

ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE 140TH MEETING

CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

14 NOVEMBER 2008

(approved at the 141st meeting, February 20, 2009)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Dan Gooch, Secretary Chris Phillips, Dr. Mike Retzer, Mr. John Clemetsen, Ms. Susanne Masi, Ms. Marilyn Campbell, Dr. John Taft.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. James Herkert.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Susan Dees (Illinois Department of Transportation); Ms. Rachel Goad, Ms. Dani Drekich, Dr. Kay Havens, and Dr. Pati Vitt (Chicago Botanic Garden); Dr. Jeff Walk (The Nature Conservancy); Mr. Randy Heidorn (Illinois Nature Preserves Commission); Mr. Glen Kruse (Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Office of Resource Conservation); Ms. Anne Mankowski (Endangered Species Protection Board).

140-1 Call to Order, Welcome and Introduction of Guests

Chairman Gooch called the 140th meeting of the IESPB to order at 10:03 A.M. Secretary Phillips called the roll call of Board Members. Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

140-2 Adoption of Agenda

Secretary Phillips moved to approve the agenda, John Clemetsen seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

140-3 Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meetings

Secretary Phillips confirmed that the minutes of the 138th meeting were final and moved to approve the minutes of the 138th meeting. Marilyn Campbell seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Marilyn Campbell moved to approve the minutes of the 139th meeting, subject to an amendment that filled in a blank on page 2 with the species name (*Papaipema eryngii*, **Eryngium Stemborer**) and county (Marion County), John Clemetsen seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

140-4 IDNR Staff Report

Glen Kruse, Chief of the Division of Natural Heritage gave his report (Attachment A). He highlighted that the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory update recently nominated its first Category 1 sites to be added to the INAI (the sites were subsequently approved for addition to the INAI by the Illinois Natural Areas Evaluation Committee). In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Kruse explained that the new Category 1 sites were mostly prairie natural communities and were situated on both private and public lands. Mr.

Kruse also presented to the Board a recently approved *Approach for Recovery Planning in IDNR – ORC* and explained that the document is meant to cover animals and plants.

140-5 INPC Report

Randy Heidorn of the INPC gave the Commission's report (Attachment B). He highlighted that the Commission recently held its 200th meeting and anticipates the dedication of the 500th Nature Preserve within the next year; the dedication at the 200th meeting of the Carl N. Becker Savanna Nature Preserve, Kankakee County; and, the Commission passed a resolution at the same meeting praising the service as a member of the ESPB, of Dr. John Ebinger. Discussion followed concerning the potential impacts of anticipated DNR Park closures on management and research activities. By the end of the meeting, Mr. Heidorn was able to find out that existing research permits involving Nature Preserves and/or Land and Water Reserves would remain valid and confirmed that researchers needed to carry the permits with them when on NP and LWR properties. Mr. Kruse agreed to pursue information regarding any potential changes to research permits on other DNR properties resulting from the anticipated Park closures.

140-6 Introduction of IESPB New Director

Chairman Gooch introduced Anne Mankowski as the new Director of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board. Ms. Mankowski began her appointment November 3, 2008.

140-7 Species Updates

Glen Kruse updated the Board on several species:

Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*) – Mr. Kruse reported that the October, 2008 trip yielded 18 animals. Most of the animals will be cared for over the winter at the Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery in Mason County. All animals there are being kept in slightly warmer water than experience this time of year in the wild which keeps them active and growing all winter and they have seen animals double in size over the past few months. Approximately five mature animals were deposited in the breeding pond in Springfield that was secured this past summer. The St. Louis Zoo is breeding and raising animals for the program as well. Another trip to Louisiana is anticipated for Spring, 2009. The pilot radio-telemetry study in southern Illinois (Heron Pond/Little Black Slough) is currently tracking 10 of the 13 animals released. The research recently provided Joe Kath data summarizing results of an October 15-26, 2008 tracking session. Tracking will continue with reduced effort over the winter and in the spring, they may hire a helicopter to conduct radio-telemetry from the air in hopes of finding the “missing 3”.

Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and other listed bats – With regard to White Nose Syndrome (WNS) - researchers have identified the mold they consider a possible cause of the disease, reporting their findings Thursday [30 Oct 2008] in the online edition of the journal Science:

It is a fragile, unusual form of *Geomyces* fungi, which usually live in cold places such as Antarctica, says David Blehert, lead author of the study. He is head of diagnostic microbiology at the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin. Blehert can't say for certain that the fungus is killing the bats. "Fungi usually don't kill otherwise healthy animals all on their own," he

explains. He says the infection may make a bat wake up too often during hibernation, so that it burns up its reserves of fat too quickly. Joe Kath will be coordinating surveys of strategic hibernacula in Illinois as part of a major Midwest study proposed by the USFWS to detect WNS. He will be using specialized camera equipment on loan from the USFWS. By all accounts, it appears to not be a matter of “if” but “when” WNS will hit the Midwest, as it is steadily moving west across the U.S.

Eastern Massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*) – the Illinois **Eastern Massasauga** recovery team is considering sponsoring the International Massasauga Symposium in 2010, possibly at the St. Louis Zoo. Joe Kath and Mike Redmer (USFWS) are investigating arrangements. Regarding recent developments involving recovery of the eastern massasauga in Illinois and what the Illinois Recovery Team is focusing on, there has been serious discussion regarding collection from the wild and captive breeding which is understandably a serious undertaking, but unfortunately probably necessary. If you have questions, comments, and/or suggestions please contact Joe Kath.

With regard to a final objective of moving from Threatened to Secure, the options developed by the Illinois Recovery Team so far include:

- A) 1 viable population per natural division of historical occurrence
- B) 2 viable populations per natural division of historical occurrence
- C) 1 viable population per natural division a set of additional ones distributed based on historic occupancy in each natural division

Clubshell/Riffleshell (*Pleurobema cordatum*) – After almost 2 years, the Federal NEPA document for the **Clubshell/Riffleshell** augmentation and release project in Illinois and Indiana is finally completed and plans are to begin releases of different age classes within the Vermillion River watershed (North Fork, South Fork, Salt Fork) in Spring, 2009. The revised scope of work estimates that these releases will continue through 2012. Long-term monitoring to determine success is planned.

Applications for Incidental Take Authorization (ITA) continue to come in at a steady pace. There are 6 projects currently active and all are at different phases of the IT process. The most sensitive involves a road alignment in Monroe County and impacts on the **Illinois Cave Amphipod**. This is a very complex project involving several species experts from out of state. A conference call with all individuals involved is planned for Tuesday, November 18. On another ITA, DNR staff were able to work with Clinton County to recommend moving a portion of a large water main replacement project. The realignment will avoid a major **Eastern Massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus*)** hibernacula near Carlyle Lake.

Marilyn Campbell noted that she had brought copies of the Illinois Audubon magazine which featured an article about the **Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*)**, by Joe Kath, and another article highlighting orchids.

140-8 Board Appointments

Chairman Gooch formally welcomed Dr. John B. Taft as the newest member of the Board. Dr. Taft, whose appointment became effective October 24, 2008, replaces Dr. John Ebinger.

Chairman Gooch reviewed previous discussions about filling the Board vacancy resulting from the recent resignation of Dr. Tom Nelson. Mr. Gooch explained that the Board had agreed that since the position had previously been held by a mammalogist, the recommended replacement should also be a mammalogist. A search committee initially identified three individuals and, on behalf of the search committee, Dr. Retzer named Dr. Joyce Hofmann as the committee's final choice. Discussion followed concerning the need for the representation on the Board of a diversity of institutions and statewide expertise. There was concern that as a recently retired Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS), Dr. Hofmann's proposed appointment may constitute disproportionate representation from the INHS among Board members. There was agreement that overall qualifications and statewide expertise were the ultimate criteria for a candidate, regardless of institutional affiliation. In this respect, there was consensus that Dr. Hofmann met the criteria and Dr. Retzer moved that the Board forward to the Governor's office a recommendation for the appointment of Dr. Joyce Hofmann to the Board. John Clemetsen seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Chairman Gooch asked Board members whose appointment has either recently expired or will expire in the near future to review their appointment status. John Clemetsen's appointment expired on May 15, 2007; Mr. Clemetsen indicated that he had received confirmation of his appointment from the Governor's Office. Marilyn Campbell's appointment also expired on May 15, 2007 and she indicated that she is willing to continue serving and that she had completed and returned the forms that she received from the Governor's Office, but had not yet received her confirmation. Susanne Masi's appointment expired on May 15, 2008 and she confirmed that she is willing to continue serving, but had not heard from the Governor's Office regarding her appointment. Dr. Mike Retzer's appointment also expired on May 15, 2008 and he indicated that he is willing to continue serving, but had not heard from the Governor's Office regarding his appointment.

Chairman Gooch stated that he and Ms. Mankowski will work together to communicate with the Governor's Office regarding the recommendation for the appointment of Dr. Joyce Hofmann and to follow-up on the status of other Board member appointments.

140-9 Update on ESPB Research Projects

Secretary Phillips reviewed the list of research topics identified for the next cycle of ESPB funded research projects for which the Board will send out Requests for Proposals:

1. **Loggerhead Shrike** Population Study.
2. **Barn Owl** Survey.
3. **Nightjar** Survey.
4. **Black-billed Cuckoo** Status Survey.
5. Surveys for the **Ornate Box Turtle** in Illinois
6. Survey and Monitoring of the **Smooth Softshell Turtle**
7. Habitat Suitability and Occurrence of Three Reptile Species of Concern
8. Conservation Genetics of **Jefferson Salamanders**
9. Reproduction and Recruitment of the **Eastern Narrow-Mouth Toad**
10. Status and distribution of the bluntnose darter (*Etheostoma chlorosoma* (Hay) and pugnose minnow (*Opsopoeodus emiliae* (Hay) in Illinois.

11. Status and Distribution of the **trout-perch** (*Percopsis omiscomaycus*) in Illinois.

There was a question from the Board regarding the amount of funding available for the next round of research projects. Secretary Phillips noted that the account balance would need to be checked and stated that he and Ms. Mankowski will work together to develop and distribute a Request For Proposal package for the 11 projects.

Discussion also followed regarding an additional research proposal received by the Board (*Rarely seen Illinois Native Plant Species, their status and distribution*) and the potential for matching funding from the Illinois Department of Transportation. Dr. Taft explained that a similar project was funded by IDOT 18 years ago and that he would consult with staff at IDOT about their willingness to assist with funding for the project.

140-10 Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees Recommendation for Re-listing— Plants

Susanne Masi led the review of proposed preliminary listing recommendations for plants and explained that the Plant ESTAC consulted a pool of experts from around the state to help develop their recommendations. The Plant ESTAC preliminary recommendations included: Adding two species as endangered (*Carex plantaginea*, **Plantain-Leaved Sedge** and *Gratiola quartermantiae*, **Hedge Hyssop**); adding two species as threatened (*Buchnera americana*, **Blue Hearts** and *Delphinium carolinianum*, **Wild Blue Larkspur**); changing three species from endangered to threatened (*Berchemia scandens*, **Supple-jack**; *Cyperus lancastriensis*, **Galingale**; and, *Juncus alpinus* [*Juncus alpinoarticulatus*], **Richardson's Rush**); and, removing twelve endangered species (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*, **Water-Pennywort**; *Ranunculus cymbalaria*, **Seaside Crowfoot**; *Scirpus paludosus* [*Bolboschoenus maritimus*], **Alkali Bulrush**; *Carex lucorum*, **Sedge**; *Carex striatula*, **Lined Sedge**; *Isotria medeoloides*, **Small Whorled Pagonia**; *Lathyrus maritimus*, **Beach Pea**; *Milium effusum*, **Millet Grass**; *Penstemon brevisepalus*, **Short-sepaled Beard Tongue**; *Potentilla millegrana*, **Cinquefoil**; *Pycnanthemum albescens*, **White Mountain Mint**; and, *Triadenum virginicum*, **Marsh St. John's Wort**). Additionally, the Plant ESTAC identified 87 species for which more information was deemed necessary in order for the ESTAC to make recommendations in the future.

140-11 Recommendation of Preliminary Listing for all Groups (Attachment)

(Attachment C includes a summary of proposed changes to the Illinois Plant and Animal Lists and brief species narratives.)

Plants

It was noted that two species proposed under consideration by the Board for removal from the endangered list (*Ranunculus cymbalaria*, **Seaside Crowfoot** and *Scirpus paludosus* [*Bolboschoenus maritimus*], **Alkali Bulrush**) were also species that the Illinois Tollway Authority, in a recent letter to the Board, had requested be de-listed.

Susanne Masi so moved, and John Clemetsen seconded a motion to approve as preliminary Board recommendations, the following Plant ESTAC recommendations: Adding two species as endangered (*Carex plantaginea*, **Plantain-Leaved Sedge** and *Gratiola quartermantiae*, **Hedge Hyssop**); adding two species as threatened (*Buchnera*

americana, **Blue Hearts** and *Delphinium carolinianum*, **Wild Blue Larkspur**); changing three species from endangered to threatened (*Berchemia scandens*, **Supple-jack**; *Cyperus lancastriensis*, **Galingale**; and, *Juncus alpinus* [*Juncus alpinoarticulatus*], **Richardson's Rush**); and, removing twelve endangered species (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*, **Water-Pennywort**; *Ranunculus cymbalaria*, **Seaside Crowfoot**; *Scirpus paludosus* [*Bolboschoenus maritimus*], **Alkali Bulrush**; *Carex lucorum*, **Sedge**; *Carex striatula*, **Lined Sedge**; *Isotria medeoloides*, **Small Whorled Pagonia**; *Lathyrus maritimus*, **Beach Pea**; *Milium effusum*, **Millet Grass**; *Penstemon brevisepalus*, **Short-sepaled Beard Tongue**; *Potentilla millegrana*, **Cinquefoil**; *Pycnanthemum albescens*, **White Mountain Mint**; and, *Triadenum virginicum*, **Marsh St. John's Wort**). The Motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Gooch indicated that he would communicate with the Illinois Tollway Authority stating the Board's preliminary recommendation to de-list the *Ranunculus cymbalaria* (**Seaside Crowfoot**) and *Scirpus paludosus* [*Bolboschoenus maritimus*] (**Alkali Bulrush**) in case they wished to provide further testimony at the hearings.

Mammals

Marilyn Campbell reviewed the information provided by the Mammal ESTAC and noted that there were no actual listing recommendations forwarded; rather, the Mammal ESTAC had identified the need for more information about several species in order to make recommendations in the future. There was no action taken by the Board at this time.

Birds

Marilyn Campbell reviewed the preliminary recommendations provided by the Bird ESTAC. The recommendations included: Adding one species as threatened (**Black-billed Cuckoo**); changing one species from endangered to threatened (**Mississippi Kite**, *Ictinia mississippiensis*); changing two species from threatened to endangered (**Common Moorhen**, *Gallinula chloropus* and **Loggerhead Shrike**, *Lanius ludovicianus*); removing three threatened species (**Bald Eagle**, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*; **Henslow's Sparrow**, *Ammodramus henslowii*; and, **Sandhill Crane**, *Grus canadensis*); a common name change for three species (**Black-crowned Night-Heron**, *Nycticorax nycticorax*; **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, *Nyctanassa violacea*; and, **Greater Prairie-Chicken**, *Tympanuchus cupido*); and, a scientific name change for one species (**Least Tern**, *Sternula antillarum*). Additionally, the Bird ESTAC identified five species for which more information was deemed necessary in order for the ESTAC to make recommendations in the future.

John Clemetsen so moved and Secretary Phillips seconded a motion to approve as preliminary Board recommendations, the following Bird listing changes: Adding one species as threatened (**Black-billed Cuckoo**, *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*); changing one species from endangered to threatened (**Mississippi Kite**, *Ictinia mississippiensis*); changing two species from threatened to endangered (**Common Moorhen**, *Gallinula chloropus* and **Loggerhead Shrike**, *Lanius ludovicianus*); removing three threatened species (**Bald Eagle**, *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*; **Henslow's Sparrow**, *Ammodramus henslowii*; and, **Sandhill Crane**, *Grus canadensis*); a common name change for three species (**Black-crowned Night-Heron**, *Nycticorax nycticorax*; **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, *Nyctanassa violacea*; and, **Greater Prairie-Chicken**, *Tympanuchus cupido*);

and, a scientific name change for one species (**Least Tern, *Sternula antillarum***). The motion was approved unanimously.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Secretary Phillips reviewed the preliminary recommendations provided by the Herp ESTAC. The recommendations included: Adding one species as endangered (***Apalone mutica*, Smooth Softshell**); adding two species as threatened (***Necturus maculosus*, Mudpuppy** and ***Terrapene ornata*, Ornate Box Turtle**); and, changing one species from threatened to endangered (***Emydoidea blandingii*, Blanding's Turtle**). The Herp ESTAC also identified 5 species for which more information was deemed necessary in order for the ESTAC to make recommendations in the future.

Secretary Phillips moved and Marilyn Campbell seconded a motion to approve as preliminary Board recommendations, the following Herp listing changes: Adding one species as endangered (***Apalone mutica*, Smooth Softshell**); adding two species as threatened (***Necturus maculosus*, Mudpuppy** and ***Terrapene ornata*, Ornate Box Turtle**); and, changing one species from threatened to endangered (***Emydoidea blandingii*, Blanding's Turtle**). The motion was approved unanimously.

Fishes

Dr. Retzer reviewed the recommendation provided by the Fish ESTAC. The Fish ESTAC recommendation included changing one species (***Lepomis miniatus*, Redspotted Sunfish**) from threatened to endangered. The Fish ESTAC also identified at least 8 species for which more information was deemed necessary in order for the ESTAC to make recommendations in the future.

Secretary Phillips so moved and Dr. Retzer seconded a motion to approve as a preliminary Board recommendation, the following Fish ESTAC recommendation: changing one species (***Lepomis miniatus*, Redspotted Sunfish**) from threatened to endangered. The motion was approved unanimously.

Invertebrates

Chairman Gooch opened the discussion by commending the Invertebrate ESTAC for doing an excellent job pulling together such a great deal of information for a large number of species. He noted that the Board had not received a preliminary recommendation from the ESTAC, so that it was difficult for the Board to conduct an effective and efficient review and discussion of the entire ESTAC list at this time. Chairman Gooch added that he preferred an approach where the Board could review the Invertebrate ESTAC list in sections, starting with those species for which there seemed to be the greatest urgency for listing.

Toward this end, Secretary Phillips explained to the Board that since the Invertebrate ESTAC had forwarded such a large number of preliminary listing recommendations, he had requested that the group prioritize their recommendations and identify their top five, or so, (top-tier) species that the group considered of greatest concern and for which the supporting information was most defensible. In response to this request, the Invertebrate ESTAC preliminary recommendation included adding five species as endangered (***Lithasia obovata*, Shawnee Rocksnail; *Arrhopalites madonnensis*, Madona Cave Springtail; *Diploperla robusta*, Robust Springfly; *Prostoia completa*, Central**

Forestfly; *Anthysanella incongrua*, a leafhopper; and, *Pseudanophthalmus illinoisensis*, Illinois Cave Beetle). Secretary Phillips further explained that the Board would plan to review additional species, with the assistance of invited appropriate Invertebrate ESTAC members, at later meetings.

Discussion followed regarding the request of the ESTAC to prioritize and identify only the top-tier species. Several Board members expressed concern that due to the great number of species and relative paucity of information available, the Board has probably not been able to give adequate attention to the invertebrates in the past and for that reason, perhaps the Board should consider all preliminary recommendations developed by the ESTAC and not just the top-tier. Dr. Phillips pointed out that for many of the species there is lack of adequate information for the Board to evaluate the recommendations in a manner congruent with how it reviews the other ESTAC's recommendations.

Dr. Phillips noted that based on the status evaluation developed by the ESTAC, the *Pseudanophthalmus illinoisensis* (**Illinois Cave Beetle**) appeared to be extirpated, having not been seen in 30 years. Marilyn Campbell stated that, as for plants, no records for that length of time would result in a determination of extirpation and if a species is extirpated, it is not appropriate to recommend listing. Dr. Taft added that if, at some time in the future, the species is determined to be extant, a listing recommendation can be made at that time. The Board reached consensus that *Pseudanophthalmus illinoisensis* (**Illinois Cave Beetle**) should not be currently considered for preliminary recommendation for listing as endangered.

Dr. Taft stated that he had questions about the status evaluation developed by the Invertebrate ESTAC for *Baemeria venosa* (a cicada), which was recommended for listing as threatened. Dr. Taft questioned why the ESTAC recommended listing as threatened instead of endangered. He reviewed that the species is described as a prairie endemic and only known from one location, but it is not clear from the description if other locations have been surveyed and there is also no information about species ecology, such as sensitivity to fire, etc. Secretary Phillips responded that there appears to be insufficient survey information to know more about the status and distribution there is no data to support a discussion at this time.

Marilyn Campbell questioned why *Centruroides vittatus* (**Common Striped Scorpion**) was not included in the top-tier species. Dr. Retzer also questioned why the ??? Springtail?? was not included in the top-tier species. It was agreed that without more data and without access to the ESTAC experts, further discussion on many species was not possible at this time.

Marilyn Campbell proposed a change from threatened to endangered for *Hesperia ottoe* (**Ottoe Skipper**), which is currently proposed for Federal listing.

Secretary Phillips moved to approve as preliminary Board recommendations, the following Invertebrate listing changes: Adding five species as endangered (**Lithasia obovata, Shawnee Rocksnail; Arrhopalites madonnensis, Madona Cave Springtail; Diploperla robusta, Robust Springfly; Prostoia completa, Central Forestfly**; and, *Anthysanella incongrua*, a leafhopper) and changing one species from threatened to

endangered (*Hesperia ottoe*, **Ottoe Skipper**) and Dr. Retzer seconded. Prior to voting, the Board discussed the Invertebrate ESTAC recommendation to add as endangered *Centruroides vittatus* (**Common Striped Scorpion**), noting that its status and distribution information is nearly identical to that of listed plants from the same area. Based on that discussion, Dr. Taft moved to amend the motion by including one additional species as endangered (*Centruroides vittatus*, **Common Striped Scorpion**). Dr. Phillips accepted the amendment to his motion and the Board voted unanimously to approve the motion as amended.

140-12 Proposal to keep a list of species of special concern

This agenda item was postponed until a meeting when Dr. Herkert can be present.

140-13 Report on Logo and display development--Campbell

Marilyn Campbell distributed copies to Board members of a draft logo that was developed by the illustrator for the Illinois Audubon magazine. She explained that no progress had been made on developing a display at this time. Dr. Retzer offered to scan the draft logo and send Board members a digital copy for more convenient review. Chairman Gooch asked Ms. Campbell to extend thanks to her associate for the logo artwork that had been prepared and recommended that the Board defer decision about the logo until a later date.

140-14 Description of Research Program at Chicago Botanic Garden – Pati Vitt

Dr. Pati Vitt, from the Chicago Botanic Garden, Division of Plant Science and Conservation, presented a program outlining her department's research work being done with endangered plants. She reviewed her department's work with many state and federally endangered species, looking at genetics and individual-, metapopulation-, and population-level ecology and effects from various management practices and environmental factors. Dr. Vitt also discussed work being done at the Garden to evaluate the impact of climate change on rare plants and other native species.

140-15 Report from Committee to fund IESPB Research—Ebinger (chair), Clemetsen, Masi

This agenda item was discussed under agenda item *140-9 Update on ESPB Research Projects* (see above).

140-16 Schedule and location for meetings in 2009

The Board reached consensus on the following schedule and locations for meetings in 2009:

Feb 20 (Friday), 2009 10:00 AM at the Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, IL.

May 15 (Friday), 2009 10:00 AM at Starved Rock State Park, Uttica, IL.

Aug 14 (Friday), 2009 10:00 AM at Illinois Audubon Society Headquarters, Springfield, IL.

Nov 13 (Friday), 2009 10:00 AM at the State of Illinois Building, Chicago, IL.

140-17 Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

No comments.

140-18 Other Business (Standards for Lower Des Plaines River--Retzer)

Dr. Retzer presented a resolution proposal for the Board's consideration. The resolution supports the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's proposal before the Illinois Pollution Control Board (case number R08-9) to upgrade to water quality standards for the lower Des Plaines River and Chicago area waterway. John Clemetsen moved to approve a resolution stating the following: *Whereas the IESPB is concerned with habitat quality of threatened and endangered fish species in the State and has a mandate to advise the State on protection of threatened and endangered species; and, Whereas the River Redhorse (Moxostoma carinatum, state threatened), Pallid Shiner (Notropis amnis, state endangered), and Blacknose Shiner (Notropis chalybeus, state endangered) have been reported from lower Des Plaines River; and, Whereas the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency has proposed before the Illinois Pollution Control Board (case number R08-9) to upgrade the water quality standards for the lower Des Plaines River and Chicago area waterways; Now therefore, The Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board resolves to support the upgrade of water quality standards which would benefit these species of this area. Passed and approved by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board this Fourteenth day of November, Two Thousand and Eight.* Dr. Taft seconded and the Board unanimously approved the resolution.

140-19 Adjournment

Marilyn Campbell so moved to adjourn the 140th meeting and Susanne Masi seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 P.M.

ATTACHMENT A

Illinois Department of Natural Resources Report to Endangered Species Protection Board November 14, 2008

Wildlife Preservation Fund

Receipts in 2008: approximately \$194,000

Contracts and grant agreements for FY09 projects are in place.

Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Update

During this last quarter, the regional ecologists developed over 160 potential natural areas worthy of evaluation for inclusion on the INAI. The first group of new high quality natural communities were accepted and included on the INAI at the last meeting of the Natural Areas Evaluation Committee. This first field season resulted in a refinement of procedures that will make the remaining seasons more productive. A standardized Natural Lands Evaluation Procedure was developed that will ensure consistent and well documented evaluations of high quality natural communities. This refined and transparent procedure will allow for greater applicability and transportability to future generations of natural areas practitioners both of which were important secondary goals of this project. The Grand Victoria Foundation has indicated that they will commit up to \$2 million to the Illinois Natural History Survey to re-evaluate and monitor existing category I INAI sites and to produce a Strategic Natural Areas Preservation Plan. Outside funding for both of these projects was sought as they were identified within the INAI contract scope of work but were unfunded by IDNR. Re-evaluating the existing INAI Category I sites will ensure that both old and new sites have consistent and up to date information. The strategic plan will outline ways to maintain and or increase the INAI relevance to the various public and private natural resource planning efforts statewide. Lastly, the assignment of the INAI contract to the University of Illinois has not been completed. All parties have agreed to the assignment and resulting details and Lincoln Land Community College has signed the documents. They are now in the hands of the University of Illinois awaiting their approval. As the assignment will be retroactive to July 1st, this has not held up work on the contract and the vendor remains on targets and deadlines established within the scope of work.

Recovery Planning in the Office of Resource Conservation

The Office of Resource Conservation recently finalized a planning process for developing recovery plans for Illinois endangered and threatened species and will also provide a pre-planning tool to help evaluate the feasibility of recovering a species.

Species Update

1. Alligator Snapping Turtle: October, 2008 trip yielded 18 animals which represents the most caught in a single trip. New methods of sampling were employed and permission to access private property was granted. The largest animal trapped was 80 pounds and the smallest was less than 5 pounds. We were able to capture several sexually mature males and females in excess of 30 pounds. Most of these animals are being cared for over the winter months at the Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery in Mason County. All animals there are being kept in slightly warmer water than experienced this time of year in the wild which keeps them active and growing all winter - we

have seen animals double in size over the past few months. Approximately 5 mature animals were deposited in the breeding pond in Springfield that was secured this past summer - next Spring/Summer we may very well have our first clutch of eggs. St. Louis Zoo is breeding and raising animals for us as well. We hope to make another trip to Louisiana in Spring, 2009.

Regarding the pilot telemetry study in southern Illinois (Heron Pond/Little Black Slough): We are currently tracking 10 of the 13 animals released.

From the researcher: "I have completed the last day of radio telemetry for all ten turtles for this two week, 2X a week, tracking session. The session began on 15 October and ended on 26 October 2008, for a total of four telemetry days. Attached are four tables summarizing the ten turtles movements for the two different size classes (distance moved from previously recorded site and water depth at site location). The tables include the individual turtles movements for the month and a column totaling the sum, average, range, and standard deviation of all ten turtles."

For the winter the following sampling protocol will be followed: One day every other week until they stop moving. With the cold, they should start making really finer movements, then when they are set in an over-wintering spot, once a month. Once a month is our typical protocol for over-wintering turtles and that is just mainly to make sure the transmitters are still working.

Plans are in the Spring to possibly hire a helicopter and conduct radio-telemetry from the air in hopes of finding the "missing 3". Although the tables referenced above are not included in this e-mail, the overall conclusion is that as anticipated, the animals did not move very far from their initial release sites - average movement from site to site is 29 meters.

2. Indiana bat/Listed bats: With regards to White-Nosed Syndrome (WNS): "Researchers have identified the mold they consider a possible cause of the disease, reporting their findings Thursday [30 Oct 2008] in the online edition of the journal Science. It is a fragile, unusual form of *Geomyces* fungi, which usually live in cold places such as Antarctica, says David Blehert, lead author of the study. He is head of diagnostic microbiology at the U.S. Geological Survey's National Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wisconsin. Blehert can't say for certain that the fungus is killing the bats. "Fungi usually don't kill otherwise healthy animals all on their own," he explains. He says the infection may make a bat wake up too often during hibernation, so that it burns up its reserves of fat too quickly."

This winter Joe Kath will be coordinating surveys of strategic hibernacula in Illinois as part of a major Midwest study proposed by the USFWS to detect WNS. We will be using specialized camera equipment on loan from the FWS during these surveys to more accurately capture animals up close and determine if WNS is present. By all accounts, it is not a matter of "if" but "when" it will hit the Midwest, as it is steadily moving west across the US.

3. The Illinois eastern massasauga recovery team is considering sponsoring the International Massasauga Symposium in 2010. At this point, it appears that St. Louis Zoo may be the best overall package. Joe Kath and Mike Redmer from the Barrington FWS Office are currently investigating the details.

RE: Recent developments regarding recovery of the eastern massasauga in Illinois and what the Illinois Recovery Team is focusing on. There is serious discussion regarding collection from the wild and captive breeding which is understandably a serious undertaking, but unfortunately probably necessary. If you have any questions, comments, and/or suggestions please contact Joe Kath. From Dr. Rich King of NIU who serves on the team: "I find it hard to 'give up' on wild

populations in this way, especially given uncertainties about future releases, but I think it has become a necessity."

With regards to a final objective of moving from Threatened to Secure.

The options we have developed so far:

- A) 1 viable population per natural division of historical occurrence
- B) 2 viable populations per natural division of historical occurrence
- C) 1 viable population per natural division a set of additional ones distributed based on historic occupancy in each natural division

The recovery team obviously has many important decisions to make.

4. After almost 2 years, the Federal NEPA document for the Clubshell/Riffleshell augmentation and release project in Illinois and Indiana is finally completed and plans are to begin releases of different age classes within the Vermilion River watershed (North Fork, South Fork, Salt Fork) in Spring of 2009. The revised scope of work estimates that these releases will continue through 2012. Long-term monitoring to determine success is most certainly planned.

5. Applications for Incidental Take Authorizations continue to come in at a steady pace. There are 6 projects currently active and all are at different phases of the IT process. The most sensitive involves a road realignment in Monroe County and impacts on the Illinois Cave Amphipod. This is a very complex project involving several species experts from out of state. A conference call with all individuals involved is planned for Tuesday, November 18. This has turned out to be a very challenging ITA.

On a different note, we were able to work with Clinton County and got them to move a portion of there large water main replacement project. This realignment will avoid a major massasauga hibernacula near Carlyle Lake - I simply asked if a section of the pipeline could be moved because we were very concerned that this section would have very detrimental effects on the snake and they were able to accommodate our request with little to no hassle - a success.

IDNR Impact Assessment Section reviews for July – October 2008

- 1,519 projects were submitted to EcoCAT for information only
- 1,588 projects were submitted for review of E&T impacts (consultation, Fish & Wildlife Coordination, etc.)
 - 881 E&T reviews were terminated by EcoCAT/no records in the vicinity
 - 534 were terminated after a detailed review; recommendations were made to avoid, minimize or mitigate impacts for 30 of these projects
 - 173 projects are still in initial review or have been opened and are awaiting additional information from the applicant

ATTACHMENT B

To: Board Members
From: Randy Heidorn
Date: March 4, 2009
Subject: Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) report for the Endangered Species Protection Board meeting.

I. Protection Program:

- A. The INPC held its 200th meeting at Sparta, Illinois on October 28, 2008 and the following sites were approved for protection:
1. The following sites were given final approval for dedication as Illinois Nature Preserves (NP):
 - a. Palisades NP, Jersey Co. (420 acres) Great Rivers Land Trust. High quality loess hill prairie and limestone cliff; State-endangered whitlow grass (*Draba cunefolia*), and great plains rat snake (*Elaphe emoryi*); State-threatened: timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) and bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*).
 - b. Addition to Hanover Bluff NP, Jo Daviess Co. (48.4 acres) IDNR. High quality dry dolomite prairie; timber rattlesnake.
 - c. Horsefly Ridge NP, Massac Co. (49 acres) Private landowner. Dry and dry-mesic barrens.
 2. The following sites were given preliminary approval for dedication as Illinois NPs:
 - a. Collier Limestone Glade, Hardin Co. (105.65 acre), IDNR. High quality limestone glade
 - b. LaFarge Limestone Glade, Hardin Co. (51 acres), Lafarge North America Corporation. High quality limestone glade.
 - c. Ed Meagher Savanna and Sedge Meadow Addition to Freeman Kame NP, Kane Co. (96 acres) Forest Preserve District of Kane Co. High quality sedge meadow and dry-mesic savanna; state-endangered purple-flowering raspberry (*Rubus odoratus*), bog-panicked sedge (*Carex diandra*) and American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*); State-threatened: bog buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), Sandhill Crane (*Grus canadensis*), Blanding's turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*).
 - d. Carl N. Becker Savanna, Kankakee Co. (68 acres) The Nature Conservancy (TNC). High quality dry and dry-mesic sand savanna, sand flatwoods; State-endangered: yellow wild indigo (*Baptisia tinctoria*), crowded oval sedge (*Carex cumulate*), Carey's smartweed (*Polygonum careyi*), northern cranesbill (*Geranium bicknellii*), shore St. John's wort (*Hypericum adpressum*), bristly blackberry (*Rubus setosus*), eastern blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium atlanticum*), primrose violet (*Viola primulifolia*), and orange fringed orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*); State-threatened: narrow-leaved sundew (*Drosera intermedia*), old plainsman (*Hymenopappus scabiosaeus*), and regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria idalia*).
 3. The following sites were given approval for registration and Illinois Land and Water Reserves (LWR):
 - a. McCune Sand Prairie, Bureau Co. (200 acres) Bureau Co. Soil and Water Conservation District. State-threatened broomrape (*Orobanche ludoviciana*) and western hognose snake (*Heterodon nasicus*),
 - b. Keough Effigy Mounds, Jo Daviess Co. (34.68 acres) Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation. Effigy mounds and other archaeological features and waterfowl and migratory bird habitat.
 - c. Addition to Salt Lick Point LWR, Monroe Co. (145.48 acres) Village of Valmeyer. High quality Loess Hill Prairie and Limestone Glade, State-endangered: woolly buckthorn (*Bumelia lanuginosa*); State-threatened: timber rattlesnake.

- B. Impact of Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Park Closures: INPC Staff examined the list of park closures to determine which IDNR-owned or managed nature preserves or land and water reserves would be directly impacted by these closures. Although several sites staff of parks scheduled to be closed manage satellites, which are in INPC programs, only George B. Fell Nature Preserve, in Castle Rock State Park, is located in a park scheduled to be closed. This will have an impact on deer management of this site, which involves hunting during the deer firearm season. The draft proposal is that all satellites will remain open, however, loss of staff may impact the ability to manage these sites from a work load perspective. Similarly, the draft proposal will allow volunteers to continue their efforts on natural areas that are satellites.
- C. Tom Lerczak obtained landowner signatures establishing Bill and Mike's Hill Prairie Natural Heritage Landmark (NHL) and Orlandini's South Fork of the Sangamon River NHL.
- D. Steven Byers continued meetings with staff of the USFWS, Openlands Project, MCCD, and Friends of Hack-ma-tack to bring a USFWS refuge to northeastern Illinois. Mr. Byers is close to finalizing a plan with Fermatta (consulting firm) to identify/document the economic value of a refuge in the region. Non-state funds have been identified to support this effort.
- E. Judy Faulkner Dempsey
 - 1. Attended a meeting of the Cache River Joint Venture Partnership. Discussion of reconnection of the Upper and Lower Cache River through Grassy Slough LWR and other options occurred. Court proceedings on the legality of the Diehl Dam continue.
 - 2. Met with Mike Baltz, TNC, to discuss the INPC's unique role in contacting landowners in the LaRue Pine Hills-Western Shawnee-Trail of Tears conservation opportunity area. A plan for the INPC to partner with TNC and others for protection in this area was designed.

II. Defense Program:

- A. At the INPC 200th meeting at Sparta, Illinois on October 28, 2008, the INPC denied a request of the Norris Electric Cooperative to obtain an easement within Prairie Ridge State Natural Area LWR to place an overhead electrical distribution line along a road within the LWR. The request was denied as other alternatives existed that would avoid any impact on the LWR. Site managers were concerned that construction of the above ground power lines would interfere with prescribed burning and obstruct the open vista preferred by prairie chickens.
- B. Impacts of IDNR Park closures: See I. Protection Program, Part B.
- C. Randy Heidorn and Jenny Skufca continue to coordinate INPC involvement in the management of Illinois Beach State Park including North Dunes NP and Illinois Beach NP. This includes dealing with issues relating to beach erosion, prescribed fire and asbestos containing material remediation.
- D. Jenny Skufca:
 - 1. Responded to seven reviews for the IDNR's Consultation Program.
 - 2. Coordinated a meeting including Deborah Stone and Randy Heidorn with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) staff to better understand implications of the Class III Special Resource Groundwater designation. The INPC plans to move forward with Class III designations at for the following ten NP:
 - a. Illinois Beach NP, Lake County
 - b. Bluff Spring Fen NP, Cook County
 - c. Braidwood Dunes and Savanna NP, Will County
 - d. Lake in the Hills Fen NP, McHenry County
 - e. Volo Bog NP, Lake County
 - f. Elizabeth Lake NP, McHenry County
 - g. Lockport Prairie NP, Will County
 - h. Romeoville Prairie NP, Will County
 - i. Armin Krueger Speleological Area NP, Monroe County
 - j. George B. Fell NP, Ogle County (data being collated under current contract)
 - k. Spring Grove Fen NP, McHenry County (data being collated under current contract)
 - l. Goose Lake Prairie NP, Grundy County (data being collated under current contract)
- E. **Threats to sites within INPC Programs:**
 - 1. **Site: Old Plank Road Prairie NP, Cook County – Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. **Issue:** During a site visit, INPC staff observed earth-moving and silt deposition within the NP.

- b. **Threat:** The area of encroachment is estimated to cover approximately 35 feet x 130 feet. It is presumed the responsible party is a pipeline company which recently performed maintenance/upgrading of its facilities adjacent to the NP.
 - c. **Status:** INPC staff alerted the landowner and is in the process of locating the pipeline's contact information to begin resolving violations to the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act.
2. **Site: Palatine Prairie NP, Cook County – Steven Byers**
- a. **Issue:** Golf Nation has erected a structure (with netting) to support a golf driving range. The ground wires that support the structure intrude into Palatine Prairie NP.
 - b. **Threat:** Unauthorized intrusion into the NP and the Palatine Park District (owner of the NP) wants the infrastructure removed.
 - c. **Status:** Golf Nation has developed a plan that supports the netting and will not intrude into Palatine Prairie NP. The Palatine Park District will provide oversight when the ground wires are removed..
3. **Site: Black-Crown Marsh LWR, McHenry County – John Nelson**
- a. **Issue:** IDNR consultation has been opened on the Village of Lakemoor public works and salt storage facility being constructed adjacent to the LWR.
 - b. **Threat:** Concerns about detrimental effects of increased salinity and changes in flow and volume of stormwater to the LWR.
 - c. **Status:** INPC staff met with Village of Lakemoor staff and legal counsel regarding INPC concerns. Further investigation, monitoring, and recommendations on this project will be required.
4. **Site: George B. Fell NP, Ogle County – John Nelson, Jenny Skufca**
- a. **Issue:** Recent studies reveal potential mining impacts to groundwater and plants in the NP.
 - b. **Threat:** Decreasing groundwater levels sustaining the NP may be adversely affecting success of state-listed plant species in the NP.
 - c. **Status:** INPC and IDNR staff met to discuss possible mining impacts to the NP. Additional groundwater studies will be released in November, 2008. If the studies reveal further evidence for concern, a meeting will be called with the mining company.
5. **Site: Rockton Bog NP, Winnebago County – John Nelson**
- a. **Issue:** Nitrogen spill in the road right-of-way adjacent to IDNR property and nearby NP during early summer 2008.
 - b. **Threat:** A high concentration of nitrogen resulted in a dead zone of approximately one-fourth acre of wetland vegetation. Nitrogen levels were measured above and below the spill area. Initial results indicated an area of high concentration, and this area was targeted for soil removal off-site. Further monitoring is planned to determine if nitrogen migration and concentrations extend to the NP.
 - c. **Status:** Worked with Brad Semel (IDNR) and Site Superintendent Dan Riggs to oversee the excavation of contaminated soil adjacent to the NP. Weather conditions, negotiations, and legal procedures delayed the clean-up until late August, 2008.

III. Stewardship Program:

- A. At the INPC 200th meeting at Sparta, Illinois on October 28, 2008, the INPC approved a request of the IDNR to place two small hunter parking lots in disturbed areas along access lanes in Jasper County Prairie Chicken Sanctuary NP to enhance the effectiveness of deer management and allowing hunters to be close to the area of greatest deer activity. The planned deer hunt is a part of the NP's approved management plan and is consistent with INPC approved deer management guidelines.
- B. Stewardship planning:
 - 1. Staff completed management plans for the following sites:
 - a. Crevecoeur NP
 - b. Sandy Creek Bluffs LWR
 - c. Jordan Creek of the North Fork NP
 - 2. Kelly Neal reviewed 20 management schedules and two unscheduled management actions.

3. Tom Lerczak attended a meeting of the *Boltonia decurrens* working group at the University of Illinois' Emiquon Field Station, Fulton County, on July 25, 2008.
- C. Stewardship project implementation:
1. Tom Lerczak, Angella Moorehouse and Deb Newman:
 - a. Worked with Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) to plan and implement restoration projects.
 - b. Worked on writing site assessments, management plans, landowner agreements, and GPS sites. Meeting with contractors for Hill Prairie State Wildlife Grant Project (SWG) for several sites.
 2. Angella Moorehouse continues to administer a SWG for the Siloam Springs State Park area, including work on private lands in Adams and Brown counties.
 3. Judy Faulkner Dempsey prepared job specification forms and submitted the bid packet for exotic species control at Ren-Dill Shale Glade NP and Faulkner-Franke Pioneer Railroad Prairie NP.
- D. Land management conducted by staff:
1. John Nelson:
 - a. Performed management activities, primarily herbiciding, at five private NPs and one IDNR-owned NP with the help of Jason Inczauskis.
 - b. Provided signs to landowners for posting at Hazelwood Forest NP and Lowell Forest NP, Lee County.
 2. Steven Byers and Jason Inczauskis provided leadership in restoration/management of Queen Anne Cemetery Prairie – Eckert Cemetery NHL; with local scouts and McHenry County College students.
 3. Jason Inczauskis (see V. INPC Operations):
 - a. Assisted the McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD) at Glacial Park and Friends of the Bluff Spring Fen at Bluff Spring Fen with seed collection.
 - b. Helped the MCCD burn brush piles.
 4. Kim Roman:
 - a. Posted signs at Short Pioneer Cemetery Prairie, Tucker-Millington Fen, O'Hara Woods NPs, and Emmons' Woods LWR.
 - b. Herbicided honeysuckle, buckthorn, autumn olive, quaking aspens, teasel, and cemetery spurge at Long Run Seep NP, Hooper Branch Savanna NP, Grant Creek Prairie NP, Des Plaines Dolomite Prairies LWR, Voight Pauper Cemetery Prairie LWR, and Sweet Fern Savanna LWR.
 5. Bob Edgin and Samantha Adams:
 - a. Supervised installation of a firebreak at Ping Prairie at Huskey Hollow and Shellbark Bottoms NHLs.
 - b. Led a 30-acre grassland burn at Shellbark Bottoms NHL.
 - c. Conducted brush removal at Mulberry Grove Railroad Prairie INAI site and Allison Gravel Prairie NHL.
 - d. Conducted Japanese stiltgrass control at Beall Woods NP.
 - e. Conducted sugar maple control at Edward V. Price Woods LWR and Emma Vance Woods NP.
 6. Tom Lerczak posted signs at Funks Grove LWR, Crevecoeur NP, Anderson Prairie LWR, McMaster Woods NP and Margaret Guzy Pothole Wetlands LWR.
 7. Mary Kay Solecki:
 - a. Continued work on a stewardship project to obtain/collect local ecotype prairie seed for restoration of Loda Cemetery Prairie NP buffer area.
 - b. Led or assisted with stewardship activities at Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP (prairie restoration, boundary posting), Larimore's Salt Fork of the Vermilion River LWR (boundary posting and exotics control), and Prospect Cemetery Prairie NP (address issues concerning woody control, install signs).
 8. Debbie Newman led a workday to train volunteers at Salt Lick Point LWR on hill prairie restoration, endangered species monitoring, and seed collection (nine volunteers).

IV. Inventory and Monitoring:

- A. Mary Kay Solecki assisted with mussel surveys on the North Fork of the Vermilion River and Little Vermilion River (both INAI streams).
- B. Debbie Newman monitored several populations of endangered plants at five sites.
- C. Bob Edgin:
 - 1. Conducted vegetation sampling at Green Prairie NHL.
- D. Samantha Adams:
 - 1. Continued with botanical surveys at Green Prairie and Ping Prairie at Huskey Hollow NHLs.
 - 2. Assisted Dr. Ebinger with woody vegetation sampling at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area.

V. INPC Operations:

- A. Jason Inczauskis began employment as a resident intern working with Steve Byers in Area 2. He will be housed in the Natural Resource Office of MCCD with Mr. Byers.

ATTACHMENT C

PROPOSED ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, AND CHANGES TO THE ILLINOIS LIST OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES

I. Summary of Proposed Actions

A. ADD AS ENDANGERED

Carex plantaginea (plantain-leaved sedge)
Gratiola quartermaniae (hedge hyssop)

B. ADD AS THREATENED

Buchnera americana (blue hearts)
Delphinium carolinianum (wild blue larkspur)

C. REMOVE FROM ENDANGERED

Hydrocotyle ranunculoides (water-pennywort)
Ranunculus cymbalaria (seaside crowfoot)
Scirpus paludosus (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*) (alkali bulrush)
Carex lucorum (sedge)
Carex striatula (lined sedge)
Isotria medeoloides (small whorled pogonia)
Lathyrus maritimus (beach pea)
Milium effusum (millet grass)
Penstemon brevisepalus (short-sepaled beard tongue)
Potentilla millegrana (cinquefoil)
Pycnanthemum albescens (white mountain mint)
Triadenum virginicum (marsh St. John's wort)

D. REMOVE FROM THREATENED

None

E. CHANGE STATUS FROM ENDANGERED TO THREATENED

Berchemia scandens (supple-jack)
Cyperus lancastris (galingale)
Juncus alpinus (*Juncus alpinoarticulatus*) (Richardson's rush)

F. CHANGE STATUS FROM THREATENED TO ENDANGERED

None

G. NAME CHANGE

None

II. Species Narratives

Berchemia scandens (**supple-jack**) – Proposed Action: change status from endangered to threatened. This species is becoming more abundant in the area where it was first discovered in Illinois. Also, present information suggests that this taxon may be adventive in Illinois, sometimes being planted in the southeastern United States.

Buchnera americana (**blue hearts**) – Proposed Action: add as threatened. A species of prairie and fields, particularly loess hill prairie, in Illinois. It is mostly restricted to the western central part of the state, being reported from 12 counties. With the loss of the loess hill prairie due to successional events, this species is become rare in the state.

Carex lucorum (**sedge**) – Proposed Action: remove from endangered. No Illinois voucher can be found for this species and it is not reported in the “Flora of North America” as occurring in Illinois.

Carex plantaginea (**plantain-leaved sedge**) – Proposed Action: add as endangered. This species of sedge was once recognized as endangered in Illinois based on an 1896 collection from Cook County. It was removed from the list when no extant populations were found. A native population of this species was found in LaSalle County at Starved Rock State Park in 2006.

Carex striatula (**lines sedge**) – Proposed Action: remove from endangered. The only specimen for which this species was listed for Illinois was from Jackson County and has recently been annotated as *Carex laxiculmis* by A.A.Reznicek, an expert on this group of sedges. No other voucher specimens of this species have been located for Illinois, and it is not reported in the “Flora of North America” as occurring in Illinois.

Cyperus lancastrimensis (**galingale**) – Proposed Action: change status from endangered to threatened. This species is still rare in extreme southwestern Illinois in Massac and Pope Counties. It is now more common than in the past, being found in a few roadside ditches and on other disturbed sites.

Delphinium carolinianum (**wild blue larkspur**) – Proposed Action: add as threatened. We have confirmed only 8 populations of this species for Illinois. All populations are small, being restricted to limestone glades in Calhoun, Henderson, and Pike counties.

Gratiola quartermaniae (**hedge hyssop**) – Proposed Action: add as endangered. This recently described species is part of the *Gratiola neglecta* complex and was separated from that species in 2007. In Illinois it is only known from two, or possibly three, populations in dolomite prairies in Will County.

Hydrocotyle ranunculoides (**water-pennywort**) – Proposed Action: removed from endangered. This species is undoubtedly adventive in Illinois. Since first discovered in Illinois in the mid-1970’s this species is now known from a number of aquatic habitats in the state. Reproduction appears to be sufficient to sustain and expand most populations.

Isotria medeoloides (**small whorled pogonia**) – Proposed Action: removed from endangered. This species has not been seen since 1991 at the only known site in the state in Randolph County, and is considered extirpated.

Juncus alpinus (*Juncus alpinoarticulatus*) (**Richardson's rush**) – Proposed Action: change status from endangered to threatened. A species of disturbed calcareous wet ground in northeastern Illinois, particularly along the Lake Michigan shoreline. This species forms large colonies in its restricted habitat and appears to be increasing in numbers.

Lathyrus maritimus (**beach pea**) – Proposed Action: removed from endangered. A species of the great lakes region, this species has not been collected in the state since 1968 and is considered extirpated.

Milium effusum (**millet grass**) – Proposed Action: removed from endangered. According to some Botanists this species has not been seen in Illinois since the 19th century. There is one 1988 report from Cook County, but no voucher specimen has been located, and the population has not been relocated. It is considered extirpated.

Penstemon brevisepalus (**short-sepaled beard tongue**) – Proposed Action: removed from endangered. This species has been reported once for Illinois and not seen in the state since 1981. It is considered extirpated.

Potentilla millegrana (**cinquefoil**) – Proposed Action: removed from endangered. This species is adventive in Illinois, all populations collected have been from disturbed habitats, and no extant populations are known. This species is now believed to not be native to Illinois and is also considered extirpated.

Pycnanthemum albescens (**white mountain mint**) – Proposed Action: removed from endangered. This species was last collected in 1973 in Union County and recent searches have not relocated this species. It is considered extirpated.

Ranunculus cymbalaria (**seaside crowfoot**) – Proposed Action: remove from endangered. There are now many adventive populations of this species known, particularly in northeastern Illinois. Reproduction appears to be sufficient to sustain and expand most populations.

Scirpus paludosus (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*) (**alkali bulrush**) – Proposed Action: remove from endangered. There are now many adventive populations of this species known, particularly in northeastern Illinois. Reproduction appears to be sufficient to sustain and expand most populations.

Triadenum virginicum (**marsh St. John's wort**) – Proposed Action: removed from endangered. This species was last collected in Cook County in 1870, and Lake County in 1972 where it was found in a peaty sand prairie bordering Lake Michigan. It has not been relocated at either site and is considered extirpated.

**PROPOSED ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, AND CHANGES TO THE ILLINOIS
LIST OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED ANIMAL SPECIES**

I. Summary of Proposed Actions

A. ADD AS ENDANGERED

REPTILES

Apalone mutica (Smooth Softshell)

INVERTEBRATES

Lithasia obovata (Shawnee Rocksnail)
Arrhopalites madonnensis (Madonna Cave Springtail)
Diploperla robusta (Robust Springfly)
Prostoia completa (Central Forestfly)
Anthysanella incongrua (a leafhopper)
Centruroides vittatus (Common Striped Scorpion)

B. ADD AS THREATENED

AMPHIBIANS

Necturus maculosus (Mudpuppy)

REPTILES

Terrapene ornata (Ornate Box Turtle)

BIRDS

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus (Black-billed Cuckoo)

C. REMOVE FROM ENDANGERED

NONE

D. REMOVE FROM THREATENED

BIRDS

Haliaeetus leucocephalus (Bald Eagle)
Ammodramus henslowii (Henslow's Sparrow)
Grus canadensis (Sandhill Crane)

E. CHANGE STATUS FROM ENDANGERED TO THREATENED

BIRDS

Ictinia mississippiensis (Mississippi Kite)

F. CHANGE STATUS FROM THREATENED TO ENDANGERED

FISH

Lepomis miniatus (Redspotted sunfish)

BIRDS

Gallinula chloropus (Common Moorhen)
Lanius ludovicianus (Loggerhead Shrike)

REPTILES

Emydoidea blandingii (Blanding's Turtle)

INVERTEBRATES

Hesperia ottoe (Ottoe Skipper)

G. NAME CHANGE

BIRDS

Nycticorax nycticorax (Black-crowned Night Heron) to Black-crowned Night- Heron

Nyctanassa violacea (Yellow-crowned Night Heron) to Yellow-crowned Night- Heron

Tympanuchus cupido (Greater Prairie Chicken) to Greater Prairie-Chicken.

Sterna antillarum (Least Tern) to *Sternula antillarum*

II. Species Narratives

FISH

***Leopomis miniatus* (redspotted sunfish)** - Proposed Action: change status from threatened to endangered.

Only two viable, but isolated populations now exist in Illinois; one in the Illinois River drainage and one in the Wabash.

AMPHIBIANS

***Necturus maculosus* (Mudpuppy)** – Proposed Action: add as threatened. Historically (pre-1980) known from eleven counties in Illinois. Recent (last 10 years) records document occurrences from nine counties. Numerous anecdotal observations indicate that this species may still be fairly abundant in near-shore areas of Lake Michigan, but, recent observations in inland streams and rivers are few. *Necturus* is the only known glochidial host of the salamander mussel (*Simpsonaias ambigua*), which is listed as endangered in Illinois and is currently undergoing a status review for possible Federal listing by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Conserving mudpuppy populations may be a key in conserving/recovering the mussel.

REPTILES

***Apalone mutica* (smooth softshell)** - Proposed Action: add as endangered. Recent records from eight counties suggest that statewide populations are declining. This species has not been captured in abundance at any site except for a recently sampled section of the Sangamon River in Menard County, while other sampling efforts at known sites on the Middlefork Vermilion, Wabash, and Embarrass Rivers have been unsuccessful in capturing additional animals.

***Emydoidea blandingii* (Blanding's turtle)** - Proposed Action: change status from threatened to endangered.

The greatest concentration of recent records is located in the Chicago area, although indications are that overall, populations continue to decline across NE Illinois. It also appears that the more interior populations in Illinois may have been lost long ago due to intensive agriculture and wetland draining. Effects of urbanization and small preserve size continue to be threats to this species, especially in the Chicago area.

***Terrapene ornata* (Ornate Box Turtle)** – Proposed Action: add as threatened. Recent records available from 15 counties indicate in several of the disjunct range segments (e.g., Kanakakee Sands) where this species was formerly common, it is now very rarely encountered. Additionally, there are no recent records, or data is

lacking, for several historic locations in other counties. Threats include roads and unsustainable collection by turtle enthusiasts.

BIRDS

Ammodramus henslowii (**Henslow's Sparrow**) – Proposed Action: remove from threatened. The number of locations in the Natural Heritage Database for Henslow's sparrows continues to increase. The recently completed recovery outline for this species recommends consideration for removal from the state list when, within the last five years, there are records in the Natural Heritage Database from 40 or more Illinois counties, and 10 or more populations numbering 20 or more breeding pairs within protected habitats. The county threshold has been met (46 counties between 2002-2006) and the protected populations criteria has also been met.

Coccyzus erythrophthalmus (**Black-billed Cuckoo**) – Proposed Action: add as threatened. During the state's Breeding Bird Atlas project (1986-1991), black-billed cuckoos were reported from 277 atlas blocks in 63 counties, including 121 blocks with probable or confirmed nesting evidence. The species appears to have experienced a substantial decline with relatively few recent records for the species in the state. Review of recent information for the species, shows 3-15 reports of the species per year between 2001-2006, with very few reports indicating probable or confirmed nesting.

Gallinula chloropus (**Common Moorhen**) – Proposed Action: change status from threatened to endangered. Recent analyses of data from the Northeastern Illinois Wetland Bird Survey indicate a significantly declining population in the northeastern portion of the state. Similarly there has been a decline in the number of Natural Heritage Database records and also a decline in the number of counties with recent records.

Grus canadensis (**Sandhill Crane**) – Proposed Action: remove from threatened. The population within the state continues to increase and is also establishing occurrences outside of northeastern Illinois. Recent analyses of data from the Northeastern Illinois Wetland Bird Survey indicate a significantly increasing population in the northeastern portion of the state.

Haliaeetus leucocephalus (**Bald Eagle**) – Proposed Action: remove from threatened. This species appears to be doing very well in the state, the number of records in the Natural Heritage Database continues to go up as does the number of counties from which the species is known to occur in Illinois. Winter surveys are showing good numbers of immatures, indicating a healthy age structure.

Ictinia mississippiensis (**Mississippi Kite**) – Proposed Action: change status from endangered to threatened. This species appears to be increasing and expanding its range slightly within the state. The population appears to be too secure to be considered Endangered.

Lanius ludovicianus (**Loggerhead Shrike**) – Proposed Action: change status from threatened to endangered. Populations of this species appear to be in serious decline within Illinois. The number of recent Natural Heritage Database records for this species is less than half the number of recent records reported during the last list review (2004). The number of counties with breeding records is also showing continued declines.

Nyctanassa violacea (**Yellow-crowned Night Heron**) – Proposed Action: change common name. The common name for this species is now recognized as Yellow-crowned Night-Heron.

Nycticorax nycticorax (**Black-crowned Night Heron**) – Proposed Action: change common name. The common name for this species is now recognized as Black-crowned Night-Heron.

Sterna antillarum (**Least Tern**) – Proposed Action: change scientific name. The scientific name for this species is now recognized as *Sternula antillarum*.

Tympanuchus cupido (**Greater Prairie Chicken**) – Proposed Action: change common name. The common name for this species is now recognized as Greater Prairie-Chicken.

INVERTEBRATES

Arrhopalites madonnensis (**Madonna cave springtail**) – Proposed Action: add as endangered. Status: This species is an obligatory cavernicole, i.e., troglobite and is known only from only one Illinois location in Monroe County. Threats to this population include development activities, especially land clearing, sedimentation, nutrient enrichment, agrichemicals, and agricultural activities.

Athysanella incongrua (**a leafhopper**) – Proposed Action: add as endangered. This species is historically known from only two locations within Illinois. It appears to have been extirpated from one location in Morgan County and currently is known in Illinois from a single population in Mason Co. The species may be sensitive to fire and therefore may require careful habitat management.

Centruroides vittatus (**Common striped scorpion**) – Proposed Action: add as endangered. This generally widespread scorpion is historically known from only two counties in southwestern Illinois, but was recently was only located in one of those two counties. Invasive plant growth threatens to shade-out the species' open talus slide microhabitat.

Diploperla robusta (**Robust Springfly**) – Proposed Action: add as endangered. In Illinois, this species has only been collected from a single ravine stream in Vermilion County. Localized threats to species of this stream system include increases in water temperature and nutrient enrichment.

Hesperia ottoe (**Ottoe Skipper**) – Proposed Action: change status from threatened to endangered. This species is known only from hill and sand prairie in Illinois where it formerly had a very restricted distribution, but was common where it occurred. Over the past 10 years, there has been a definite population decline throughout its range.

Lithasia obovata (**Shawnee Rocksnail**) – Proposed Action: add as endangered. Data suggests that this species once was found in five basins in the Wabash River drainage, but currently is found only in a small portion of the Little Wabash River. Threats include siltation, chemical pollution, impoundments, instream disturbances (e.g., gravel mining, dredging, and channelization), and competition from exotic species.

Prostoia completa (**Central Forestfly**) – Proposed Action: add as endangered. Although widespread in medium sized creeks across much of the Midwest and into the Ozarks, this species is known from only one Illinois location in Union County. Habitat degradation resulting from streambed substrate removal threatens this singular population.