

# MINUTES

## from the 19th Meeting of the Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Team

Nov 28<sup>th</sup> 2012 - 1 pm

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL  
Lake Level room

### In attendance were:

**Members:** John Rogner, Jim Herkert, Jim Anderson, Mike Redmer, Elliot Brinkman, Randy Heidorn, Eric Schenck, Tom Clay, Anne Mankowski, Mike Redmer, Don King, Trent Thomas, Mike Wefer, Jim Renn, Gene Barickman

**Campaign Leads:** John Buhnerkempe, Paul Brewer, Mike Wefer, Nancy Williamson, Jody Shimp and Ann Holtrop

**Interested Parties:** Don McFall, Debbie Bruce, Tracy Boutell-Fidler and Brian Metzke

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[All documents/Power Points presentations that were presented at the meeting are posted under meetings on the left-hand panel on the team's SharePoint website.](https://dnr.partner.illinois.gov/ifawat/default.aspx)  
<https://dnr.partner.illinois.gov/ifawat/default.aspx>

**Asst Dir John Rogner** announced that the DNR "Sustainability Bill" – SB1566 – has passed the Senate on its final vote by 39-11. It is now headed to the Governor's desk.

This is a big victory for conservation in Illinois. Passage of this bill to stabilize our funding with a projected impact of \$32 million new dollars is only the first of several critical steps to help modernize this agency. This step will allow us to hire critical staff to maintain state parks, fix aging infrastructure, speed up regulatory functions and make a bigger difference in the lives of everyone we serve.

The next step is to put the finishing touches on the administrative rules that are needed to collect revenues and pass them through the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). While this will not be an immediate influx of funds, we think that within 9-12 months the agency will begin seeing the revenues. (Marc Miller)

**Asst Dir John Rogner** Called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees to the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IL Fish and Wildlife Action Team

**Asst Dir John Rogner** asked for all present to introduce themselves with their name and organization.

**Asst Dir John Rogner** made a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. They unanimously approved.

**Ann Holtrop-IDNR** gave an update on the IWAP revision and feedback from the Vital Lands Summit, which was held in Champaign on October 15 – 16.

Notable points from the Summit include:

- Attendees were involved in implementing all Campaign, and this ranged from a low of 51% of attendees involved with the Green Cities campaign to a high of 74% involvement with Land and Water Stewardship Campaign.
- Attendees use the Plan for many purposes included prioritize limited resources and linking state efforts to local efforts.
- There was much interested in the IWAP revision. Specifically attendees felt we could improve upon prioritizing work at the local level, engaging land trusts, enhancing outreach, spreading the word to local jurisdictions, and tracking implementation.

A short conversation ensued involving Eric Schenck, Tom Clay, Elliot Brinkman, Brian Anderson, Jim Anderson, Nancy Williamson, Ann Holtrop and Jim Herkert.

**Asst Dir John Rogner** asked about LCC involvement.

**Jim Anderson** asked where partners are working, need to find out.

**Nancy Williamson** and **Eric Schenck** said need better maps of what and where.

**Randy Heidorn** said that better maps are needed with more detail. Need a “matrix” showing where work is taking place.

**Brian Anderson** need better effort how efforts were to be stepped down to the COA's.

**ACTION ITEM:** **Asst Dir John Rogner** said that IDNR would send out the link for the USFWS “surrogate species” to the team.

<http://www.fws.gov/landscape-conservation/index.html>

<http://www.fws.gov/landscape-conservation/pdf/DraftTechnicalGuidanceJuly2012.pdf>

**Brian Metzke** - Brian gave his State Wildlife Grant project - **Fish Species in Greatest Need of Conservation** update. There were a few questions.

## **Campaign Lead and Sub- Committee reports -**

**Jody Shimp** gave his report on **Invasive Species**

**Elliot Brinkman** gave his report from the **COA Task Force - Upper Mississippi River COA** boundary changes accepted – **Kiskwaukee River** under review

**Mike Wefer** passed out his report for the Farmland & Prairie campaign.

**Nancy Williamson** gave her report for the Green Cities Campaign – a lot of regional projects going on; Chicago and St. Louis area  
Education of conservation groups was taking place  
CMP funded  
IEPA stormwater issues  
IDOT doing mapping

**Randy Heidorn** said that the Nature Preserve Commission will be celebrating it's anniversary Oct 1-4 2013 at the Morton Arboretum and the Chicago Botanical Gardens.

**Tom Clay** mentioned the dedication of a Green River INAI site, which contains the largest population of Blanding Turtles to date.

**Brian Anderson** thought that the Campaign Leads could meet quarterly and the IFAWAT could meet once a year.

An ad hoc vote revealed that the majority felt that the IFAWAT should leave the schedule unchanged and continue to meet quarterly.

**Asst Dir John Rogner** gave an update on the LCC's, saying that they will use the SWAPs for guidance in the future.

A meeting with WI MI IN IL is in the works to talk about "landscape issues" and SGNC's across state boundaries.

The next IFAWAT meeting will be the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting on **Feb 21st 2013** 1 pm IDNR Hdqrts Lake Level Room C

**Asst Dir John Rogner** adjourned the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Team**