

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
Minutes of the 201st Meeting
(Approved at the 202nd Meeting)

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

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

201-1) Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

At 10:10 a.m., pursuant to the Call to Order of Commissioner Ross-Shannon, the meeting began.

Commission Ross-Shannon introduced Kurt Grandberg, Acting Director of the IDNR.

Deborah Stone read the roll call.

Members present: Jill Allread, Ron Flemal, Richard Keating, Mare Payne, Bruce Ross-Shannon, and John Schwegman.

Members absent: Harry Drucker, Jill Riddell, and Lauren Rosenthal

Others present: Samantha Adams, Steven Byers, Bob Edgin, Judy Faulkner Dempsey, Randy Heidorn, Jason Inczauskis, Tom Lerczak, Angella Moorehouse, Kelly Neal, John Nelson, Debbie Newman, Debbie Reider, Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca, and Mary Kay Solecki, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC); Russell Blogg, Debbie Bruce, Jeff Butler, Ben Dolbeare, Mark Guetersloh, Tim Kelley, Glen Kruse, Bob Lindsay, Mark Phipps, Jody Shimp; Michelle Simone, Bob Szafoni, Shawn Wilcockson, and John Wilker, Office of Resource Conservation (ORC), Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR); Megan Borrowman, Kathi Davis, Tracy Evans, Don McFall, and Keith Shank, Office of Realty and Environmental Planning (OREP), IDNR; Randall Collins, Office of Administration, IDNR; Bill Richardson and Stan Yonkauski, Office of Legal Counsel, IDNR; Tim Schweizer, Office of Public Affairs, IDNR; Anne Mankowski, Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board (ESPB); Sue Dees, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT); Dr. Brian Anderson, Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) and INPC Advisor; Jeannie Barnes and Damon Stotts, INHS; Janet Grimes, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency and INPC Advisor; Gary Miller, Illinois Sustainable Technology Center and INPC Advisor; Bonnie Styles, Illinois State Museum (ISM) and INPC Advisor; Karen Witter, ISM; Tom Clay, Illinois Audubon Society (IAS) and INPC Consultant; Viv Bennett, Claudia Emken, Fran Harty, and Jim Herkert, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Jarred Becker, Jason Becker, and Peggy Becker, representing the proposed Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve; Lisa Gruver, Alice Henry, and David King, representing the proposed buffer addition to Stony Hills Nature Preserve; Jim Payne, Grand Prairie Friends, representing the proposed buffer addition to Loda Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve; Deanna Glosser, Environmental Planning Solutions, Inc.; Bill Glass, United States Department of

Agriculture; Carolyn Grosboll, Giffin, Winning, Cohen, and Bodewes, PC; George Rose, Friends of the Sangamon Valley; Bill McClain, and Linda Williams.

Commissioner Ross-Shannon stated that the Commission's Chair and Vice-Chair were unable to attend the meeting. Due to these circumstances, the Commission would need to appoint an Acting Chairperson to conduct the 201st INPC Meeting.

It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Schwegman, and carried that Commissioner Ross-Shannon be appointed Acting Chair for the 201st INPC Meeting.

201-2) Adoption of Agenda

Acting Chair Ross-Shannon stated that Item 14 may have to be moved to the end of the meeting to allow the Becker family members to be in attendance. It was moved by Flemal, seconded by Schwegman, and carried that the Agenda be adopted as amended.

201-3) Approval of Minutes of the 200th Meeting Minutes, October 28, 2008

It was moved by Allread, seconded by Flemal, and carried that the Minutes of the 200th Meeting be approved.

Acting Chair Ross-Shannon reported that at the 200th Meeting of the INPC, held on October 28, 2008, at the World Shooting and Recreational Complex, Sparta, legal protection for six tracts of land, totaling 897.56 acres was approved by the Commission. Of these, three areas totaling 503.68 acres are owned by private individuals or not-for-profit corporations who donated the value of the protection agreement to the public. This private land was permanently preserved without acquisition of the land by the State. Private lands protected without State acquisition at INPC's 200th Meeting were Keough Effigy Mounds Land and Water Reserve in Jo Daviess County; Palisades Nature Preserve in Jersey County; and Horsefly Ridge Nature Preserve in Massac 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 343 dedicated nature preserves in 82 counties, totaling 45,974.628 acres and 150 land and water reserves in 62 counties, totaling 42,122.594 acres.

201-4) 2009 Meeting Schedule

May 5, 2009	9:00 a.m.	Starved Rock State Park Visitors Center, Utica
September 22, 2009	10:00 a.m.	Illinois Beach State Park, Zion

201-5) INPC Staff Report

Randy Heidorn presented the INPC staff report, and it is attached as Exhibit A. Mr. Heidorn presented Debbie Reider with her ten-year service pin. He also presented Debbie Newman with her 20-year service pin.

201-6) IDNR Staff Report

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

201-7) Endangered Species Protection Board Report

Ann Mankowski presented the ESPB report, and it is attached as Exhibit C.

Ms. Mankowski stated that the ESPB conducted its five-year review of the endangered and threatened species lists at a public hearing on January 23, 2009. The public comment session is open until February 6, 2009. The next meeting of the ESPB will be held on February 20, 2009, in Champaign. At that meeting, the ESPB will discuss the comments received through the public comment period, and the Board anticipates taking action on the recommended changes for where there is sufficient evidence.

Acting Chair Ross-Shannon stated that the registration agreements for today's land and water reserve presentation are signed and executed by the landowners as required by administrative rule.

201-8) Fayette Co. – Horn Prairie Grove Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Bob Edgin presented a proposal on behalf of Keith and Patricia Horn to register Horn Prairie Grove as a land and water reserve. The proposed Horn Prairie Grove Land and Water Reserve is 40.60 acres in size and is located in the Effingham Plain Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division. The proposed land and water reserve supports a population of the state-threatened savanna blazing star (*Liatris scariosa* var. *nieuwlandii*) with 30 plants occurring in seven locations. The proposed land and water reserve also has 12.5 acres of former cropland that has been converted to a prairie reconstruction, 15.4 acres of former pasture, 11.14 acres of forest (woodland), and 1.6 acres of seeps. Mr. and Mrs. Horn wish to register the site for ten years. Renewal of the registration will be automatic unless the landowners, by unanimous consent, send a written notice of termination to the INPC at least six months prior to the end of any ten-year period. Allowable uses within the proposed land and water reserve will include hiking, hunting of deer, wild turkey and upland game, nature observation and study, photography, scientific research with prior consent by the landowner, mowing of established trails from June 1 through September 30, and removal of dead and downed trees for personal use only. The site supports the priority actions for the Forest campaign of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP) by maintaining and enhancing the composition of Illinois' forested habitats, restoring and managing open forest habitat types, and creating broader transition areas from grassland, shrub/successional, savanna/open woodland, to closed forest, thus providing more and better habitat for most wildlife species in greatest need of conservation.

Mr. Edgin stated that the proposed land and water reserve registration will automatically renew after ten years unless the Commission is notified in writing six months prior to the expiration date. He also stated that the landowners' children are aware of their parents' wishes to preserve the land.

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

The Commission grants approval for the registration of Horn Prairie Grove in Fayette County as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 8 of the Agenda for the 201st Meeting.

(Resolution 2022)

Acting Chair Ross-Shannon asked that Mr. Edgin convey the thanks of the Commission to Mr. and Mrs. Horn.

201-9) Cook Co. – McMahan Woods and Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) for preliminary approval for dedication of the 670-acre McMahan Woods and Fen as an Illinois Nature Preserve - 510 acres as nature preserve and 160 acres as nature preserve buffer. The proposed nature preserve lies within the Palos and Sag Valley holdings of the FPDCC (totaling over 14,000 acres) in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in Cook County. The site is located in the Crooked Creek watershed adjacent to the 372-acre Cranberry Slough Nature Preserve. The glacial history of the site has left a mosaic of landscapes that today support a number of grade C natural plant communities (dry-mesic upland forest, mesic upland forest, wet-mesic upland forest, wet-mesic upland forest, wet floodplain forest, dry-mesic woodland, wet-mesic woodland, wet mesic prairie, basin marsh, graminoid fen, sedge meadow, and natural spring/seep) and several cultural communities. To date, 197 plant species have been recorded from the proposed nature preserve. Among the plant species are the state-endangered queen-of-the-prairie (*Filipendula rubra*), state-threatened plant, and savanna blazing star (*Liatris scariosa* var. *nieuwlandii*). In addition, the proposed McMahan Woods and Fen Nature Preserve supports a population of the federally endangered and state-endangered Hines emerald dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*). This dragonfly is known from only four states: Missouri, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Illinois. In Illinois, this species has been recorded from nine sites located in a narrow corridor that extends along the Lower DesPlaines River corridor in Cook and Will counties. Extensive butterfly surveys conducted from 1996 through 2008 documented the presence of 52 species from the site, including seven species that are considered habitat-restricted. In 1992, extensive insect surveys documented the presence of six insect species (including the Hines emerald dragonfly) that are considered “wildlife species in greatest need of conservation” in the IWAP. Dedication of McMahan Woods and Fen as an Illinois Nature Preserve supports several action steps identified in the plan for the wetland and prairie campaign and the forest campaign. In addition, dedication of this site reaffirms the commitment of the FPDCC to “...preserve, protect, restock, and restore...” holdings that are of ecological significance.

Mr. Byers stated that the FPDCC reserves the right to implement the “master enhancement plan” prepared in 2008 by Graef, Anhalt, Schloemer, and Associates, Inc. The FPDCC also reserves the right to apply adaptive management strategies as outlined in the dedication proposal. Other reserved rights outlined in the dedication proposal were also discussed.

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

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of McMahon Woods and Fen in Cook County as an Illinois Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 9 of the Agenda for the 201st Meeting.

(Resolution 2023)

Acting Chair Ross-Shannon asked that Mr. Byers convey the thanks of the Commission to the FPDCC.

201-10) Hancock Co. – Buffer Addition to Stony Hills Nature Preserve, Dedication

Angella Moorehouse presented a proposal on behalf of Gretchen Graft Batz and Roger Batz for preliminary approval for the dedication of a 140-acre buffer addition to Stony Hills Nature Preserve. The Batzs own 195.81 acres at this site, all of which was registered as Jamar Haven Land and Water Reserve in November, 1999 (Resolution #1504). In May, 2003 (Resolution #1750), 54.4 acres of the reserve was dedicated as Stony Hills Nature Preserve. The current proposed buffer addition would increase the total size of the Nature Preserve to 194.4 acres, making it the second largest Illinois nature preserve owned by private individuals. A small area (approximately 1.4 acres) around a historic barn, included in the reserve, will remain undedicated. The site lies within the Glaciated Section of the Middle Mississippi Border Natural Division. Significant features include: unique geological exposure and site suitable habitat for two state-threatened species, a reptile and Henslow's sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*). The site also supports at least six prairie and savanna specialists, five birds and one mammal, identified by the IWAP as species of greatest need of conservation. Management of the site focuses on goals established for the IWAP Farmland and Prairie Campaign.

Ms. Moorehouse stated that the ownership of the land will eventually be turned over to the Prairie Land Conservancy (PLC). The reserved rights outlined in the dedication proposal were discussed. Some of the reserved rights include the construction of two parking areas within the disturbed portions. The south lot will be large enough to accommodate a maximum of 20 vehicles. The north lot will serve as a one way bus pull through wide enough for two lanes to keep vehicles off Route 96. The owner also requests the right to establish and maintain a network of mowed foot trails through the site, establish and maintain a picnic area within the former pasture, place educational/information kiosks at the parking lots and trail heads, promote the use of the area for outdoor education by the community, school groups, scouts, and other organizations, and control invasive species through methods identified by the INPC.

Ms. Moorehouse stated that previously allowed special uses of the site would cease once it is dedicated as a buffer addition to Stony Hills Nature Preserve, with the exception of the mowing to provide trail access for the trailer park residents and the public. Control of the deer population would be done according to practices established in the management plan for the site.

Commissioner Flemal stated that anticipated changes to the State's endangered and threaten species

list will be announced in the near future. Of these, three birds are proposed for delisting. This is taking place because of the efforts of the conservation community to increase the population of these birds. One of the birds that may be delisted is the Henslow's sparrow. Since a site needs a qualifying feature for dedication as a nature preserve or registration as a land and water reserve, he was interested to know what the Commission would do in the future when there is a site that preserves habitat for a species like the Henslow's sparrow, but it is no longer on the list.

Anne Mankowski stated that the proposed delisting of the birds should be viewed as success stories. The protection of the properties which may be based on these species, along with other species, is worthwhile in the long run. The ESPB will continue to monitor the population.

Commissioner Flemal stated that he has no reservations about this site, and the site qualifies in a number of ways.

Randy Heidorn stated that it is a success story. One of the largest discussions that staff had recently when talking about the INAI update was the Category III natural areas. Category III natural areas are those areas within the INPC programs. One of the reasons that the Commission wants to keep, recognize, and maintain those areas in the programs is because they contain the species that are very important to protect. One of the criteria to be able to delist a species is that it is contained in a protected area. Once a site is put into the nature preserve system, it is there forever.

Acting Chair Ross-Shannon stated the Commission is allowed by Statute to protect any site it deems worthy; however, it does have its own criteria regarding the eligibility of a particular site. Once a dedication is approved, it is in the system. A site has never been undedicated.

Mr. Heidorn stated that having a species delisted would not meet the statutory test for a site to be undedicated.

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

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of a buffer addition to Stony Hills Nature Preserve in Hancock County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 10 of the Agenda for the 201st Meeting.

(Resolution 2024)

Commissioner Allread stated that since this site is such a significant parcel of property, not only for the features at the site, but because an individual family felt it was important to protect this property forever. Now a group of volunteers have stepped up to make sure that it happens. She asked if there was something the Commission could do to recognize the private landowner for their extraordinary commitment to protect their land.

Acting Chair Ross-Shannon stated that Commissioner's Allread suggestion would be taken under advisement.

Acting Chair Ross-Shannon recognized the PLC for its hard work, and he stated that this would be its first parcel acquired by the group. He invited the PLC representatives to attend the next INPC meeting when the site is scheduled for final approval for dedication.

201-11) Iroquois Co. – Buffer Addition to Loda Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

Mary Kay Solecki presented a proposal on behalf of the Grand Prairie Friends for preliminary approval for dedication of a 9-acre crop field as a buffer addition to Loda Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve. The field surrounds Loda Cemetery Prairie on three sides and will be restored to native prairie vegetation. The proposed buffer addition is located near the town of Loda, approximately 30 miles northeast of Champaign, within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. Loda Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve is one of the finest black soil prairie remnants in central Illinois. This 3.4-acre prairie is recognized by the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) as a grade A mesic prairie known as Pine Ridge Cemetery Prairie INAI site (#1037). The 3.4 acres of grade A mesic prairie at Loda Prairie are 24% of the total grade A mesic prairie known within the Grand Prairie Natural Division. In addition, the prairie harbors a state-endangered orchid. Restoration of the 9-acre field to prairie will more than triple the size of the prairie at Loda Cemetery Prairie from 3.4 acres to 12.4 acres. Small size and isolation are among the greatest stresses to Illinois' native prairies. For many prairies, invasive species are a chronic problem made worse when prairies have a large amount of edge compared to interior habitat. Enlarging the prairie will help alleviate stresses attributable to small size and make the prairie more attractive to wildlife including songbirds.

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

The Commission grants preliminary approval for dedication of a buffer addition to Loda Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve in Iroquois County, as described in the proposal presented under Item 11 of the Agenda for the 201st Meeting.

(Resolution 2025)

201-12) Cook Co. – Collier Limestone Glade Nature Preserve, Dedication

Judy Faulkner Dempsey presented a proposal on behalf of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for final approval for dedication of the proposed 105.65-acre Collier Limestone Glade Nature Preserve. The site is a high-quality grade A and B limestone glade community. The site protects the east part of the Collier Limestone Glade INAI site (#12). A unique assemblage of prairie and glade plants occurs in this rare community type. The Collier Limestone Glade natural area is an oak-hickory mosaic containing remnant dry oak woodlands and limestone glades. In southern Illinois, limestone glades are small prairie-like areas which occur on shallow soils over limestone outcrops. This glade occurs in the Lesser Shawnee Hills Section of the Shawnee Hills Natural Division. Collier Limestone Glade is one of the last remnants of what was once the largest continuous glade system that existed in Illinois. This site also includes Frailey's Landing Natural

Area (INAI #437), a geological area. Preservation of Collier Limestone Glade will address several action steps in the Forest Campaign for the IWAP by conserving an INAI site, assisting private forest management, and assisting with the exotic species campaign by the management that will occur on the site to remove exotic and invasive species.

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

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of Collier Limestone Glade in Hardin County as an Illinois Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 12 of the Agenda for the 201st Meeting.

(Resolution 2026)

Randy Heidorn stated that in addition to Ms. Faulkner Dempsey's efforts to bring this site forward for final approval, Bob Lindsay and Jody Shimp of the IDNR worked hard to make this possible.

201-13) Kane Co. – Del Webb Sedge Meadow and Grove Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steven Byers presented a proposal on behalf of Del Webb Communities of Illinois for final approval for dedication of Del Webb Sedge Meadow and Grove as an Illinois nature preserve. The proposed nature preserve is 20.52 acres in size (10.91 acres as nature preserve and 9.61 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, 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. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 199th Meeting in August, 2008 (Resolution 2004).

Mr. Byers stated that the size of the site had changed slightly from the preliminary proposal because the gas line right-of-way was no longer within the proposed nature preserve boundary.

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

The Commission grants final approval dedication of Del Webb Sedge Meadow and Grove in Kane County as an Illinois Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 13 of the Agenda for the 201st Meeting.

(Resolution 2027)

Acting Chair Ross-Shannon asked Mr. Byers to extend the thanks of the Commission to the appropriate individuals at Del Webb Communities of Illinois.

201-14) Kankakee Co. – Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication
(Actually presented after Item 16)

Kim Roman presented a proposal on behalf of the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for final approval for the dedication of 68 acres of the Leesville Savanna INAI site (#638) as Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve. The proposed Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve is comprised of two units and is located in the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois. The site is also within a conservation opportunity area identified in the IWAP. The natural communities within the site include high-quality dry and dry-mesic sand savanna, sand flatwoods, sand prairie, and old field. It supports 12 state-listed species: yellow wild indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*), crowded oval sedge (*Carex cumulata*), narrow-leaved sundew (*Drosera intermedia*), northern cranesbill (*Geranium bicknellii*), old plainsman (*Hymenopappus scabiosaeus*), shore St. John's wort (*Hypericum adpressum*), orange fringed orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*), Carey's smartweed (*Polygonum areyi*), bristly blackberry (*Rubus setosus*), eastern blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium atlanticum*), primrose violet (*Viola primulifolia*), and regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*). The proposed Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve also supports numerous wildlife species including four species considered to be in greatest need of conservation. This site is well suited for a nature preserve dedicated in Mr. Becker's memory because of its outstanding natural character and the partnership it exemplifies in the Kankakee Sands (and entire State of Illinois) between TNC and the IDNR, both agencies in which Mr. Becker devoted his career in conservation. TNC reserves the right to create a small parking area to facilitate visitor parting. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 200th Meeting in October, 2008 (Resolution 2013).

Ms. Roman acknowledged Peggy Becker and her two sons, Jarred and Jason Becker. She stated that it was an honor to have Mr. Becker's family be a part of the dedication.

Ms. Roman stated that there is a pipeline right-of-way going through a portion of the east unit, and she has met with the pipeline owner, BP. She stated that the representatives from BP were very agreeable to managing the pipeline right-of-way with the sensitivity of the site in mind. BP has agreed to consult the Commission before doing any work on the pipeline.

Ms. Roman stated that this site was a perfect example of the partnership between TNC, the IDNR, and the INPC. She stated that Mr. Becker was a real advocate throughout his life for all three of these agencies.

Commissioner Allread stated that this dedication was significant because of the collaboration to make something better because the groups have worked together. She stated that this is what Mr. Becker inspired everyone to do. This site will be a part of Mr. Becker's long legacy.

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

The Commission grants final approval for dedication of Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve in Kankakee County as an Illinois Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 14 of the Agenda for the 201st Meeting.

(Resolution 2028)

Fran Harty, TNC, thanked the Commission for its approval for final dedication of this site and for all of the other TNC-owned sites that are a part of the Nature Preserves System.

Peggy Becker thanked everyone involved with this project. She stated that this was a great honor for her husband. She felt that he was very deserving of the honor because of his love of conservation. He grew up with parents that instilled the values of protecting the environment. She stated that Mr. Harty worked very hard to put this project together, and on behalf of her children and herself, she would like to thank everyone for this honor.

Karen Witter stated that she was excited to be in attendance in recognition of this honor of Mr. Becker. She stated that Mr. Becker was an insider to State government, but he also worked with those outside of State government. She would encourage everyone to commit themselves to the very positive things that Mr. Becker represented.

Acting Chair Ross-Shannon stated that it was an honor for the Commission, and a special privilege for many in attendance today, to have known and worked with Mr. Becker. He thanked the Becker family for attending the meeting.

A lunch break was taken from 11:40 a.m. – 12:50 p.m.

201-15) Public Comment
(Actually presented after Item 13)

Tom Clay stated that the news of the buffer addition to Stony Hills Nature Preserve was wonderful. He stated that when Mr. and Mrs. Batz and Ms. Moorehouse came to the IAS to offer the property, even though the IAS would have loved to be able to take advantage of the opportunity, the Board of Directors decided that it would not be possible to acquire the property because of the management responsibilities. He stated that the Prairie State Conservation Coalition is a coalition of land trusts,

and the IAS is able to turn to others like the PLC to see if acquiring the property would fit into its plan. He stated that he was very happy to see that the PLC will eventually acquire the property.

Acting Chair Ross-Shannon stated there is an incredible web of organizational ties and personal ties within the State of Illinois regarding the conservation effort. The Commission counts on all its partners to achieve the goals of protection of sites around the State.

Angella Moorehouse announced that the Second Illinois Hill Prairie Conference is being hosted by Augustana College. The conference will take place May 1-2, 2009. Management issues regarding hill prairies will be discussed at the conference. There will be experts from different agencies and organizations in attendance who will bring different viewpoints to the panel discussions. She encouraged everyone to attend the conference.

201-16) Other Business
(Actually presented after item 15)

Deborah Stone stated that the Commission has been exploring options to celebrate an upcoming event that will take place within the next year which is the addition of the 500th site to the Illinois Nature Preserve System which consists of nature preserves and land and water reserves. The celebration would highlight the growth, tenacity, and success of the system as a whole. The Commission was looking for a way to heighten recognition of its work among new audiences across the State who may not know about the Commission and its work or what nature preserves and land and water reserves are designed to protect. She stated that Chair Riddell put together a committee with Commissioners Allread and Rosenthal. Bonnie Styles, Illinois State Museum and INPC Advisor, and Jerry Adelman, Openlands Project and INPC Consultant, are also part of the committee. The committee has developed the idea of having a photo contest. Additional partners have been brought into the project such as the *Outdoor Illinois* magazine, the IDNR, and the Illinois State Museum. The committee will also reach out to all the Commissioners, Advisors, Consultants, and landowners to get the information out about this project.

Jenny Skufca stated that the Commission anticipates the dedication or registration of its 500th site at the May, 2009 or September, 2009 meeting. The Commission's photo contest has been adopted by the *Outdoor Illinois* photo contest, which is a well established photo contest statewide. A category has been added for the nature preserves and land water reserves. The *Outdoor Illinois* photo contest will be announced in May, 2009, and the INPC will also announce its photo contest. The judging for the *Outdoor Illinois* photo contest will be done in September, 2009. Soon after that, the photos for all nature preserves and land and water reserves will be assembled, and additional judging will take place. The committee is at the very beginning stages of planning. The marketing will occur on the INPC website and through the INPC's partners.

Ms. Stone stated that an exhibit will be made using the photos submitted to continue to educate the public about the Commission and its work.

Commissioner Allread stated that the beauty of nature preserves and land and water reserves is awe inspiring, and she felt that the photo contest was a great way to show this to the public. She stated

that being able to take advantage of the opportunity to partner with the *Outdoor Illinois* photo contest was a great boost to the project.

201-17) Adjournment

It was moved by Allread, seconded by Keating, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702
217/785-8686

Exhibit A



Illinois
Nature
Preserves
Commission

memorandum

To: Commissioners

From: Randy Heidorn, Kelly Neal, Jenny Skufca

Date: January 23, 2009

Subject: Staff Report for the 201st Meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

I. Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) Operations:

- A. Kelly Neal, Jenny Skufca, Bob Edgin, Randy Heidorn, Debbie Reider, and Samantha Adams met with Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) web designer to discuss revisions and additions to INPC's website.
- B. Bob Edgin and Samantha Adams supervised an update of the Commission's online Nature Preserve (NP) Directory using input from staff.
- C. Jenny Skufca coordinated the staff effort with Deborah Stone and Randy Heidorn to develop a photo contest to celebrate the 500th protected site. She developed a work plan, rough budget, and met with *Outdoor Illinois* editor Kathy Andrews regarding coordination of an INPC category within the magazine's existing annual photo contest.
- D. Kelly Neal and Jenny Skufca assisted Randy Heidorn in the preparation of the INPC biennial reports.
- E. Randy Heidorn and Deborah Stone reviewed and prepared various materials for implementation of the FY09 budget and planned the FY10 budget.
- F. Randy Heidorn completed several staff annual evaluations.
- G. Tom Lerczak:
 1. Drafted a letter of support for a proposed National Science Foundation (NSF) grant for Bradley University.
 2. Solicited and compiled staff needs for FY09 NP/land and water reserve (LWR) signs and herbicide; sent out bid packages for a sign order; submitted purchase request forms for sign posts, staff equipment, and commodities.
- H. Mary Kay Solecki reviewed all protection proposals and NP/LWR documents for the January 27, 2009, INPC meeting and updated certain NP/LWR templates.

II. Training , Presentations, and Meetings Attended:

- A. Steven Byers and John Nelson were invited speakers at the Chicago Wilderness (CW) Congress, November 13, 2008.
- B. Steven Byers:
 1. Represented the INPC at the CW Green Infrastructure Vision (GIV) meeting to update green infrastructure for portions of Cook and Will counties and further support for the GIV vision.
 2. Co-chaired a CW Natural Resources Management team meeting; worked with CW staff for speakers, development of the agenda, and implementation of CW objectives.
 3. Presented at the Liberty Prairie Conservancy's first "Food for Thought" luncheon series.
- C. Tom Lerczak:

1. Gave a presentation to the Emiquon Audubon Society, Havana, during which the Illinois Nature Preserves System was briefly discussed, especially in relation to the Illinois River Valley.
 2. Met with Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and Bradley University biology professors in Peoria to discuss research needs on natural areas and a proposed NSF grant.
- D. Angella Moorehouse:
1. Gave a presentation on the INPC Action Goals for Siloam Springs Conservation Opportunity Area (COA) at the annual meeting of the La Moine River Ecosystem Partnership in Macomb and at the annual meeting of Western Prairie Audubon.
 2. Assisted staff from Augustana College and Rock Island Natural Resource Conservation Service in plans for the upcoming Hill Prairie Conference to be hosted by Augustana College.
- E. John Nelson and Jason Inczauskis participated in a meeting of the McHenry County Association of Resource Professionals.
- F. Debbie Newman:
1. Participated in ArcView training with Jeannie Barnes, from IDNR's Natural Heritage Database.
 2. Gave a presentation at a Southwestern Illinois Master Naturalist Class.
 3. Met with an IDNR District Heritage Biologist (DHB) to discuss development of volunteer training materials.
- G. Jenny Skufca completed a four-hour refresher for recertification in Hazardous Materials Awareness.
- H. Mary Kay Solecki participated in a meeting of the Land Conservation Foundation and served as an advisor on protecting natural lands in east-central Illinois.
- I. Samantha Adams, Graduate Resident Intern:
1. Completed GPS, ArcView, and Field Biotics training.
 2. Received Red Card certification for wildland firefighting.
 3. Completed First Aid, CPR, and Automated External Defibrillator training and certification.
- J. Jason Inczauskis, Graduate Resident Intern:
1. Completed the S-130 and S-190 Firefighter Training Modules and fire training in Jerseyville.
 2. Trained to use the EZ-Ject lance for pesticide application.
 3. Attended a Cooperative Weed Management meeting at the Morton Arboretum.
 4. Attended a Midwest Invasive Plant Network meeting for Rapid Response to Exotic Species.
- K. Randy Heidorn:
1. Represented the INPC at the Endangered Species Protection Board quarterly meeting.
 2. Participated in the Prairie Rivers Network conservation strategy meeting for scientists.
 3. Participated in the bimonthly meetings of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force's Type III Incident Management Team.

III. Inventory and Monitoring:

- A. Randy Heidorn, Kelly Neal, and Jenny Skufca participated in the Natural Areas Evaluation Committee.
 - B. Staff provided information regarding community types for the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) Update.
 - C. Bob Edgin and Samantha Adams participated in the Christmas Bird Count at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area.
- D. Angella Moorehouse:
1. Assisted researcher Mike Jones with information for a report on the status of a rare plant, stick leaf.
 2. Participated in the Christmas Bird Count for the Keokuk, Iowa Count Circle which included a bird census of the Cedar Glen Kibbe INAI Macrosite and surrounding areas.
 3. Conducted three midwinter bald eagle surveys along the Mississippi River for both Iowa and Illinois, including areas in Hancock, Henderson and Mercer counties.
- E. Samantha Adams assisted a DHB with a bald eagle survey along the Ohio River.
- F. Jason Inczauskis assisted the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) with mussel and gypsy moth surveys.

IV. Protection Program:

- A. Staff met with landowners and managers to plan and draft protection proposals that are on the agenda of the 201st INPC meeting.

- B. Steven Byers continued discussions with the MCCD, the Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD), the Kane County Forest Preserve District (KCFPD), the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC), and the Natural Land Institute regarding protection opportunities in and around Freeman Kame NP, the proposed Meissner-Corron Prairie and Sedge Meadow NP, Gensburg-Markham Prairie NP, Wolf Road Prairie NP, and other natural areas in their areas of jurisdiction or control.
- C. Judy Faulkner Dempsey:
 - 1. Worked with Lafarge North America Corporation on the final dedication document for Lafarge Limestone Glade NP.
 - 2. Assisted the landowner of Horsefly Ridge NP regarding a NP property tax assessment issue.
- D. Bob Edgin conducted three landowner contacts.
- E. Tom Lerczak:
 - 1. Continued working on a LWR proposal for Chinquapin Bluffs, located along the Mackinaw River, owned by ParkLands Foundation.
 - 2. Obtained landowner signatures to enrolled Bluff Springs Sand Pond (43 acres) as a Natural Heritage Landmark (NHL).
 - 3. Initiated or renewed landowner contacts at seven unprotected natural areas.
 - 4. Submitted a status report on the Mason County Sand Areas COA Action Plan.
 - 5. Compiled a listing of significant conservation opportunities in the Funks Grove area and the Mackinaw River corridor to be used for prioritization of 2008-2009 goals and objectives.
- F. John Nelson:
 - 1. Provided tax assessment information to a private NP owner and the McHenry County tax assessor.
 - 2. Agreed to terminate the Pine Cliff NHL in Lee County at the request of the landowners due to an impending sale of property to another party.
 - 3. Had two landowner contact meetings.
 - 4. Worked on land protection proposals for two sites.
- G. Debbie Newman:
 - 1. Compiled a report for, attended, and participated in a Northern Ozark Natural Division Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP) COA Partners meeting.
 - 2. Contacted two landowners of unprotected INAI sites.
- H. Mary Kay Solecki:
 - 1. Worked toward finalizing a NP dedication of the proposed Van Hagey's Sangamon River NP.
 - 2. Landowner contact with a landowner on a Sangamon River INAI site.
 - 3. Worked on protection of the Sangamon River corridor in two counties in conjunction with the Land Conservation Foundation (LCF) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Assisted the LCF with its project to contact approximately 166 riparian landowners along 27 miles of the Sangamon River and acquire conservation easements where possible. Reviewed a grant proposal to acquire the easements.
 - 4. Updated implementation strategy for a Vermilion River COA.

V. Land Acquisition:

- A. Steven Byers:
 - 1. Met with Ed Collins, MCCD, to review the District's plans for land acquisition adjacent to Goose Lake Marsh LWR, at Glacial Park, Fel-Pro Triple R Fen NP, and the Hind Forest/Aavang Fen complex.
 - 2. Site visit/discussions with Barbara Turner about expanding Reed-Turner Woodland NP and possible landscape linkages with the NP to the north.
 - 3. Continued meetings with staff of US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Openlands Project, MCCD, and Friends of Hack-ma-tack to bring a USFWS refuge to northeastern Illinois.
- B. Kim Roman met with the landowner of a Pembroke natural area; coordinated with TNC for the acquisition.

VI. Defense Program:

- A. INPC program staff responded to 11 reviews for IDNR's Comprehensive Environmental Review Program (CERP), and three reviews for the IDNR's Consultation Program.
- B. Jenny Skufca and Randy Heidorn continued to participate in meetings addressing asbestos containing material (ACM) and other issues related to the management of Illinois Beach State Park, including Illinois

Beach NP and North Dunes NP. Ms. Skufca also participated in a review meeting for the recently released Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) report regarding the ACM issue.

C. Jenny Skufca presented to the State's Interagency Coordinating Committee on Groundwater regarding the implications of Class III Special Resource Groundwater designations for Illinois NPs.

D. Threats to sites within INPC programs:

1. **Site: Black Hawk Forest NP, Rock Island County - Angella Moorehouse**

- a. **Issue:** Proposed plans for Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to replace a series of three culverts under Illinois Route 5 in Rock Island that will impact the NP.
- b. **Threat:** Potential tree removal and replacement, as well as possible drainage alterations and fill dirt needed from outside the area.
- c. **Status:** Met with the site manager of Black Hawk Historic Site (Illinois Historic Preservation Agency) and representatives from IDOT. INPC's concerns were addressed, and IDOT will submit plans for review.

2. **Site: Argyle Hollow Barrens NP, McDonough County – Angella Moorehouse, Jenny Skufca**

- a. **Issue:** Proposed road work within Argyle Lake State Park that may affect the NP.
- b. **Threat:** Work will reportedly be conducted along the border of the NP. Staff are concerned that the work may intrude into the NP, causing erosion and damage to the sensitive oak barrens community.
- c. **Status:** Jenny Skufca attended a meeting on January 20, 2009, to review plans. A CERP has yet to be submitted to IDNR for this project.

3. **Site: Bluff Spring Fen NP, Cook County – Steven Byers, John Nelson**

- a. **Issue:** Routing of water from Gifford Lake and "finger lakes" located adjacent to Bluff Spring Fen is currently under consideration by the FPDCC. Options include surface conveyance of water from Gifford Lake or conveyance of the water via a pipe.
- b. **Threat:** Conveyance of the water in an open swale represents a threat to the groundwater chemistry upon which the fen wetlands are dependent. Randy Locke and Jim Miner, Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) have both recommended the "piping" alternative. The open swale alternative also threatens a previously permitted project to restore surface and groundwater hydrology (and fen wetlands) by filling a shallow gravel pit lake.
- c. **Status:** Worked with consultants and representatives of Bluff City Material and Vulcan Materials in the revision of stormwater engineering plans. The plans will be reviewed during a meeting scheduled for February 3, 2009. The FPDCC has signaled their support for plan to bury pipe (the preferred alternative). The agencies currently addressing permitting issues to do so.

4. **Site: Palatine Prairie NP, Cook County – Steven Byers**

- a. **Issue:** A private firm (Golf Nation) has erected a structure (with netting) to support a golf driving range. The ground wires that support the structure intrude into the NP.
- b. **Threat:** Unauthorized intrusion into the NP. The Palatine Park District, owner of the NP, wants the infrastructure removed.
- c. **Status:** Golf Nation, INPC staff, and staff from the Palatine Park District participated in a meeting with Senator Matt Murphy on January 10, 2009, to discuss the intrusion. The Senator advised Golf Nation to come up with a timeline for removal of the structure and netting from the NP.

5. **Site: Old Plank Road Prairie NP, Cook County – Kim Roman**

- a. **Issue:** During a regular visit in September, 2008, INPC staff discovered an encroachment into the NP.
- b. **Threat:** Approximately one-tenth of an acre was impacted by earth moving and siltation. A subcontractor, performing work on behalf of a pipeline company, was responsible for the violations.
- c. **Status:** INPC staff met with Kinder-Morgan (the owner/operator of the pipeline) and developed a plan to restore the NP. The bare soil was seeded with an annual cover crop, and new boundary signs were posted. In addition, a consulting firm will apply herbicide to all invasive exotic species three times during the growing season of 2009 on two acres of the NP.

6. **Site: Julia M. & Royce L. Parker Fen NP, McHenry County - John Nelson, Jenny Skufca**

- a. **Issue:** Construction and operation of a retirement community on nearby uplands.

- b. **Threat:** A portion of the development project is within the designated Class III Ground Watershed for the NP.
 - c. **Status:** IDNR consultation is open. INPC and IDNR staff met with the landowner, developers, and consultants on November 10, 2008. Issues pertaining to groundwater protection and chlorides from road de-icing and water softeners have been addressed. The project has been submitted to the County for review and approvals. INPC staff also met with adjacent landowners on November 11, 2008. Adjacent landowners are opposed to the development due to its high density relative to the surrounding estate zoning.
7. **Site: Boone Creek Fen Nature Preserve, McHenry County - John Nelson**
- a. **Issue 1:** Planning of a new public works facility in an old gravel pit adjacent to the designated Class III Ground Watershed to Boone Creek Fen.
 - b. **Threat 1:** Potential for groundwater contamination is high, especially due to the proposed methods for storage and loading of road de-icing salt.
 - c. **Status 1:** IDNR consultation is open. IDNR and INPC staff met with consultants and public works staff on October 23, 2008. The project is on-hold due to budget constraints.
 - d. **Issue 2:** Sand and gravel mining and construction of a minor league baseball stadium on land adjacent to the Class III Ground Watershed to Boone Creek Fen.
 - e. **Threat 2:** Potential groundwater connection to the Class III Ground Watershed.
 - f. **Status 2:** IDNR consultation was terminated for the mining portion of the project. IDNR consultation remains open for the baseball stadium portion of the project. INPC staff attended and testified at the Planning Commission public hearing in Woodstock. The Planning Commission approved both plans with numerous conditions, including groundwater protection, wetland protection, and groundwater studies.
8. **Site: Woodyard Memorial Conservation Area LWR, Coles County – Mary Kay Solecki**
- a. **Issue:** Unauthorized trails extending from the neighboring city park observed in the LWR.
 - b. **Threat:** Concerns that plans for expanded bike use on trails may damage site’s natural resources.
 - c. **Status:** Met with the City of Charleston Parks and Recreation Department staff (City of Charleston owns the LWR), concerned citizens, and IDNR’s DHB to discuss the issues, and assisted in preparing a report on solutions to resolve the bike/trail use issues and minimize potential impacts on the LWR. Previously allowed use of existing multi-purpose trail for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing will continue. No bike ramps are allowed. No additional trails are planned, but an additional one may be built in limited, least ecologically sensitive areas in the future with INPC approval.
9. **Site: Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR, Tazewell County - Tom Lerzcek**
- a. **Issue:** Proposed road realignment and bridge replacement within the LWR by the City of Pekin.
 - b. **Threat:** Road realignment would require use of land registered as a LWR.
 - c. **Status:** Letter dated September 11, 2008, from INPC encouraged the City to remain within the bridge and road’s current footprint. No response to this letter has been received. On January 5, 2009, Maurer-Stutz, Inc., an engineering consulting firm, requested information from INPC staff regarding the proposed bridge repair project, signaling renewed interest in the project.
10. **Site: Black-Crown Marsh LWR, McHenry County - John Nelson**
- a. **Issue:** The Village of Lakemoor issued a conditional use permit for development and operation of a new public works facility adjacent to the LWR. Work began prior to the IDNR consultation in September, 2008.
 - b. **Threat:** Main issue is the storage of road salt adjacent to the LWR and other wetlands located downstream at Moraine Hills State Park. The location of a salt storage facility in such an environmentally sensitive area requires careful planning and operational safeguards.
 - c. **Status:** IDNR consultation staff and INPC staff met with the Village of Lakemoor staff and legal counsel on November 19, 2008. Consultation remains open, and the facility planning is under revision. A letter dated January 12, 2009, from the attorney representing Village of Lakemoor was received by the INPC. The letter stated their belief that the salt recommendations would be heeded, and the IDNR consultation was not required. Monitoring by staff will continue as project proceeds.

VII. Stewardship Program:

- A. INPC staff participated in the review and hearings related to the proposed Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's (IEPA) Smoke Management Plan.
- B. Randy Heidorn continues to guide the development and review of the Illinois Prescribed Fire Act administrative rule development as co-chair of the IDNR's Wildland Fire Task force.
- C. Stewardship planning:
 1. Kelly Neal:
 - a. Reviewed 12 management schedules and two unscheduled management actions.
 - b. Began preparations for the purchase of FY09 equipment (for restoration activities) and herbicide to be used by volunteers in the Volunteer Stewardship Network (VSN).
 2. Steven Byers and Kim Roman participated in a meeting of Wolf Road Prairie stakeholders. The meeting's purpose was to provide an update on protection efforts, consensus on management, and provide direction for properties along Hickory Lane.
 3. Judy Faulkner Dempsey and Randy Heidorn participated in multiple discussions with the Joint Venture Partnership on the Cache River, including a meeting in Champaign at the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS) office to get information from the ISWS on the reconnection study of the upper and lower Cache River.
 4. Tom Lerczak:
 - a. Continued communication with owners of Elwin Botanical Area NHL to discuss an updated management plan.
 - b. Met with IDNR site superintendents (Doug Jallas, Billy Lowe) to discuss management plans for IDNR-owned NPs and LWRs and protection options for unprotected IDNR-owned natural areas (part of a focus on the Mason County Sand Areas COA).
 - c. Investigated flooding problem at Matanzas Prairie NP with the DHB and provided recommendations.
 - d. Investigated drainage issues at the property adjacent to Merwin Savanna NP with the DHB and landowner; provided recommendations.
 - e. Met with representatives of the Funk Homestead Trust to provide a management update on Funks Grove LWR.
 5. Angella Moorehouse met with volunteers from the Henry County Natural Areas Guardians to discuss management needs at Munson Township Cemetery Prairie NP and Greenlee Cemetery Prairie NP.
 6. Kim Roman:
 - a. Participated in a planning meeting for large-scale (> \$3 million) restoration work at Orland Grassland LWR.
 - b. Met with representatives from British Petroleum to discuss access and management of its pipeline right-of-way through Iroquois Sands LWR and the proposed Carl N. Becker Savanna NP.
 - c. Contacted a neighbor of Sunbury Railroad Prairie NP to discuss management of common reed.
 7. Mary Kay Solecki:
 - a. Met with the City of Charleston Parks and Recreation Department staff and the DHB to discuss management and use of Woodyard Memorial Conservation Area LWR.
 - b. Assisted with stewardship plans at Embarrass River LWR (vernal ponds for herpetofauna habitat), Little Vermilion River LWR (vernal ponds for herpetofauna habitat), and Kinney's Ford Seep LWR (hydrological restoration).
 - c. Assisted IDNR/IDOT staff with assessment of possible impacts of culvert replacement on state-endangered Sangamon phlox that occurs in vicinity of culvert work site along highway in Champaign County and made partial arrangements for possibly transplanting Sangamon phlox if any occur within project area.
 8. Staff prepared or updated burn plans for over 22 sites.
 9. New or update management plans were prepared by staff at ten sites including the following:
 - a. Walden West LWR
 - b. Chandlerville Cemetery Hill Prairie LWR
 - c. Hopewell Hill Prairies NP
 - d. Oak Bluff Savanna NP

- e. Sandy Creek Bluffs LWR
 - f. Bill and Mike's Hill Prairie NHL
 - g. Woodyard Memorial Conservation Area LWR
 - h. Fairchild Cemetery Prairie/Savanna NP
- D. Stewardship project implementation: Staff continued to coordinate and administer stewardship projects funded by the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP), State Wildlife Grant (SWG), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), EPA 319 Grant, Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF), and INPC operations fund. These projects involve meeting with landowners, securing landowner agreements, preparation of grant applications, preparing bid packages, supervising contractors, and assisting in conducting restoration activities. Sites where this kind of work occurred include:
- 1. Culp Conservancy Woods LWR
 - 2. Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR
 - 3. Ren-Dill Shale Glade NP
 - 4. Faulkner-Franke Pioneer Railroad Prairie NP
 - 5. Circle B Ranch LWR
 - 6. Degonia Canyon LWR
 - 7. Maze Woods LWR
 - 8. Wilmington Shrub Prairie NP
 - 9. Hybernia NP
 - 10. Fox River Country Day School (INAI site)
 - 11. Trout Park NP
 - 12. Trout Park River's Edge (INAI site)
 - 13. Dixie Fromm Briggs Prairie NP
 - 14. Exner Marsh NP
 - 15. Wolf Road Prairie NP
 - 16. Loda Cemetery Prairie NP
 - 17. Mt. Palatine Cemetery Prairie NP
- E. Land management conducted by staff:
- 1. Bob Edgin assisted with beech bark disease monitoring at Robeson Hills NP and American Beech Woods NP (with Samantha Adams). Mr. Edgin also prepared an alert that was sent out to other staff and landowners to inform them to be on the look out for this new invasive.
 - 2. Tom Lerczak provided NP and LWR boundary signs to IDNR superintendents at Sand Ridge State Forest and Sanganois State Fish and Wildlife Area and NP signs to the DHB.
 - 3. Mary Kay Solecki assisted with salvage/clean up of selected downed trees due to wind damage at Miller's Rocky Branch LWR.
 - 4. Samantha Adams assisted with installation of hunter parking lots on the Mark 40 and YFM tracks at Jasper County Prairie Chicken Sanctuary NP.
 - 5. Jason Inczauskis collected seeds at Sleepy Hollow Ravine NP and Glacial Park.
 - 6. Staff installed firebreaks at several sites including:
 - a. Lost Creek Marsh LWR
 - b. Beall Woods NP
 - c. Beadles Barrens NP
 - 7. Staff conducted prescribed burns at several sites, including:
 - a. Queen Anne Prairie - Eckert Cemetery NHL
 - b. Illinois Beach NP
 - c. Reed-Turner Woodland NP
 - d. Black Hawk Forest NP
 - e. Short Pioneer Cemetery Prairie NP
 - f. Sibley Grove NP
 - 8. Staff conducted invasive species control and other stewardship activities at 20 sites, including:
 - a. Long Run Seep NP
 - b. Dixie Fromm Briggs Prairie NP
 - c. Sleepy Hollow Ravine NP
 - d. Bluff Spring Fen NP

- e. Green Prairie NHL
- f. Allison Gravel Prairie NHL
- g. Salt Lick Point LWR
- h. Des Plaines Dolomite Prairie LWR
- i. Grant Creek Prairie NP
- j. Superior Street Prairie LWR
- k. Doris Westfall Prairie Restoration NP

Exhibit B

**Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Report to the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
January 27, 2009**

Natural Areas Evaluation Committee

The Natural Areas Evaluation Committee held its 51st meeting in Springfield on January 6. Actions taken at that meeting are summarized below.

Jo Daviess County

Keogh Effigy Mound - New – **Approved**

This is a new Category III site for the Land and Water Reserve status that was conferred at the 200th INPC Meeting. This site contains the only known intact bear effigy mound within Illinois. A population of the state threatened *Solidago scaiphila* also occurs at the site.

Bureau County

McCune Sand Prairie - INAI# 0350 (Category II) - **Approved**

This is a site modification to add Category III designation and expand the boundary to include all of McCune Sand Prairie LWR as approved at the 200th INPC Meeting.

Ford & Champaign Counties

Middle Fork of the Vermilion River - INAI# 0494 (Category II, III, IV & VI) - **Approved**

This is a site modification to expand the current boundary based upon the location of 2 state listed species.

Champaign County

Mahomet Phlox Site – INAI# 1117 (Category II) - **Approved**

This is a site boundary change to better reflect the location of the historical population as well as account for the location of a new population.

Champaign & Vermilion Counties

Salt Fork of the Vermilion River - INAI# 1427 (Category II, III & VI) - **Approved**

This is a site modification to expand the current boundary based upon the location of 2 state listed species.

Jersey County

Chautauqua Prairie - INAI# 0964 (Category I, II & IV) - **Approved**

This is a site modification to add category III designation and to expand the boundary to include all of The Palisades Preserve Nature Preserve as approved at the 200th INPC meeting.

Monroe County

Columbia Hill Prairie – INAI# 0201 (Category I, II & III) - **Approved**

This is a site modification to expand the boundary to include the addition to the Salt Lick Point LWR approved at the 200th INPC Meeting.

Land Acquisition

Three land parcels totaling 56 acres have been purchased with Natural Areas Acquisition funds since the Commission's October 2008 meeting:

Forty acres at Harry "Babe" Woodyard State Natural Area in Vermilion County increased this site to 1,341 acres. The new tract is an upland woods directly adjacent to the 1,098 acre Little Vermilion River Land and Water Reserve. The land and water reserve provides habitat for 5 endangered or threatened species and supports breeding populations of 18 bird species that require large blocks of forest.

A 5-acre addition to Black Crown Marsh State Natural Area in McHenry County increased this site to 343 acres and gets DNR closer to being able to manage and restore the wetland to benefit listed wetland species. There is a 156-acre land and water reserve here.

An 11-acre addition to Volo Bog State Natural Area in Lake County increased this site to 1,211 acres. There are two nature preserves at the site, Volo Bog and Pistakee Bog. The new acquisition buffers Pistakee Bog Nature Preserve and prevents incompatible development on the upland above the bog. Volo Bog is a National Natural Landmark and provides habitat for 23 endangered or threatened species.

Cache River Basin Water Control Structure

The dispute between the Department and the Big Creek Drainage District has not yet been resolved. While the water control structure that was rebuilt by the Department last summer remains in place, the circuit court in Pulaski County has not yet ruled on the State's request for a permanent injunction to prevent the drainage district from removing the structure.

In a related development, the Office of the Attorney General has filed objections to the Certificate of Levy of Additional Assessment for Repair Work and the Report of Condition of Drainage System filed by the Big Creek Drainage District. The hearing to consider those objections was scheduled for January 23 in Pulaski County Circuit Court.

Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Update

The assignment of the INAI contract to the University of Illinois has been completed. The University of Illinois is now the primary contractor for the INAI update. Lincoln Land Community College is no longer involved in the project.

Exhibit C



ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Illinois 62702 - 1271, (217) 785-8687; FAX (217) 785-2438

Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board report for the January 27, 2009 Illinois Nature Preserves Commission meeting

Submitted by Anne Mankowski, Director

The Board held its 140th meeting on November 14, 2008 at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Among other business at the meeting:

The Board approved its proposed additions, deletions, and changes in status to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species resulting from the recent 5-year review. The public hearing for proposed changes to the List was held on January 23, 2009 at the DNR Headquarters. The Board thanks Ms. Debbie Reider for her assistance with the administration of the hearing on the 23rd. Twenty-five people attended the hearing and oral comments were received from 4 individuals. The hearing record will remain open until February 6, 2009 for receipt of written comments. The next meeting of the Board will be February 20, 2009 at 10:00 at the Illinois Natural History Survey in Champaign. At that meeting the Board plans to adopt changes to the list that are supported by sufficient evidence. This will be the sixth revision of the List, with previous revisions culminating in 1980, 1989, 1994, 1999, and 2004.

The Board passed a resolution supporting the upgrading of water-quality standards for the Lower Des Plaines River and Chicago area waterways. The Lower Des Plaines River supports populations of three listed species, the River Redhorse (*Moxostoma carinatum*, state threatened), Pallid Shiner (*Notropis amnis*, state endangered), and Blacknose Shiner (*Notropis chalybeus*, state endangered). The Board's resolution was posted as a public comment by the Illinois Pollution Control Board on 12/02/08. A public comment from the IDNR also supporting the upgrade to water quality standards was posted by the IPCB on 01/09/09.

Also in relation to the List revision and public hearing, Dr. Jim Herkert conducted three radio interviews, one each for Tri-State Public Radio in Macomb, WILL Radio in Champaign, and The Environment Report (Public Environmental Radio) in Chicago. Dr. Herkert is a Board Member and the Chair of the Bird Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee.

In early December the ESPB sent out an FY09 Request for Proposals that identified 14 priority research topics and allowed for the receipt of any additional proposals addressing the status, conservation, and/or recovery of Illinois endangered or threatened species. There is a January 30 deadline for proposals and the ESPB plans to approve funding for selected projects at its February 20 meeting. This program is funded from a \$25,000 annual allocation from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund, which receives contributions from a tax form check-off. The WPF allocation to the Board has funded a large percentage of the approximately 70 projects the ESPB has contracted over 22 years.

The Board will soon finalize a *Biennial Report for JULY 2006 – JUNE 2008* (With addenda covering biennia July 2002 – June 2006). The Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act

requires that the ESPB prepare and make available a report of its accomplishments biennially. During the entire period from 2002 - 2008, the Board had only part-time or no staff, so we are addressing multiple biennia in this current report.

The Board has begun “spinning-up” the ESPB webpage on the DNR website. Most recently we posted an announcement of our 2009 meetings and materials related to the January 23 public hearing. We hope to begin posting meeting agendas and minutes in the near future.

Board Director Anne Mankowski, represented the ESPB at a January 21, 2009 Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Team meeting at the DNR Headquarters. The primary purpose of the meeting was to review the status of a SIU project to prioritize and further delineate Conservation Opportunity Areas.

Board Director Anne Mankowski, represented the ESPB at the January 6, 2009 51st meeting of the Natural Areas Evaluation Committee. The NAEC approved the addition of one new site (a recently registered Land and Water Reserve that includes a population of the state threatened *Solidago scaiphila*) and boundary modifications to six existing INAI sites.

Board Director Anne Mankowski participated in the January 2009 Mid-winter Bald Eagle Count. Ms. Mankowski tallied 511 (367 adult and 144 immature) eagles along three routes that included about 152 miles along the Mississippi River in Mercer, Henderson, and Hancock Counties. There was a fair amount of ice along most of the routes and flood damage especially in the downstream reaches.