

MINUTES

from the 17th Meeting of the Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Team

Feb 7th 2012 - 1 pm

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

In attendance were:

Members: John Rogner, Jim Anderson, Brian Anderson, Elliot Brinkman, Tom Clay, Aaron Kuehl, Randy Heidorn, Anne Mankowski, Eric Schenck, Jeff Walk, Trent Thomas, Charles Perino, Matthew Lechner, Mike Wefer, Jim Renn, Ann Holtrop, Gene Barickman

Campaign Leads: John Buhnerkempe, Paul Brewer, Mike Wefer, Nancy Williamson. Ann Holtrop, Jody Shimp

Interested Parties: IDNR: Debbie Bruce, Kathy Andrews, Chris Evans, (Shawnee Invasive Species) Diane Shasteen (IHS) Tim Schweitzer (IDNR)

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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)
<https://dnr.partner.illinois.gov/ifawat/default.aspx>

- Farmland-Prairie Campaign IFAWAT update Feb 7-2012
- Green Cities Campaign - 2-PDFs and 1-PPT
- 1-PPT on the Mussel SWG project
- Charter for COA Task Force
- COA Nomination

Asst Dir John Rogner Called the meeting to order.

Asst Dir John Rogner welcomed all attendees to the 17th 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; Brian Anderson moved to approve and Tom Clay 2nd and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Jeff Walk – COA subcommittee report - Jeff gave an update of the first meeting of

the COA subcommittee meeting on Feb 2nd, 2012. The COA subcommittee identified its role as providing review and recommendations to the IFWAT regarding (1) establishment of new COAs, (2) revision of COA boundaries, and (3) any COA implementation plans that are developed. Jeff agreed to summarize the COA subcommittee's roles and processes in a charter document for the next IFWAT meeting.

14th 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 an update of work on under the Forestry Campaign, including initiation of avian monitoring activities at Oakwood Bottoms in southern Illinois and at Siloam Springs State Park.
- **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 – highlighting Grand Victoria funded projects / Kishwaukee River project / Millennium project / Donnelly Foundation \$150,000 / other states Focus Areas that butt up to Illinois
- **STREAMS CAMPAIGN** – **Lead Ann Holtrop** gave her report on updates for the campaign. The Steering Committee of the Streams Campaign will meet for the first time on February 16 from 1-4 at IDNR Headquarters. Organizations participating include: US Army Corps of Engineers, Sierra Club, Isaac Walton League, Prairie Rivers, US FWS, Openlands, Lewis and Clark Community College, and IDNR (Heritage, Watershed Protection, and Fisheries). The Nature Conservancy, Smallmouth Bass Alliance, Trout Unlimited, USDA, IDOA, and IL EPA have also been invited. Following the Steering Committee meeting, a Science Team will be formed. We anticipate that group meeting before the next Action Team meeting in May. In preparation for the meeting and for supporting broader Streams Campaign implementation, we have been updating the Sharepoint Site. One of the new enhancements is a document library that includes recently completed mussel basin survey reports.
- **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 Resource 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:

Eric Schenck, Ducks Unlimited, presented an update of the Middle Mississippi River COA / 75th DU Anniversary celebration in East Peoria IL / 3000 Acres restored along the Illinois River.

Elliot Brinkman, Prairie Rivers, said their work has been at the Kickapoo SP, a Dynergy Proj and that he was attending the Teaming with Wildlife **Fly-In** in Washington DC to talk about what Illinois has accomplished with SWG funding.

Aaron Kuehl, Pheasants Forever, said that they had restored 7,500 Acres

Jeff Walk, TNC brought up as an FYI the Fifth annual Emiquon Science Symposium
EMIQUON SCIENCE 2012: USING THE PAST TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Dickson Mounds Museum March 8, 2012

The pending legislation in the 97th Illinois General Assembly which is HB 3884 "Overhead Utility Facilities Damage Prevention Act" introduced by Jack D. Franks from Woodstock Illinois was brought up as an FYI. Common Wealth Edison is supporting this legislation.

Asst Dir John Rogner notified the team that due to budget restraints within IDNR, the Outdoor Illinois magazine would cease publication.

Asst Dir John Rogner updated the team on the efforts by Rep. Frank Mautino to win votes to pass legislation for dedicated funding for IL DNR.

Eric Schenk brought up the need for hunting fees to be adjusted.

The team agreed that the next meetings will always be the second Wednesday of the month each quarter of the year. The next team meetings for 2012 will be:

May 10
Aug 08
Nov 14

Next IFAWAT meeting will be May 10th 2012 1 pm IDNR Hdqrts 3rd Flr Director's Board Room

Asst Dir John Rogner adjourned the 17th meeting of the **Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Team**