

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION
Minutes of the 217th Meeting
(Subject to approval at the 218th Meeting)

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702

Tuesday, May 6, 2014

217-1) Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

At 9:00 a.m., pursuant to the Call to Order of Chair David Thomas the meeting began.

Chair Thomas thanked staff from the Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC) that led the tour of McKinley Woods. He referenced the changeover to computers rather than paper agendas. Chair Thomas welcomed new Commissioners Dr. Charles Ruffner, SIU Carbondale Professor of Forestry; and Dr. Abigail Derby-Lewis, from the Field Museum.

INPC Director Randy Heidorn read the roll call.

Members present: George Covington, Dr. Jo-Elle Mogerman, Dr. Charles Ruffner, Dr. David Thomas, William E. McClain, Dr. Pen DauBach, Dr. Abigail Derby-Lewis, Donnie Dann.

Members absent: Dennis Clark

Advisors to the Commission: Brian Anderson, Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS); Thomas Emerson, Illinois State Archeological Survey (ISAS)

Consultants to the Commission: Joe Roth, OpenLands; Tom Clay, Illinois Audubon Society

Others present: Randy Heidorn, Kelly Neal, Tom Lerczak, John Nelson, Debbie Newman, Steven Byers, Angella Moorehouse, Jared Ruholl, Tom Engbrecht, Kim Roman, Bob Edgin, Meaghan Collins, Valerie Njapa, Mary Kay Solecki, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) Staff; Laurel Wilson, Bridget Henning, John Legge, Ann Marie Holtrop, John Wilker, Josie Walter, Amanda Butera, Hal Hassen, Eric Smith, Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources (IDNR); Steve Taylor, (INHS); Carl DauBach (Clifftop); Dan Lobbes, Brook McDonald, Jennifer Hammer, The Conservation Foundation; Juli Mason (FPDWC); Rob Christie (NMHC); Katie Zaban, Dominic Elizio, Joliet Park District; Ken Klick, Lake County Forest Preserve; Monica Meyers, Drew Ullberg, Forest Preserve District of Kane County; Tracy Boutelle Fidler, Shawnee RD&D/The Nature Conservancy; Mary Kay Solecki, INPC; Rita Renwick, IAS, Will County Chapter; Brook McDonald, Dan Lobbes, The Conservation Foundation; Tom Dimond, Ice Miller LLP; Kenneth Witter, Jane Wittig, Barbara Turner, Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve; Dawn Cobb, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA); Bryan Wagner, Rollo

Zurcherd, Brian Smith, Illinois Tollway Authority; Mike and Joann Fricke, Landowners; Jason Shoemaker, ParkLands Foundation.

217-2) Adoption of Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner Dann, seconded by Commissioner DauBach and carried that the Agenda be adopted.

217-3) Approval of Minutes for the Special Meeting, January 27, 2014 and the 216th Meeting, January 28, 2014

It was moved by Commissioner Covington, seconded by Commissioner Ruffner, and carried that the Minutes of the Special Meeting, January 27, 2014, and the 216th Meeting, January 28, 2014, be approved.

Chair Thomas stated that at the 216th meeting of the INPC held on January 28th, 2014, at the IDNR Headquarters building, Springfield, Illinois, legal protection was completed by the Commission for three tracts of land totaling 29.8 acres. One of these areas is owned by a not-for-profit corporation which donated the value of protection agreement to the public. This private land was permanently preserved without further acquisition of the land by the State. The dollar value of the tracts of private land is \$5,000 based on conservative estimates of the fair market value of the land. The private land protected is an addition to Iroquois Sands Land and Water Reserve, Iroquois County. Protection of this land came about because the Commission has eight staff in the field working with private and public landowners. There are now 375 dedicated nature preserves in eighty-four counties, totaling 56,774.005 acres and 172 land and water reserves in 66 counties totaling 48,676.988 acres.

217-4) Next meeting date and location

September 9, 2014, 10:00 a.m.

Ballard Nature Center, Altamont, IL

Director Heidorn suggested language for consideration for the following resolutions recognizing recently retired commissioners:

Resolution in recognition of Jill Riddell

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission wishes to recognize the contributions of Jill Riddell during her tenure as Commissioner from 2002 to 2013 including Chair from 2009 to 2010. She will be remembered for bringing her thoughtful insight and leadership relating to making decisions on the protection of lands in the system, particularly her appreciation of the natural world and critical leadership during a time of transition. Her service to the State of Illinois and her continuing commitment to and advocacy for the Commission will always be greatly appreciated.

By resolution of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, May 6, 2014.

It was moved by Commissioner DauBach, seconded by Commissioner Covington and carried as Resolution 2283.

Resolution in recognition of Lauren Rosenthal

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission wishes to recognize the contributions of Lauren Rosenthal during her tenure as a Commissioner from 2006 to 2013 including Chair from 2011 to 2012. She will be remembered for bringing her thoughtful insight and leadership relating to making decisions on the protection of lands in the system particularly, her appreciation of the natural world and practical leadership leading to the Stewardship Task Force effort. Her service to the State of Illinois and her continuing commitment to and advocacy for the Commission will always be greatly appreciated.

By resolution of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission May 6, 2014.

It was moved by Commissioner Dann, seconded by Commissioner Ruffner and carried as Resolution 2284.

Resolution in recognition of Mare Payne.

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission wishes to recognize the contributions of Mare Payne during her tenure as a Commissioner from 2007- 2013. She will be remembered for bringing her thoughtful insight and relating to making decisions on the protection of lands in the System particularly her appreciation of the natural world and practical understanding of what it means to be a landowner within the Nature Preserves System. Her years of service with the Commission, the State of Illinois and her continuing commitment to and advocacy for the Commission will always be greatly appreciated.

By resolution of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission May 6, 2014.

It was moved by Commissioner Ruffner, seconded by Commissioner Mogerman and carried as Resolution 2285.

217-5) INPC Staff Report

Director Heidorn presented the Staff Report which is attached as Exhibit 1. He welcomed Valerie Njapa as the INPC's new Natural Areas Defense Specialist. She comes to the INPC from the IDNR Natural Resource Damage Program.

Director Heidorn reported that he met with the Director of the INHS and the Director of the Illinois State Museum to discuss appointments to the INPC. By statute these leaders are required

to provide the Governor recommendations for appointments to the Commission. Commissioner Derby-Lewis and Commissioner Ruffner were appointed in January. Commissioner Dann and Commissioner McClain were also reappointed for three-year terms. At the end of June, Commissioner DauBach's, Chair Thomas' and Commissioner Clark's terms will be expiring. Commissioner Clark has indicated he is moving to Wisconsin, so he will not be seeking another term. INHS Director Anderson and State Museum Director Styles were preparing letters recommending reappointments for Chair Thomas and Commissioner DauBach and are in the process of selecting a candidate for the vacancy that Commissioner Clark is creating.

Director Heidorn highlighted from the written report a potential threat to Black Partridge Park Woods Land and Water Reserve (LWR) in Woodford County. The Village of Metamora is putting in a water line and is examining various routes including some that go through and others that avoid the LWR. There is the possibility Metamora may need to bring this issue to the September meeting for approval.

There were no questions on the staff report.

217-6) IDNR Staff Report

Ann Holtrop, Acting Chief of Division of Natural Heritage reported that Russell Blogg accepted the position of District Natural Heritage Biologist (DHB) in LaSalle County and will start working May 16, 2014. He will be located in Matthiessen State Park. Ray Geroff, who was a resident with Angella Moorehouse, was hired as the DHB in Pike County and started May 1. Mary Lee Leu was hired as an office coordinator in Region 2. Eight new resident positions were posted that will start this fall.

Natural Heritage helped with Conservation Congress which was held on April 11th and 12th in Springfield facilitating two sessions: "Preserving our Natural Habitats through Management and Acquisition" and "Protecting our Environment from Invasive Species". The outcomes from those two groups ranked very high in the overall Congress.

Natural Heritage is embarking on a new era as we incorporate the ORC Watershed Protection Section into Natural Heritage bringing the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, aquatic expertise and more landscape analysis and planning expertise into the Division. It is time to review how much more work we are trying to accomplish and where we are heading in the future.

Commissioner Dann asked how many Heritage staff positions are missing in the field throughout the State?

Ms. Holtrop indicated that there are two gaps that come to mind immediately, however she did not have the complete information available at the moment and would provide it later.

No further questions.

217-7): Endangered Species Protection Board Staff Report

No report presented.

217-8) LaSalle County – Dayton Bluffs Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Kim Roman introduced Brook McDonald, Executive Director and Dan Lobbes, Land Manager of The Conservation Foundation (TCF). Kim gave a presentation on Dayton Bluffs, a 253-acre site owned by TCF and purchased through the help of the Clean Energy Community Foundation, Grand Victoria Foundation and the Hamill Family Foundation. The site will be co-managed by the landowner and City of Ottawa. The two qualifying features for this Land and Water Reserve are its location along the lower Fox River, over a mile of that stream and its archeological resources. It is located in LaSalle County within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. Dayton Bluffs is located along the lower Fox River, an Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI #1444) known for its high biological quality and for providing habitat for the State-threatened river redhorse (*Moxostoma carinatum*). The proposed Land and Water Reserve is comprised of various Grade C natural communities including, dry-mesic upland forest, mesic upland forest, wet-mesic floodplain forest, and agricultural field. Dayton Bluffs lies within the Lower Fox River Conservation Opportunity Area, as determined by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (2005), and furthermore, Dayton Bluffs is one of 18 significant natural areas identified in IDNR's Native Habitat Inventory of the Lower Fox River (1999). Dayton Bluffs also contains a group of 14 prehistoric mounds, which makes this archaeological site eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. There is an old home site on the property. The area has been farmed, grazed, and timbered. One of the bigger management concerns of The Conservation Foundation is its eroding ravines. There are seven ravines and the upland area is all old farm field. Every time it rains, water is funneled straight down a chute to the Fox River. The old farm fields will be planted with native vegetation to help address the erosion issue which will be evaluated for effectiveness. Other management considerations include savannah restoration including opening up the canopy and thinning of sugar maples that have invaded the property since fire was taken off the landscape, control of exotic species and reintroducing fire. The City of Ottawa is entering into a lease agreement with TCF. As TCF is located in Naperville, they needed a local partner to help with the day to day maintenance and monitoring of the property and engagement of the public in LaSalle County. As part of the lease agreement, the City and TCF would like to reserve the right for a single utility corridor, allowing them to cross the Fox River and to go through the LWR. Directional boring to not impact the river or any of the steep slopes or ravines would be used. Allowable uses and reserved rights include hiking, horse trail interpretive signs, viewing platforms, benches, primitive camping and bonfires in designated areas, a canoe landing, deer and turkey hunting, fishing, the creation of a vehicle access lane, water/sewer/electric utilities along access lane, a small parking area, toilet facilities, a picnic shelter, and information kiosk. These are not specifically outlined, but conceptual. Owners and City agree that the horses and the heavier use trails will be restricted to the disturbed upland, or old farm field. There may be some areas that cut through the woods, but it won't be in the floodplain and will avoid any steep slopes and ravines. Management will focus on maintaining and restoring the wooded

communities on site, planting native vegetation in the former agricultural fields, protecting and stabilizing steep slopes and eroding ravines, and promoting nature education and appreciation.

This property was acquired with partnerships and it will also be managed with partnerships. The Conservation Foundation has \$180,000 to go towards the management of this site from many different people and organizations coming together. The registration of Dayton Bluffs as a Land and Water Reserve is to help ensure uses and management of the site will be compatible with the long-term preservation of its natural and archaeological features. Kim Roman recommended that the Commission grant approval of registering Dayton Bluffs as a Land and Water Reserve.

Director Heidorn noted for the record that signed copies by the landowners of all of the Land and Water Reserve documents have been received.

It was moved by Commissioner Covington, seconded by Commissioner Derby-Lewis and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of the Dayton Bluffs in LaSalle County as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 8 of the Agenda for the 217th Meeting. (Resolution 2286)

217-9) Knox County –Forever Fields Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Jared Ruholl reported that Pheasants Forever (PF) seeks to permanently register 506 acres of former strip mine as Forever Fields LWR to provide protection for a large grassland supporting several species of grassland sensitive breeding birds. Forever Fields is located within northeast Knox County within the Galesburg Section of the Western Forest-Prairie Natural Division. PF owns 508 acres, two of which are excluded from the land and water reserve for parking lots. The land was purchased in 2010 with the assistance of the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation and the Grand Victoria Foundation. Forever Fields falls into the Grand Prairie State Acres for Wildlife Enrichment (SAFE) area focused on creating large areas of treeless grassland for grassland obligate species. The large tract of continuous grassland also accomplishes one of the main objectives of the Farmland and Prairie Campaign identified within the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan. Forever Fields supports this Campaign with the significant amount of grassland natural areas in the immediate vicinity. The largest is Snakeden Hollow Fish and Wildlife Area, a State property that is over 2500 acres in size and has 2100 acres of grassland; with other State lands in the vicinity, over 3200 acres of grassland are provided within 3 miles of this agricultural landscape. Habitat components of Forever Fields includes grassland with close to 400 acres, ponds or impoundments with numerous water bodies and a mesic savannah on the east side of the property. PF is actively restoring prairie. The grasslands provide habitat for three different species on the Illinois Endangered Species List: Upland Sandpiper, Loggerhead Shrike and Short-eared Owl. Seven species on the Species in Greatest Need of Conservation (SGNC) list including the above listed species and the grasshopper sparrow, dickcissel, bobolink and field sparrow are found at the site. Forever Fields is in a 5-year grazing program through EQIP

through the Natural Resource Conservation Service. The grazing consists of 3-7 day rotation using five different paddocks. A 375-acre unit will be grazed starting sometime in May and running through the first frost or the beginning of the hunting season. The initial stocking rate is two bulls and 38 cows, which will then have calves. Cattle will be rotated based on a minimal residual plant height for the warm season grass: tall grass prairie of 8-10 inches and for cool season grasses such as the smooth brome of 3-5 inches. This is to allow this habitat to still be used for the grassland bird species. Some threats to the property include the non-natives, and a proposed Ameren, 340,000 volt power line running from Galesburg to Peoria. Ameren is seeking a 150 foot easement with construction by 2018. One of their preliminary routes runs on two sides of Forever Fields.

Commissioner Dann asked if the site is large enough and/or suitable enough for prairie chickens.

Mr. Ruholl was not familiar enough with the habitat requirements for prairie chickens to answer the question.

Commissioner McClain asked if thought had been given to planting species that would benefit pollinators.

Mr. Ruholl explained that while PF has been actively doing this in some areas, he did not know specific plans for this site. There is potential, especially on the mesic savannah portion.

Commissioner McClain stated that this site could be considered as a refuge for some plant species that are having trouble surviving due to different threats. Perhaps they could be planted there.

Mr. Ruholl agreed especially with so much DNR ground in the vicinity. However, there are no current plans for this.

Commissioner Dann requested clarifications on the location of the parking lots on the map. He asked if they used permeable pavement when they constructed the parking lots?

Mr. Ruholl answered that they were rocked. It is not asphalt or cement. The one on the north actually has not been constructed as yet. The main access point of the property is the southern and it is just rock gravel.

Chair Thomas asked what was the primary incentive for making this a land and water reserve? It seems like a highly disturbed habitat.

Mr. Ruholl answered that the real draw was the usage by the State-threatened birds and to promote grassland habitat.

Commissioner Dann asked if bison rather than cattle had been considered.

Mr. Ruholl answered that the owner did discuss bison. It was decided to implement cattle for a five year plan. If cattle prove to be insufficient for their management goals, they will either remove them or change the plan as needed. Those changes might include a switch to bison. He indicated that PF on some of their property out west, do have bison.

Bob Edgin commented regarding prairie chicken consideration for this property. The 506 acres is not big enough to support a viable population of prairie chickens. The other concern here is that pheasants lay eggs in prairie chickens nests. Pheasants hatch two to three days earlier than prairie chickens, so once the pheasants hatch, prairie chicken will leave the nest so those eggs will die.

Commissioner DauBach asked which hunting seasons the property will be used for.

Mr. Ruholl indicated they currently allow any type of upland game hunting. PF only allows four of the five management areas to be hunted at a given time. The fifth one has a day of rest - hunting is rotated every five days so a given paddock will not be hunted.

Commissioner DauBach asked if the hunting will be primarily for pheasants.

Mr. Ruholl indicated that it would be primarily pheasant or quail hunting and deer by archery only.

Commissioner DauBach asked if there would be any consideration to ceasing hunting when short-eared owls are on site.

Mr. Ruholl was not aware of such a restriction.

Director Heidorn commented that this is a big opportunity for the Commission on this site. This is probably the first time the Commission has partnered with a very strong sportsman's organization. The idea that this proposal meets both INPC and PF goals at a site in terms of grassland birds and allowing a hunting area for their organization to manage is a real landmark. It's a really good use for land and water reserves in places where INPC goals overlap. He commended Pheasants Forever for their futuristic approach in building this partnership.

It was moved by McClain, seconded by Covington and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of the Forever Fields in Knox County as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 9 of the Agenda for the 217th Meeting. (Resolution 2287)

217-10) Woodford County –Letcher Basin Land and Water Reserve, Registration

Bridget Henning reported that ParkLands Foundation seeks approval for permanent registration of 172.4 acres as the Letcher Basin Land and Water Reserve. Letcher Basin is located within the

Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. It includes four segments (0.06, 0.63, 0.64, and 0.19 miles in length) of the Mackinaw River Natural Area (INAI #788), a grade B, medium-gradient, medium-stream community. ParkLands owns two other sites, the Ridgetop Hill Prairie Nature Preserve, just down river of Letcher Basin and the Chinquapin Bluffs Land and Water Reserve. ParkLands also owns property just south of the proposed land and water reserve. They also own about 50 acres which is under an easement. There is also another conservation minded landowner who owns parcels to the northeast of the property. They also own additional sites upstream. This project is part of a macro site ParkLands is protecting in the Mackinaw River Valley. There are four sections of the river included within the land and water reserve totaling 1.5 miles of river. The State-threatened mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*) has been recorded at Letcher Basin, as well as ten other Species in Greatest Need of Conservation (four bird species, a fish, and five mussels) as recognized in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). Registration of Letcher Basin would support the following IWAP campaigns: Streams, Forests, Farmland and Prairies, Wetlands, Invasive Species, and Land and Water Stewardship. There are other fauna at this site including a pair of breeding eagles who have fledged birds the past three years. There have been surveys of mussel (25 species), fish (26 species) and birds (37 species). Letcher Basin covers a gradient of communities as the landscape rises from the Mackinaw River to grade C dry-mesic upland forest with white oak (*Quercus alba*), red oak (*Q. rubra*), bur oak (*Q. macrocarpa*), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), and shagbark hickory (*Carya ovata*). The four stream segments included within the proposed reserve are lined with 28.22 acres of grade C wet-mesic floodplain forest, characterized by silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*), green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), and eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*). There is a low lying oxbow with 3.6 acres of grade C wet floodplain forest dominated by sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*). Prior to the ParkLands Foundation acquiring ownership, most of the proposed reserve was under agricultural production; 53 acres have since been restored to grade D mesic prairie, which is dominated by species such as brown-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), gray-headed coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*), and Canada wild rye (*Elymus canadensis*); while the rest is currently old field or in agricultural production. The ParkLands Foundation plans to continue their restoration efforts on this remaining area, but cropping on 33.4 acres may continue for as much as ten years unless sufficient restoration funding becomes available first. As part of their mission to preserve, protect, and ecologically restore historic natural lands in the middle and upper Mackinaw Valley watershed, the ParkLands Foundation intends to manage Letcher Basin in concert with their other nearby properties. In addition to the natural resources, there are cultural resources that have been found at this site including prehistoric archeological stone tools. The southeast corner is also the site of where Abraham Lincoln crossed the Mackinaw River on his 8th judicial circuit. Parkland Foundation welcomes visitors for low impact activities such as hiking, birding, canoeing, fishing and photography. They also welcome scientific research which has been ongoing at the site. There is a hunting lease that is active at this site. This lease grants lifetime hunting privileges for Russell Schaeffer and his guests. This is for deer and turkey and there are restrictions such as targeting female deer as well as elderly and unhealthy male deer until a healthier sex ratio within the population is achieved. Mr. Schaeffer is allowed to construct up to three towers on the site but must put some sort of warning or notification at the entrance for visitors. Bridget Henning recommends Letcher Basin be registered as an Illinois land and water preserve.

Commissioner Thomas asked whether the area has drain tiles underneath it.

Ms. Henning indicated that area around it perhaps, but right under the site she believed they were removed when it was under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

Jason Schumaker, the landowner representative, indicated there could be one or two.

Commissioner Thomas indicated that The Nature Conservancy has been looking for some experimental farm fields for breaking tiles near where the tiles enter the river to create wetlands to take up nutrients. He asked if there were any land or drain tiles here that might be one of the management strategies to do that.

Ms. Henning indicated they haven't discussed that, but that could be a good idea because there is that oxbow type wetland in the lower part of this site.

Commissioner McClain indicated that it was nice to see all the pieces of preserved land on one of those maps, so that causes him to wonder if there is any sort of long range plan on the part of ParkLands to try to connect those lands into one big site?

Ms. Henning indicated that ParkLands is an active land trust and actively acquiring land as funds become available.

Commissioner McClain noted it is also nice to see some floodplain forest in a LWR proposal. A lot of times that particular community type gets less emphasis.

Commissioner Derby-Lewis asked how one secures a lifetime hunting lease. Was it part of the purchase agreement?

Ms. Henning indicated it was.

It was moved by Dann, seconded by DauBach and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of the Letcher Basin in Woodford County as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 10 of the Agenda for the 217th Meeting. (Resolution 2288)

Ms. Henning asked that Jason Schumaker, who has worked very hard on this site, be recognized.

217-11) Lake County –Berkeley Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

Ken Klick reported that the Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) is seeking to dedicate 15.7 acres of the 17.5-acre Berkeley Prairie Forest Preserve as the Berkeley Prairie Nature Preserve. LCFPD is excluding the road right of way on the north by the grass trail and then on

the south, southwest there is a drainage easement of the Chicago River. The proposed nature preserve includes Grade B and C mesic and wet-mesic prairie, Grade C and D dry-mesic savanna, and an old field. Although Berkeley Prairie is not currently included on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI), the site was included on the INAI in 1977 in recognition of extant Grade C mesic prairie. The reason for this site's removal from the INAI remains unclear. What makes this site very unique in the Illinois context is its extreme botanical diversity. The site supports five State-listed plant species; four are known from the IDNR Natural Heritage Database and include the State-endangered queen of the prairie (*Filipendula rubra*) and State-threatened small sundrops (*Oenothera perennis*), slender wheat grass (*Agropyron trachycaulum*), and golden sedge (*Carex aurea*). The LCFPD recently documented the presence of the State-endangered Kalm's St. John's wort (*Hypericum kalmianum*) at the proposed nature preserve. The proposed nature preserve is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southeastern Lake County, Illinois. The site has been actively managed since 1968 and those efforts have included controlled burning and control of invasive woody and herbaceous species. The LCFPD reserves the right to implement an adaptive management approach to the site and to maintain the existing mown grass trail. A deed restriction held by The Nature Conservancy states that the property "shall forever be held as a nature preserve". Protection and stewardship of Berkeley Prairie as an Illinois Nature Preserve supports several "action" steps identified in the Farmland and Prairie Campaign section of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan (the Plan). Berkeley Prairie Forest Preserve provides habitat for three species identified in the Plan "in greatest need of conservation" and include blue-spotted salamander (*Ambystoma laterale*), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), and northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*). Dedication of Berkeley Prairie as an Illinois Nature Preserve supports other elements of the Plan that call for "...collaboration among the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, IDNR, and other agencies, organizations, and institutions on recovery plans and actions for rare and declining species." Lake County Forest Preserve District would like to reserve the right to continue adaptive management on the 15.7 acres. For four decades controlled burning and invasive plant control have occurred. There is collection and disbursing of seed from this site and from some small remnants nearby and LCFPD would like to continue that ability. LCFPD wished to continue hydrologic restoration. It is unlikely there are any drain tiles left, but there are some drainage issues associated with the Chicago River that LCFPD would like the ability to maintain. There is a half mile grass trail loop. With certain seasonal use, the trail gets muddy so the LCFPD would like the ability to reroute the trail occasionally along with placement of benches, interpretive signs and similar uses within the boundary. The two car parking lot along the road is outside the proposed boundary. LCFPD asks preliminary approval of dedication of Berkeley Prairie as a Nature Preserve.

Commissioner Dann commented that he lived in Highland Park and the place is a gem. It is a marvelous place to go botanizing and some birding. It is a quiet, restful haven for neighbors walking that grass trail. If anything is deserving of dedication in a community that is so populated, this qualifies perfectly.

Commissioner McClain commented that with the species diversity of this site, one of the challenges is going to be maintaining that species diversity. Over time these small prairie remnants really lose vascular plants. He encouraged some thought towards prevention of this

loss. He further asked if the District has quantitative studies on how the plant community changes over time.

Mr. Klick indicated that the District has established three transects. Permanent plots are sampled at five year intervals. There is some long term vegetative monitoring with interesting results. With regards to habitat diversity, the district believes that shrub thickets are part of the ecology of this site. They essentially keep the plant community in a state of transition so it doesn't become dominated by a particular species. The burn management is conducted at different times of the burn season. The District is aware of that sink that potentially can happen in these preserves. Another good thing about Berkeley Prairie is the soils. They are very clayey and droughty so there are almost micro instances of disturbance. It keeps the prairies in a constant semi-disturbance.

It was moved by Commissioner DauBach, seconded by Commissioner Derby-Lewis and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of the Berkeley Prairie in Lake County as an Illinois Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 11 of the Agenda for the 217th Meeting. (Resolution 2289)

217-12) Lake County –Buffer Addition to Hybernia Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steve Byers reported that Georgene Gullicksen, A.P. Properties, The Goldie House Trust, and Hybernia Area Homeowners Association sought preliminary approval for dedication of three lots totaling 0.52 acres. Dedication of these three lots will enable the City of Highland Park to vacate approximately 0.45 acres of Cardinal Lane which is also proposed for dedication. The three lots (0.52 acres) and Cardinal Lane (0.45 acres) represents a 0.97-acre nature preserve addition to Hybernia Nature Preserve. Hybernia Nature Preserve is 27.46 acres in size. Adjacent to the Hybernia Nature Preserve is the 10 acre Highmoor Park Nature Preserve owned by the Park District of Highland Park. The proposed addition consists of Grade C wet-mesic prairie and Grade C sedge meadow and is surrounded by Hybernia Nature Preserve and the Hybernia – Highmoor Prairie INAI site (INAI No. 1235). Hybernia Nature Preserve supports populations of the State-threatened small sundrops (*Oenothera perennis*) and a federally listed plant species. The federally listed species was reported from the proposed addition in 2009. Hybernia Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southeastern Lake County, Illinois. Hybernia Nature Preserve received final approval for dedication at the Commission's 128th Meeting in August 1990 (Resolution # 1050). In October 2004, the Commission granted final approval for dedication of a 0.46-acre nature preserve addition at its 183rd Meeting (Resolution # 1787). The owners of the three lots proposed for dedication as an addition to Hybernia Nature Preserve have agreed to transfer their ownership of those lots and the interests in Cardinal Lane associated with its vacation by the City of Highland Park to the Hybernia Area Homeowners Association. This proposal is possible in part because of support from Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital. The hospital is expanding their facility and has agreed to support protection of these lots for Hybernia Nature Preserve. The Hybernia Area Homeowners Association has been actively engaged in management of this site. They have recognized the need to implement stewardship and

management on the site and paid a contractor to assist in that effort. This site has markedly improved since 1990. Hybernia Area Homeowners Association reserves the right to adopt an adaptive management strategy with Commission approval. Protection and management of the proposed nature preserve addition to Hybernia Nature Preserve will eliminate the threats to the site posed by these in-holdings and represents good preserve design. Dedication of the addition at Hybernia Nature Preserve supports elements of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan; specifically action items to improve the condition of existing natural wetlands, and restoring and enhancing acreage for rare/extirpated species and native plant communities. Formal protection of these in-holdings (the 3 lots and a portion of Cardinal Lane to be vacated) have long been recognized as a priority for this site and dedication of this addition (0.97 acres) will increase the size of Hybernia Nature Preserve from 27.46 to 28.43 acres.

Commissioner Ruffner asked if Cardinal Lane was asphalt?

Mr. Byers responded that the lane is platted but there is no hardened surface.

Commissioner Dann asked if there was anybody present from the Association.

Mr. Byers responded that there was no representative present, but attorney Tom Dimond, representing Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital, is here.

Commissioner Dann asked what the Hospital's connection with the Association was.

Mr. Dimond responded that the Hospital was looking for a partner who could be a steward for the land they had acquired for mitigation of other development activities ongoing at the hospital. Managing prairie land is not part of the hospital's function, so they were looking for someone who could help them. The homeowners association, because they already manage the 27 acres surrounding these properties, seemed like the logical entity to do that. Mr. Dimond wished to express thanks for the opportunity to help with this project.

It was moved by Commissioner Covington, seconded by Commissioner Ruffner, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of the Buffer Addition to Hybernia Nature Preserve in Lake County as an Illinois Nature Preserve Buffer, as described in the proposal presented under Item 12 of the Agenda for the 217th Meeting. (Resolution 2290)

217-13) Lake County –Buffer Addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steve Byers recognized Jane Wittig of the Long Grove Park District (LGPD) and Barbara Turner as a long term supporter of Reed-Turner Woodland. He reported that LGPD seeks preliminary approval for dedication of 3.986 acres as a nature preserve addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve. The proposed addition consists of Grade B and C mesic upland forest, Grade B

and C wet-mesic floodplain forest, and a medium-gradient small stream of undetermined quality and lies within the Reed-Turner Woodland INAI site (INAI No. 228). Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southern Lake County, Illinois. The Commission's partnership with Reed-Turner Woodland dates back to 1972. At the 42nd Meeting of the Nature Preserves Commission, the Commission encouraged Mr. and Mrs. Harold (Barbara) Turner to preserve the forest on their property (Resolution 243). Then, in August 1980 at the Commission's 80th Meeting, the Commission granted final approval for dedication of 32 acres of Reed-Turner Woodland as an Illinois nature preserve (Resolution 559). In October 1992, at the Commission's 137th Meeting, two additional parcels were conferred final approval (Resolution 1156 and Resolution 1157). At the Commission's 192nd Meeting in 2006, an additional 2.216 acres were granted final approval for dedication (Resolution 1926). In January 2014, at the Commission's 216th Meeting, the Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication of a 4.318-acre nature preserve buffer addition (Resolution 2276). That addition will be presented for final approval later at this meeting. This proposed 3.986-acre addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve is part of the 45-acre tract the Commission referred to in 1972 when the Commission encouraged the Turners to preserve their property. The LGPD reserves the right to route and construct a foot trail with the approval of the Commission. Protection and management of the proposed nature preserve addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve supports elements of the Forests Campaign identified in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan that includes efforts to restore and manage high-quality examples of all forest communities and a recommendation to contribute to ecological connectivity among forests and other habitat patches. Formal protection of this nature preserve addition (3.986 acres) represents the fifth addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve and will increase its size from 42.534 acres (pending final approval of the most recent proposed addition) to 46.52 acres. Finally, dedication of this parcel will realize protection of all the woodlands that the Commission "encouraged" Harold and Barbara Turner to protect in 1972 (over 40 years ago!).

It was moved by Commissioner Ruffner, seconded by Commissioner Mogerman and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of the Buffer Addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve in Lake County as an Illinois Nature Preserve Buffer, as described in the proposal presented under Item 13 of the Agenda for the 217th Meeting. (Resolution 2291)

Jane Wittig, Long Grove Park District, stated it has been an honor to work with Barbara Turner all these years. Mrs. Turner has made Ms. Wittig a star steward after all of these years. The property is very small and very unique. The Village of Long Grove has always been about open space and the Park District was formed to manage open space. There are 500 acres of open space in Long Grove. The Park District is separate from the Village, so they don't actually function with the Village. The Park District runs on its own volunteers and donations. This nature preserve is clearly their gem. Ms. Wittig thanked everyone in this room for how hard they work.

Steve Byers and the Commission recognized Barbara Turner.

Chair Thomas stated that this is a good example of one of the things he's found working for government, but is true for a lot of organizations; projects like this take a lot of dedication, a lot of persistence over a lot of years.

Chair Thomas reminded everyone present to sign in if they haven't already done so.

The Commission took a ten minute break.

217-14) Monroe County – Paul Wightman Subterranean Nature Preserve, Dedication

Debbie Newman introduced Dr. Steve Taylor with the Illinois Natural History Survey who is considered a top specialist in invertebrate, aquatic and terrestrial fauna in cave systems. She also introduced Dr. Carl DauBach, Co-founder and executive Director of Clifftop NFP (Not for Profit), a land trust in southwestern Illinois and owner of the proposed Paul Wightman Subterranean Nature Preserve, a 535-acre site in Monroe County. Clifftop is seeking to dedicate the site's subsurface only at this time. Clifftop recently acquired the farm to protect karst features associated with the Fogelpole cave system, which is part of the 10,467-acre Renault Karst Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI No. 1597). Clifftop is an active land trust in southwestern Illinois, and jointly owns with HeartLands Conservancy, the 306-acre White Rock Nature Preserve and 168-acre White Rock Land and Water Reserve, both in Monroe County, and the 115-acre Mill Creek Natural Area, Randolph County. The organization is dedicating the preserve in honor of Rev. Paul Wightman, who developed the initial maps of Fogelpole Cave and advanced scientific knowledge of the cave through recharge area delineations and various expeditions in the cave. Rev. Wightman has maintained his interest and efforts on behalf of the cave for more than 65 years.

Dr. C. DauBach began by indicating that this project was a direct reflection of the Southwest Illinois Wildlife Action Plan and the Illinois Cave Amphipod Recovery Plan, which functions in the Hill Prairie and Karst Sinkhole Plain Conservation Opportunity Area. If Minnesota is the land of 10,000 lakes, Monroe County is the land of 10,000 sinkholes. Besides protecting the aquatic and terrestrial cave communities, and State and Federally listed species, dedication of the proposed preserve supports two campaigns identified in the IWAP, including the Streams Campaign and the Land & Water Stewardship Campaign.

Dr. Steven Taylor stated that Fogelpole Cave is located in the Illinois Ozark Natural Division. The Sinkhole Plain is also called the Salem Plateau. The proposed Paul Wightman Subterranean Nature Preserve completely surrounds the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' 27-acre Fogelpole Cave Nature Preserve that includes the main entrance to Fogelpole Cave. The proposed site is located one mile from the 64.5-acre Storment Hauss Nature Preserve. There are over 100 caves in Monroe County. The larger ones have had dye tracing to delineate the drainage basins. Fogelpole Cave is within a drainage area encompassing 4,700 acres. The proposed nature preserve includes 11.4% of the drainage area. The site is a mosaic of sinkholes and agricultural lands. People are trying to farm even though it is not the greatest farmland. The

Sinkhole Plain has no surface streams or streams are extremely short and disappear underground. The drainage patterns that you normally see at the surface are underground. Most of the major drainage passages pass under the proposed preserve boundaries. The cave is a wild place with very little visitation: a wilderness. For the animals that live there, the bats, the arthropods, little beetles and flies that live in this place, the cave is a very comfortable place to be. The site is part of the Renault Karst and associated cave systems which are recognized on the INAI for high-quality aquatic and terrestrial cave communities and the presence of three State- and Federally-endangered species, including two bats and the Illinois cave amphipod. Fogelpole cave system is Illinois' largest cave system, and the 51st largest in the United States. It hosts the largest number of troglobitic species (species that live and reproduce only in caves) in Illinois. There are eighteen globally rare species and fifteen species that have some degree of cave adaptation. These animals can't just disperse to other areas because they are restricted to these blocks of limestone bedrock. They can't just jump from Illinois and fly over to Kentucky. They are adapted to a subterranean environment, so there are high levels of endemism among the cave invertebrates. This cave has not been studied well.

Commissioner McClain asked that Dr. Taylor explain some terms he had used on slides in his presentation.

Dr. Taylor stated that a troglobite is an organism that is limited to a cave environment and cannot complete its life cycle outside of a cave. A troglophile is a species that can go through its whole life cycle and live for generations in a cave, but are also found in other cool, moist, and shady environments; troglonexes are species which utilize the caves for part of their life cycle, but also utilize other landscapes as well. A common example of that are bats which roost in caves.

The cave is a place that has been very stable near the surface with limited climate variations disturbing the air and only some seasonal variation. The water temperature can fluctuate. It is an ancient place, so you can learn about climate history by dating of speleothems. There has been some work done by the Illinois Geologic Survey looking at breakage of stalactites that occurred with the New Madrid earthquake and dating the rings on the stalactites to get information about climate change. Sediment can also be dated. Some of the cave passages get abandoned by the cave stream when the water takes another route. The old passage may be filled with sediment that has been around for thousands of years. By dating these different layers, the age of the cave passages can be determined. In those sediments, Pleistocene deposits are found including fossil horse, musk ox, giant armadillo and brown sloths. Those sink holes are like little traps. Anything that didn't get washed downstream could be deposited in the cave sediments.

Caves are simple biological systems. There are not thousands of species as are found outside the cave; just a few hundred species making it an interesting environment for biological studies. It is also very interesting for studying how the ground water flows and how this interacts with people and their land use practices. There are lots of kinds of scientific study that can go on. Due to lots of different interesting properties of the cave environment that are not available on the surface. It is a place where land use above ground affects the environment underground.

Commissioner Ruffner asked if there was evidence of prehistoric human use of the cave.

Dr. Taylor explained that there was none in this cave. Human use of caves is usually more common on a cliff face, a rock shelter type habitat. This is set back in the sinkhole plain away from the Mississippi Bluffs. It is possible it was used for exploring a little bit but he is not aware of any prehistoric use.

Dr. Carl DauBach explained that the strategy on cave protection in Illinois has been to buy token acres and preserve and protect the main entrance. There are plenty of those in Southwest Illinois. DNR largely owns that focus. Clifftop was very keen on trying a different approach. Since this project protects 11% of the entire cave system recharge area, this is our first opportunity with every one of those sinkholes to address the quality of water entering the cave through those sinkholes and to conduct science and translate the results of that science, to practical landowner use. People, who lived there for 150 years, did not know that a river runs through the landscape. Clifftop wants to create, on the surface, a showcase system that allows people to start to understand the tremendous significance of this property. The sole driver of this project is the quality of groundwater entering the cave.

On the surface are four areas of human footprint that we have to address. Dr. C. DauBach reminded that this is a subterranean proposal where he was now discussing intentions on the surface. In the A area is the original homestead: a turn of the 20th century home and agriculture buildings. An access road in moving to the right of it would be a public engagement area with public parking, handicap trail system, signage and information about karst. In the B area is a new shed to be kept and not open to the public. It is going to be where Clifftop and the science crew store stuff. In C, is a home to be burned down, perhaps as practice for the fire department? D is the original home and agricultural buildings Clifftop hopes to resurrect for the public to use for special events and three other outbuildings to be razed.

Clifftop intends to handle the surface for several things including the science, the public outreach and restoration. Using CRP as our funding engine, Clifftop intends to convert 400 tillable surface acres to tall grass prairie and post oak savannah. Historically, the proposed preserve was an upland woodland, but because water quality Clifftop will convert farmland with warm season grasses and a hefty pollinator forb mix. This will result in 400 acres of grass. Clifftop reserves the right to maintain the existing infrastructure and to have access to the cave for science purposes.

Commissioner Dann asked for clarification on public access to the cave and how graffiti would be prevented in the cave.

Dr. C DauBach stated there would be no public access in the cave at all. The Fogelpole family began that tradition. IDNR, by securing the two primary entrances, continued that tradition. Clifftop will continue that tradition. That is why it is a wilderness. Instead they plan to put on the surface as much material about the cave that they can. The cave will be used for research and monitoring. There is no graffiti because the public has been denied access.

Commissioner McClain commented on the potential for restoration of a unique ecosystem or community. He relayed that Max Hutchison's report about Stemler Cave Woods states that the nature preserve, really wasn't a woods at all, 150 or 175 years ago. It was a barrens/savanna community in which post oak was the predominate tree and the undergrowth was prairie grasses and wildflowers. That same potential for restoration exists here. Commissioner McClain is excited by this possibility for birds, insects, and other animals.

Commissioner Covington expressed confusion about the separation between the surface rights and subterranean rights. He understood the dedication is intended to protect the cave system, but asked if a utility company wanted to put power lines across the surface, would they have to go to the Nature Preserve Commission for approval?

Dr. C. DauBach: As the owner, if we were faced with such a proposal for utility rights-of-way issue, he would call INPC Director Heidorn because of his uncertainty.

Commissioner Covington stated that ordinarily, if IDOT wanted to acquire a highway right-of-way and the property is not dedicated as a nature preserve, they could simply condemn it. If it is dedicated as a nature preserve, there are statutory protections. It's unclear how this would work, when the surface is not dedicated and the subsurface is.

Dr. C. DauBach indicated that it is important to remember that with the Federally endangered species in the cave, a highway was tried, but it was stopped.

Director Heidorn reminded the Commissioners that this proposal was not the first subsurface dedication. It had been done at another nature preserve. The issue comes down to defining what uses are subsurface. Staff involved former Commissioner and Consultant, Bruce Ross-Shannon, in the current proposal. The approach on the actual easement language is using the common knowledge of what is considered the surface. Essentially, if it is below the surface then it is part of the subsurface and dedicated. This common knowledge definition is further refined by defining it operationally by specifying what uses to be allowed on the surface. Agricultural practices and other surface uses are defined. Those kinds of things will be included in the dedication instrument. Similarly, prohibited uses will be specified. This is going to probably be one of the more complex dedication instruments. Ultimately, if something is missed, staff may need to come to the Commission and make some decisions. But until that happens, the common definition of sub-surface will limit many uses on the surface. You can also look at this as the surface being a surrounding land use. If a surrounding use adversely impacts a preserve, actions are taken to stop the illegal impact. Similarly, an adverse action on the surface in this situation would be prohibited as water flows down into the system.

Commissioner Covington indicated the entire property would be essentially dedicated. But there would be a lot of reserved rights for dealing with the surface.

Director Heidorn agreed with the caveat that surface activities that we typically would not necessarily allow in a nature preserve like hunting and those kinds of things could be allowed on the surface.

Commissioner Covington stated that there would then be protection against highway condemnation.

Commissioner Thomas asked if we needed to make the surface a buffer. Or give it some kind of designation.

Director Heidorn stated that it was his understanding that Clifftop, once they have been able to pay for the property, would bring the surface portion of the site back to have a higher level of protection.

Dr. C. DauBach stated that will take time because under NRCS Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) you cannot make an encumbrance that will impact the ability to farm. Clifftop is going to use the CRP program to effect the surface conversion and will not attempt surface registration and dedication until that has occurred.

Debbie Newman commented Illinois has considerable cave and karst resources in this state. The entire property is part of the Renault Karst INAI site. Because it is an out of sight out of mind mentality amongst the citizenry, plus the patchwork of development on the surface, there are very limited opportunities to do large scale karst protection. Staff is very much in support of this project. Ms. Newman repeated that INPC has done one of these before, a subsurface dedication back in 1990 which is the Armin Kruger Speleological Nature Preserve. This is an opportunity to protect these fragile resources underground, while allowing some compatible uses on the surface for the landowner. That is the whole intention of it. We are going to work very closely with the landowners to craft the language for the final dedication for subsurface use. In the past couple of months staff has developed language about subsurface dedication from the original one done twenty years ago. We do recommend approval on that.

Dr. Carl DauBach stated for the record that Jack White, in 1973, appealed that this cave needs to be protected. Clifftop asks now for protection.

Commissioner P. DauBach is recusing herself on this discussion and decision.

Dr. Brian Anderson stated that he didn't often get to brag about people, but wanted to point out that Dr. Steve Taylor, with the Natural History Survey, working with Dr. C DauBach and Ms. Newman, are really outlining here is a karst protection enterprise. This site becomes an anchor. Dr. Taylor has already secured funding and is developing a very detailed research program. It will identify and quantify increasingly through time better connections between the surface impacts for those listed species, so that down the road commission staff will be able to approach other people who own part of the watershed over these caves allowing them to dedicate the underground rights and only restrict the surface rights in these ways because we know these

things won't impact the cave. Long term and in that context, this is a real speleological protection. Clifftop has demonstrated they have time to make this work.

Ms. Newman mentioned that the one subsurface dedication from 1990 was to allow landowners to be able to continue to farm the surface. Therefore, using "Best Management Practices" as defined by the USDA, agriculture is considered to be a compatible use for the karst and cave protection. There was a precedent set with the subsurface dedication back in 1990.

Commissioner Thomas asked if there were any limitations on fertilizer use as part of that farming practice.

Ms. Newman stated there was not. The threat to karst and cave systems through aquatic communities cave systems tends to be other things such as septic pollutions, oil, and similar. It is not so much fertilizer and pesticides on the surface.

Dr. Taylor stated that urbanization is a bigger threat than farming. However, there are issues with agricultural chemicals. Buffers can somewhat address this concern. A lot of agricultural chemicals that are in use break down fairly rapidly, but they breakdown better if you slow down the water moving into the sink hole by creating vegetative buffers around them. That would be something he strongly advised. Also, when there is steep rolling karst terrain, erosional rills or gullies transport sediments down into the cave stream and fill up particle space in the stream bed which can be offset quite a bit by using buffers around the sinkholes.

Commissioner Ruffner asked where the outlet for this system is located.

Dr. Taylor indicated the outflow was located on private land downstream on the south branch of Forest Creek which then flows eventually into the Mississippi River.

Commissioner Dann asked if farming in the broadest sense would be allowed. Is there a difference among orchards, row crops and pastures and cattle? That is a wide range of farming that is going to produce all kinds of subsurface runoff.

Dr. Taylor agreed there are a lot of differences amongst kinds of farming in terms of runoff. There is a huge difference between an apple orchard and a hog farm. They would both impact the cave system, but in different ways.

Commissioner Dann stated that when we dedicate subsurface lands, we have to take that into account.

Director Heidorn pointed out this agreement was with a land trust, the long term goal here is to protect the site. As Dr. Anderson indicated, we can try things like BMPs and see how they really do work to protect the site. Key is the partnership amongst the Commission's partners whose interest is to protect the site long term. It is unlike private dedications where ownership may change and might result in somebody less interested in protection. We have a group whose goals

are the same as ours. Clifftop can go ahead and employ those BMP and we can trust them to do that.

Dr. DauBach commented that they are so legally bound. This property was purchased with a little bit of local funding, but it is contractually anchored via grants from The Grand Victoria Foundation and Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. The long range management plans were part of their grant adjudication and are obligated to follow through with everything described in that grant.

It was moved by Commissioner Covington, seconded by Commissioner McClain and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of the Paul Wightman Subterranean in Monroe County as an Illinois Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 14 of the Agenda for the 217th Meeting. (Resolution 2292)

217-15) Will County – Buffer Addition to Messenger Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

Thomas Engbrecht stated that the Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC) sought preliminary approval for dedication of a 7.01-acre parcel as a buffer addition to Messenger Woods Nature Preserve. Messenger Woods and the proposed buffer addition are located in northern Will County in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division and are owned and managed by the FPDWC. In 1994, 407 acres were dedicated as a nature preserve and buffer with a 2.8-acre buffer addition in 1999. The proposed buffer addition consists of dry-mesic, mesic upland forest communities, a freshwater marsh and an old field that has undergone prairie reconstruction. It also buffers habitat for the State-threatened four-toed salamander (*Hemidactylium scutatum*) and 25 other species identified in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP) as in greatest need of conservation. Within the proposed buffer addition, the FPDWC reserves the right to maintain and use an old home site and driveway for management access and parking as well as maintenance and operation of a water control structure located south of the marsh. Protection and management of the proposed buffer addition support actions found in the IWAP including the Wetlands Campaign, Forests Campaign, the Farmland & Prairie Campaign and the Invasive Species Campaign. Protection of this parcel will increase the size of Messenger Woods Nature Preserve to approximately 417 acres.

The District would like to retain the rights to use and maintain a driveway for ease of access and the second is control over the water control structure.

The buffer addition enhances the overall site by increasing the protected acreage and landscape. This buffer addition will increase the protection of the marsh by inclusion of the entire basin protecting the hydrology. It also buffers a higher quality woods and increases the protected habitat for listed species.

Julie Mason, representing the Forest Preserve District of Will County gave a special thank you to Tom Engbrecht and Kim Roman for preparing the proposal as well as thanking OpenLands, the City of Chicago, Army Corps of Engineers and others. They asked for the consideration of this petition to approve protection of the high quality areas present here.

Commissioner Thomas asked how the water control structure operated.

Ms. Mason responded that the regional drain tile, which runs through the wetland onto the site, receives water from offsite. They have to continue to allow that flow. The drain tile allows us to maintain the hydrology of the wetland and still receive the offsite water.

It was moved by Commissioner Dann, seconded by Commissioner Ruffner, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of a Buffer Addition to Messenger Woods in Will County as an Illinois Nature Preserve Buffer, as described in the proposal presented under Item 15 of the Agenda for the 217th Meeting. (Resolution 2293)

217-16) Kane County – Fox River Forested Fen Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steve Byers reported that the Forest Preserve District of Kane County (FPDKC) sought final approval for dedication of the 27.176-acre Fox River Forested Fen as an Illinois nature preserve. The site has been enrolled in the Illinois Natural Heritage Landmark program since 1989 and received preliminary approval for dedication as the Forested Fen at the Commission's 205th Meeting in May 2010 (Resolution No. 2074). The proposed nature preserve encompasses much of the Chicago Junior School Area Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI No. 0968) and includes elements of Grade B forested fen and Grade B calcareous seep wetlands and elements of Grade C and D dry-mesic and mesic forest. Only 14.5 acres of forested fen and 16.1 acres of calcareous seep wetlands survive in the State of Illinois and both are considered "globally imperiled, G-3" by The Nature Conservancy. The forested fen is characterized by the presence of white cedar (*Thuja occidentalis*) and the calcareous seep supports the State-threatened common bog arrow grass (*Triglochin maritima*). In 1923 Dr. Henry C. Cowles wrote:

"The wonderful group of arbor vitae ... is one of the most notable plant colonies in Illinois. I have long known of the place and love it for its beautiful springs and evergreens. There is no place like it in the whole state."

The proposed nature preserve is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in northeastern Kane County, Illinois. The site was owned by the Fox River Country Day School when it was submitted for preliminary approval and has benefited from the school's long-standing commitment to its protection and stewardship.

Since the site was given preliminary approval several things have happened. First of all, the school was threatened with foreclosure and the commission staff began working with staff of

The Conservation Foundation to explore ways to protect the site working with the Fox River Country Day School. Unfortunately, the school went into foreclosure in 2007. Staff envisioned high rise condos put on much of the site, threatening groundwater recharge and the integrity of this particular site. Working with The Conservation Foundation to reach out to partners which included the Illinois Toll Highway Authority, Forest Preserve District of Kane County, City of Elgin, Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation, and US Army Corps of Engineers to develop a plan that would protect this site. The Illinois Toll Highway Authority provided 2.6 million dollars and the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation provided \$600,000 to acquire this site. Mr. Byers acknowledged the leadership of Charlie Potter, and Mayor Dave Caplin with the City of Elgin. The City acquired the property and in turn conveyed a portion of the site to the McGraw Wildlife Foundation. The forested fen, that had received preliminary approval for dedication as a nature preserve, was conveyed to the Forest Preserve District of Kane County with the provision that the District would seek formal approval to designate the site as an Illinois nature preserve. In addition, because of the groundwater recharge zone on that site, the City of Elgin, which owned the balance of the land, agreed to a conservation easement, freezing the existing footprint of the buildings at that site. As part of this collaborative effort, the property was acquired and a portion of the property, an old playground, was conveyed to the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation. The balance of the site was conveyed to the Forest Preserve District of Kane County. The Commission gave their preliminary approval for 23 acres back in 2010 but we are asking the commission to confer final approval for 27.1 acres which includes some of the grade B and C dry-mesic forest.

There are five partners and lots of collaborators that allowed the project get to this point where the Fox River Forested Fen is being presented for final approval of dedication as an Illinois nature preserve. Mr. Byers recognized Bryan Wagner, Charlie Potter, Jennifer Hammer, Mayor Dave Caplin and Monica Myers, Executive Director of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County for their efforts.

Ms. Monica Meyers thanked the INPC, noting how important it is to the State of Illinois. She thanked Steve Byers, noting she had worked with Mr. Byers twenty years ago dedicating the southern part of Trout Park as a nature preserve. Ms. Meyers stated that partnerships are the backbone of what we are all trying to accomplish. Mr. Byers was able to bring forth all of these agencies. She stated that the District was looking forward to bringing this property back through restoration. There is one thing they know, they can't change the past, but they can certainly work on the future for the restoration and protection of this site.

Bryan Wagner, with the Illinois Toll Highway Authority, thanked Mr. Byers and the INPC. He considers it an honor to be involved in this project and thanked all involved.

Dan Lobbes was recognized for stepping in when the school was foreclosed. He acknowledged Mr. Byers' perseverance and thanked the Commission.

Commissioner Derby-Lewis asked if there are any impacts to groundwater being observed in the area and are the restoration goals subject to the US Army Corps of Engineers' approval.

Mr. Byers responded that they suspect the groundwater recharge zone extends for some distance to the east and to the north. Class III groundwater designation exists for Trout Park Nature Preserve, but not on this site. In the near future, establishing a Class III groundwater recharge zone for this particular site is being considered. Currently, much of the recharge zone lies in the property owned by the McGraw Wildlife Foundation and hasn't been intensively studied or developed. A consultant firm working with the Illinois Toll Highway Authority and the US Army Corp of Engineers developed a management plan for this site that has established some performance standards that the Forest Preserve District of Kane County will be working to meet.

It was moved by Commissioner Covington, seconded by Commissioner Ruffner, and carried that the following resolution be approved::

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of Fox River Forested Fen in Kane County as an Illinois Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 16 of the Agenda for the 217th Meeting. (Resolution 2294)

217-17) Lake Co. – George M. Covington Buffer Addition to Grainger Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steve Byers reported that George M. Covington, as Trustee of the George M. Covington Declaration of Trust, seeks final approval for dedication of 18.13 acres as a nature preserve buffer addition to Grainger Woods Nature Preserve (169.4 acres). The George M. Covington Nature Preserve Buffer Addition received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission's 216th Meeting in January 2014 (Resolution 2277). Grainger Woods Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southern Lake County, Illinois. The buffer addition includes Grade C northern flatwoods, Grade C wet-mesic upland forest; Grade D wet prairie, and an old field. Approximately 8.3 acres of the proposed addition are located within the Grainger Flatwoods INAI site (INAI No. 0667). The State-threatened brome hummock sedge (*Carex bromoides*) has been recorded from the proposed addition. George M. Covington conveyed a Grant of Conservation Right and Easement to the Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) in May 2013 for the preservation of natural plant and animal communities. The easement provides the Grantee (LCFPD) with the right to preserve and protect the native flora, fauna, soils, water table and drainage patterns, and other conservation values. The Grantor reserves the right to construct a shed, use an all-terrain vehicle to facilitate access for the physically impaired, construct a foot trail, place ten beehives on the property, and maintain the existing unpaved driveway. George M. Covington and the Grantee may adopt and use an adaptive management approach to achieve and maintain the conservation values of the property. Protection and stewardship of the proposed addition supports several elements of the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan; specifically the Forests Campaign and efforts to "...restore and manage high-quality examples of all forest communities." The wet-mesic upland forest and the northern flatwoods communities located in the proposed addition are considered critically imperiled globally and imperiled globally, respectively, by The Nature Conservancy. Protection of the

proposed George M. Covington Nature Preserve Buffer Addition will increase the size of Grainger Woods Nature Preserve from 169.4 acres to 187.53 acres and further buffer the existing nature preserve from incompatible land use changes.

Commissioner Dann commended his fellow commissioner for taking what the INPC does to heart with his own property. He found it admirable and commendable stating that he was delighted to call him his friend.

Chair Thomas noted that Commissioner Covington would recuse himself but asked him if he desired to say something.

Commissioner Covington commented that it was a pleasure to see this protection of the property. He suspects that in the distant future the Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) will become the fee owner of this property and that motivated this dedication. LCFPD holds the easement now, but this action guarantees the site will be preserved in perpetuity. The land has been in my family for about 100 years. He acknowledged it is a great pleasure to work with Steve Byers.

Commissioner Covington recused himself from this vote.

It was moved by Commissioner Ruffner, seconded by Commissioner Mogerman and carried that the following resolution be approved::

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of George M. Covington Buffer Addition to Grainger Woods Nature Preserve in Lake County as an Illinois Nature Preserve Buffer, as described in the proposal presented under Item 17 of the Agenda for the 217th Meeting (Resolution 2295).

The Commission took a break for lunch at noon and returned at 12:45 PM.

217-18) Lake Co. – Nature Preserve Buffer Addition to Reed Turner Woodland Nature Preserve, Dedication

Steve Byers reported that the Long Grove Park District (LGPD) sought final approval for dedication for three parcels totaling 4.318 acres as a nature preserve buffer addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve. The proposed addition consists of Grade B and C dry-mesic upland forest and provides habitat for the State-threatened pale vetchling (*Lathyrus ochroleucus*). Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southern Lake County, Illinois. The Commission's partnership with Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve spans a period from 1972 to the present. At the 42nd Meeting of the Nature Preserves Commission in May 1972, the Commission encouraged Mr. and Mrs. Harold (Barbara) Turner to preserve the forest on their property (Resolution #243). Since that time, the Commission has granted final approval for dedication of Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve (August 1980) and granted final approval for dedication of three separate additions. This proposed 4.318-acre nature preserve buffer

addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve represents the fourth addition and consists of Lot 1, a portion of Lot 2, and Out-Lot B of the Woodland Ridge Subdivision. That portion of Lot 2 that includes the home in which Barbara Turner currently resides is not included in the proposed addition. The LGPD reserves the right to maintain the existing trail system and to provide appropriate, compatible amenities with the approval of the Commission. In addition, the LGPD is bound by the terms of the plat of survey for the Woodland Ridge Subdivision to provide for ingress, egress, and public utilities. The most obvious feature is a gravel lane that is approximately 14 feet wide that provides vehicular access to Lot 2 and to Lot 3 of the Woodland Ridge Subdivision. The current configuration of the gravel lane will not be altered without the approval of the Commission. Protection and management of the proposed nature preserve buffer addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve supports elements of the Forests Campaign identified in the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan that includes efforts to restore and manage high quality examples of all forest communities and a recommendation to contribute to ecological connectivity among forests and other habitat patches. Formal protection of these parcels (4.318 acres) as a nature preserve buffer addition was given preliminary approval at the 216th Meeting of the INPC (Resolution 2276) and will increase the size of Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve from 38.216 to 42.534 acres, further protecting the existing nature preserve from incompatible land use changes.

There were no questions.

It was moved by Commissioner McClain, seconded by Commissioner Ruffner and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of Nature Preserve Buffer Addition to Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve in Lake County as an Illinois Nature Preserve Buffer, as described in the proposal presented under Item 18 of the Agenda for the 217th Meeting (Resolution 2296).

217-19) Mason County –Buffer Addition to Matanzas Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

Tom Lerczak reported the IDNR sought final approval for dedication of 54.155 acres of buffer to Matanzas Prairie Nature Preserve. The proposed buffer addition is located in the Illinois River Section of the Illinois River and Mississippi River Sand Areas Natural Division. The proposed buffer addition provides habitat for several State-listed species, including a State-endangered reptile, a State-threatened amphibian, the State-threatened regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*), the State-threatened tubercled orchid (*Platanthera flava* var. *herbiola*), and the State-threatened ear-leafed foxglove (*Tomanthera auriculata*). In addition, the site provides habitat for ten Species in Greatest Need of Conservation as recognized in the Illinois Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan. Dedication of this buffer addition to Matanzas Prairie Nature Preserve will increase the size of the Preserve to approximately 81.80 acres. Additionally, dedication of this parcel will provide buffer to aid in protection of high-quality wet-mesic and mesic sand prairie communities on the adjoining nature preserve, allow for the continuing restoration of similar communities on the proposed addition, and provide habitat for several State-listed species and Species in Greatest Need of Conservation. The 54.155-acre buffer

addition to Matanzas Prairie Nature Preserve was given preliminary approval for dedication at the 215th meeting of the INPC in September 2013 (Resolution 2256).

There were no questions.

It was moved by Commissioner Dann, seconded by Commissioner Derby-Lewis, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of Nature Preserve Buffer Addition to Matanzas Prairie Nature Preserve in Mason County as an Illinois Nature Preserve Buffer, as described in the proposal presented under Item 19 of the Agenda for the 217th Meeting (Resolution 2297).

217-20) Monroe Co. – Illinois Ozarks Nature Preserve, Dedication

Debbie Newman reported that the proposed Illinois Ozarks Nature Preserve (NP) is a 34.36-acre site owned by Mike and Joann Fricke. The site is comprised of 1.75 acres of Grade A loess hill prairie, 0.25 acre of Grade C hill prairie, 0.5 acre of Grade B limestone glade intermingled with approximately 31 acres of Grade C mature second growth dry-mesic and dry upland forest. The proposed Illinois Ozarks NP is part of the 724-acre Potato Hill Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (#200) located in the Northern Section of the Ozark Natural Division. The proposed preserve also contains populations of the state-endangered woolly buckthorn (*Bumelia lanuginosa*), state-threatened bluehearts (*Buchnera americana*), occurrences of a state-threatened reptile, and several Species in Greatest Need of Conservation listed in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP). The proposed preserve is part of a large complex (more than 1200 acres) of preserved lands in the bluffs of western Monroe County. The landowners are retaining the right to be able to mow the old logging trail, the pipeline access trail or easement that has a trail on top of it, and the goat path. In addition, they retain the right to do maintenance on the goat path, if necessary, in the form of a little bit of grading for erosion control. It is not the only current access, but it is the only legal access to the prairies in the back part of the property. This area will be dedicated buffer. The gas and oil rights were severed to this property back in the 1920's, but it was a limited right that the oil and gas company had. With no production, the lease expired. However, it still showed up on the title search. The landowners were willing to file a non-production affidavit, which is on file in our Commission files. This states that there is no production of oil or gas wells on the site making the oil and gas lease null and void clearing it from the title. The stone mineral rights to this property were severed February 25, 1931, when they were conveyed to Columbia Quarry Company. These mineral rights were ultimately conveyed from Columbia Quarry Company to the Village of Valmeyer by Special Warranty Deed, May 31, 1995, and recorded May 31, 2005 at the Monroe County Recorder's Office. The Village of Valmeyer is dedicating the mineral rights they own to the Illinois Ozarks Nature Preserve also. A portion of the proposed preserve is registered as the Martha & Michelle Prairies Land and Water Reserve (LWR). The proposed area includes 31.79 acres of nature preserve (including all of the 20-acre Martha & Michelle Prairies LWR), and 2.574 acres of nature preserve buffer, including a 10' wide driveway access. The proposed Illinois Ozarks Nature

Preserve was given preliminary approval at the 216th INPC Meeting, January 28, 2014 (Resolution 2278).

Ms. Newman thanked Mike and JoAnn Fricke for their enormous contribution and ongoing efforts on behalf of preserving and stewarding natural areas in southern Illinois. JoAnn Fricke is a Clifftop board member and involved with the Wightman property that was presented earlier as a Clifftop board member. Mr. and Ms. Fricke take very seriously this interest in conservation of the bluff corridor area and not only have done enormous work on their property, but have assisted with the Salt Lick Point Committee and Clifftop doing lots of activities in southwest Illinois. Ms. Newman further thanked the Village of Valmeyer for the willingness to dedicate the mineral rights.

Commissioner Thomas asked if the driveway access legally becomes a part of the buffer.

Ms. Newman responded it is dedicated and described in the document as dedicated buffer.

Commissioner Thomas asked if dedicated buffer would preclude expanding or paving it?

Ms. Newman responded that it did not. Buffer allows for a little bit more maintenance and uses than nature preserve. The reason for buffer for the driveway was for access to this property. The landowners wanted to make sure that there weren't issues down the road as this driveway is shared with another landowner next to the highway. They wanted to ensure there was easy access for the Commission for this nature preserve. They are dedicating their driveway as buffer as well because all of this, at one time decades ago, was actually a limestone glade recognized on the inventory. A big portion of it was destroyed back in the 90's when previous landowners built the house. There are still a lot of elements of the glade here including a very, very large population of the State-endangered wooly buckthorn. So the landowners really wanted to be able to preserve all the pieces they could that were considered important resources and high quality. They did the reserve the right to be able to maintain that driveway to a certain width and to be able to do the grading and adding rock that is needed for that.

Commissioner Dann asked if the dedication of mineral rights was within the purview of the Commission.

Director Heidorn indicated that mineral rights are one of the bundles of rights that can be owned with a piece of real property. When you own a piece of property, you may have all or parts of the bundle of each of the different rights associated with the property. When you dedicate a property you are agreeing not to develop the property (the bundle of rights). By dedicating those mineral rights, you are saying the same thing: you will not develop that mineral right. It is just one of those rights in the bundle.

Commissioner Dann commented that the mineral rights have in and of themselves no natural values. It is just that it is part of the rights of the package.

Ms. Newman commented that the wording in the instrument of dedication for that addition of mineral rights is exactly the way it was worded in the document that conveyed the mineral rights originally to Columbia Quarry Company. It says to the effect: stone of all metamorphic igneous and sedimentary origin. Stone mineral rights were separate rights given away, so now we have kind of completed and pulled together everything so this is preserved from top to bottom.

It was moved by Commissioner DauBach, seconded by Commissioner Ruffner and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of Illinois Ozarks in Monroe County as an Illinois Nature Preserve as described in the proposal presented under Item 20 of the Agenda for the 217th Meeting (Resolution 2298).

It was moved by Commissioner DauBach, seconded by Commissioner Dann and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of the Mineral Rights for Illinois Ozarks in Monroe County as an Illinois Nature Preserve as described in the proposal presented under Item 20 of the Agenda for the 217th Meeting (Resolution 2299).

217-21) Pope County –Round Pond Nature Preserve, Dedication

Tracy Boutelle Fidler (Shawnee RC&D) reported that The Nature Conservancy (TNC) seeks to dedicate approximately 206 acres as Round Pond Nature Preserve. Round Pond is one of a handful of biologically-rich bottomland lakes found in the valley of the historic Cache River that formed in the abandoned channels of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. Round Pond is located in southeastern Pope County, approximately two miles northwest of New Liberty and is within the Bottomlands Section of the Coastal Plain Natural Division. It is listed on the INAI (#0812). The proposed nature preserve is biologically diverse, hosting a great blue heron rookery and several rare plants, including the State-endangered cypress knee sedge (*Carex decomposita*), the State-threatened storax (*Styrax americana*), the State-endangered winged sedge (*Carex alata*), and State-threatened swollen sedge (*Carex intumescens*). A significant feature of this site, noted by the INAI inventory, is grade B and grade C swamp. It also includes examples of rare wet bottomland forests, wet-mesic bottomland forests and is one of the few swamps of its kind remaining in the Illinois Coastal Plain Natural Division or in the Upper East Gulf Coastal Plain Ecological Region. Conservation of Round Pond supports several action steps identified in the Streams and Wetlands Campaign of the IWAP. The approximately 206 acres of land as Round Pond Nature Preserve was given preliminary approval for dedication as a nature preserve at the 215th Meeting of the INPC (Resolution 2258). TNC reserves the right to allow for research, management, monitoring and to create a parking lot some day that would be in a portion of the property that is outside the existing INAI boundary but adjacent to the road.

Ms. Boutelle Fidler reported the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board met in February and they approved a recovery plan for the Illinois Endangered Winged Sedge. Round Pond has

the sole occurrence for this species. The recovery plan lays out management options on behalf of this species. One of those is formal protection of this property.

Commissioner Ruffner asked if the nature preserve was only going to include TNC property or the entire INAI site?

Ms. Boutelle Fiddler responded that TNC was only dedicating its property. They hoped to work with and build relationships with the adjacent landowners.

Commissioners Dann and Thomas both recuse themselves from the vote because of their involvement with The Nature Conservancy.

It was moved by Commissioner Ruffner, seconded by Commissioner DauBach, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of Round Pond in Pope County as an Illinois Nature Preserve as described in the proposal presented under Item 21 of the Agenda for the 217th Meeting (Resolution 2300).

217-22) Whiteside Co. – Hahnaman Sand Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

Angella Moorehouse reported that Gregory S. Wahl and Elizabeth A. Wahl asked to dedicate 15.6 acres of their property in southeastern Whiteside County as Hahnaman Sand Prairie Nature Preserve. The site is recently recognized by the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory as a Category II site, having site suitable habitat supporting one State-endangered species, plains sedge (*Carex heliophila*), and four State-threatened species including: broomrape (*Orobanche ludoviciana*), two reptiles and a butterfly. The site also contains high-quality (Grades A, B, and C) dry and mesic sand prairie communities and is currently under consideration for Category 1 status for this feature. Located within Green River Lowland Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division, the site lies within the Grand Prairie State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Focus Area. This sand prairie provides essential habitat for grassland species and helps accomplish goals established for the Farmland and Prairie Campaign identified within the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan. This site was given preliminary approval for dedication as a nature preserve at the 216th Meeting of the INPC (Resolution 2279).

There were no questions.

It was moved by Commissioner Mogerman, seconded by Commissioner Dann, carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of Hahnaman Sand Prairie in Whiteside County as an Illinois Nature Preserve as described in the proposal presented under Item 22 of the Agenda for the 217th Meeting (Resolution 2301).

217-23) Millennium Reserve Natural Areas Protection Compact

John Legge (IDNR) asked for the Commission's approval for a conservation compact for the Millennium Reserve (MR) project area. He reported that the compact was prepared as a part of a project done by conservation partners including INPC staff, TNC, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Chicago Park District and IDNR. He is asking that the Commission sign the compact.

The MR is the Illinois portion of the larger Calumet Region at the southern rim of Lake Michigan. It is an initiative endorsed and begun by Governor Quinn and is part of President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative. The Calumet Region encompasses 140,000 acres, much of which is private land including, residential, industrial, transportation, and natural lands. The project uses a three-legged stool approach of environmental restoration and protection, sustainable economic development and community engagement to reach sustainability.

The MR project is overseen by a steering committee appointed by Governor Quinn in March 2013. Involved organizations include major non-profits and institutions including the Field Museum, Donnelly Foundation and OpenLands, representatives of government including IDNR and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, City of Chicago and industry.

Environmental restoration is one of the specific components of the multifaceted MR. Within MR, there are approximately 15,000 acres of open space, including 23 Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites, eleven Illinois Nature Preserves and, numerous records of endangered and threatened species. Wetlands, fen, high quality prairies and dune and swale habitats are found. There is 5800 acres in Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites which are the focus of this compact.

The concept of a conservation compact developed in fall of 2013. John Rogner, formerly of IDNR, drafted the document to help set a framework for working together on consistent restoration across these natural areas. This is an opportunity to seek additional resources for these areas. Collaboration on complex threats such as toxic contamination and hydrologic alteration are really challenging. Nothing in the compact requires sharing of proprietary data or allocating specific funding. It is a framework for cooperation; not a mandate for any particular spending.

The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission will be the first signatory. MR staff will be passing it around to other signatories. The document has been reviewed by staff of INPC, TNC, Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and Chicago Park District.

Commissioner Thomas indicated that he thought the INPC had never before done a compact. MR now represents a step beyond the individual sites to begin looking regionally. He applauded the regional approach. People spent a long time on the whole southeast Chicago Region to bring attention to the area and to get cleanups of the highly contaminated sites. There has been a lot of progress. He stated that this was a great next step and thanked Mr. Legge.

Commissioner Derby-Lewis recused herself from the vote since the Field Museum is on the steering committee. She suggested having climate adaptation embedded within best management practices for the conservation compact would be really fantastic.

Mr. Legge indicated that he will definitely look into that.

Commissioner Derby-Lewis stated it was very implicit but it would be great to have something very explicit.

Commissioner Dann asked for clarification if the natural areas now comprise about 10% of the MR.

Mr. Legge responded that 140,000 acres is the total land of MR; 15,000 acres of that is open space. Of that, 5,800 acres are the natural area inventory sites.

Commissioner Dann stated there is a lot to do to bring them into various levels of protection.

Mr. Legge responded that most of natural areas had some level of protection, but not all of them. They would be looking at where we can enhance that protection as well as improve restoration.

Commissioner Dann stated that the other 90% is heavily industrialized with lots of people.

Mr. Legge commented that there is a lot of work under way to engage communities in this area with sustainable economic opportunities. A lot of folks working there can tell you that in some parts of the local population, especially in some minority communities near these natural areas, there is less engagement to take ownership than there could be.

Ann Holtrop asked what procedures would be used to allow reviewers a chance to make changes if the document was signed by the INPC. With further discussion, it was determined most of IDNR including Legal Counsel had reviewed the compact. However, the Office of Resource Conservation had been inadvertently left out of the review of the proposal. Ms. Holtrop indicated that some INAI names were not correct.

John Wilker explained that nature preserve names technically are not the same name as the INAI site. The document is inconsistent on this name usage. Also he indicated that the compact made no mention on how new INAI sites could be added to the compact. Overall he supported the concept.

Chair Thomas asked if Ms. Holtrop had any substantial issues with the compact indicating that the Commission's motion could recognize that there will be some wording and minor changes, but that they agree with the intent of the compact.

Ms. Holtrop agreed, such a motion would address her concerns.

Joe Roth commented that it is the nature of the compact to be a document that is free to be revisited, revised, and adjusted through time.

Mr. Legge commented that there is wording in the compact that presumes something that can be revisited and revised as needed. It is a framework for working together.

Chair Thomas suggested the Commission may want to word a motion with caveats that recognize agreement with the basic thrust of the compact, but recognize there may be some wording changes, if necessary for clarification.

Commissioner Dann moved that the INPC is in general agreement with the aims and purposes of the MR Compact recognizing possible minor changes or clarifications.

John Legge asked if the Commission intended to execute the document or wait for the changes to be made. He requested that the Commission sign and allow the minor edits with the final version.

Chair Thomas indicated if the motion was approved he would sign. If minor modification were made, he would sign again if needed. However, if substantial changes were made it might need to come back.

Commissioner Ruffner seconded the motion.

Commissioner Derby-Lewis recused herself from the vote.

Chair Thomas called for a vote. The following motion was approved:

The INPC is in general agreement with the aims and purposes of the Millennium Reserve Compact as described in the Item 23 of the Agenda of the 217th Meeting recognizing possible minor changes or clarifications may be made through the final review process (Resolution 2302).

217-24) Update on Development of Joint INPC/ESPB/IDNR Animal Translocation Policy

Kelly Neal reported that at the 215th Meeting of the INPC, May 2013, Commissioners directed staff to draft a joint animal translocation policy that would allow for staff level review/approval of requests to translocate animals into INPC sites. Kelly Neal continues to work with Jim Herkert (IDNR/ORC) and Anne Mankowski (ESPB) on details of a policy. The group met with IDNR Office of Legal Services staff for input and decided to propose the modification of the Endangered Species Administrative Rule to include animal translocation language. Draft changes to include “Translocation” in the “Possession of Specimens or Products of Endangered or Threatened Species” in the Endangered Species Administrative Rule for permits have been prepared and reviewed. ESPB Director commented on behalf of the ESPB indicated that the ESPB believes a separate translocation-specific permit administrative rule should be developed to capture permit activities other than possession. Conversations continue about how to revise the administrative rules and the ESPB is still looking at that type of information and determining where it wants to proceed with that.

217-25) Natural Areas Acquisition Fund FY2014 and FY2015 Defense Program

Randy Heidorn reviewed the status of the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF) and in preparation for the annual discussion the allocation of the capital portion of that fund for defense and land acquisition. He reminded the Commissioners that the stewardship portion of the 2015 NAAF capital will be discussed at the September 2014 meeting. He reviewed slides showing the recent history of NAAF (Exhibit 2).

Director Heidorn emphasized that in 2014 revenues are actually above previous years' revenues. FY2014 should end with around \$9 million of new revenues coming into NAAF. FY 2014 Expenditures are slightly above the lowest year on recent record (FY2013). With low expenditures and higher revenues, the fund is growing. Current balance is at the \$10 million point. Bottom line is that the fund is doing much better than it has. We are getting roughly \$9 million a year of new revenue and the fund is slowly growing because we are not spending it all.

Director Heidorn explained that the NAAF capital program is divided into three parts: land acquisition, natural areas defense and natural areas stewardship. The proposed Governor's budget shows a \$6 million appropriation for the capital side.

Director Heidorn explained that the NAAF capital appropriation for Defense in FY2011 through FY2012 included \$225,000 each and \$250,000 in FY2013 through 2014 to fund contractual natural area defense activities needed on properties included in one of the INPC's protection programs. NAAF defense projects that were begun in years prior to FY2014 and continued or completed during FY2014 include: funding the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) to collect and review groundwater data needed to assess impacts of proposed off-site development, threats or damages, prepare Class III Special Resource Groundwater petitions to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for INPC program sites and provide groundwater consulting services for the INPC staff. In FY 2014, there was a new contract for the continuation of the aforementioned groundwater consulting services and Class III delineations from the ISGS. The FY2014 project was funded at the level of \$148,000 (April 1, 2014-March 31, 2015). This is an \$18,000 increase over previous contracts which have not changed for several years. Approximately \$276,000 of the 4 years of appropriation authority remains unassigned to specific projects. This appropriation authority remains available to address threats that may arise provided dollars are available within NAAF. Based on the Governor's FY2015 budget proposal, \$350,000 may be available for allocation to defense from this year's appropriation. Specific projects will be selected as needed but will likely include a continuation of the aforementioned groundwater data and consultation services at some level. In addition we are investigating using this source of funding to collect status information on resources within the preserves and reserves to improve INPC's ability to monitor the status of resources prior to threats occurring. Specific projects funded during FY2015 will be reported in May, 2015.

Commissioner Dann asked if, when you add up what has been budgeted, including defense, including additional operational people and you compare the total of all that to the total of the NAAF funds, there is still a big gap available for capital purchases such as land acquisitions.

Director Heidorn agreed.

Commissioner Dann asked him if he could estimate the amount.

Director Heidorn responded that it is somewhat a difficult question to answer because land acquisition tends to happen over multiple fiscal years with staggered approvals and so it's not uncommon for a project that has been identified in FY12 to happen in a later fiscal year. Right now it costs roughly \$6 million on the operational side annually. There is a current balance of about \$10 million in the account and money coming in at the rate of about \$9 million a year. We have acquisition proposals approved by the INPC from FY2013 and FY2014, not all of which have been approved beyond the Commission.

Commissioner Dann asked if we can buy, if allowed, a lot more land.

Director Heidorn responded there definitely is money available for land acquisition. We have appropriations that occurred in FY13 and FY14 that at this point have not been spent on the land acquisition side. So that money is available. He emphasized we don't want to start from scratch and assume we have that \$13 million of land acquisition because some of that has already been identified for projects. It is just a matter of getting those projects moved through the approval system.

It was moved by Commissioner Ruffner, seconded by Commissioner McClain and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The INPC approves the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund Defense Program plan as described in Item 25 of the Agenda of the 217th Meeting (Resolution 2303).

217-26) Natural Areas Acquisition Fund: FY2015 Land Acquisition Program

John Wilker explained that with Don McFall's retirement at the end of March, he received the responsibility for putting together the FY15 land acquisition list. He reported that NAAF since its inception in 1992, to the present, has purchased parcels at 70 sites, about 188 different parcels. (23,512 acres). Example sites that we focused on with NAAF are the Cache River, Prairie Ridge and Apple River Canyon. NAAF acquisitions also filled in those critical pieces of sites. Since 1992, about \$55 million of NAAF has gone to acquisition. We have added an additional \$12 million from other sources to obtain some of those sites.

He reminded the Commissioners that NAAF is administered by the IDNR with review and recommendation of projects by the INPC. The State budget has not yet been approved. The budget for land acquisition from NAAF has not been established. There are ten parcels remaining from the approved FY09 list totaling 1150 acres and approximately \$4,400,000. The approved FY13 list contains nine parcels totaling 627 acres and approximately \$2,000,000 which is in excess of the \$1,500,000 budgeted. The approved FY14 list contains eight parcels totaling 3,667 acres and approximately \$7,600,000 which is far in excess of the \$2,000,000 budgeted. Depending on the amount available, remaining parcels from the FY09 list will be targeted and more expenditure will be applied to the approved FY13 and FY14 lists. If additional parcels receive favorable regional review, they will be brought before the Commission at a later date. The INPC is asked to review and approve a longer list than there is funding for, as matching money will be sought to stretch NAAF dollars and negotiations with some landowners will not be successful. All of the proposed parcels 1) are identified on the Illinois Natural Areas

Inventory; 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.

At this point in time we are going to recycle the projects that are still on that FY09 list that we didn't get to or that might have fallen through at the time. We are going to go back and ask if there is any further interest. We also have the approved FY13 list and FY14 list that are in excess of the dollars that were approved and allocated for those lists. So if there are targets of opportunity on those lists and we don't have enough money allocated that year, we would like to allocate some monies from this year to those targets also. Mr. Wilker indicated that he had a list of about eight sites right now with good acquisition targets. Those are being reviewed internally and if appropriate, he would bring those targets before the Commission and ask for approval of those targets as well.

Commissioner Thomas asked if these lists get prioritized.

Mr. Wilker indicated they are not.

If his math is correct, there are 27 sites that have carried.

Director Heidorn explained that as soon as the final approvals occur, then IDNR's Realty Division begins their work on those projects going through all the steps that are required by law. They do work from the top of the list, but in reality, a seller who is most willing to sell goes first. It is driven a lot of times by the situation of a particular landowner. That is why timeliness of getting these approved is very important. We have opportunities disappear because a landowner is no longer interested in selling the properties.

John Wilker indicated that there are internal discussions relating to availability and importance of sites; things like importance and price may play a role.

Chair Thomas noted that the administration has been reticent about getting sites approved, so is there some advantage in picking three or four sites and just saying these are ready to go and moving them forward. Or does that make sense politically in the present situation? To just to keep adding sites every year and not getting them approved seems like a worthless exercise right now. Somehow there is a need to start pushing some sites through before coming back to add other ones. It is frustrating to have sites, have money and not getting sites approved.

Mr. Wilker indicated he understood the frustration and that the Realty Division is also frustrated.

Chair Thomas asked if there was a different approach that we might take that maybe could at least move some sites forward.

Director Heidorn suggested the Commission push land acquisition and communicate with our various partner organizations that land acquisition is important. Possibly having partners work

with the administration is in order. It is consistent with what was requested in the fall and agreed to as one of the Commission's requests.

Dr. Brian Anderson pointed out that at Conservation Congress, in one of our breakout sessions, there were three or four recommendations on this issue. It was pretty clear there was a lot of frustration on this issue. You might want to think about reviewing those recommendations and writing a letter to the Director reinforcing the frustration.

Chair Thomas agreed that is a very good suggestion. He asked if there was a need to go into a closed session.

Director Heidorn responded that if there are any questions specifically about the sites, then we would need to go into closed session.

Hearing no expressed specific questions, Chair Thomas stated that it did not appear that there was a need for closed session.

John Wilker offered that if anybody has any ideas on how to better prioritize acquisition, he would be willing to listen to those ideas. Acquisition has always been more reactionary in terms of requiring willing sellers, but IDNR doesn't go out and solicit willing sellers. We take them as they come. If anybody has any ideas, feel free to pass them along.

Commissioner Derby-Lewis said she assumed there was a decision framework in place but the comment made her think there is not a decision framework that is used in this process, it is mostly opportunistic.

Director Heidorn indicated that NAAF funding is used for INAI sites and existing preserved sites that are being buffered. Commission staff and other staff work with owners of INAI sites as a part of their normal landowner contact effort. They find out about these areas becoming available and that is how they come onto the list. The list is basically a result of the landowner contact made by the Commission staff, and to a lesser extent, the Department staff.

Commissioner Derby-Lewis asked that once there is that list, is there a decision making framework in place to prioritize? When you have this list, how do you look at that and strategically push and justify pushing particular sites? If there is no framework in place, it makes it really hard to do that or articulate why you are doing that.

Commissioner McClain indicated there is a process of prioritizing areas in place. The Natural Areas Inventory recognizes natural areas throughout the state and then our vision is to try to preserve representatives of communities within each natural division. So using that process is how this list comes about. As projects begin, perhaps additional parcels are purchased to augment the size of those initial purchases, but there is a process in place. Things like that, and

within a natural division, the rarity of a community, the presence of endangered-listed species and so on, all figure into the thought process.

Commissioner Derby-Lewis commented that this is the comparative approach.

Mr. Wilker agreed there are very targeted sites that are on the Illinois Natural Area Inventory. The vast majority of them have been brought to IDNR by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission Natural Areas Preservation Specialist because they are the ones talking to the landowners on the ground. They know when sites are coming up. They also know when agreements have been made in the past with entities and the ones that have the preservation design for the sites to make them sustainable. We are not purchasing sites that don't meet those criteria. Once they get on the list, there are a lot of steps before it is purchased. Acquisition can fail if no agreement is reached with the willing seller. So a lot of those types of decisions come down to who is willing to sell or for what.

Commissioner McClain explained that an example of this process by which land is acquired is on the agenda today. Matanzas Prairie was the only wet-sand prairie, and therefore a high priority for purchase, and it was in the past. Other things have been done that same way, so there is a guiding principle.

Director Heidorn commented that Matanzas is a really good example in the sense that it was on the list a long time ago, but the landowner and IDNR came to an impasse on the purchase of the property. When the landowner changed, the opportunity came forward. It is a very dynamic process.

Mr. Wilker indicated that he had a couple of copies of the report on the expenditures of NAAF for land acquisition listing all the sites and all the acreages. He would be willing to informally share those with you.

Joe Roth inquired why the plan to acquire land has not been executed. Where in the Department is the process being held up?

John Wilker indicated that it was his understanding that, at the Conservation Congress, Director Miller took the responsibility for the delay.

Commissioner DauBach commented that many of the projects at today's meeting, funds were provided by either Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation or the Grand Victoria Foundation or both of those entities. One of the items that they are increasingly insisting is that foundation dollars not be passed through, when land is acquired by IDNR. She thinks that becomes a bottleneck, because IDNR often insists that grant funds be passed through. This is an area that does need to be looked at. They want their money leveraged. This is an enormous issue for those foundations.

Dr. Carl DauBach commented that this is a huge issue for the foundations and land trusts. It's critical that the community of land trusts and IDNR work together to acquire lands.

Chair Thomas suggested from his personal perspective that the land trusts are going to have to start going to their representatives in Springfield and putting some pressure on because of this. For whatever reasons, things are just stalling and he agreed they need to get moving again.

217-27) Public Comment Period:

Joe Roth reported that a filmmaker out of Chicago, Kerry London, has produced a film on Jens Jensen entitled "Jens Jensen The Living Green". It is premiering at Millennium Park on June 18th. Tickets are available at the website: Jensjensenthelivinggreen.org

217-28) Other Business:

Chair Thomas stated that, the Commission needs a Committee of the Whole to look at nominations for offices, advisors and consultants at the September meeting. George Covington is willing to chair that effort.

Director Heidorn collected the confidential acquisition lists. He cautioned that it must remain confidential and should not be shared.

Item 29) Adjournment

Commissioner Ruffner motioned to adjourn. It was seconded by Commissioner McClain and approved. The INPC adjourned at approximately 2:25 PM.



Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

memorandum

To: Commissioners

From: Randy Heidorn

Date: April 21, 2014

Subject: Staff Report for the 217th Meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
Reporting Period: December 13, 2013 – April 7, 2014

KEY (Please use the following abbreviations. If others are needed please define)

INPC = Illinois Nature Preserves Commission	ORC = Office of Resource Conservation
IDNR = Illinois Department of Natural Resources	ISGS = Illinois State Geological Service
FPD = Forest Preserve District	NP = Nature Preserve
NHL = Natural Heritage Landmark	LWR = Land and Water Reserve
INAI = Illinois Natural Areas Inventory	CMS = Department of Central Management Services
ComEd = Commonwealth Edison Company	PD = Park District
ICC = Illinois Commerce Commission	SNA = State Natural Areas
SP = State Park	SF = State Forest

AREAS

Area 1 - John Nelson	Area 5 - Thomas Lerczak
Area 2 - Steven Byers	Area 6 - Mary Kay Solecki
Area 3 - Kim Roman & Tom Engbrecht	Area 7 - Debbie Newman
Area 4 - Angella Moorehouse & Jared Ruholl	Area 8 - Bob Edgin & Meaghan Collins

INPC OPERATIONS

- Staff changes:
 - Valerie Njapa accepted the position of INPC Natural Areas Defense Specialist and will begin work on May 1. She comes to us from the IDNR Office of Realty and Environmental Review where she served as a specialist in the Natural Resource Damage Program.
- Hiring efforts:
 - The paperwork to post the INPC Office Specialist was submitted to ORC on December 12, 2013 and the position posted in January. There were no internal candidates and the open and competitive list for the position at CMS had no candidates. We were told this was likely due to the short hand requirement for the position. A clarification removing this requirement was submitted to CMS. The revised position was posted April 17, 2014 with the last day to apply May 1, 2014.
 - The paperwork clarifying the job title and description of the Natural Areas Protection Program Manager (Vacant since 2005) from a Natural Resource Manager 1 to a Natural Resource Manager 2 (NRM2) was submitted to IDNR Human Resources in October 2013. This clarification has yet to be submitted to CMS. This position has been included in the submitted FY2015 budget yet to be approved.
 - Paper work for establishing and/or posting The Areas 9 Natural Areas Protection Specialist (vacant since 2010) and the INPC Operations Manager (essentially, but new title, Heidorn's old position prior to becoming Assistant Director) has been prepared and is under internal review. These positions have been included in the submitted FY2015 budget yet to be approved.
- Randy Heidorn continues to handle personnel and other administrative matters including all hiring, evaluations and budget preparations and execution. He also is coordinating INPC's response to threats to protected INPC sites.

- Kelly Neal, Mary Kay Solecki and Tom Lerczak continue to fill in for missing administrative staff maintaining petty cash, INPC wide procurement, review of documents for meetings and processing of post meeting documents for dedications and registrations.
- Appointments:
 - Immediately prior to the 216th Meeting, Dr. Abigail Derby Lewis, a climate change mitigation specialist at The Field Museum and Dr. Charles Ruffner, Professor of Forestry at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale were appointed as new commissioners replacing Lauren Rosenthal and Mare Payne. William McClain and Donnie Dann were both reappointed for three-year terms.
 - Randy Heidorn met with INPC Advisors Dr. Brian Anderson (INHS) and Dr. Bonnie Styles (State Museum) to discuss appointments and reappointments for terms expiring at the end of June 2014. Dr. Pen DauBach, Dr. David Thomas and Dennis Clark's terms are expiring at that time. Dennis Clark has indicated that he is planning to move to Wisconsin and did not wish to be reappointed. Letters are being prepared to make recommendations to the Governor consistent with statute.

OUTREACH/PARTNERSHIP/TRAINING/VOLUNTEER COORDINATION/MEETINGS ATTENDED

- INPC staff continues to provide information for the INPC Facebook page under the coordination of Kim Roman.
- Randy Heidorn presented at the Illinois Prescribed Fire Council Conference held at McHenry County College, Crystal Lake a talk on describing how persons may become an Illinois Certified Prescribed Burn Manager. Kim Roman, John Nelson, Jared Ruholl and Tom Engbrecht also attended this conference.
- Randy Heidorn and Debbie Newman both presented talks on the INPC at the Southwestern Illinois College's Darwin Day event. Commissioner DauBach and Dr. Carl DauBach rounded out the presenters at the event.
- Angella Moorehouse, Jared Ruholl and Meaghan Collins attended a workshop on control of Japanese stiltgrass held in Harrisburg and sponsored by the Oak Woodlands and Forest Fire Consortium.
- Bob Edgin and Randy Heidorn represented INPC at the Endangered Species Protection Board Meeting.
- Randy Heidorn:
 - Participated in a live webcast hosted by IDNR Director Miller on Land and Water Management. Heidorn described the purpose and programs of the INPC.
 - Traveled to Washington DC representing the INPC, IDNR and Natural Areas Association (NAA) at the Teaming with Wildlife annual fly-in to support the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants. This fund has provided Illinois with over \$25 million since its inception. Much of this funding has been used to manage natural areas owned by IDNR. While in Washington, Heidorn also participated in partner visits with federal agencies, met with staff of the Illinois Senate delegation and convened a Board of Directors meeting of NAA where Heidorn serves as President.
- Kelly Neal:
 - Participated in Network for Nature meeting for Volunteer Stewardship Network leaders at meetings in southern Illinois.
 - Participated in the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid Researchers Meeting.
- Steven Byers:
 - Gave presentation at Audubon Birding America on Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge
 - Presented to Libertyville Township Open Space on the mission of INPC
 - Participated with Forest Preserves Cook County on their Master Plan development.
- Kim Roman
 - completed Goose Lake Prairie application for Chicago Wilderness Excellence in Ecological Restoration accreditation.
 - Continued to lead the INPC effort on maintaining a Face Book page.
- Tom Engbrecht completed Red Card recertification and First Aid/CPR certification.
- Angella Moorehouse and Jared Ruholl
 - Attended a pollinator workshop in East Peoria, hosted by Pheasants Forever.

- Angella Moorehouse met with the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation, Prairie Land Conservancy and River Bend Wildland Trust to explore funding options for the acquisition of conservation easements in western Illinois.
- Tom Lerczak
 - Provided an opinion to a representative of the Vital Lands Illinois Commons on website usage.
 - Provided his article “Protecting Hopewell Hill Prairies” to be reprinted in @ORC in-house newsletter. Kim Roman assisted in the final formatting for this article
- Mary Kay Solecki:
 - Gave presentation at Grand Prairie Friends winter meeting on INPC’s conservation efforts over the past 50 years.
 - Gave presentation at University of Illinois for the Scholarship of Sustainability series on “Conserving Nature in a Fragmented Landscape: 50 Years of Saving Nature” which highlighted INPC’s conservation efforts and fragmentation issues.
- Debbie Newman:
 - Provided INPC 50 years and Acquisition of New Stemler Parcel articles for Friends of Stemler Cave Woods (Cave & Woods Newsletter).
 - Gave INPC Presentation to Novitiates and Staff at Missionary Oblates La Vista Novitiate.
- Meaghan Collins completed Chainsaw Safety Training

PROTECTION

Discussion of protection options with the following landowners and potential funders:

Area 1

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Land Institute • Winnebago County FPD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JoDaviess Conservation Foundation • Three private landowners |
|--|---|

Area 2

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Grove PD • McHenry County Conservation District • Lake County FPD • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (funding) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FPD Kane County • Two private individuals • Lake Forest Open Lands Association • Two private landowners |
|--|--|

Area 4

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pheasants Forever • Peoria PD • River Bend Wildland Trust | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prairie Land Conservancy • Ten private landowners |
|---|--|

Area 5

- Contacted 10 landowners.

Area 6

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDNR • Grand Prairie Friends • Land Conservation Foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Illinois • Three private individuals |
|---|---|

Area 7

- Two private landowners

Area 8

- Five private landowners

EASEMENT/DEDICATION MONITORING/BOUNDARY SURVEYS

Boundary monitoring took place at the following protected areas:

Area 1

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harlem Hills NP • George B. Fell NP • Pine Rock NP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flora Prairie NP • Beach Cemetery Prairie NP |
|--|---|

Area 2

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hybernia NP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glacial Park NP |
|---|---|

- Somme Prairie NP

Area 4

- Short Fork Seep NP
- Thistle Hills LWR
- Josua Lindahl Hill Prairie NP
- Root Cemetery Savanna NP
- Brimfield Railroad Prairie NP
- Jubilee College Forest NP

Area 5

- Walden West LWR
- Stubblefield Woodlots NP
- Funks Grove LWR

Area 6

- Edgewood Farm LWR

Area 8

- Padgett Pin Oak Woods LWR

BIOLOGICAL INVENTORIES

Unless otherwise specified, routine inventories were conducted at the following sites (target group of species or species if applicable):

Area 2

- Reed-Turner Woodland NP (botanical)

Area 3

- Pecumsaugen Creek/Blackball Mines NP (bat hibernacula)

Area 5

- Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak NP (red-headed woodpecker)
- Walden West LWR (red-headed woodpecker)

INAI UPDATE

Area 6

- Jasmine Hollow LWR

STEWARDSHIP

Planning Site and species conservation plans prepared or updated during the reporting period:

Area 1

- Kinnikinick Creek NP

Area 2

- Illinois Beach NP
- North Dunes NP

Area 7

- Palisades NP

Area 8

- Royal catchfly (*Silene regia*)
- Winged sedge (*Carex alata*)
- Halbred-leaved tearthumb (*Polygonum arifolium*)
- Mud plantain (*Heterathera reniformis*)
- Storax (*Styrax americana*)
- Tube beardtongue (*Penstemon tubaefflorus*)
- Leatherflower (*Clematis viorna*)
- Shore St. John's wort (*Hypericum adpressum*)
- Bloodleaf (*Iresine rhizomatosa*)

STEWARDSHIP

Consulting, contract work conducted or administered and completed during the reporting period:

Area 1

- Lake in the Hills Fen
- Boone Creek Fen NP
- Eagles Nest LWR

Area 2

- Somme Prairie NP
- Forested Fen INAI site
- Wolf Road Prairie NP
- Dokum Mskoda Sedge Meadow NP

- Bluff Spring Fen NP

Area 3

- Goose Lake Prairie NP

Area 4

- Stony Hills NP
- Robert Evers LWR

Area 6

- Sibley Grove NP
- Upper Sangamon River LWR

Area 7

- Salt Lick Point LWR
- Illinois Ozarks NP (proposed)

Area 8

- P and E Refuge LWR

- Hybernia NP

- Long Run Seep NP

- Nenawakwa LWR
- McFarland Hills LWR

- Kickapoo Hill Prairie INAI site

- Horse Creek Glade NHL

Prescribed burns completed:

Area 1

- Pine Rock NP
- Piros Prairie NP
- Harlem Hills NP

- Kettle Moraine NP
- George B. Fell NP

Area 3

- DesPlaines Dolomite Prairie LWR

Area 4

- Nenawakwa LWR

- Stony Hills NP

Area 6

- Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP

Area 7

- Martha & Michelle Prairies LWR
- Illinois Ozarks NP (proposed)

Area 8

- Prairie Ridge SNA – Jasper County (28 burns)
- Prairie Ridge SNA –Marion County (9 burns)
- Robert Ridgway Grasslands NP
- Beall Woods NP
- Red Hill Woods NP
- Flag Pond LWR
- Green Prairie NHL
- Lake Sara Flatwoods NHL
- Stephen A Forbes SP (4 burns)

- Wildcat Hollow SF
- American Beech Woods NP
- Pyramid State Park
- Trail of Tears SF
- Cave Creek Glade NP
- Boss Island NP
- Cretaceous Hills NP
- Newton Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area
- Embarras River Bottoms State Habitat Area (3 burns)

Other land stewardship completed by staff:

Area 1

- Boone Creek Fen NP
- Temperance Hill Cemetery Prairie NP
- Harlem Hills NP

- Kettle Moraine NP
- George B. Fell NP
- Pine Rock NP

Area 2

- Liberty Prairie NP

- Bluff Spring Fen NP

Area 4

- Harry N. Patterson Savanna LWR

- Nenawakwa LWR

- Stony Hills NP

Area 7

- Prairie of the Rock Overlook LWR

Area 8

- Prairie Ridge SNA, Jasper and Marion County: Greater prairie-chicken translocation project

**Threats to Sites Report for the 217 Meeting of the
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission**

Black-crown Marsh LWR, McHenry County – John Nelson and Keith Shank (IDNR)

- **Issue:** Proposed cell tower on the northern boundary of the Reserve
- **Threat:** A potential visual and physical nuisance to rare, threatened, or endangered bird species that have been documented to use the Reserve for feeding, resting, breeding, and nesting.
- **Status:** A new threat issue that has been reported to the INPC through the IDNR Consultation Program. Staff has provided review comments to the IDNR and is prepared to write a letter to the Village of Lakemoor prior to their voting on the proposed cell tower.

Black Partridge Park Woods LWR, Woodford County – Tom Lerczak, Randy Heidorn

- **Issue:** Request from the Village of Metamora for a water line easement across the LWR along its southern boundary.
- **Threat:** Disturbance of LWR features.
- **Status:** On-going. Meetings and communications with LWR landowners (Metamora PD), Village of Metamora, representatives from the neighbors to the west of the reserve (Girl Scouts of Central Illinois), and planning engineers occurred to examine alternative routes for the water line extension that would avoid the Reserve. A preferred option has yet to be chosen. If the engineer’s preferred route involves crossing part of the reserve, then an INPC staff recommendation will be planned for a future INPC meeting.

Bliss Woods NP, Kane County – Steven Byers/Randy Heidorn

- **Issue:** Lead shot on site (origin traced back to operation of adjacent shooting range).
- **Threat:** Lead shot poses a health risk and threat to the environment. And its removal threatens existing plant communities (both wetland and terrestrial ecosystems).
- **Status:** Ongoing. INPC staff participating with FPD of Kane County (owner), Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, IDNR, and Illinois Attorney General’s Office to identify acceptable course of action for removal of lead shot from site.

Burlington Prairie NP, Kane County – Steven Byers

- **Issue:** ComEd is constructing a 345 kv electric transmission line across Ogle, DeKalb, Kane and Du Page Counties.
- **Threat:** Transmission line could impact NP.
- **Status:** Ongoing. INPC staff worked successfully with ComEd personnel early in the planning process to preclude routes that would be located near Burlington Prairie NP or nearby Burlington Prairie Forest Preserve. The primary/secondary routes that ComEd will be submitting to ICC will avoid the NP. INPC staff continues to monitor project with ComEd and ICC.

Cotton Creek Marsh NP, McHenry County - Steven Byers and Randy Heidorn

- **Issue:** Manure pit expansion has been proposed for site in Lake County that lies within Class III groundwater for Cotton Creek Marsh NP.
- **Threat:** Manure pit represents a source of pollutants to both ground water and surface water resources upon which fen wetlands at Cotton Creek Marsh NP are dependent.
- **Status:** New. INPC staff coordinating with IDNR Consultation Program, Lake County Planning Department, Lake County FPD, McHenry County Conservation District and has sought expertise regarding threat posed by facility with staff of ISGS. INPC staff awaiting analysis from ISGS of threat and necessary remediation steps that will be necessary to eliminate or minimize threat to both surface and ground water.

Crevecoeur NP, Tazewell County – Tom Lerczak

- **Issue:** Neighbor encroachments.
- **Threat:** Disturbance of NP features, dumping, unauthorized activities.
- **Status:** On-going. Little progress was made over the 2013-14 winter. Beginning in March, however, the Village of Creve Coeur renewed landowner contacts with neighbors who are still continuing to encroach upon the NP. Plans are being made for cleaning up the illegal dumping and installing boundary fencing later in 2014.

Gensburg-Markham Prairie NP, Cook County - Steven Byers

- **Issue:** AT&T entered NP without authorization for emergency repair of infrastructure in December 2013.
- **Threat:** Vehicles and equipment left ruts/disturbance in NP.
- **Status:** Ongoing. INPC staff coordinating with AT&T and The Nature Conservancy to address and correct disturbance to the prairie.

Illinois Beach NP, Lake County – Steven Byers and Brad Semel/IDNR

- **Issue:** Fiber optics installed without IDNR approval by private contractor.
- **Threat:** During installation, bentonite, a clay based lubricant used for directional boring, was released to wetland in NP.
- **Status:** New. IDNR coordinating clean-up activities with North Point Marina and INPC.

Kennicott's Grove NP, Cook County – Steven Byers

- **Issue:** Residential development near Kennicott's Grove NP.
- **Threat:** Proposed development will reduce forest cover and could disrupt surface hydrology upon which this site is dependent.
- **Status:** Ongoing. INPC staff working with IDNR Consultation, developer, Glenview PD) to secure more information about the proposed development and will work with PD and City of Glenview to raise issues and concerns about the proposed project.

Middlefork Savanna NP, Lake County – Steven Byers

- **Issue:** Construction and operation of helipad adjacent to NP.
- **Threat:** Disruption of wildlife and visitor use of NP. Tree clearing for flight approaches.
- **Status:** New. INPC staff will be coordinating with IDNR Consultation, Lake County FPD, and Lake County to address threat.

Ramsey Railroad Prairie NP, Fayette County – Bob Edgin

- **Issue:** Village of Ramsey is claiming ownership of Ramsey Railroad.
- **Threat:** Village of Ramsey received tax account statement from the Fayette County Supervisor of Assessments office which indicated the Village owned the south ±600 feet of the NP. Bob Edgin met with the Assessor's office taking copies of the deed and a certified survey plat. Upon review of the documents the Assessor's office believed the boundaries of the NP had been incorrectly mapped by the firm contracted to map land parcels which generated an erroneous tax statement. Assessor's office is reviewing the documents further and will make necessary changes to NPs boundaries and assign rightful ownership to the parcels.
- **Status:** Ongoing.

Rocky Branch NP, Clark County – Mary Kay Solecki

- **Issue:** All-terrain vehicle trespass; fencing to prevent trespass was compromised .
- **Threat:** damage to vegetation, soil compaction, stream impacts
- **Status:** ongoing; fence will be repaired/fortified.

Romeoville Prairie NP, Will County—Kim Roman

- **Issue:** In 2010 an Enbridge pipeline adjacent to the NP had a break in its line, resulting in the release of crude oil.
- **Threat:** While most of the spill was contained, constituents of crude oil were detected in the NP.
- **Status:** Negotiations over the past 3 years with Enbridge to address violations to the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act (INAPA) were unsatisfactory. As a result, INPC and IDNR referred the violations to the Illinois Attorney General's Office to amend the existing Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's complaint so that counts to INAPA can be better addressed.

Tomlin Timber NP, Mason County – Tom Lerczak

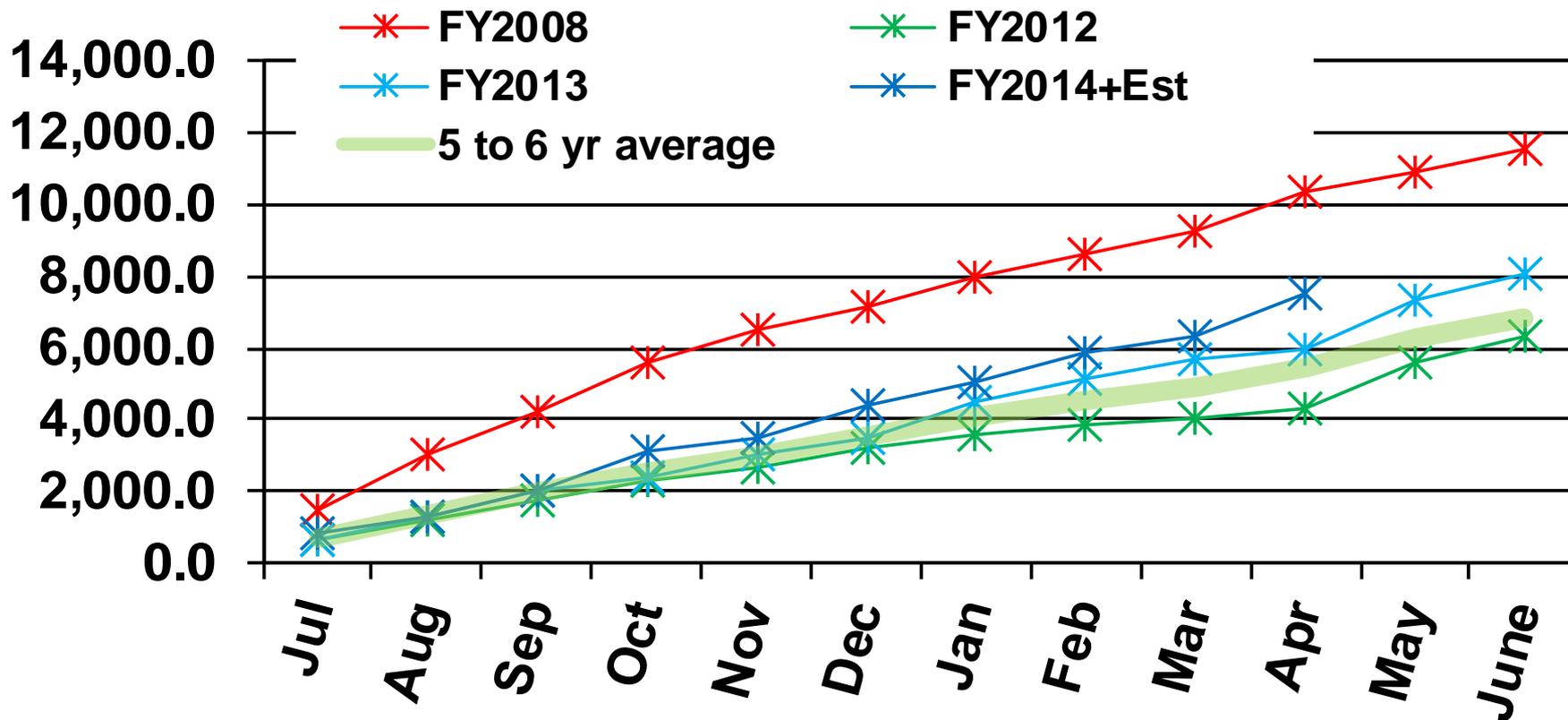
- **Issue:** Utility line maintenance along NP boundary.
- **Threat:** Excessive cutting of vegetation and herbicide use.
- **Status:** Resolved. INPC staff inspection on 21 January 2014 showed no encroachments onto the NP.

Upper Sangamon River LWR, Piatt County – Mary Kay Solecki, Eric Smith, Karen Miller

- **Issue:** Storm water drainage system planned for City of Monticello's Recreation Complex would drain into LWR.
- **Threat:** Increased water and soil erosion in LWR.
- **Status:** An alternate discharge point proposed that minimizes impact to LWR; ongoing.

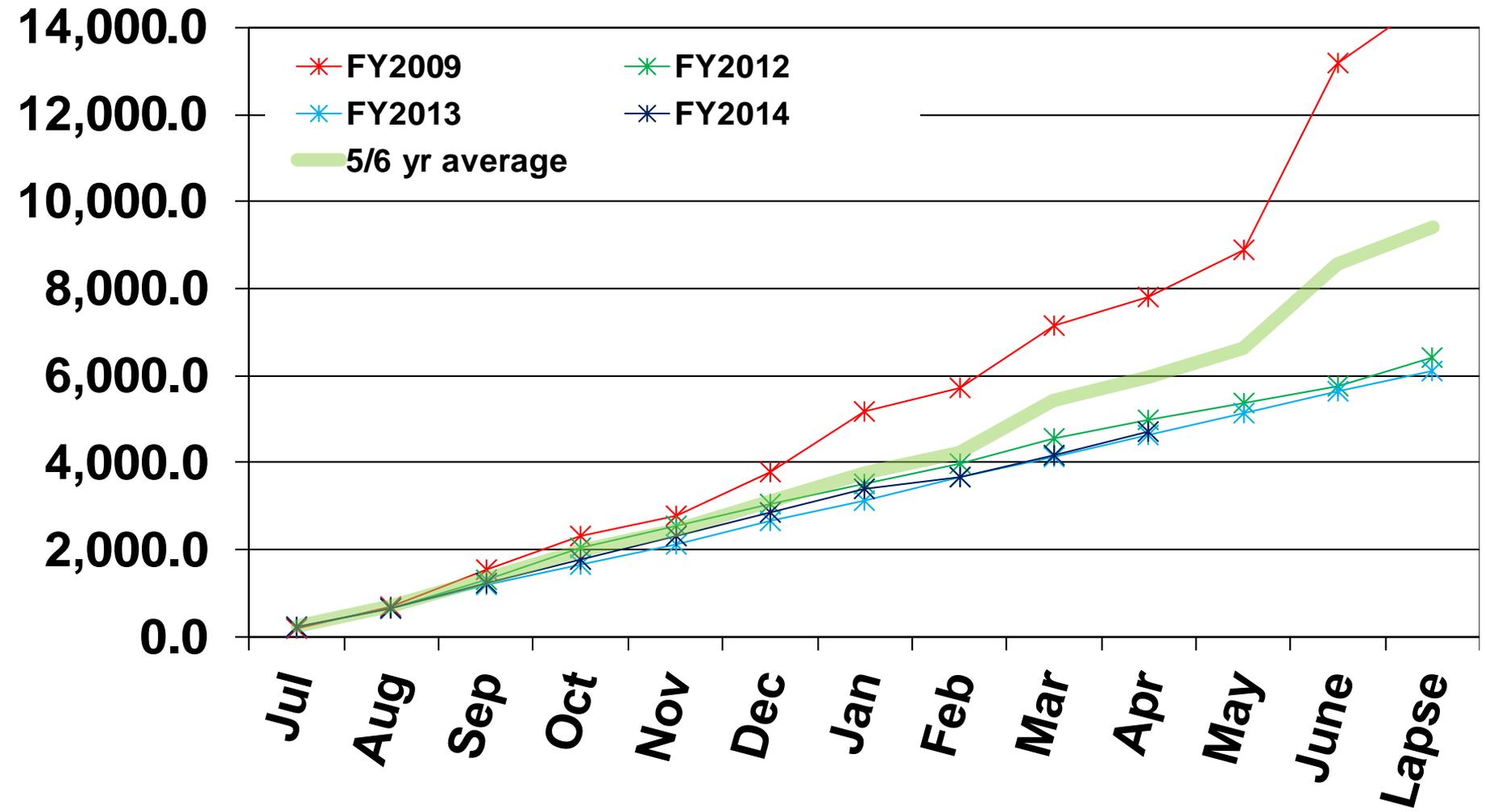
NAAF Revenues by month

(Cumulative FY total)



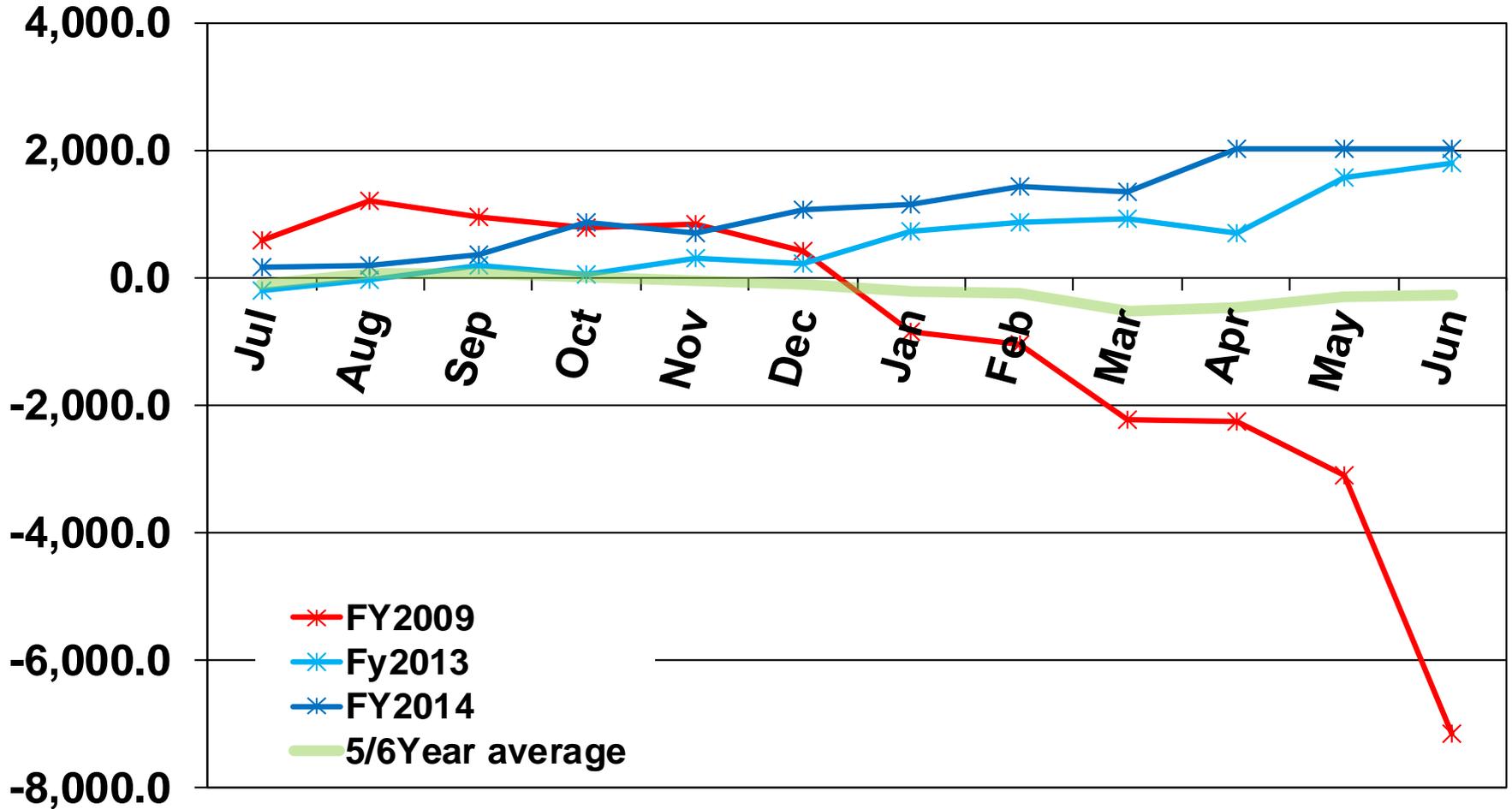
NAAF Expenditures by month

(Cumulative FY total)



NAAF Revenues less Expenditures

(Corrected for borrowing)



NAAF Balances

