

MINUTES from the 10th Meeting of the Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Team

February 10th 2010 1 pm

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

Members Present: Director Marc Miller, Deputy Director Leslie Sgro, Deputy Director Deborah Stone, Joel Cross, James Renn, Kent Adams, Brian Anderson, Jim Anderson, Nancy Erickson, Gregg Good, Anne Mankowski, Charles Perino, Mike Redmer, Trent Thomas, (14 board members present)

Interested Parties: John Buhnerkempe, Debbie Bruce, Michael Mason, Tim Schweizer, Kathy Andrews, Tammy Miller, Nancy Williamson, Jody Shimp, Bob Szafoni, Ann Holtrop

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Director Marc Miller welcomed all attendees to the 10th meeting of the IL Fish and Wildlife Action Team.

Dir Marc Miller gave an opening statement and asked that introductions be made.

Asst Dir John Rogner called in via conference telephone from Washington D.C. as he was unable to catch a flight back to IL because of the airports were closed due to all the snow they received.

Dir Marc Miller approved the minutes from the last meeting with a second from Jim Anderson.

Introductions were made by all present.

Deputy Dir Leslie Sgro talked about the topic from the last meeting of the need for Conservation Success Stories in IL. Leslie Sgro asked the editor of the Outdoor Illinois magazine, Kathy Andrews, to speak about the progress. A subcommittee was formed after the last IFAWAT meeting to address the Conservation Success Stories issue and Kathy Andrews, Tim Schweizer and Joel Cross were asked to be the committee who came up with solutions. Kathy suggested that the Outdoor Illinois magazine will have an IL success story each issue and that in addition, there would be an graphical “insert” in each magazine that could be pulled out also and used as a stand-alone ad piece by various groups. Kathy also mentioned that the insert could even be blown up for showing at the IL State Fair.

Deputy Dir Leslie Sgro asked Charlie Foor, GIS specialist, to demo a new concept where by using the technology Arc Server, a constituent could go on line at a IDNR website and view a map of Illinois which would have inter-active graphics that when clicked on would display many different types of information/data, i.e., legislative info, State Wildlife Grant project locations, Conservation Opportunity Areas from the IL Wildlife Action Plan and related data.

Nancy Williamson, Partners for Conservation, suggested that the map could be used to show different charismatic species to help educate people living within the state.

Joel Cross gave an status update for the State Wildlife Grant 2009 funding process.

AD John Rogner gave a status update for the State Wildlife Grant 2010 funding for Illinois.

Nancy Williamson, Partners for Conservation, presented a report on the NGO's in her territory efforts to implement the IL Wildlife Action Plan's Green Cities campaign. The report was very comprehensive and was well received by the team. Deputy Director Leslie Sgro felt that the

report possibly could be used in some format as one of the inserts in the Outdoor Illinois magazine. Nancy Williamson also brought up the progress her area was making on forming COA partnerships. Tammy Watson, Partners for Conservation, agreed that they felt that this was what was being asked of the local NGO's to form.

Deputy Director Leslie Sgro continued the discussion with Nancy Williamson about these COA partnerships and the definition of them and the exact need for a "formal" group when the NGO's already existed in or near a COA. Nancy Williamson said that the T-55 project coordinator David Myer was the person who suggested that these "formal" groups be formed. Further discussion will be needed to define just what the role of NGO's and the COA's will be in the future.

Deputy Director Leslie Sgro reported about increasing interest by the states to add Plants Species in Greatest Need of Conservation to the their Wildlife Action Plans. Some states are considering an effort to try and persuade congress to amend the State Wildlife Grant law to include plants in the SWG funding language. Ms. Sgro suggested the team could discuss the topic at the next meeting in May.

Anne Mankowski passed out an IDNR produced report entitled, "Analysis of IL plants in need of conservation – a supplement to the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan"

Jody Shimp, IDNR Natural Heritage Div, passed a NatureServe produced report titled, "Hidden in Plain Sight - The Role of Plants in State Wildlife Action Plans".

Jim Anderson asked if there was any update information on the status of the IL Wildlife Action Plan. Deputy Director Leslie Sgro then asked Brian Anderson if he would update the team on the Climate Change bill in congress. Anne Mankowski also stated that she feels that there is language within the Wildlife Action Plan that calls for updates to accommodate revisions to the list of Illinois endangered and threatened species.

Deputy Director Leslie Sgro and Brian Anderson, IL Natural History Survey, suggested that a template for revising the Plan be created.

Nancy Erickson, IL Farm Bureau, said that their IL conference of IL Farm Bureaus would be held on Feb 23rd, 2010 at the Crown Plaza and Jim Renn from IDNR would be there in the booth area to talk to attendees about the IL Wildlife Action Plan.

Jim Anderson, Chicago Wilderness, said that they are working on two grants from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative - monitor wetlands 2.6 Mil over 5 yrs.

Gregg Good, IL EPA, said that they had purchased a new boat for use in water quality monitoring in Lake Michigan and harbors.

NEXT MEETING: May 26th, 2010 was the date agreed on for the next IFAWAT meeting.