

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION AGENDA
TWO HUNDRED TENTH MEETING

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Lake View A-C
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702

January 24, 2012 10:00 a.m.

*Documentary Material Enclosed

Item 1: Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

Item 2:* Adoption of Agenda

Item 3:* Approval of Minutes of the 209th Meeting Minutes, September 20, 2011

Item 4: 2012 Meeting Schedule

May 8, 2012 – Jarrett Prairie Center, Byron

September 11, 2012 – Monroe County Annex Building, Waterloo

Item 5: INPC Staff Report

REPORT

Randy Heidorn, Kelly Neal, and Jenny Skufca

Nature Preserves Commission

Item 6: IDNR Staff Report

REPORT

Don McFall

Department of Natural Resources

Item 7: Endangered Species Protection Board Staff Report

REPORT

Anne Mankowski

Endangered Species Protection Board Director

Item 8:* Jo Daviess Co. – Illinois Department of Natural Resources Wiley Addition to Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) proposes to permanently register 104.7 acres as the IDNR Wiley addition to Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve. The proposed IDNR addition, located in the Wisconsin Driftless Natural Division, will provide important buffer to help protect high-quality natural features found within Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve (301.4-acres) and Apple River Canyon Nature Preserve (442.1-acres). Some cliffs within the proposed

addition contain high-quality cliff natural communities identified on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI #1069). A nearly one-mile long segment of the Apple River flows through the proposed addition. The canyon also contains scenic bluffs rising from 100 to 150 feet above the Apple River with deep ravines running back from the main gorge, as well as cold-water springs. The wide ranging diversity of habitats, coupled with the unique geologic history of the canyon, makes this natural area one of the most botanically rich places in Illinois. The INAI identified exceptional areas of dry prairie, cliff communities, and dolomite exposures. Currently, nine state-endangered and four state-threatened plant species are known to occur at Apple River Canyon. One state-endangered plant species, white camass (*Zigadenus elegans*), and two state-threatened plant species, cliff goldenrod (*Solidago sciaphila*) and sullivantia (*Sullivantia sullivantia*), are documented from the proposed addition. Registration of the proposed addition helps support goals of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan (IWAP) in the streams, forest, and prairie campaigns, as well as protecting existing habitat for state-listed plants and animals. If approved, the proposed addition will increase the total acreage of Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve from 301.4 acres to 406.1 acres.

REPORT

John Nelson
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Registration Approval

Item 9:* McHenry Co. – Addition to Black-Crown Marsh Land and Water Reserve, Registration

The IDNR proposes to permanently register 212.1 acres as an addition to the Black-Crown Marsh Land and Water Reserve. The proposed addition, located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division, consists of significant portions of the Black-crown Marsh INAI site (#1503) and upland buffer areas. Black-crown Marsh is ecologically significant due to the diversity and high number of rare, threatened, and endangered wetland-dependant birds that have been documented to use the basin and surrounding uplands for foraging, breeding, and nesting. The marsh is suitable habitat for seven state-threatened or endangered bird species. The site is also recognized as an important regional waterfowl breeding area by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Likewise, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers classified the wetland as biologically significant advanced identification wetland Advanced Identification (ADID #U263). Land acquisition, protection, and habitat management at the Black-crown Marsh INAI site has been a work in-progress since 1998. Much of the natural area has been acquired through fee simple land acquisitions by the IDNR and the Lake County Forest Preserve District. The grasslands are being managed and restored to provide habitat for grassland-dependant birds, nesting habitat for waterfowl, and nesting and foraging for a diversity of other wildlife. Currently, the wetland basin suffers from prolonged inundation caused by failed drain tiles and beaver activity. It is anticipated that a water control structure, installed at the outflow of the basin, will allow for comprehensive management of water levels to promote a mosaic of emergent and open-water conditions, or hemi-marsh. Installation of the water control structure is contingent upon completion of land acquisitions and/or conservation easements. The registration of this addition supports the wetlands campaign, forest campaign, prairie campaign, invasive species campaign, and the land and water stewardship campaign of the IWAP. The proposed addition also supports numerous species identified in the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation. If approved,

the proposed addition will increase the total acreage of Black-Crown Marsh Land and Water Reserve to 373.53 acres.

REPORT
John Nelson
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Registration Approval

Item 10:* Bureau and Putnam Co. – Nature Preserve Addition and Buffer Addition to Miller-Anderson Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication

The IDNR seeks preliminary approval for dedication of three tracts, totaling 169 acres (5 acres as nature preserve and 164 acres as buffer), to Miller-Anderson Woods Nature Preserve. The proposed addition and buffer addition is located in the Illinois River Section of the Upper Mississippi and Illinois River Bottomlands Natural Division and the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. Approximately five acres of one of the tracts is recognized on the INAI (#0382) for its high-quality seep community. Miller-Anderson Woods Nature Preserve provides habitat for many conservative plant species, including the state-threatened queen-of-the-prairie (*Filipendula rubra*) and at least five wildlife species considered to be in greatest need of conservation referenced in the IWAP. Dedication of this addition and buffer addition to Miller-Anderson Woods Nature Preserve will increase the size of the site to 509 acres, protect remnant natural communities, buffer higher quality natural communities and state-listed species, and help complete this site's preserve design.

REPORT
Kim Roman
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 11:* DuPage Co. – Brewster Creek Marsh Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC) seeks preliminary approval for dedication of 256.8 acres of Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve (190.6 acres as nature preserve and 66.2 acres as buffer) as Brewster Creek Marsh Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in the far northwestern corner of DuPage County and lies within the boundary of the Pratt's Wayne Woods INAI site (#1401). This INAI site has been recognized as a Category II site (presence of endangered or threatened species) because of the presence of ten state-listed animals and three state-listed plants. Of these, the three state-listed plant species [dwarf bur reed (*Sparganium chlorocarpum*), green yellow sedge (*Carex viridula*), and marsh speedwell (*Veronica scutellata*)]; and eight state-listed animals [American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), black tern (*Chlidonias niger*), black-crowned night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), common moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), little blue heron (*Egretta caerulea*), yellow-headed blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), and a reptile] are associated with the grade C freshwater marsh community at this site. The other state-listed species present at this site include the osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) and black-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*). The site also includes a low-gradient small stream and a cultural community referred to as a managed grassland. Protection of Brewster Creek Marsh as an Illinois nature preserve is consistent with

elements of wetland and grassland campaigns of the IWAP and provides critical habitat for wildlife species in greatest need of conservation.

REPORT
Erik Neidy and Rachel Reklau
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 12:* DuPage Co. – Des Plaines Riverway Nature Preserve, Dedication

The FPDDC seeks preliminary approval for dedication of 75.9 acres of the Des Plaines River Forest Preserve as Des Plaines Riverway Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in the far southeastern corner of DuPage County. Although the proposed Des Plaines Riverway Nature Preserve is not an INAI site, the site does support qualifying features for this designation that include the presence of the state-threatened marsh speedwell (*Veronica scutellata*), cerulean warbler (*Dendroica cerulean*), black-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*), and state-endangered black-crowned night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). These species all occur within suitable habitat in the proposed nature preserve, and the site supports three natural communities including the wet floodplain forest, wet-mesic floodplain forest, and freshwater marsh and two cultural communities that include managed grassland and old field. The wet floodplain forest is considered the finest example of this community within DuPage County. Protection of Des Plaines Riverway as an Illinois nature preserve supports elements of the forest and wetlands campaigns of the IWAP and provides critical habitat for wildlife species in greatest need of conservation.

REPORT
Erik Neidy and Rachel Reklau
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 13:* DuPage Co. – Glacial Ridge Nature Preserve, Dedication

The FPDDC seeks preliminary approval for dedication of an 8.2-acre glacial kame as Glacial Ridge Nature Preserve. Although isolated, this site is considered administratively by the FPDDC as part of Churchill Woods Forest Preserve. The proposed nature preserve is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in central DuPage County. Although the proposed Glacial Ridge Nature Preserve is not an INAI site, the site does support qualifying features for this designation that include the state-endangered mountain blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium montanum*) and state-threatened pale vetchling (*Lathyrus ochroleucus*). These species occur within suitable habitat that consists of dry-mesic upland forest that FPDDC staff rate as grade B. To date, 235 native plant species have been reported from the site; attesting to its high quality and range of soil moisture conditions and slope orientations. Protection of Glacial Ridge as an Illinois nature preserve supports elements of the forest campaign of the IWAP.

REPORT
Erik Neidy and Rachel Reklau
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 14:* DuPage Co. – Meacham Grove Nature Preserve, Dedication

The FPDDC seeks preliminary approval for dedication of 48.8 acres of the Meacham Grove Forest Preserve as Meacham Grove Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in the north-central part of DuPage County and encompasses the Meacham Grove INAI site (#0523) which was recognized for high-quality dry-mesic and mesic upland forest. To date, the FPDDC staff have recorded 280 native plant species from the site. The proposed nature preserve supports the state-threatened Wood’s stiff sedge (*Carex woodii*) and three birds [northern flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), and wood thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*)] identified in the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation. Protection of Meacham Grove as an Illinois nature preserve supports elements of the forest campaign of the IWAP and provides critical habitat for three wildlife species in greatest need of conservation.

REPORT

Erik Neidy and Rachel Reklau
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 15:* DuPage Co. – Swift Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication

The FPDDC seeks preliminary approval for dedication of a 111.1-acre mosaic of natural communities (66 acres as nature preserve and 45.1 acres as buffer) within the Swift Prairie Forest Preserve as Swift Prairie Nature Preserve. The proposed nature preserve is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in the east-central part of DuPage County and encompasses much of the western portion of the Swift Road Meadow INAI site (#1391). This Category II INAI site includes grade C wet prairie and grade C sedge meadow that support a population of a state-endangered and federally listed species. Other natural communities include freshwater marsh and low-gradient small stream. Cultural communities include old field, artificial impoundment, and a community reconstruction. In addition to the federally-listed plant species, the proposed nature preserve supports the state-threatened white lady’s slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*), eared false foxglove (*Tomanthera auriculata*), least bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*), Kirtland’s snake (*Clonophis kirtlandii*), state-endangered black-crowned night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), and a reptile. To date, the FPDDC staff have recorded 359 native plant species from the site. The proposed Swift Prairie Nature Preserve supports 21 species (18 vertebrates and three invertebrates) identified in the IWAP as species in greatest need of conservation. Protection of Swift Prairie as an Illinois nature preserve supports elements of the wetland and grassland and prairie campaigns of the IWAP and provides critical habitat for 21 species in greatest need of conservation.

REPORT

Erik Neidy and Rachel Reklau
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 16:* DuPage Co. – Buffer Addition to Truitt-Hoff Nature Preserve, Dedication

The FPDDC seeks preliminary approval for dedication of 37.4 acres as a buffer addition to Truitt-Hoff Nature Preserve. The proposed buffer addition is located in the

Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in west-central part of DuPage County. This proposal represents the second buffer addition at this site and would increase the size of the nature preserve from its current size of 285.475 acres (Truitt-Hoff Nature Preserve, 115.974 acres and West Chicago Prairie buffer addition, 169.50 acres) to 322.875 acres. The proposed buffer addition is located just outside the boundary of, but adjacent to, the West Chicago Prairie INAI site (#0505). The INAI site is also known as the West Chicago Prairie buffer addition. The proposed addition supports freshwater marsh and mesic prairies that support populations of a state-endangered reptile and state-threatened white lady's slipper (*Cypripedium candidum*). The state-endangered American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) occurs in the wetlands that extend from this proposed buffer addition into the existing Nature Preserve. Protection of this parcel as a buffer addition is consistent with elements of good preserve design and the wetland and grassland campaigns of the IWAP and provides critical habitat for wildlife species in greatest need of conservation.

REPORT

Erik Neidy and Rachel Reklau
Forest Preserve District of DuPage County

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 17:* Lake Co. – Buffer Addition to the Proposed Dokum Mskoda Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve, Dedication

Liberty Prairie Conservancy seeks preliminary approval for dedication of two separate tracts of land totaling 22.2 acres as a buffer addition to the proposed Dokum Mskoda Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve. The proposed buffer addition is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in east-central Lake County and lies within the boundary of the Oak Grove Botanical Area INAI site (#0654). The INAI site consists of 401 acres of open space extending along the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River. This site has been recognized by the INAI as a Category II site because of the presence of a relatively large and stable population of a state-endangered and federally listed plant species. The proposed buffer addition includes grade C/D sedge meadow and grade D wet-mesic and mesic prairies. The prairies at this site are ranked first (or highest tier) for conservation in the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan and the wetlands have been included on the (ADID) for Lake County in recognition of their high biological and functional value. Protection of the proposed buffer addition to the proposed Dokum Mskoda Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve is consistent with recommendations of the “*North Branch of the Chicago River Open Space (Green Infrastructure) Plan*” and elements of the IWAP.

REPORT

Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 18:* Lake Co. – Openlands Lakeshore, Bluff and Ravine Nature Preserve, Dedication

Openlands seeks preliminary approval for dedication of 77 acres (44 acres as nature preserve and 33 acres as buffer) of the Openlands Lakeshore Preserve as the Openlands Lakeshore, Bluff and Ravine Nature Preserve. The site is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in southeastern Lake

County. The proposed nature preserve was granted preliminary approval for dedication as part of Fort Sheridan Bluff and Ravine Nature Preserve at the Commission's 130th Meeting in February, 1991 (Resolution 1071) and encompasses the Fort Sheridan Bluff INAI site (#1078). This site is being brought back to the Commission because the site is now owned by Openlands (previously owned by U.S. Army, then conveyed to the U.S. Navy) and represents less than a half of the acreage of the site first approved by the Commission. The property is now subject to the terms of two Quit Claim Deeds conveying the property from the U.S. Navy to Openlands. The proposed Openlands Lakeshore, Bluff and Ravine Nature Preserve includes grade C beach and eroding bluff communities and ravines consisting of grade C mesic and dry-mesic upland forest and supports populations of the state-endangered shadbush (*Amelanchier sanguinea*), marram grass (*Ammophila breviligulata*), seaside spurge (*Chamaesyce polygonifolia*), buffalo berry (*Sheperdia canadensis*), and state-threatened sea rocket (*Cakile edentula*), golden sedge (*Carex aurea*), ground juniper (*Juniperus communis*), and dog violet (*Viola conspersa*). This proposal identifies reserved rights as stipulated in the conveyance of the property to Openlands: "...for the purpose of restoring and preserve (the Lakefront Preserve) as a public open space conservation area and nature preserve for passive, low impact to the public, available to the public in perpetuity..." This includes access to, and the right to maintain, existing infrastructure. Openlands specifically requests the right to use the site for educational venues and construct and maintain trails as necessary in order to comply with the terms of the conveyance of the property. Dedication of this site as an Illinois nature preserve is consistent with an earlier determination of the Commission and will protect beach and eroding bluff communities, the Fort Sheridan Bluff INAI site, portions of three ravine systems, habitat that supports eight state-listed plant species, and supports elements of the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan and IWAP.

REPORT

Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 19:* Winnebago Co. – Buffer Addition to Colored Sands Bluff Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Winnebago County Forest Preserve District (WCFPD) requests preliminary approval for the dedication of 184.9 acres as a buffer addition to Colored Sands Bluff Nature Preserve. The proposed buffer addition, located along the border between the Freeport Section of the Rock River Hill Country Natural Division and the Winnebago Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division, contains a variety of natural communities which range from wet-floodplain forest to dry sand prairie and sand savanna. These communities within the Sugar River INAI site (#1466), of which Colored Sands Bluff is a part, serve as habitat to at least nine species of state-listed animals and at least four species of state-listed plants. The Sugar River's riparian corridor serves as a critical migration route for many species of birds. The proposed buffer area will serve as essential protection around Colored Sands Bluff Nature Preserve and the Sugar River. The recreated and restored prairies add valuable native habitat back to the landscape. The restoration work already completed by WCFPD staff serves as a solid indicator that the site will continue to more closely resemble its former presettlement conditions. An onsite group, Sand Bluff Bird Banding Organization, serves as an important scientific and educational resource to the scientific community and the public. Protection of the proposed buffer addition

supports the action steps identified for the prairie campaign, wetlands campaign, forests campaign, and invasive species campaign in the IWAP. Dedication of the proposed 184.9-acre buffer addition will increase the acreage of Colored Sands Bluff Nature Preserve from 54.7 acres to 239.6 acres.

REPORT
Russell Heinrichs
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 20:* Winnebago Co. – Buffer Addition to Sugar River Alder Nature Preserve, Dedication

The WCFPD proposes to dedicate 317 acres as a buffer addition to Sugar River Alder Nature Preserve. The proposed buffer addition, located in both the Freeport Section of the Rock River Hill Country Natural Division and the Winnebago Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division, contains a complete cross section of natural communities representative of this area of the Sugar River which range from wet-floodplain forest and sedge meadow to dry sand prairie and savanna to upland forest. These communities are part of the Sugar River INAI site (#1466) and the INAI site provides habitat to at least nine species of state-listed animals and at least 11 species of state-listed plants. Sugar River Alder Nature Preserve has three of these state-listed plants onsite and includes or helps protect all nine of the state-listed animals. The Sugar River's riparian corridor serves as a critical migration route for many species of birds and is likely important nesting ground for several imperiled species. The proposed buffer addition will serve as essential protection around Sugar River Alder Nature Preserve and the Sugar River. The recreated and restored prairies add valuable native habitat back to the landscape of Illinois. The restoration work already completed by WCFPD staff serves as a solid indicator that the site will continue to more closely resemble its former presettlement conditions. Protection of the proposed buffer addition supports the action steps identified for the prairie campaign, wetlands campaign, forests campaign, and invasive species campaign outlined in the IWAP. Dedication of this buffer addition will increase the acreage of Sugar River Alder Nature Preserve from 184.7 acres to 501.7 acres.

REPORT
Russell Heinrichs
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Preliminary Approval for Dedication

Item 21:* Cook Co. – Markham Prairie – East Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) seeks final approval for dedication of Markham Prairie - East (consisting of 121 lots totaling 32.0 acres) as an Illinois nature preserve. Platted, but unbuilt roads, and nine privately-owned lots are not included. Markham Prairie - East is one of five prairies collectively referred to as the Indian Boundary Prairies located in the Chicago Lake Plain Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The other prairies include Gensburg-Markham Prairie, Sundrop Prairie, Paintbrush Prairie, and Dropseed Prairie. Of the 508.1 acres of the Indian Boundary Prairies that have been included on the INAI, 386.35 acres have been dedicated as part of the Illinois nature preserves system. Final dedication of this site will increase the amount of land included in the nature preserves system to 418.35 acres. The proposed nature preserve encompasses much, but not all of, the Markham

Prairie - East INAI site (#0424). The INAI recognized grade A and B mesic prairie and grade B sedge meadow. Staff of TNC now recognize these communities as grade C mesic prairie and grade B/C wet prairie (as opposed to grade B sedge meadow) and attribute the decline in quality to intrusions to the site and, until recently, lack of management. Dedication of this site as an Illinois nature preserve is consistent with the recommendations of an approved Site Design Plan prepared for the Indian Boundary Prairies by TNC and will protect mesic prairie and wet prairie/sedge meadow that are considered conservation priorities by the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan. TNC is committed to renewed efforts to manage the site. Dedication of Markham Prairie – East also supports elements of the IWAP; specifically action steps to restore and manage high-quality prairie communities. The site received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission’s 208th Meeting in May, 2011 (Resolution 2139).

REPORT
Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 22:* Kankakee Co. – Addition to Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve, Dedication

The IDNR seeks final approval for dedication of 77 acres as an addition to Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve. This acreage is part of the Leesville Savanna INAI site (#1006), which is collectively owned by the IDNR, TNC, and private landowners. In 2009 and 2010, TNC dedicated its holdings as Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve. The IDNR wishes to help complete preserve design of this site by dedicating its qualifying acreage as a nature preserve addition. The 77 acres lie within the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division, which is recognized by the IWAP as a conservation opportunity area. Leesville Savanna is included on the INAI for its grade B dry and dry-mesic sand savannas, grade B sand flatwoods, and for the presence of 12 state-listed species: yellow wild indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*), crowded oval sedge (*Carex cumulata*), narrow-leaved sundew (*Drosera intermedia*), northern cranesbill (*Geranium bicknellii*), old plainsman (*Hymenopappus scabiosaeus*), shore St. John’s wort (*Hypericum adpressum*), another wildflower, Carey’s smartweed (*Polygonum careyi*), bristly blackberry (*Rubus setosus*), eastern blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium atlanticum*), primrose violet (*Viola primulifolia*), and regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*). Ten of these state-listed species occur within the proposed addition and will provide another 77 acres of the Leesville Savanna INAI with the highest protection offered by the state of Illinois. It will also protect additional habitat for many plants and animals of conservation concern. This IDNR addition will increase the size of Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve to 155-acres and will facilitate uniform management of this important site to maintain its unique landscape character. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 209th Meeting in September, 2011 (Resolution 2139).

REPORT
Kim Roman
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED
Final Approval for Dedication

Item 23:* Lake Co. – Dokum Mskoda Sedge Meadow Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Fields of Cambridge Homeowner’s Associations seeks final approval for dedication of Dokum Mskoda Sedge Meadow as an Illinois nature preserve. The proposed 92.76-acre nature preserve (25.39 acres as nature preserve and 67.37 acres as buffer) is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division in east-central Lake County. The proposed nature preserve lies within the boundary of the Oak Grove Botanical Area INAI site (#0654), an unprotected matrix of 401 acres of open space that extends along the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River. This site has been recognized by the INAI as a Category II site because of the presence of a relatively large and stable population of a state-endangered and federally listed plant species. This plant species, and 96 other native plant species recorded from this site, are associated with the grade C/D sedge meadow and grade C/D wet-mesic and mesic prairies. The prairies at this site are ranked first (or highest tier) for conservation in the Chicago Wilderness Biodiversity Recovery Plan and the wetlands have been included on the ADID for Lake County in recognition of their high biological and functional value. Protection of this site is consistent with recommendations of the “*North Branch of the Chicago River Open Space (Green Infrastructure) Plan*” which identified the proposed nature preserve as a high-quality natural area and with elements of the IWAP. The site, formally known as Fields of Cambridge Sedge Meadow and Prairie, received preliminary approval for dedication at the Commission’s 204th Meeting in January, 2010 (Resolution 2058).

REPORT

Steven Byers
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 24:* Pulaski Co. – Hartman Spring Nature Preserve, Dedication

The Illinois Audubon Society seeks final approval for dedication of Hartman Spring as an Illinois nature preserve. Hartman Spring is a 40-acre site located in the western part of the Cretaceous Hills Section of the Coastal Plain Natural Division, and comprises the Britton Spring INAI site (#0022). Hartman Spring is significant because it contains high-quality habitat for a state-endangered amphibian, as well as exceptional features of a spring and spring run. Protection of the proposed Hartman Spring Nature Preserve supports action steps identified by the IWAP to preserve a state-endangered amphibian as one of Illinois’ species in greatest need of conservation and to improve natural wetland conditions by protecting acres of INAI spring and seep habitat identified by the IWAP wetlands campaign. The Commission conferred preliminary approval for dedication at its 209th Meeting in September, 2011 (Resolution 2156).

REPORT

Scott Ballard
Department of Natural Resources

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Final Approval for Dedication

Item 25:* Kankakee Co. – Approval of a Single Burial Plot Within Sweet Fern Savanna Land and Water Reserve

Dr. Marianne Hahn, owner of the 121-acre Sweet Fern Savanna Land and Water Reserve, is in the process of finalizing her will and estate plans. Upon her death, it is her wish to be buried within Sweet Fern Savanna Land and Water Reserve. While Dr. Hahn also owns adjacent acreage not encumbered by the easement, none of it is suitable for a burial plot because it is either too wet or is already developed. The proposed burial plot is situated on the perimeter of the Land and Water Reserve in a degraded dune that was formerly a vegetable garden. Dr. Hahn wishes to be buried in a simple biodegradable casket or shroud, without the use of a concrete vault or embalming. The grave will be dug by hand, six feet in depth, seeded with native prairie/savanna mix collected from the site, and marked with a glacial erratic. The proposed burial, materials (or lack thereof), and procedures are lawful within the State of Illinois and compliant with local regulations. Dr. Hahn is seeking approval of this use within the Land and Water Reserve, and staff have prepared an updated management plan which includes a single burial plot as an allowable use.

REPORT

Kim Roman and Kelly Neal
Nature Preserves Commission

ACTION TO BE CONSIDERED

Approval of Request

Item 26: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

Item 27: Other Business

Item 28: Adjournment