

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA
ONE HUNDRED NINETY NINTH MEETING

Sugar Creek Administration Center
Forest Preserve District of Will County
17540 W. Laraway Road
Joliet, Illinois

August 5, 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 198th Meeting Minutes, May 6, 2008

Item 4: 2008 Meeting Schedule

October 28, 2008 10:00 a.m. World Shooting & Recreational Complex, Sparta

Item 5: INPC Staff Report

REPORT
Kelly Neal, Jenny Skufca, and Randy Heidorn
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:* Jasper Co. – Addition to Prairie Ridge State Natural Area Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources proposes to register a 546-acre addition to Prairie Ridge State Natural Area Land and Water Reserve located within the Effingham Plain Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division. The proposed addition is within the Prairie Ridge Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) site (#601). The grassland/wetland complex at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area provides

habitat for 78 species considered in greatest need of conservation in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). Included among these species are 23 species listed as threatened or endangered in Illinois, the State's only breeding population of greater prairie-chickens (*Tympanuchus cupido*), and the State's largest breeding populations of northern harriers (*Circus cyaneus*), short-eared owls (*Asio flammeus*), and barn owls (*Tyto alba*). Registration of this addition will be in perpetuity and bring the total number of managed acres at the Jasper County unit of Prairie Ridge State Natural Area to 2,916.72 acres. Allowable uses will include wildlife viewing and photography from roadsides and parking areas, scientific observation and study, grazing of prairie pastures, white-tailed deer management, and pheasant control to reduce greater prairie-chicken nest parasitism.

REPORT
Bob Edgin
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval for Registration

Item 9:* Kankakee Co. – Addition to Sweet Fern Savanna Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Sweet Fern Savanna Land and Water Reserve is a 115-acre site that was originally registered in 2002. The Land and Water Reserve is located in the Pembroke Savannas in Kankakee County. It is recognized on the INAI (#1581) for its high-quality dry-mesic sand savanna of the Kankakee Sands Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division and for the habitat it provides for 12 state-endangered or threatened plants and the state-threatened regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*). In addition, Sweet Fern Savanna is habitat for two reptiles of conservation concern. The majority of the site is owned and managed by Dr. Marianne Hahn. Since 2002, several additions to Sweet Fern Savanna Land and Water Reserve have been registered by both Dr. Hahn and the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. This proposal is for the permanent registration of two separate tracts, owned by Dr. Hahn, totaling 3.4 acres, bringing the total amount of registered acres of Sweet Fern Savanna Land and Water Reserve to approximately 118 acres. These additions will increase the amount of protected habitat for the state-endangered sweet fern (*Comptonia peregrina*), buffer high-quality natural communities within the existing Land and Water Reserve, and promote the conservation goals of the IWAP.

REPORT
Kim Roman
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval for Registration

Item 10:* Champaign Co. – Van Hagey's Sangamon River Nature Preserve, Dedication

The proposed Van Hagey's Sangamon River Nature Preserve is an approximately 14-acre natural area located along the Sangamon River, south of the village of Fisher, in Champaign County. This natural area is owned by William Van Hagey, and it protects an approximately 0.9-mile segment of the Sangamon River stream bed and its riparian corridor. The proposed nature preserve extends 125 feet west of the

centerline of the Sangamon River and follows the course of the river. It lies in the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. This river is recognized by the INAI as a biologically significant stream (#1449) with outstanding aquatic resources, especially fresh-water mussels, for the river's entire length in Champaign and Piatt counties. The Sangamon River provides important habitat for a relatively high diversity of mussels including the state-threatened slippershell (*Alasmidonta viridis*). This site is one of 12 protected natural areas along the Sangamon River corridor that, taken together, preserve over ten miles of the Sangamon River and over 4,100 acres of forest and other natural land along the Sangamon River corridor in Champaign and Piatt counties. A concentrated effort to preserve the upper Sangamon River corridor in Champaign and Piatt counties is being spearheaded by a coalition of organizations which includes the Land Conservation Foundation, Champaign County Forest Preserve District, The Nature Conservancy, the University of Illinois, and the INPC. Dedication of the proposed Van Hagey's Sangamon River Nature Preserve is recommended as an important component of this stream corridor protection effort.

REPORT
Mary Kay Solecki
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 11:* Cook Co. – Deer Grove West Woodland and Wetland Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) seeks preliminary approval for dedication of the 1096-acre Deer Grove West Woodland and Wetland as an Illinois nature preserve. The proposed nature preserve encompasses the entire Deer Grove West INAI site (#775) and includes 840 acres as nature preserve and 256 acres as nature preserve buffer. The proposed nature preserve is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in Cook County. The proposed Deer Grove West Woodland and Wetland Nature Preserve supports savanna, dry-mesic upland forest, mesic upland forest, wet floodplain forest, sedge meadow, and wetland communities that collectively provide habitat for 394 native plant species. Among the plant species are the state-threatened forked aster (*Aster furcatus*), pale vetchling (*Lathyrus ochroleucus*), small sundrops (*Oenothera perennis*), and marsh speedwell (*Veronica scutellata*) and the state-endangered bulrush (*Scirpus hattorianus*). State-threatened or endangered wildlife species reported from the site include the black tern (*Chlidonias niger*), yellow-headed blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), cerulean warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*), and a reptile. A large and diverse array of wildlife species have been recorded from the proposed nature preserve, including 16 bird species that are either highly or moderately sensitive to forest fragmentation. The proposed nature preserve supports several "action" steps identified in the IWAP, most notably management of area-sensitive wildlife species in forests greater than 1,000 acres and support of a specific recommendation for the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division to restore and manage four to five forested sites between 800-1,000 acres in size. In addition, the proposed nature preserve supports 18 species considered wildlife species in greatest need of conservation. Finally, dedication of this site as an Illinois nature preserve reaffirms the significance of Deer Grove as the first acquisition of land by the

FPDCC. By doing so, it honors the foresight of many early conservationists, the ongoing commitment of the FPDCC to "...preserve, protect, restock, and restore...", and the legacy and significance of the Cook County Forest Preserve District Act, Downstate Forest Preserve Act, and Conservation District Act in acquiring nearly 171,000 acres of land to date in northeastern Illinois.

REPORT
Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 12:* Jersey Co. – Palisades Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Great Rivers Land Trust proposes to dedicate 420 acres of bluff land property as Palisades Nature Preserve. The Palisades site contains part of the Chautauqua Prairie INAI site (#964). The proposed nature preserve contains grade A and grade B loess hill prairie and grade A limestone cliff community of the Glaciated Section of the Middle Mississippi Border Natural Division, and a large block forest. The site also harbors four state-listed species, including two listed reptiles, whitlow grass (*Draba cunefolia*), and bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). In addition to the three animals listed above, three other bird species found on the site are species of greatest conservation need in the IWAP. Preservation of the site contributes to the larger efforts to preserve the Mississippi River bluff corridor between Alton and Pere Marquette State Park. The proposed nature preserve will have an active management team led by the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center.

REPORT
Debbie Newman
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 13:* Kane Co. – Del Webb Sedge Meadow and Grove Nature Preserve, Dedication

Del Webb Communities of Illinois seeks preliminary approval for dedication of the Del Webb Sedge Meadow and Grove as an Illinois nature preserve. The proposed nature preserve is 24.62 acres in size (14.25 acres as nature preserve and 10.37 acres as nature preserve buffer), and includes a portion of the Hemmer-Kloempken wetland INAI site (#1519). This wetland basin was included on the INAI for high-quality sedge meadow and graminoid fen wetlands. The proposed nature preserve also includes elements of dry-mesic and mesic savanna and wet-mesic prairie that are being restored. The Hemmer-Kloempken wetland complex, which includes the proposed nature preserve, serves as one of the headwaters of the South Branch of the Kishwaukee River which was identified as a high-quality aquatic resource (INAI # 407). The proposed nature preserve is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in Kane County. A state-threatened plant and reptile have been reported from the site. Dedication of this site is consistent with recommendations from the "*Biodiversity Recovery Plan for the Chicago Wilderness Region*", and elements of the IWAP; specifically, action steps to restore and manage high-quality wetland communities. In addition, three habitat-restricted insect species,

including the silver-bordered fritillary (*Boloria selene*), black dash (*Euphys dion*), and broadwing skipper (*Poanes viator*), have been recorded from the Hemmer-Kloempken wetland complex and are identified as species in greatest need of conservation. Finally, dedication of a portion of the high-quality Hemmer-Kloempken wetland basin as Del Webb Sedge Meadow and Grove Nature Preserve is consistent with one of the “special conditions” set forth in a permit (ACOE Permit No. 200100684) issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to Del Webb Communities of Illinois for construction of the Lakehead Residential Development.

REPORT
Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 14:* Massac Co. – Horsefly Ridge Nature Preserve, Dedication

The proposed Horsefly Ridge Nature Preserve is a 49-acre natural area owned by Robert L. Shapiro and his wife, Robyn R. Shapiro. The area contains high-quality barrens/open woodland community and is located in the Coastal Plain Natural Division, Cretaceous Hills Section in eastern Massac County. The area is significant because it contains the high-quality barrens/open woodland community, which is rare in the State. The barrens/open woodland contains “limby”, open grown trees in the age range of 75-125 years, with a forb/grass component of species found in open rocky areas or prairie-like openings. The site today is characteristically less dry and open, as it was when the original surveyors described its characteristic growth as “barren land, thinly timbered, shrub oak and briers.” The nature preserve designation helps accomplish goals of the IWAP. The protection of the proposed Horsefly Ridge Nature Preserve also supports action steps identified for the Forests Campaign, i.e. to assist private forest management by protection of open woodlands and barrens.

REPORT
Judy Faulkner Dempsey
Nature Preserves Commission
Mark Guetersloh
IDNR, Division of Natural Heritage

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 15: Election of Officers – INPC Nominating Committee Report

REPORT
Jill Allread
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval of Officers

Item 16: Election of Advisors and Consultants

REPORT
Jill Allread
Nature Preserve Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Approval of Advisors and
Consultants

Current Statutory Advisors

Sam Flood, Acting Director, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Dr. Brian Anderson, Chief, Illinois Natural History Survey
Dr. Bonnie W. Styles, Director, Illinois State Museum

Current Elected Advisors

Dr. William Shilts, Chief, Illinois State Geological Survey
Dr. George VanderVelde #, Chief, Waste Management and Research Center (Retired)
Dr. Derek Winstanley #, Chief, Illinois State Water Survey (Retired)

Current Consultants

Gerald Adelman	John Comerio #	Dr. Kenneth Robertson #
Bruce Boyd #	Kenneth Fiske	Joseph Roth
Marilyn Campbell	Jerry Paulson	Valerie Spale
John White	Tom Clay	Leslie Spraggins

does not wish to be reappointed

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

Item 18: Other Business

Item 19: Adjournment