

# MINUTES FROM THE 4th Meeting of the Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Team

April 25, 2007 10:00 am

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

**Members Present:** Leslie Sgro, Mike Conlin, Joel Cross, James Renn, Mike Redmer, Nancy Erickson, Tom Clay, Ann Marie Holtrop, Randy Heidorn, Dick Little, Joe Seten, Gene Barickman, Tom Schartz, Jim Herkert, Kevin Bennett, Ms. Terry Savko, Felecia Hurley, Kent Adams, Eric Schenck, Rudy Habben, Don King, Jennifer Filipiak, Tim Schweizer  
**Topic experts:** Mike Mason, Tom Heavisides, John Wilker – **Interested Parties:** John Buhnerkempe, Glen Kruse, David Thomas

**INTRODUCTIONS/ Opening Statement.....Leslie Sgro, Wildlife Action Team Chair**

## OLD BUSINESS

**IL Wildlife Action Plan Executive Summary** - Everyone said they had received enough of the new Wildlife Action Plan brochures - don't forget, we have plenty in stock so if you have an upcoming event and would like us to ship out some to you please email with at least 4-5 days advance notice.

**Status of the Comprehensive Conservation Survey** - Jim Renn gave an update of the survey and stated that the current survey, from the "Survey Monkey" website was being put on hold because it was thought that the new SharePoint survey function might be a better solution but further investigation revealed that the SharePoint survey functionality will not be sufficient for the needs of the team's conservation survey. More investigation is needed to solve the survey problem.

**Status of the SharePoint "wiki" site:** Jim Renn gave a quick update of the team's site and said that the site is ready to be launched and that emails with the team's User ID and Passwords will be sent out shortly. Jim gave a demo of the site later in the meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**      **\*\*\*\*\* Next meeting July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2007 10 am – 2 pm \*\*\*\*\***

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- A short questionnaire was passed out to the team members in order to gauge how the team meetings are progressing.
- **Roundtable Updates from Team Members** - A round table forum was opened up for each member to talk about a success story they have in implementing the Wildlife Action Plan.

## Report of Conservation Activity by team members:

- **FSA - Don King started off the team roundtable with a brief explanation of the new State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement that the FSA is going to be managing. On March 22, 2007, FSA announced a new initiative, CRP560 "SAFE", to allow State Offices to address local wildlife conservation needs. SAFE allows producers to install practices that benefit high priority State wildlife conservation objectives through the use of targeted restoration of vital habitat. This cooperative conservation effort is based on locally developed conservation proposals that address the highest priority wildlife objectives in the State before the practice maybe implemented. The proposals will be considered by FSA STC after a review by the State Technical Committee. CEPD will review all STC recommendations. The documents are located on the Team's wiki site under Funding Opportunities.**
- **TNC - Jim Herkert talked about the TNC land acquisition for wildlife along the Little Wabash River / 255 acres in Clay County / Emiquon is moving right along with the restoration of its dry and wet prairie / working with TPL to educate the legislators to help them bring forth legislation that would set requirements for conducting controlled burns.**

- **Dept of Agriculture – Ms. Terry Savko said they are working on Enterprise Zoned expansion / Monitoring new gas/ oil pipelines coming through the state / working with landowners on Wind Turbines. There are now 121 wind turbine sites operational near Bloomington, IL**
- **USFWS – Mike Redmer said that USFWS Region 3 has designated the Chicago Field Office to take the lead in coordinating USFWS activities in Illinois with the state Wildlife Action Plan.**
- **NWTF – Kent Adams said they are involved in the Shawnee Open Lands, a State Wildlife Grant project of some 500 acres / developed an Illinois state newsletter in their Get in the Game magazine / 2000 landowners receive this magazine / NWTF wants to put an article about the Wildlife Action Plan in their magazine.**
- **Illinois chapter of the Audubon Society - Tom Clay said 56 acres that the Audubon Society bought will be turned over to IDNR.**
- **Pheasants Forever - Tom Schwartz said they are working on CP33, 20,000 acres / Woodland Task Force / a land acquisition of 520 acres in McLean County / 4<sup>th</sup> Hub for the Southern Till Plain project and the wheel initiative / burned over 2,000 acres / Looking for stories to put into their magazine**
- **Ducks Unlimited – Eric Schenck said they are working with IDNR on National Wetland Inventory / Doris Duke foundation in the Northeastern Moraine/ Upper and lower Mississippi wetlands / Marshall County State Wildlife area / Confluence of the Sangamon and Illinois Rivers / and 332 acres**
- **IL Forestry Development Council – Dick Little said they are working on the State wide forestry plan**
- **Chicago Wilderness – Jennifer Filipial stated that within CW, wildlife professionals have come together to form a "Wildlife Task Force" under Chicago Wilderness's Natural Resource Management Team. The newly formed task force is comprised of over 100 individuals from over 70 organizations. We hope to work with the IFAWAT in the future.**
- **IDNR – Leslie Sgro announced the resurrection of the Youth Conservation Corps in Illinois. Goal is to get 1 million teens actively working on conservation over the next 2 years on IDNR land / Kids program/ Woodland Task Force / an idea being investigated is the barging of Illinois River silt down to the state of Louisiana / Vermilion County, a discovery of an underground petrified forest from millions of years ago/**

**SWG '07 Allocation –** Jim Renn discussed that the new 2007 State Wildlife Grant deadline is over and the pre-proposals are being reviewed and will be sent to the Federal Aid Committee for review and successful candidates will be notified around August 1<sup>st</sup> 2007

**DEMO of the new SharePoint “wiki” site:** Jim Renn gave a “live” demo of the new Action Team SharePoint “wiki” site showing the prominent features of the software.

**LUNCH was provided by IDNR -** The IDNR office was having an “fishing day” and team member Mike Conlin, IDNR’s ORC Division Chief, invited all of the Action Team members downstairs to the cafeteria for lunch and to try their hand at fishing in a catch and release venue in the pond just off the cafeteria’s deck area.

- **The new Plant update to the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan was passed out to the team members as an addendum to their IL Wildlife Action Plan ring binders. The question was raised, was this the final version or was there room for comment. Glen Kruse, Chief of the Natural Heritage Division of IDNR, said that any corrections would be welcomed.**
- **Discussion started on the topic of finding out just what the cost will be to implement the Wildlife Action Plan in Illinois. This topic will need more discussion. On the team wiki site, several economic studies are posted addressing this issue.**
- **Discussion turned to just how to market the Wildlife Action Plan to the public to garner support from the public and conservation groups to help raise awareness about the Action Plan throughout Illinois communities.**
  - **Several ideas were to take the national goals and make them local goals.**

- “ Why is the Action Plan relevant to the average IL voter?”
- Do more articles in NGO magazines on the Plan
- Do more articles in the Outdoor Illinois magazine on the Plan
- Give site specific examples for promoting the Action Plan

Joel Cross cited the Cache River Project that is beginning and their goal is to market the conservation goals of the Cache River area the build local support for their implementation plans. Joel said that once they get started then maybe they could give the team some ideas on how to successfully market the Wildlife Action Plan statewide.

## **NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The Team picked July 17th for the next meeting of the IL Fish and Wildlife Action Team. It will be at IDNR building again, in the same room, 10 am - 2 pm and lunch will be provided.

- **Only four questionnaires were returned.**

## **Some of the changes / suggestions for topics to talk about were:**

**“Coordinating habitat / other management activities on a regional scope  
(based on campaigns)”**

**“Funding the Plan, marketing the Plan, outreach for the Plan”**

**“ It would help to quantify what, specifically are the goals of the Wildlife Action Team”**

**The four people who responded felt that the meeting frequency was fine but that if the wiki site started to be used a lot then the meetings could be fewer.**

**The four people who responded felt that the Team’s structure was setup just fine.**

## **Minutes prepared by:**

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**Send all comments/ changes/ improvements to Jim Renn**