

**Natural Resources Advisory Board  
Minutes - June 19, 2007**

Members Present:

Sharon Morelli	Randy Blackford	Pat Kernan	Joyce O'Keefe
Richard Mark	Dennis Ferrell	Claudia Emken	

Staff Present:

Acting Director Sam Flood	Deputy Director Deborah Stone	Bill Richardson
Mike Beaty	Ray Marshalla	John Buhnerkempe
Tom Dilello	Jan Nation	Greg Akers
Mick Rosendahl	Ellen King-Pietrzak	Doug Florence
Tami Evans		

Director Flood stated that three members resigned: George Camille, Mike Kepple and Mike Murphy. Resignations were effective immediately and no explanation was given.

A quorum was met; the meeting began at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Joyce O'Keefe provided the motion to approve the January 2007 minutes; Richard Mark provided the second. A motion to adopt the June 19 agenda was given by Richard Mark with Joyce O'Keefe providing the second.

**Election of Chairman/Vice Chairman** - Richard Mark nominated to re-elect Randy Blackford as Chairman; Sharon Morelli provided the second. A voice vote was heard and accepted by the board. Joyce O'Keefe nominated Claudia Emken for Vice Chair and Randy Blackford nominated Richard Mark for Vice Chair. Board members voted by ballot; Richard Mark was named Vice Chair.

**Waterfowl Issues** - Mike Beaty and Ray Marshalla provided the board with a brief synopsis and handouts of the proposed 2007-2008 Snow & White-fronted Goose Seasons and the 2007 September Waterfowl Season. Several waterfowl enthusiasts attended the meeting and were given the opportunity to voice their concerns/opinions on the proposed waterfowl seasons. Joyce stated that she hoped that DNR could address a fourth zone line. Ray stated that Federal rules allow only three zone lines and can only be changed once every five years; the Department is only in it's second year. Joyce O'Keefe motioned to accept the recommendations across the board as proposed by staff; Richard Mark provided the second. A voice vote was heard; no opposition was given.

**Bike Path Grant Awards** - Jan Nation - The Bike Path Grant Awards Program provides assistance to local units of government for the acquisition of corridors, construction and rehabilitation of bike trails and support facilities that are eligible within this program. This program is a 50/50 match program with a \$200,000 limit for development projects and no limit for acquisition projects. Funding comes from fees collected from the Illinois vehicle code. Initially 22 applications were received; 21 will be looked at with a request level of \$3.4 million. Staff have reviewed applications and provided a list of recommendations in rank order. \$3 million is available and will fund 17 projects. With the remaining four projects, staff would like the opportunity to recommend which projects get funding should alternates be needed. Claudia motioned to accept the recommendations provided by staff,

including any alternates staff may recommend; Joyce provided the second. A voice vote was heard; no opposition was given.

**Legislative Update** - Deborah Stone - A status report and brief overview on a number of bills DNR is following was given. SB333 - insulates parties that lease land to DNR for recreational purposes against various forms of liability with the exception of wilful and wanton. Bills that will most likely impact DNR include: HB33 - requires DNR to establish rules for signs and devices warning individuals of dams on public waters, requires DNR to look at the condition of dams and makes violations of exclusion zones a class A misdemeanor. HB201 and SB518 are similar, both which disallow remote internet hunting. HB1638 - prescribed burning bill - makes prairie burns and light landscape management easier because it institutes protections against liability. HB1780 - Partners in Conservation bill - extends sunset on Conservation 2000 program to 2021. Agency bills include: HB1778 - makes it easier for DNR to pay out cash prizes from Sparta. HB1833 - requires commercial roe harvest permits and regulations on the commercial taking of roe fish. HB1779 - Under OSLAD, allows DNR to set aside a portion of the parks grant programs for distressed communities with low income and low property tax assessment. Sharon Morelli asked if she could receive information about SB17.

**Budget Summary** - Ellen King-Pietrzak/Doug Florence - A fact sheet, based on the introduced budget was passed out and a brief overview was given. Agencies start preparing their budgets in the September/October time frame, first submissions are due in November and usually finalized in February. The FY07 budget came through at \$645 million for both operating and capital. In terms of operating budget DNR is proposing a 7% increase over FY07. GRF levels were requested at \$88.9 million. Headcount for FY07 & FY08 stands at 1720.

**Rifle Usage During Deer Season** - Randy Blackford - John Buhnerkempe stated that DNR does not have the authority to allow rifle usage during the firearm deer season. It would need to be addressed legislatively. John stated he would be happy to gather staff together and discuss. Claudia added that this discussion should be a part of the Hunting & Fishing & Trapping committee. Discussion ensued regarding a variety of deer management, permitting and landowner issues.

**Wind Farm Effects** - Todd Rettig - Wind development has grown over the last 5 years in Illinois. There are approximately 250 turbines constructed or planned with projects in 37 of 102 counties. Last year, the legislature passed HR943 which called for a study for DNR in partnership with the Commerce Commission on the impacts to birds from wind power. A draft is due July 2007. Wind power is not regulated on a state wide level. DNR's involvement is when municipalities come in for an endangered species act consultation, natural areas preservation act consultation or wetlands consultation. Overall, the potential impacts for endangered species appear to be very low and concerns with habitat displacement have not shown any significant impacts. Bats appear to be impacted more than birds. Copies of the study will be sent to the Board when it becomes available.

**OSLAD Committee Fall Meeting** - Chairman Blackford stated that if anyone had an interest in the OSLAD committee they were welcome. Claudia & Joyce will propose a date and let Deborah and the Board know.

**Acting Director Sam Flood** - Discussed the new Dam Safety brochure, "Keep Your Distance, Keep Your Life". Director Flood asked the Board to take some brochures with them if they knew of any place that could distribute them. Deborah added that dam safety posters will be available shortly and that public service announcements on dam safety are planned. Richard Mark stated that this would be a great educational program for schools.

**Remainder of 2007 Meeting Schedule** - Randy stated that the next full board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 30. The April meeting was canceled and will not be rescheduled.

Randy offered the new members the opportunity to sit on any of the NRAB committees. Richard Mark was appointed as Chair of the Education & Outreach committee. Pat Kernan was appointed Chair of the Hunting, Fishing & Trapping committee. Bill Richardson reminded the Board that committee's will need to follow the Open Meetings Act. If the board wants to hold any committee meetings, members should run them through Deborah and Tami for coordination purposes.

No public comments were heard. Meeting Adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.