

MINUTES

from the 13th Meeting of the Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Team

February 16th 2011- 1 pm

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

Members Present: John Rogner, Leslie Sgro, Deb Stone, Jim Herkert - Kent Adams, Brian Anderson, Jim Anderson, Gene Barickman, Tom Clay, Nancy Erickson, Gregg Good, Randy Heidorn, Laura Kammin, Aaron Kuehl, Matthew Lechner, Anne Mankowski, Richard Nichols, Charles Perino, Marshall Plumley, Mike Redmer, Eric Schenck, Trent Thomas, Jeff Walk, Mike Wefer,--- Joel Cross, Jim Renn

Interested Parties: IDNR: John Buhnerkempe, Don McFall, Kathy Andrews, Paul Brewer, Dan Stephenson, Ann Holtrop, Mike Moomey

=====

Asst Dir John Rogner welcomed all attendees to the 13th meeting of the IL Fish and Wildlife Action Team and called the meeting to order

Asst Dir John Rogner asked that the minutes for the last meeting be approved and they were unanimously approved.

Asst Dir John Rogner gave an update on the Continuing Resolution now under consideration in the US House of Representatives and how the current iteration has zeroed out any funding for the State Wildlife Grant program.

“SEC. 1712. Notwithstanding section 1101, the level for “Department of the Interior, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, State and Tribal Wildlife Grants” shall be \$0.”

To read the CR, go to <http://tinyurl.com/4v4ltbk>

<http://appropriations.house.gov/files/ProgramCutsFY2011ContinuingResolution.pdf>

Jim Renn provided several “hardcopy” examples of communication that IDNR and other entities are sending to the House of Representatives to voice concern about the cuts to be made to the State Wildlife Grant program. Jim Renn also sent eCopies of all of this material in a email to all team members.

- **Important Sites Update:**

Jeff Walk – asked about IDNR’s Plans of Work – was told that this year they were a little behind but next year should be in better shape.

Tent Thomas – Vermilion River was considered the river to work on first.

- **Campaigns update:**

FARMLAND and PRAIRIE CAMPAIGN:

Mike Wefer: The committee met at U of I Dec 16th.

Pyramid and Saybrook were agreed upon as the most important sites to work on first

Prairie Chicken release

Jeff Walk - The Green River lowlands should be incorporated into the Rock River COA

Grand Prairie- developing good GIS maps / looking for land owners willing to participate

Shrubland habitat is very important and we need to analyze how to manage it.

Grassland management in the Plan needs updating

Next meeting of the committee hopefully in April 2011

Tom Clay - Reminded the Team about the 50th anniversary of the Prairie Ridge

Asst Dir John Rogner - IDNR needs to tell a better story about its accomplishments –

ACTION ITEM: **John Rogner** asked Deputy Director Deborah Stone (chair of the Communications Committee) to look into ways to accomplish this task.

FOREST CAMPAIGN:

John Buhnerkempe - In for Paul Brewer who could not attend, for the Forest Campaign update. Start up on this has been slow and Jeff Hoover, the PI on the grant is just getting started. John Buhnerkempe also asked for volunteers on this campaign.

ACTION ITEM: **John Rogner** asked John Buhnerkempe to send a copy of the Forest Campaign grant proposal that Jeff Hoover is working on to Jim Renn and he will distribute to the team.

WETLAND CAMPAIGN:

John Buhnerkempe said no lead for this campaign yet, looking for volunteers

- Working with the Univ of Wisc
- Working with the National Wetlands Inventory
- Trying to determine what are the “key” species
- There is a proposal for review

GREEN CITIES:

Nancy Williamson, the lead, was not available to attend and give a report.

- **CLIMATE CHANGE –**

Jeff Walk gave his presentation of the final version of The Nature Conservancy's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for the state of Illinois, which was contracted by the IL DNR. eCopies are available from Jim Renn, please email Jim if you want a copy emailed to you.

- **AFWA Climate Change meeting Dec 2010 and Action Plan Coordinator's meeting Jan 2011:** Jim Renn gave a presentation on information given at these two meetings that he attended.

ACTION ITEM: **Jeff Walk** and **Jim Renn's** presentations will be posted on the IFAWAT sharepoint website

- **PLANTS** added to the Wildlife Action Plan-

Ann Mankowski gave an update on the status of this effort

Jim Anderson commented that he assumed that the plants should be organized by Natural Division when added to the Action Plan.

ORC Office Dir Jim Herkert - gave a brief update to clarify what the goals and objectives are for the Important Sites; COA's; Focus Areas. Brian Anderson had raised this concern but was not in attendance for this clarification.

Asst Dir John Rogner - commented about the COAs and past history of the C2000 program. John felt that we should move forward based on the information that the T-55 project collected on how partners feel and interpret the term COA.

A lively discussion ensued

“ COAs are small specific areas not to be rolled p into Campaigns”

ORC Office Dir Jim Herkert - Update on SWG funding – General Assembly didn't act on giving DNR authority to spend state matching money for the SWG FY 2010 funding cycle so can not proceed with SWG 2010 projects yet.

ORC Office Dir Jim Herkert - Wildlife Action Plan revision update – Dir. Herkert said that no team had been put together yet.

- **Implementation Updates:** no reports were given

Next IFAWAT meeting will be Wednesday May 18th, 2011

Meeting ajourned