

**Natural Resources Advisory Board  
February 7, 2008 Minutes  
Illinois State Museum**

**Members:**

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

**IDNR Staff:**

Deborah Stone	Tim Schweizer	Tom Dilello
Dave Sellman	Emily Chezem	Greg Legan
Mike Conlin	Chad Bartman	Bill Richardson

**Guests:**

Sandy Stover	Ralph Loos	Daniel Rosenkranz
Melissa Smith	Susan Donovan, The Nature Conservancy	
Jeff Greenspan, Trust for Public Lands		

Chairman Blackford opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Two new members were introduced, Dale Stewart of Hillsboro and Gene Abbott of Jerseyville. Both provided the board with a brief background on themselves.

The October 2007 minutes and the February 2008 agenda were adopted by a motion from Joyce O'Keefe with Richard Mark providing the second. Joyce stated that she would like a budget update on the April 2008 agenda.

**Boat Access Grants - Tom Dilello/Dave Sellman/Emily Chezem** - Chairman Blackford asked that questions relative to any project be addressed by number, not name. 14 applications for FY08 requesting over \$1.6 million were received; \$725,000 is available. Members were provided a list of projects in rank order. Of the 14, 7 could be funded with three receiving partial funding. In projects 5, 6 & 7 there were a few things that staff didn't feel were critical to the project. Joyce asked how DNR informs communities of this program. Dave stated that information is provided on the DNR website and press releases are sent out regarding the grant application process. Dave also noted that not every community is located on a body of water, which does make a difference. Joyce asked where funding for boat access grants comes from. Dave responded that a percentage from the boating fund is allocated by the Fiscal office. A motion to accept recommendations from grants staff on projects 1-7 was provided by Claudia Emken with Dennis Ferrell providing the second. All board members present supported the motion.

**Illinois Conservation Foundation - Greg Legan, Executive Director** - Greg introduced himself to the board and provided them with a brief background. The Foundation is adjusting its focus to be a little broader in terms of conservation, to develop some programs and some mechanisms to raise money for conservation related programs. The Foundation will be partnering with other organizations on collaborative projects that ICF wouldn't be able to do on their own. The Foundation's website is being redesigned and there will be a virtual newsletter, ICF Update that will be sent via e-mail. ICF has a couple new brochures available; Greg will send the Board copies. The ICF Hall of Fame Banquet is Saturday, February 9 at the Crowne Plaza in Springfield. Joyce asked if the scholarship program was still part of the ICF and if an advisory committee was still in place to advise on the awarding of scholarships. Greg stated that the program was in place in the past and is being reviewed and will hopefully be reinstated in the near future. Representatives from NRAB also helped review applications for the Illinois Hall of Fame.

**MAFWA - Wildlife Funding Issues - Mike Conlin** - Mike presented the board with a power point presentation on the 21<sup>st</sup> century crossroads in conservation funding and the challenges faced throughout the nation. The presentation was informative and provided an insight to the requirements, philosophy and principles of fish & wildlife conservation and management and why changes are needed to meet the critical fish & wildlife needs. Dedicated, sustainable funds are needed for its future. The power point presentation is attached.

**Conservation Funding Issues - TNC - Claudia Emken** - Claudia introduced Jeff Greenspan, The Trust for Public Land and Susan Donovan, The Nature Conservancy. Both organizations, at the national level received a grant from the Doris Duke Foundation. The State chapters of the two were able to secure funding to do a study on how it could fund and implement the state's wildlife action plan. Susan & Jeff provided the board with a power point presentation and overview of this collaborative effort. This plan outlines how we can conserve the land and water resources in Illinois and identifies ways to leverage federal dollars and to look at what new sources of funding would be appropriate. Illinois was recognized as one of 12 exemplary plans in the country. Detailed information was given to the board.

#### **Public Comments:**

Randy extended an invitation to all board members who might be interested in attending the OSLAD hearings. Claudia and Joyce will set dates and those will be given to the board as soon as possible.

Claudia suggested that a presentation on the No Child Left Inside be on an upcoming agenda. Randy added that if any of the board members would like any specific topic discussed to let Tami Evans know.

Randy thanked the Board for attending the meeting and adjourned at approximately 3:00.

