

MINUTES from the 9th Meeting of the Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Team

Oct 28th 2009 1 pm

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL
DNR Board Room – 3rd Floor

Members Present: John Rogner, Leslie Sgro, Deborah Stone, Joel Cross, James Renn, Kent Adams, Jim Anderson, Gene Barickman, Tom Clay, Nancy Erickson, Kim Erndt, Gregg Good, Randy Heidorn, Jim Herkert, Don King, Aaron Kuehl, Anne Mankowski, Richard Nichols, Charles Perino, Mike Redmer, Ms. Terry Savko, Eric Schenck, Joe Seten, Tom Swartz, Trent Thomas, Mike Wefer, Steve Widowski (23 board members present)

Interested Parties: David Myers, Natalie Mountjoy, Don McFall, Tammy Miller, Shawn Wilcockson, Paul Vehlow, Tim Gaughran, Tim Schweizer, Debbie Bruce,

=====
Director Marc Miller welcomed all attendees to the 9th meeting of the IL Fish and Wildlife Action Team.

John Rogner gave an opening statement and asked that introductions be made.

John Rogner gave a brief comment about the last meeting.

James Renn gave his presentation about what was talked about at the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency's Wildlife Action Plan Coordinators Climate Change meeting in July 2009. Jim's presentation noted several key topics, being: AFWA's new Climate Change WAP Guidance Plan; need for states to start planning for Climate Change on a "landscape" level; The Conservation Registry database emerging as a viable conservation database; how Joint Ventures in the U.S. can help answer Climate Change "landscape" level conservation questions; U.S.F.W.S. new Strategic Habitat Conservation and its Landscape Conservation Cooperatives.

David Myers and **Natalie Mountjoy**, SIU's SWG T-55 COA team - gave a presentation on the progress of the SWG T-55 COA project.

Comments from the team included: Eric Schenck felt that the T-55 project was still involved in trying to figure what its goals needed to be / Jim Herkert said "use C2000 as a model to set priorities for the COA project as they already have experience in getting watershed groups together/ Tammy Miller - C2000 said even if a past C2000 watershed group has lagged, they are still inspired and would jump at the chance to reorganize around a COA cause./ Aaron Kuehl suggested the team set up a steering committee (one person from each COA) to guide COA priorities for the IFAWAT / Tom Clay said to be careful – COAs are not the only reason for an NGO to participate.

There were several comments about the need for a sub-committee to help David Myers and the IFAWAT with the COA project in promoting the idea to interested conservationist, landowners and organizing them.

Action Item: John Rogner said that he agreed that a sub-committee to formulate strategy to address the need to contact and organize the conservation community and landowners in and around the Conservation Opportunity Areas identified in the Wildlife Action Plan would be an idea with merit and asked that interested parties who would like to help with this project to please contact **Joel Cross – 217 785-8266** or joel.cross@illinois.gov.

Joel Cross gave an update on the SWG FY08 status and a discuss ensued as to the possibility of opening up again the competitive process that IDNR used in FY07 to distribute the SWG funding. Jim Anderson felt that the process of selection should be sped up, since the pre-proposals are already in-hand and have been for over a year now. Don McFall commented that a whole new round of pre-proposals would upset the people who's submitted pre-proposals are at IDNR waiting for disposition. Tammy Miller (Watson) commented that a similar system to the one that C2000 had could be used. John Rogner said that he realized that the process needed to be expedited but until the fiscal situation was clear, that IDNR would have to wait.

A discussion ensued with Eric Schenck saying that IDNR needs to look beyond SWG for funding, because the amount of money that SWG provides won't even make a dent in the conservation actions that are needed and that an effort is needed to encompass all funding toward a common goal / Mike Myers felt that pre-proposal selection should have a COA as a priority when ranking SWG pre-proposals / Jim Anderson commented that the 2008 SWG selection process needed to be accelerated .

John Rogner said that the situation with the USFWS Competitive SWG funding process would have to be watched closely as the deadline to have a proposal submitted to the USFWS was January 8th, 2010. There was no definitive discussion on who might have the match money up front to even submit a Competitive SWG proposal.

John Rogner as TNC's Jim Herkert to update the Team on the project that IDNR and TNC had agreed to start where TNC would receive a one-time contract to provide the Climate Change revision to the IL Wildlife Action Plan. Jim explained that of the Fed's required eight elements, TNC felt that the most important ones for them to focus on would be the first three. Jim also explained that using the AFWA Climate Change guidance document, they would address the first three of the four chapters, providing IDNR with Vulnerability Assessment, Outline an Adaptive Management Approach, Recommend Changes and Additions to Existing Monitoring Programs.

John Rogner opened the floor up for any implementation discussion.

Eric Schenck felt that it would be important to gather success stories around the state every year to compile a "Conservation Story"/ Jim Anderson mentioned that Wisconsin has "GEMS" 100 sites around the state with "GEM SITE DAYS" / Lesli Sgro felt that the Outdoor Writers could help the GEMS idea / Nancy Erickson commented that the team needs to make sure that landowner success stories are included / Jim Anderson mentioned the Great Lakes Restoration 450 Mil. ** Being pushed by Obama - a DePaul Univ. project backed by the NSF 100 sites for 100 years and an effort by UIC - Ecosystem Services and Lake Co = Lincoln Park Zoo growing green snakes for reintroduction

Action Item: John Rogner felt that the idea of "Conservation Success Stories" of NGO's and Landowners was an excellent idea and asked for people interested in being on a sub-committee to help prepare and market those stories to please contact **Joel Cross – 217 785-8266** or joel.cross@illinois.gov.

James Perino felt that IDNR needed to do a better job of working with IDOT to insure that IDOT was guided in their mitigation efforts to implement conservation practices that were in accordance with the IWAP.

John Rogner requested dates for the next meeting and the consensus was that the team needed to meet at least once a quarter.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm

Next Meeting - The date for the next meeting was set: Wed **Feb 10th 2010 1- 3 pm** at IDNR Hdqrts.