

ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD
MINUTES OF 187th MEETING, OCTOBER 9, 2020
via ZOOM

Approved at the 188th meeting, November 13, 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. Philip Willink, and Mr. Chris Young

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Todd Strole (IDNR), Heather Osborn IDNR, Austin Omer (Illinois Farm Bureau), Raelynn Parmely (Illinois Farm Bureau), Jeannie Barnes (Illinois Natural History Survey), Kelly Neal (Illinois Nature Preserves Commission), Joe Kath (IDNR), Ann Holtrop (IDNR), Kris Lah (USFWS), Brad Semel (IDNR), Brian Metzke (IDNR), and George Sisk (IDNR).

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

Chair Hofmann called the meeting to order at 10:06 A.M. and read the roll call. Eight 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

Dr. Coons moved that the agenda be adopted as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schietzelt. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes from the 186th Meeting

Draft minutes of the 186th meeting had been distributed to Board members prior to the meeting by email. Mr. Schietzelt moved that the minutes of the 186th meeting be approved as presented with a minor editorial change in item 2. The motion was seconded by Dr. Capparella. Chair Hofmann called the roll, and the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

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

Board members received a report via email and verbally from Ms. Ann Holtrop. The items she highlighted included a new record for Taillight Shiner in Illinois and that the Illinois Monarch Plan was officially approved and moved into action in September. A group at IDNR is working on suggestions about the listing process for T&E species and will also work on suggestions for modifications to the petition forms used in the process.

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. At the most recent meeting 10 sites were added. It was noted at the 236th INPC Meeting that with the inclusion of the additions to Nature Preserves and Land and Water Reserves, the Illinois Nature Preserves System has reached 1,000 sites.

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 completed the Board's Biennial Report for 2018-2020. Dr. Hofmann collected the minutes from four of the ESTACs which were presented for approval at this meeting (items 12-15 in this agenda). She also began working on potential updates to the Board's website. The report is attached to these minutes.

7. Board Appointments

All Board members are currently working under expired appointments. Several of the Board members have already completed the self-nominating process. Mr. Young suggested that everyone complete the self-nomination forms so that IDNR can work towards getting these appointments made. He will make sure appointments fall on the appropriate years. Mr. Young provided a link to the self-nomination form.

8. Update on the Invitation from the Illinois Native Plant Society for a Board Member to Serve on the Review Panel for its 2020-2021 Survey Grant Program

Mr. Sisk had presented the opinion that there is no reason a Board member could not participate in an ad hoc committee of another organization (INPS). Drs. Fant and Coons will decide between them who will participate in this review panel.

9. Semi-annual Review of Whether to Keep Closed the Minutes from Previous Closed Sessions

Mr. Ross-Shannon motioned to keep the minutes closed. Dr. Coons seconded the motion. All closed session has dealt with personnel issues. It was unanimously approved with a roll call vote.

10. Approval of the 2018 - 2020 Biennial Report

Chair Hofmann had distributed a draft of the Board's 2018-2020 Biennial Report for review by Board members. Dr. Coons pointed out the need for two minor corrections in Appendix 1- the affiliation of Dr. Taft and a typographical error. Dr. Capparella motioned to accept the Biennial Report as presented and those two corrections. Mr. Schietzelt seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved with a roll call vote.

11. Review of Protocols for the Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees

The Board discussed the selection process and the need to keep the ESTAC board members we have as well as recruit new members. Mr. Young suggested that it would be helpful to increase public participation. Media exposure might be useful in this regard.

A second discussion revolved around the Open Meetings Act and its application to the ESTAC meetings. It was determined that ad hoc committees are not subject to the Open Meetings Act. The Board is not required to post agendas or minutes of ESTAC meetings; however, the Board would not be penalized for transparency. Mr. Young suggested we put a disclaimer on the minutes when published on the website that ESTACs are not public bodies that make policy.

A review of protocol revisions should consider how to deal with sensitive information about vulnerable populations.

Future ESTAC meetings may include a remote component, allowing for broader participation.

12. Approval of Minutes of the Avian Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee Meeting of September 29, 2016

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.

13. Approval of Minutes of the Amphibian/Reptile Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee Meeting of March 1, 2017

Motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Schietzelt and seconded by Dr. Coons. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

14. Approval of Minutes of the Terrestrial Invertebrate Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee Meeting of May 15, 2017

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

15. Approval of Minutes of the Plant Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee of February 6, 2019

Motion to accept the minutes as presented was made by Dr. Coons and seconded by Dr. Fant. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

16. Comments on Modifying the Petition Forms for Revision of the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species – Chris Young

Dr. Hofmann suggested consolidating the instructions for the three petition forms and detaching the instructions from the forms. Mr. Schietzelt mentioned the need to update the data supplied to ESTAC members during future revisions of the Illinois List. Discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

17. Comments on the Overall Process for the Review and Revision of the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species – Chris Young

Dr. Coons raised the issue of how to store the petitions received during revisions of the Illinois List. Discussion will be continued at the next meeting.

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

Mr. Sisk explained that ethics training and sexual harassment training provided by IDNR was required for Board members even if the training has been required of them by another entity (such as a university). The training is specific to IDNR.

19. Other Business (topics may be discussed, but no actions may be taken)

The next meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M. on November 13, 2020. It will be held via Zoom.

No other business was presented.

20. Adjournment

There being no further business, Dr. Coons moved to adjourn, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Ross-Shannon. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote. Chair Hofmann adjourned the meeting at 11:38 A.M.



ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

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Report from the Chair, 9 October 2020

Joyce Hofmann

Activities for the period between the 186th and 187th Board meetings

- performed follow-up for 186th meeting – arranged for the final agenda of the 186th meeting and the approved minutes of the 185th Board meeting and the Joint Meeting with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission 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)
- completed and sent for review by Board members a draft of the Board's 2018 – 2020 Biennial Report
- prepared the Board report for the 236th meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC)
- attended the virtual 236th meeting of the INPC
- distributed four draft Incidental Take Authorizations (ITAs) to Board members for potential review
- began working on updates to the Board's website
- distributed minutes of the Avian, Amphibian/Reptile, Terrestrial Invertebrate, and Plant Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees (ESTACs) for approval at the 187th meeting; had the avian and terrestrial invertebrate minutes reviewed by an ESTAC member prior to distribution
- prepared for the 187th Board meeting – prepared notice for the 187th meeting; edited draft minutes for the 186th Board meeting; developed an agenda for the 187th meeting; had the draft agenda posted on the Board's website; distributed materials for the meeting to Board members