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the INPC in August, 2004, the Commission 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 second TNC-owned addition to the Nature Preserve (67.09 acres) at its 185<sup>th</sup> Meeting in February, 2005. This proposal is for the dedication of a third addition, totaling 48.4 acres, and will increase the size of Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve to 525.66 acres. Of that total, 410.1 acres are owned by the IDNR. The remaining 115.56 acres of dedicated land are owned by TNC. Twelve state-listed species, composed of ten plants and two 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 addition provides habitat for numerous species of conservation concern as identified in the IWAP.

Ms. Moorehouse stated that there have been a lot of partners involved with the Hanover Bluff area. A C2000 grant paid for the preserve design that is resulting in this and other properties being protected. Those involved included the NLI, TNC, the IDNR, and the JDCF. She stated that this is a disturbed area with the major focus being to promote birthing habitat for a state-listed reptile. Brush control is also an important issue, so managers are considering bringing in goats to control the brush and vegetation.

It was moved by Drucker, seconded by Keating, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of a third addition to Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve in Jo Daviess County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 9 of the Agenda for the 198<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 1990)

Chair Ross-Shannon thanked Jeff Hensel and his staff for all the stewardship at this site. He stated that he personally finds it so important to have someone who is as committed as they are. Chair Ross-Shannon also stated that he was impressed by the cooperation of the many groups who made this project possible, including foundations like Clean Energy, The Grand Victoria Foundation, and McKnight Foundation, along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Leslie Spraggins, representing TNC as a co-owner of Hannover Bluff Nature Preserve, stated that this was her first time attending an INPC meeting, and she was very pleased to see that a third addition to the Nature Preserve has been proposed for dedication.

Commissioner Keating stated that he has noticed a lot of new development in the region, and he felt that preserving the remaining natural area is a priority.

198-10) Kane Co. – Meissner-Corrone Prairie and Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County (FPDKC) for preliminary approval for dedication of Meissner-Corrone Prairie and Sedge Meadow as an Illinois Nature Preserve. The proposed 98-acre site, consisting of 20 acres as nature preserve and 78 acres as nature preserve buffer, is located within the larger 224.2-acre Meissner-Corrone Forest Preserve owned by the FPDKC. The proposed nature preserve was recognized by the INAI (#442) for high-quality wet-mesic prairie and the presence of the state-threatened white lady's slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*). The proposed nature preserve includes all of Russell Prairie (INAI #1442) and is located in the Moraine Section of the Northeastern Moraine Natural Division in Elgin. Dedication of the proposed nature preserve will protect a small, one-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 IWAP; specifically, action steps to restore and manage high-quality wetland and prairie communities.

It was moved by Riddell, seconded by Rosenthal, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of Meissner-Corrone Prairie and Sedge Meadow in Kane County as an Illinois Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 10 of the Agenda for the 198<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 1991)

198-11) Cook Co. – Addition to Dropseed Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for final approval for dedication of a 1.176-acre nature preserve 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. 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 INAI site (#425). The proposed addition to Dropseed Prairie received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission's 197<sup>th</sup> Meeting in February, 2008 (Resolution # 1892). Dedication of this 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 IWAP; specifically, action steps to restore and manage high-quality wetland and prairie communities. Four of five habitat-restricted papaipema moths (*Papaipma beeriana*, *P. maritime*, *P. sciata*, and *P. silphii*), tortricid moth (*Eucosma bipunctella*), byssus skipper (*Problema byssus*), and two-spotted skipper (*Eupheys bimacula*) are all recorded from Dropseed Prairie and are listed by the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation. Dedication of the proposed 1.41-acre addition will increase the size of Dropseed Prairie Nature Preserve from 13.0 to 14.41 acres and protect the balance of the INAI site.

It was moved by Allread, seconded by Keating, and carried with Drucker abstaining, that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of the nature preserve addition to Dropseed Prairie Nature Preserve in Cook County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 11 of the Agenda for the 198<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 1992)

198-12) Cook Co. – Addition to Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) for 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 95<sup>th</sup> 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. The proposed addition lies within the site boundaries for both the INAI (#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 IWAP; specifically, action steps to restore and manage high-quality wetland and prairie communities. Dedication of the proposed 1.43-acre addition will increase the size of Gensburg-Markham Prairie Nature Preserve from 159.57 to 161.0 acres.

Mr. Byers stated that the format of the instrument of dedication is slightly different than the Commission is accustomed to seeing, but the format has been reviewed by IDNR's legal counsel. He also stated that Chair Ross-Shannon has had an opportunity to review the language in the instrument of dedication, and staff worked with the legal counsel representing NEIU. All parties are in agreement with the final instrument of dedication that was prepared.

Chair Ross-Shannon stated that the form and language contained in a dedication document is not statutorily mandated.

Mr. Byers added that he expects there to be a number of these presentations before the Commission as NEIU and TNC continue to consolidate land holdings. The streets that bi-sect Gensburg-Markam Prairie have been platted, but not all of them have been vacated. As they become vacated, those properties will be conveyed to adjacent property owners. He stated that the INPC will be working with NEIU and TNC for some time to come. He stated that he felt it was important to move ahead with this one to re-engage NEIU. The Commission has not had the opportunity to work with the University for a number of years, other than to support Dr. Ron Panzer and his role and leadership at Indian Boundary Prairie.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Payne, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of an addition to Gensburg-Markam Prairie Nature Preserve in Cook County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 12 of the Agenda for the 198<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 1993)

198-13 ) McDonough Co. – Request for Rural Waterline Placement, Nenawakwa Land and Water Reserve

Angella Moorehouse presented a proposal on behalf of the West Prairie Water Cooperative of McDonough County (Cooperative) regarding an agreement among the Cooperative, the INPC, the 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 Land and Water Reserve that was damaged by the installation of a waterline. The waterline was installed in August, 2007, without the permission of the INPC and the IDNR. The agreement calls for the INPC and the IDNR to approve 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 Land and Water Reserve, has been addressed in the agreement. An amendment to the management schedule for the Land and Water Reserve has also been addressed.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Schwegman, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval of an agreement with the West Prairie Water Cooperative of McDonough County, and for an amendment to the existing management agreement for Nenawakwa Land and Water Reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 13 of the Agenda for the 198<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 1994)

198-14) Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Stewardship Program for FY 2009

Bob Szafoni presented a proposal for the Natural Areas Stewardship Program (NASP). The NASP uses monies provided by the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF) [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, it is anticipated that \$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. Mr. Szafoni gave an overview of the proposed stewardship projects for FY 2009.

Chair Ross-Shannon stated that he finds it frustrating that there is a growing need for stewardship money, but there is a declining source of revenue because the real estate transfer tax is not going to bring in the funding due to the downturn in the housing industry. Funding is tied to the whims of the real estate market. He stated that it was his opinion that, as Commissioners, we need to keep in our mind the need for a permanent funding source. He stated that those involved in the budget process need quantifiable cost numbers. If some kind of permanent funding source is not found for the future, we are going to lose everything that we have protected. The great thing is protecting land, but the bad side is that you cannot maintain the site in its original condition. He stated that it was almost like a breach of fiduciary duty if we are not successful.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Allread, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants approval for the funded and unfunded stewardship projects listed in the Natural Areas Stewardship Program for Fiscal Year 2009, as described in the proposal presented under Item 14 of the Agenda for the 198<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 1995)

Mr. Szafoni thanked the field staff of the INPC, as well as the field staff of the Division of Natural Heritage. He stated that executing stewardship projects can be very challenging, along with writing job specs, providing maps, pre-bid meetings, bid packages, and all those kinds of things which typically have not been done before. When one superimposes upon that, what seems to be the Medusa of the Illinois Procurement Code, it can be a very challenging task indeed. Mr. Szafoni stated that it can be difficult for him to coordinate the projects and for Mr. Heidorn to help in that coordination, but staff has really stepped up. He stated that he did not think the Commission needed any more evidence of staff dedication and passion about what they do, but he wanted to say that staff are doing an excellent job which makes the job we all do a lot easier.

Chair Ross-Shannon stated that none of the Commissioners are surprised to hear the praise for the staff; they know what a great job everyone is doing.

Mr. Heidorn reiterated the statement by Mr. Szafoni. He stated that he particularly wanted to thank Mr. Szafoni who has stepped up and taken on the burden of making sure that things go through the system smoothly. He stated that Mr. Szafoni has really been successful in helping Commission staff get a lot of things done. Spending a million dollars in ten and twenty thousand dollar increments is an incredible feat in itself.

198-15) Natural Areas Acquisition Fund – Review of FY 2008 Natural Areas Defense Program

Randy Heidorn provided a report on the FY 2008 Natural Areas Defense Program. The Natural Areas Defense Program uses monies provided by the NAAF (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 FY 2008, \$475,000 was available to defend natural areas statewide. To date in FY 2008, 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 Cache River Land and Water Reserve; to provide funding to 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 for 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 Sand Prairie Scrub Oak Nature Preserve and Salt Lick Point Land and Water Reserve. In FY 2009, \$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 FY 2009 were discussed.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Keating, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

The Commission grants approval for the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission staff to utilize the Natural Areas Defense Program funds consistent with the manner that has been done in the past, as described in the proposal presented under Item 15 of the Agenda for the 198<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 1996)

198-16) Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Acquisition Program for FY 2009

The NAAF is administered by the IDNR with review and recommendation of land acquisition projects by the INPC. The acquisition plan for FY 2009 includes acquisition of 27 tracts of land at 24 different natural areas in 18 counties. All of the proposed parcels are 1) identified on the INAI, 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 2,450 acres and will cost approximately \$9,273,600.

As of April 15, 2008, the State budget had not been approved. The amount anticipated from the NAAF for FY 2009 natural area acquisition is \$5,100,000. The INPC is asked to review and approve a longer list than that because matching money will be sought to stretch NAAF dollars and negotiations with some landowners will not be successful.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Riddell, and carried that the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission go into closed session, pursuant to Section 2C5 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, for purposes of discussing land acquisition, the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission would go into closed session. Section 2C5 of the Open Meetings Act provides that a public body may go into closed session to discuss and quoting, "the purchase or lease of real property for the use of the public body, including meetings held for the purposes of discussing whether a particular parcel shall be acquired." A unanimous roll-call vote was taken. Closed session started at 11:10 a.m.

The meeting was called back to order at 11:35 a.m. by Chair Ross-Shannon.

Chairman Ross-Shannon stated that during the closed session, the NAAF list for FY 2009 was considered, and at this point he would like to have a resolution to approve the acquisition list as presented by Don McFall, Office of Realty and Environmental Planning, IDNR.

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Riddell, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission approves the Fiscal Year 2009 Natural Areas Acquisition Fund land acquisition list, as presented under Item 16 of the Agenda for the 198<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

(Resolution 1997)

Commissioner Drucker stated that approximately 22,000 acres, primarily INAI sites, have been purchased with money from the NAAF over the last 20 years.

198-17) Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Marilyn Campbell stated that several Board members were up for reappointment on the ESPB. Two people are set for reappointment, Suzanne Masi and Mike Retzer. She stated that Dr. John Ebinger, long-time ESPB member, has declined to be reappointed. Ms. Campbell stated that Dr. Ebinger has done an incredible amount of work for endangered species. She suggested that the INPC may want to show its appreciation to him in some manner for his many years of work on behalf of endangered and threatened species. She stated that it was her understanding that Dr. Ebinger will stay on the Technical Advisory Committee for the ESPB.

198-18) Other Business

Chair Ross-Shannon stated that six sets of minutes from closed meetings of the Commission were included in the Commissioner's packets. The meeting dates were August 7, 2001, August 6, 2002, August 3, 2004, August 2, 2005, May 2, 2006, and May 1, 2007. These meetings were closed in accordance with the Open Meetings Act to discuss the purchase of real property. Section 2.06 of the Open Meetings Act provides that public bodies, "shall periodically, but no less than semi-annually, meet to review minutes of all closed sessions. At such meetings, a determination shall be made and reported in an open session that: 1. the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of those minutes, or 2. that the minutes or portions thereof no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection." He asked for a motion to determine whether or not the minutes from each meeting should be kept closed.

It was moved by Allread, seconded by Rosenthal, and carried that the following resolution be adopted:

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the closed session minutes from the August 7, 2001, August 6, 2002, August 3, 2004, August 2, 2005, May 2, 2006, and May 1, 2007, meetings will remain confidential but will be reviewed semi-annually to ascertain the need to be kept confidential.

(Resolution 1998)

Chair Ross-Shannon stated that the Commission will need to nominate officers at its August, 2008 meeting. He asked for two volunteers to serve as the nominating committee.

Commissioners Rosenthal and Allread volunteered to act as the nominating committee.

198-19) Adjournment

It was moved by Rosenthal, seconded by Allread, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 11:50 am.

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