

ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

MINUTES OF 188th MEETING, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

via ZOOM

Approved at the 189th meeting, February 5, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Angelo Capparella, Dr. Janice Coons, Dr. Tracy Evans, Dr. Jeremie Fant, Dr. Joyce Hofmann, Mr. Bruce Ross-Shannon, Mr. Randy Schietzelt, Dr. Tih-Fen Ting, Dr. Philip Willink, and Mr. Chris Young

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Todd Strole (IDNR), Heather Osborn (IDNR), Raelynn Parmely (Illinois Farm Bureau), Jeannie Barnes (Illinois Natural History Survey), Nathan Grider (IDNR), Pat Williams (student), Leon Hinz (IDNR), Kelly Neal (Illinois Nature Preserves Commission), Joe Kath (IDNR), Ann Holtrop (IDNR), Brian Metzke (IDNR), Trent Thomas (IDNR), Brad Semel (IDNR), Brian Metzke (IDNR), and Steve Robillard (IDNR).

1. Call to Order, Roll Call of Board Members, and Introduction of Guests

Chair Hofmann called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M. She introduced the new board member Tih-Fen Ting and each board member introduced themselves. Chair Hofmann read the roll call. Nine voting Board members were in attendance, constituting a quorum. Dr. Hofmann welcomed the visitors. Mr. Young called them by name and asked them to introduce themselves.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Ross-Shannon moved that the agenda be adopted as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Coons. The motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

3. Approval of Minutes from the 187th Meeting

Draft minutes of the 187th meeting had been distributed to Board members prior to the meeting by email. Mr. Schietzelt moved that the minutes of the 187th meeting be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ross-Shannon. Chair Hofmann called the roll, and the motion was approved with eight aye votes and one abstention.

4. Report from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

Board members received a report via email and verbally from Ms. Ann Holtrop. The item she highlighted was the listing status of the gray wolf. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is planning to delist this species. That means the IESPB will have to make a listing decision on the status of this species. Mr. Young suggested that a large carnivore specialist be invited to provide background information to aid the board in making its decision. Mr. Kath explained that there is a plan in place to radio collar any wolf in Illinois that can be safely trapped and the USFWS will track it to determine home range and other relevant data.

Dr. Capparella asked about a report stating there is no record of the Red Knot in Illinois. Ms. Holtrop explained that this meant IDNR had no records in its database. He also asked if IDNR looks at cumulative impacts or only the impacts within a single project for an Incidental Take

Authorization. Cumulative impacts are assessed. In the future IDNR hopes to have an individual assigned as a specialist for each listed species.

5. Report from the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC)

An INPC report was distributed to the Board via e-mail and Ms. Kelly Neal addressed the Board. The next meeting is January 26, 2021.

6. Report from the Chair of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board

Chair Hofmann previously provided a written report on her activities since the last meeting, which she briefly summarized. Dr. Hofmann collected the minutes from three of the ESTACs, which were presented for approval at this meeting (items 8-10 in this agenda).

7. Compliance with Mandatory Ethics and Harassment and Discrimination Prevention Training

All Board members have completed the mandatory training. Dr. Ting was appointed to the Board after the expiration time of the training. Mr. Young will check on the requirements for Dr. Ting.

8. Approval of Minutes of the Aquatic Invertebrate Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee Meeting of May 2, 2017

Motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Dr. Capparella and seconded by Mr. Ross-Shannon. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

9. Approval of Minutes of the Fish Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee Meeting of April 12, 2017

Motion to accept the revised minutes as presented was made by Mr. Schietzelt and seconded by Mr. Ross-Shannon. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

10. Approval of Minutes of the Mammal Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee Meeting of September 21, 2017

Motion to accept the revised minutes as presented was made by Mr. Ross-Shannon and seconded by Mr. Schietzelt. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

11. Discussion on the Overall Process for the Review and Revision of the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

Ms. Holtrop gave a slide presentation of IDNR overview of the review process. The focus was bringing the process in Illinois in tandem with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service process. Discussion revolved around the role and composition of the ESTACs. In theory the concept was generally accepted, but there are issues with the logistics. Problems with reconciling the petition process with the IDNR assessment process and minimum acceptable data sources were discussed. Dr. Evans motioned that the Discussion on the Overall Process for the Review and Revision of the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species be tabled until the February meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ross-Shannon and passed unanimously with a roll call vote. Discussion about the petition followed and will also be discussed at the February meeting.

12. Schedule of 2021 Meetings

Meetings were proposed to be held February 5 (via zoom), May 21, August 20, and November 12 (location TBA). Mr. Ross-Shannon motioned to accept this schedule and was seconded by Mr. Scheitzel. The motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

13. Public Comment Period by call-in (3 minutes per person)

No public comments were made.

17. Other Business

Chair Hofmann commended Mr. Young for his photographs at the beginning of the meeting and asked that people send time sheets to Ms. Sorenson at IDNR.

18. Adjournment

Chair Hofmann adjourned the meeting at 12:23 P.M.



ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

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Report from the Chair, 13 November 2020

Joyce Hofmann

Activities for the period between the 187th and 188th Board meetings

- performed follow-up for 187th meeting – arranged for the final agenda of the 187th meeting; the approved minutes of the 186th Board meeting and the Joint Meeting with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission; and the approved minutes of the Avian, Terrestrial Invertebrate, and Amphibian/Reptile Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees (ESTACs) to be posted on the Board's website
- monitored the Board's email account – responded to some messages, forwarded others to appropriate personnel at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
- edited the draft minutes of the Aquatic Invertebrate and Fish ESTAC meetings and distributed them to some committee members for final review
- wrote draft minutes for the Mammal ESTAC meeting and distributed them to committee members for review
- completed Ethics and Harassment and Discrimination Prevention training
- distributed four draft Incidental Take Authorizations (ITAs) to Board members for potential review
- updated list of Board members and their contact information
- discussed assessment of Illinois species with Ann Holtrop, Chief of Division of Natural Heritage
- prepared for the 188th Board meeting – prepared notice for the 188th meeting; edited draft minutes for the 187th Board meeting; developed an agenda for the 188th meeting; had the draft agenda posted on the Board's website and at the IDNR building; distributed materials for the 188th meeting to Board members