

# MINUTES

## from the 16th Meeting of the Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Team

Nov 16<sup>th</sup> 2011- 1 pm

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor - Director's Board Room

### In attendance were:

**Members:** John Rogner, Jim Herkert, Jim Anderson, Elliot Brinkman, Tom Clay, Randy Heidorn, Anne Mankowski, Eric Schenck, Trent Thomas, Matthew Lechner, Mike Redmer, Jim Renn

**Campaign Leads:** Debbie Bruce, John Buhnerkempe, Paul Brewer, Mike Wefer, Nancy Williamson, Ann Holtrop

**Interested Parties:** IDNR: John Buhnerkempe, Don McFall, Kathy Andrews, Gwen Kolb(USFWS)

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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>

**Asst Dir John Rogner** Called the meeting to order.

**Asst Dir John Rogner** welcomed all attendees to the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IL Fish and Wildlife Action Team and called the meeting to order

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

**Asst Dir John Rogner** asked that the minutes for the last meeting be approved; Jim Anderson moved to approve and Tom Clay 2<sup>nd</sup> and they were unanimously approved.

**Tom Clay – Vital Lands** Tom gave an update of the Vital Lands to the group. Stating the common goals meet the goals of the IL Wildlife Action Plan

Main goals are:

1. Public Access
2. Stewardship

Tom Clay gave an introduction to the Vital Lands Illinois website which is a commons and allows registered users to share information and comments about conservation in Illinois. All an interested party has to do is request via email to a webmaster, Todd Erickson for registration and they will then be able to log onto the website with an email and password.

To access the VitalLandsILCommons

Go to: <http://vitallandsillinois.ning.com/?xqi=18ogef0kNjMe1m> for instructions.

**Elliot Brinkman/ Angella Moorehouse** gave an update of the progress for the **Upper Mississippi River Habitat Management Plan.**

**Eric Schenck** presented an update of the **Middle Mississippi River COA**

The 500 yr flood plain area along the Mississippi River is identified.

There are 23 Partners involved

The goals are divided into two phases

There is a Hydro Geomorphic study done

Funding is a challenge at the present for the group

**Asst Dir John Rogner** suggested contacting the USFWS and Missouri Conservation Dept.

**14<sup>th</sup> meeting ACTION ITEM:** **Jim Anderson** will lead a subcommittee on the topic of feral wildlife and will contact several entities and scientists who are dealing with this issue and draft a white paper with recommendations spelling out what actions should be taken and outcomes expected and present their findings to the Action Team.

## **Campaigns updates -**

- **FORESTRY CAMPAIGN** - **Lead Paul Brewer** gave a hand out and updated the group on the progress of this campaign.
- **WETLAND CAMPAIGN** - **Lead John Buhnerkempe** said that SIU staff is working on the Wetland Campaign and an Implementation Plan – Jan 2012 will be the first meeting / they intend to draft a plan by the end of 2011.
- **GREEN CITIES CAMPAIGN** - **Lead Nancy Williamson** use her power point from the last meeting to update what activities were taking place within the campaign.
- **STREAMS CAMPAIGN** – **Lead Ann Holtrop** gave her report on updates for the campaign.

- **FARMLAND and PRAIRIE CAMPAIGN** - **Lead Mike Wefer** provided a hand out and updated the group on what was new in implementing the campaign.
- **INVASIVE SPECIES CAMPAIGN** - **Don McFall** gave the update for **Lead Jody Shimp** stating that the people working on this campaign are the Shawnee Recourse Conservation and Development Council and Chris Evans. They are in the process of establishing a campaign team and “strike teams”.

**Jim Herkert** – **Dir Office of Resource Conservation** gave an update on SWG 2011 funds saying that the monies were going to be distributed among three areas: Invasive control; Public projects; Office helping campaigns to move forward.

#### **TEAM MEMBER UPDATES:**

**Ducks Unlimited** – **Eric Schenck** – said that work is being done in the Illinois River COA in the Peoria Pool and the LaGrange pool; Morainial area in Northeastern Illinois.

**U.S. Forest Service** - **Matthew Lechner** - said that 6,500 acre area is being worked on for improvement and also the Mississippi River flood plain area.

500 people attended their River Day activities

They burned 5,000 acres in the Spring

**American Fishery Society**(IL chapter) – **Trent Thomas** – The 50th Anniversary Conference of the IL Chapter of the American Fisheries Society will be February 21-23, 2012 at Starved Rock.

**Next IFAWAT meeting will be Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup> 2012 1 pm IDNR hdqrts 3<sup>rd</sup> flr Director’s Board Room**

**Asst Dir John Rogner** adjourned the 15th Meeting of the **Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Team**