

# MINUTES

## from the 14th Meeting of the Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Team

May 18<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

**Members Present:** John Rogner, Jim Herkert - Jim Anderson, Gene Barickman, Elliot Brinkman, Tom Clay, Randy Heidorn, Don King, Matthew Lechner, Richard Nichols, Charles Perino, Mike Redmer, Eric Schenck, Dan Stephenson, Trent Thomas, Nancy Williamson, Nancy Williamson, Jim Renn

**Interested Parties:** IDNR: John Buhnerkempe, Don McFall, Dan Stephenson, Mike Wefer, Shawn Wilcockson, Kathy Andrews, David Myers, Leon Hinz, Gwen Kolb, Tom Heavisides, Kathi Davis USFWS: Gwen Kolb,

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

**Asst Dir John Rogner** welcomed all attendees to the 14<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 and they were unanimously approved.

### Implementation Updates from team members:

**Audubon - Vital Lands** – Eric Schenck - more meetings are planned.

**IL Nature Preserve Commission** – Randy Heidorn - a task force is being put together to analyze issues that are pressing

**Chicago Wilderness** – Jim Anderson - look for more funding options / Locate all of the Oak communities in the CW's area of influence – only 6 parcels > 600 Acres left / develop Oak Recovery Plans

\*John Rogner thought that this effort could be tied into the IWAP's Forest Campaign, Northern IL's Conservation Foundation, McHenry County.

Also: "native" landscapes are important. University of Delaware professor Doug Tallamy's new book, "Bringing Nature Home" is a book everyone should read.

“according to Tallamy, we can save the declining numbers of insects, birds, rodents and mammals that currently threatens to destroy our food web, simply by making better use of our lawns. “ [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/isabel-cowles/bringing-nature-home-fost\\_b\\_559034.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/isabel-cowles/bringing-nature-home-fost_b_559034.html)

**USFS – Illinois** – Matthew Lechner - working in the Shawnee Forest - 12,000 acres will be burned/ 300 acres of Invasive Species sprayed with herbicides / 16,000 acres in S.E. IL counties to be burned due to the ice storm damage a few years ago / Pine timber sale this summer / work on 3 wetland projects.

## Conservation Opportunity Area Discussion -

- **T-55 Project Wrap-up** - David Myers

David gave his summary of the accomplishments of the T-55 SWG project over the last three years and some guidelines for the future effort by IDNR to keep the momentum going with the CBO's (community-based organizations) that he had worked with to focus their conservation planning using the IWAP's COAs.

David listed: 1) Engage the Plan 2) Be transparent 3) Decide what is acceptable in partnering with the CBO's efforts and stick to those guidelines 4) Don't underestimate the expertise that is out there 5) Find a way to keep open lines of communication with all of the CBO groups.

David said that a Final report is forthcoming as the project is official over at the end of June 2011. The report will encompass all data and recommendations.

David said that three CBO's were created within his three years on this project: Lower Fox River group / Rock River group / Vermilion River group

**Ducks Unlimited** – Erick Schenck felt that there was not enough organization within IDNR on how to use/integrate information that was gathered by the SWG T-55 project.

**Asst Dir John Rogner** - Enhance “virtual” communities to existing CBO's.  
Communication mechanism for the CBO's to give feedback  
Create a meeting here in Springfield for all the CBO's.

## Campaigns updates

- **GREEN CITIES CAMPAIGN**

**Nancy Williamson:** Region 3 US FWS called a meeting of the Study Team for Hackmatack

WR proposal. DNR and INPC reps are members of study team. Writing of the Environmental Assessment is commencing with input from team.

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/planning/Hackmatack/index.html>

Hackmatack NWR proposal, had meeting, engaging in conversation with US FWS now about mitigation. <http://www.hackmatacknwr.org/about.htm>

*(Nancy's PowerPoint presentation will be posted on the IFAWAT sharepoint website under Meeting Minutes for this date)*

<https://dnr.partner.illinois.gov/ifawat/Meeting%20Minutes/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2fifawat%2fMeeting%20Minutes%2f2011%2fMeeting%205%2d18%2d11&FolderCTID=&View=%7b32EBE8E2%2dE05E%2d4122%2dA964%2d211C2B031A77%7d>

**Asst Dir John Rogner** - Pres. Obama's "America's Great Outdoors" initiative had a "listening sessions" in Chicago. All Federal agencies have been tasked with promoting this effort.

There is to be a meeting to discuss Hackmatack NWR, Access to private lands, Kankakee Wetlands and COA's/Rivers

- **FARMLAND and PRAIRIE CAMPAIGN**

**Mike Wefer:** The campaign committee met at U of I Dec 16<sup>th</sup>.

Pyramid and Saybrook were agreed upon as the most important sites to work on first Prairie Chicken release.

IDNR one of the Farm Bill biologists had to quit. Hope to rehire soon.  
*(Report on the IFAWAT sharepoint website)*

- **WETLAND CAMPAIGN**

**John Buhnerkempe:** John announced that he will take the lead for the Wetland Campaign but wants dedicated volunteers to come forward to help.  
*(Report on the IFAWAT sharepoint website)*

- **Land protection accomplishments through the Doris Duke charitable Foundation's Upper Midwest Wildlife Habitat Protection Initiative**

Eric Schenck –Ducks Unlimited gave a short talk about Ducks Unlimited being the administrator of the Doris Duke "Challenge" grant which gave 1.5 Million for Illinois land protection and 1 million for Missouri. Ducks picked three natural divisions to work within: 1) Lower Mississippi River 2) Upper Mississippi River 3) Northeastern Morainal. Eric listed the projects that they finished. (Eric's power-point presentation on the IFAWAT's sharepoint website)

- **The role of state agency's (EPA, DOT, Ag) on the Action Team**

**Charles Perino** – IFAWAT's representative from IDOT. Charles discussed the role of IDOT and IDNR and the need for the existing MOU to be revised to be more current.  
*(The outline of Charles' talk is on the IFAWAT's sharepoint website)*

- **State Wildlife Grant for 2010 UPDATE**

Jim Herkert stated that the IL General Assembly will not take up this appropriation approval this session. IDNR will have to wait now until this Fall for a new session and hopefully the General Assembly will take up this over-due task and approve the appropriation so IDNR can spend the SWG 2010 funds that it has but no authority to spend

the money. If the assembly fails to act then the monies will have to be reverted back to the Dept of Interior.

**Next IFAWAT meeting will be Wednesday August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Asst Dir John Rogner** adjourned the 14th Meeting of the Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Team

DRAFT