

ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE 153rd MEETING

MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE, WILMINGTON, IL

17 FEBRUARY, 2012

(Approved at the 154th meeting, May 11, 2012)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Dan Gooch, Vice-chair Glen Kruse, Dr. Joyce Hofmann, Ms. Susanne Masi, Mr. John Rogner, Ms. Laurel Ross, Dr. John Taft.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Secretary John Clemetsen, Dr. Jeff Walk.

BOARD MEMBER VACANCIES: One.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Jeannie Barnes (Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Resource Conservation); Mr. Randy Heidorn (Illinois Nature Preserves Commission); and, Ms. Anne Mankowski (Endangered Species Protection Board).

153-1 Call to Order Welcome and Introduction of Guests

Chair Gooch called the 153rd meeting of the ESPB to order at 10:00 A.M. and asked Vice-chair Kruse to call roll. He then noted that there was a quorum and asked meeting attendees to introduce themselves.

153-2 Adoption of Agenda

Chair Gooch asked if there were any changes to the agenda. None were noted and Dr. Hofmann **moved** to adopt the agenda, Ms. Ross seconded the motion, and it was **approved** unanimously.

153-3 Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Chair Gooch asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the 152nd meeting. Ms. Masi asked that text be added to item 9 under 152-12 Species Updates to clarify that species surveys conducted at Illinois Beach State Park was “by special permission from District Heritage Biologist, Brad Semel, although the park was closed to the public.” Vice-chair Kruse **moved** to approve the minutes as amended, Dr. Hofmann seconded the motion and it was **approved** unanimously.

153-4 ESPB Staff Report

Anne Mankowski, Director of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, gave her report (Attachment A).

153-5 IDNR Staff Report

John Rogner, Assistant Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, gave a report (Attachment B).

153-6 INPC Staff Report

Randy Heidorn, Acting Director from the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, gave a report (Attachment C).

153-7 ESPB Budget

Ms. Mankowski reported that there were no updates regarding the Board's budget.

153-8 Board Appointments

Ms. Mankowski reported that there were no updates regarding Board member reappointments or appointments.

153-9 Semi-Annual Review and Decision Whether to Keep Closed Minutes from Previous Closed Meetings and Clarification Regarding the Requirements for Destruction of Audio Recordings

Chair Gooch reviewed that The Open Meetings Act requires that the Board semi-annually review and approve keeping closed the minutes from previous closed-sessions. The Board is required to make a determination that (1) the need for confidentiality still exists as to all or part of those minutes, or (2) that the minutes or portions thereof no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection.

Ms. Mankowski reviewed a list of closed sessions and noted that all closed sessions have been held to review personnel matters. The discussion of personnel matters is allowed under closed session and minutes from that closed session are allowed to remain closed because the need for confidentiality still exists.

Vice-chair Kruse **moved** to keep closed minutes from previous closed meetings, Ms. Masi seconded the motion, and it was **approved** unanimously.

Ms. Mankowski reviewed the following information to clarify for the Board's record: The OMA requirement for making a verbatim record of meetings applies only to closed meetings. The verbatim record may be destroyed without notification to or the approval of a records commission or the State Archivist under the Local Records Act or the State Records Act no less than 18 months after the completion of the meeting recorded but only after, 1) the public body approves the destruction of a particular meeting, and 2) the public body approves minutes of the closed meeting that meet the written minutes requirements of the OMA.

She noted that the Board also makes audio recordings of its open meetings to facilitate development of minutes. The Board may destroy the verbatim record of its open meetings without regard to the requirements that apply to destruction of the verbatim record of closed meetings.

153-10 ESPB Research and Strategic Funding Program

Ms. Mankowski gave a report (Attachment D).

153-11 Open Meetings Act Openness Requirement

Ms. Mankowski reviewed that the Board is subject to provisions of the Open Meetings Act (OMA). The openness requirement of the OMA applies to meetings of more than or equal to a majority of a quorum of the subject public body – this includes committees, sub-committees, and subsidiary committees. This definition captures the Board's Executive Committee, any other committees of Board members that the Board establishes (such as committees to recommend individuals for Board member appointment), and would include the Board's Technical Advisory Committees if the Board chooses to establish them.

Ms. Mankowski noted that while the Board has made decisions about how to proceed with certain Board business in a manner that complies with all respective Acts to which the Board is subject, it would be helpful to review those and others (such as Executive Committee functions, or a Board member nominating committee) with respect to the OMA. After some discussion, the Board asked Ms. Mankowski to develop a list of business items for discussion at the next meeting, where the Board could consider each item as to whether its execution required Board action or if it would be delegated to staff function, or to staff and one Board member, such as the Chair, to deal with.

153-12 ESPB Technical Advisory Committees Establishment for List Review and Revision ending in 2014

Ms. Mankowski reviewed the Board's development, authorization, and use of technical advisory committees in the past. She then explained that according to a recent opinion from IDNR Legal Counsel, as they have existed and functioned in the past and as currently proposed, the Board's Technical Advisory Committees would qualify as public bodies under the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and would be subject to the provisions of the OMA. Ms. Mankowski noted that the Board does not currently have adequate staff and funding to administer a review process in compliance with the Open Meetings Act that uses the traditional ESPB TACs.

She made recommendations to the Board for a new process where:

- Board staff will communicate on an individual basis with identified technical expert consultants (ESPB TECs) in conducting a review of the Illinois List, instead of establishing and utilizing committees.
- Board staff will primarily use the Natural Heritage (Biotics 4) Database and also published literature, reports, and ESPB TEC input in conducting the List review and compiling revision recommendations that are supported by scientific evidence.
- Board staff will present to the Board for consideration as an agenda item at a meeting open to the public, a summary of the review and recommendations for changes to each taxonomic group listing on the Illinois List. Those ESPB TECs that participated in the review with Board staff will be invited by staff to participate in presentation of the agenda item and this is where the Board can engage in discussion with ESPB TECs, if needed.
- The rest of the List review and revision process will follow the established process utilized by the Board and that is also in compliance with the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act and Illinois Administrative Procedures Act.

After some deliberation, Vice-chair Kruse **moved** to replace the use of Technical Advisory Committees with the process outlined and Ms. Ross seconded the motion. After further discussion about details of the process, the motion was **approved** unanimously.

153-13 Species Updates

The Board decided to not review species updates during the meeting.

153-14 Next Meeting Information (Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie), August 10, 2012

The 2012 meeting schedule follows. All meetings begin at 10:00 AM and are at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie.

February 17, 2012

May 11, 2012
August 10, 2012
November 9, 2012

153-15 Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

There were no public comments.

153-16 Other Business

There was none.

153-17 Adjournment

Vice-chair Kruse **moved** to adjourn, Ms. Ross seconded the motion, and the Board **approved** it unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 P.M.

153-4 ESPB Staff Report**Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board staff report
for the 153rd Meeting, February 17, 2012**

Submitted by Anne Mankowski, Director

The Board currently only has one staff, its Director; all activities were conducted by the ESPB Director unless otherwise noted. Ms. Mankowski has not been able to complete all required work in the course of a 37.5-hour work week. Since the last staff report, Ms Mankowski has worked the following overtime hours toward ESPB and IDNR duties: November: claimed = 7.5, donated = 13.5; December: claimed = 1.5, donated = 21.5; January: claimed = 46.5, donated = 17.0.

1. Preparation for the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species Review and Revision ending in 2014

The Board has begun work on the next review of the List; the process usually takes about two years. The Board is required by law to base its listing decisions on scientific evidence. Ms. Mankowski is currently compiling species information and working with IDNR Natural Heritage Database staff about coordinating development of database information that will be used by the Board and its technical advisory committees in the review of species status and distribution and making listing recommendations.

Ms. Mankowski spent a great deal of time working on reestablishment of the ESPB technical advisory committees (ESPB TACs). She made 52 contacts, conducted 47 phone conversations/interviews.

She also sent emails to IDNR ORC and to over 20 research and resource management institutions requesting assistances with information relative to the List review and revision. The email asked for submittal of Element Occurrence Reports to the Natural Heritage Database for currently listed species and to send to Ms. Mankowski any recommendations with supporting evidence for species additions, delistings, or changes in status that individuals felt were warranted.

2. ESPB/IDNR project to contract surveys to update endangered and threatened animal occurrence records that are greater than 10 years old

At the November 2011 Board meeting, Ms. Mankowski reported that the Board's FY2012 Wildlife Preservation Fund allocation was being used to partner with the IDNR Natural Heritage Database program to continue an ongoing project to contract with state universities to conduct surveys to update endangered and threatened animal element occurrence records that are greater than 10 years old. In December 2011 Ms. Mankowski was notified by Natural Heritage Division Chief Don McFall that the FY2012 IDNR WPF money that had been approved for the animal EOR update project by the IDNR/ESPB/INPC WPF committee, the citizen WPF committee, and Director Miller, was being withdrawn from the animal EOR update project and allocated toward further funding the INAI update project. Ms. Mankowski is working with ORC Director Jim Herkert to develop a committed cooperative project between the ESPB and IDNR to fund the animal EOR update project. If such a project can be agreed upon, the Board's FY2012 WPF funding will be dedicated to it.

3. Work on the ESPB 2012 Biennial Report and 40 Years of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act Publication

2012 marks the 40th anniversary of the enactment of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act. As per assignment from Chair Gooch at the ESPB 150th meeting held May 13, 2011, Ms. Mankowski is working on information for a 40-year review of accomplishments and challenges relative to provisions and requirements of the Endangered Species Protection Act. Depending on the length and complexity of the document it will either be incorporated into the ESPB 2012 Biennial Report or produced as a stand-alone document.

4. ESPB Webpage

Ms. Mankowski met with IDNR web support staff on January 26, 2012 to discuss the conversion of the ESPB's current webpage to the IDNR's new sharepoint website. The look and feel of the ESPB webpage will change with the conversion. Ms. Mankowski will continue working with IDNR web support staff to minimize loss of function or service from the conversion. Following the conversion, Ms. Mankowski will be responsible for partial maintenance and upkeep of the Board's webpage.

5. ESPB Budget

Ms. Mankowski continues working with IDNR on multiple budget assignments related to FY2012 and FY2013 budgets.

6. ESPB Research/Strategic Projects Program

Ms. Mankowski continues administration of IDNR research projects and assisting IDNR Natural Heritage Database Manager, Tara Kieninger, in working with partner organizations on an ongoing project to conduct surveys to update endangered and threatened animal element occurrence records (EOR) that are greater than 10 years old. The Board's FY2012 WPF allocation of \$25,000 is being dedicated to the animal endangered and threatened species EOR update project.

7. Meetings, Presentations, and other Publications

Ms. Mankowski participates in IDNR ORC twice-monthly and Natural Heritage monthly administrative meetings.

Ms. Mankowski participated in the 58th Natural Areas Evaluation Committee (NAEC) meeting held at IDNR headquarters December 6, 2011. The ESPB is a voting member of the NAEC. The meeting included combined approval of one new Category I (high-quality community) site and one new Category VI (unusual concentration of flora and fauna) site.

Ms. Mankowski is participating in an IDNR strategic planning process that began in December 2011. The process began with a two-day workshop hosted by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Management Assistance Team and has continued with agency-wide and office-specific exercises. The process is intended to help the IDNR identify the means by which to best deliver its mission under current and anticipated budgetary and resource challenges.

Ms. Mankowski sent a Season's Greetings email to the Board's email distribution list. The email gave notice of the Board's 2012 meeting schedule, reviewed a few activity highlights from 2011, and included information about a few activities anticipated for 2012.

Ms. Mankowski held a January 6, 2012 meeting of the Illinois Barn Owl recovery team at IDNR Headquarters in Springfield, Illinois. She prepared a report of 1st year accomplishments toward implementation of the Illinois Barn Owl Recovery Plan. The report will be posted on the ESPB webpage.

Ms. Mankowski attended the 210th meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission held January 23, 2012 at IDNR Headquarters in Springfield, Illinois. She presented a report of ESPB activities.

Ms. Mankowski and Dr. Dan Ludwig, IDNR Wildlife Resources, held a February 2, 2012 meeting of the Illinois Blanding's Turtle recovery planning team at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, in Wilmington, Illinois.

Ms. Mankowski attended the February 7, 2012 meeting of the Illinois Wildlife Action Team held at IDNR Headquarters in Springfield, Illinois. The Board is a voting member of the team.

8. Coordination with IDNR and INPC:

Ms. Mankowski coordinated with the Endangered Species Program ORC, Division of Wildlife ORC,

Impact Assessment Section OREP, Office of Land Management, Office of Law Enforcement, Office of Legal Counsel, Office of Strategic Services, Media Relations, and Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, on multiple matters, including:

- Met with IDNR ORC Director, Jim Herkert, to review ESPB/IDNR coordination of endangered and threatened species work.
- Distributed an email to IDNR ORC requesting assistance with information relative to the List review and revision that will end in 2014. The email asked IDNR staff to submit any outstanding EORs to the Natural Heritage Database and to send to Jim Herkert any recommendations with supporting evidence for species additions, delistings, or changes in status that IDNR staff felt were warranted. Dr. Herkert will compile any recommendations from IDNR and coordinate with Ms. Mankowski for including those in the Board's List review.
- Provided to IDNR Fiscal two annual reports summarizing the budget appropriations and expenditures for the two most recent fiscal years and budget request for the next fiscal year. The reports are included in a package the IDNR submits to the state legislature for all of its boards and commissions.
- Met with and provided assistance to IDNR Office of Legal Counsel in reviewing the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act and the administrative rules that support it as they relate to various endangered and threatened species issues.
- Met with IDNR OREP staff to discuss the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act and the administrative rules that support it as they relate to IDNR endangered and threatened species consultation process.
- Met with IDNR Legal Counsel and Natural Heritage staff and INPC staff to discuss a project involving the proposed relocation of an Illinois-threatened plant.
- Met with IDNR Legal Counsel and Natural Heritage Database staff to discuss the IDNR's data use agreement.
- Provided recommendations to IDNR regarding issues related to authorizations for incidental taking of endangered and threatened species and permits for possession of specimens or products of endangered or threatened species.
- Continued project management of the Illinois Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) recovery project.
- Continued project management for the development of a Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) recovery plan.
- With assistance from the ESPB technical advisory committee on birds, Ms. Mankowski provided review and comments to IDNR Wildlife Resources on an internal review of the draft Peregrine Falcon management and Monitoring Plan.
- Provided recommendations to IDNR Natural Heritage for the management of the Eastern Woodrat (*Neotoma floridana*) on private property.
- Provided guidance to IDNR Natural Heritage on the process for IDNR/ESPB coordination of draft incidental take authorization review.
- Provided review and comments to IDNR on the first draft of the *Illinois Species Recovery Plan for the Eastern Massasauga (Sistrurus catenatus catenatus)*.
- Provided to IDNR Natural Heritage and OREP information about the endangered and threatened species translocation approval coordination process between IDNR and ESPB that is supposed to precede issuance of an IDNR Endangered and Threatened Species Possession Permit for projects involving translocation.
- Provided review and comments to IDNR Office of Strategic Services on a draft article about rails for IDNR's *OutdoorIllinois* magazine.
- Provided review, comments, and questions to IDNR on one draft incidental take authorization: Loon Lake Management Plan, Lake County, involving Blackchin Shiner (*Notropis heterodon*), Blacknose Shiner (*Notropis heterolepis*), Iowa Darter (*Etheostoma exile*), Starhead Topminnow (*Fundulus dispar*), and Mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*).
- Fielded and referred 43 requests to IDNR for E&T consultation, incidental take, data, permits, etc.
- Directly responded to 69 requests for ESPB and E&T information from the public and other state and federal agencies.

9. Coordination with other Agencies

- Ms. Mankowski provided information about the listing process for endangered and threatened species and species status and reference information to Illinois Natural History Survey staff working on contract to update the list of fish species in greatest need of conservation for the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan.
- Ms. Mankowski provided a letter of support to the Shedd Aquarium for their Great Lakes initiative, *Keep the Lakes Great: Implementing an Integrated Model of Mission*, which will contribute to much-needed scientific research and conservation awareness and programming in the Great Lakes region. The Shedd Aquarium has recently taken on several post-doctoral staff, and as part of a partnership with the ESPB and IDNR, one of those staff will work on sampling for and mapping locations of Illinois endangered and threatened aquatic species in Illinois.

10. Field Work

None

11. Other General Administration and Clerical Work

- Prepared and routed Board member and staff travel vouchers.
- Regularly distributed information to Board and ESTAC members via email and hardcopy mailings.
- Provides to IDNR ORC, ESPB weekly report for possible inclusion in the weekly IDNR report to the Governor's Office and ESPB bi-weekly highlights for inclusion in IDNR executive staff meeting minutes.
- Distributed to Board members information regarding required Open Meetings Act online training.
- All aspects of preparation for the February 17, 2012 ESPB meeting.

**Illinois Department of Natural Resources
report to the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board
at the 153rd meeting, February 17, 2012**

Wildlife Preservation Fund

The Wildlife Preservation Fund check off will be included on the Illinois Income Tax form again this year. Taxpayers donated about \$150,000 last year and about the same is expected this year. We anticipate using the funds to conduct endangered species surveys, purchase grass and forb seed for prairie restorations and provide matching funds to any group interested in having the INAI completed in their county or region. In addition, \$5,000 will be set aside for ESPB travel expenses and \$25,000 for ESPB status surveys.

Natural Heritage Database

In January, database staff mapped and/or did data entry of 37 E&T occurrences, both new and updates and received 166 records of E&T species.

Illinois Natural Areas Inventory

The 58th Natural Areas Evaluation Committee (NAEC) meeting was held in December. Actions taken at the meeting resulted in the addition to the INAI of two Category I (high quality natural community) sites containing a grade B mesic prairie and a grade B glacial drift hill prairie and associated “best of kind” woodland community and one Category VI site for the presence of high mussel diversity. With the potential of many sites needing NAEC action as a result of the completion of the INAI Update, there will be 8 NAEC meetings in 2012. Anne Mankowski represents the ESPB on the NAEC.

The INAI Update is winding down. Nomination packets for 36 sites are being reviewed by DNR and NPC field staff. Another 41 sites should be available for field review soon and the remaining 77 sites from the 2011 field season should be available in the next couple of months. Nomination packets for qualifying sites will then be sent to the appropriate Natural Heritage Biologist for formal nomination. The review of these nominations represents a significant commitment from the field staff.

Prescribed burning

Prescribed burning has started up again at DNR preserves and reserves. 15 burns have already been conducted at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area.

Natural Heritage Resident Interns

There won't be a resident intern program in 2012 due to the tight budget. The resident intern is a one-year, paid, full-time position with DNR where students working on a Masters degree in biology gain work experience by assisting Natural Heritage Biologists or Nature Preserves Commission Preservation Specialists in the field. There have been more than 60 resident interns since the program began in 1993. The intern program is funded by the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund.

To: Endangered Species Protection Board (ESPB) Members
From: Randy Heidorn
Date: February 16, 2012
Subject: Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) Report for the ESPB

I. Protection Program:

- A. The 210th meeting of the INPC was held on January 24, 2012 at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Headquarters. The following sites received formal protection:
1. Land and Water Reserves (LWR) approved:
 - a. IDNR Wiley Addition to Apple River Canyon LWR, Jo Daviess Co., 104 acres owned by IDNR containing high quality cliff communities and one mile of the Apple River.
 - b. Addition to Black Crown Marsh LWR, McHenry Co., 212.1 acres owned by IDNR containing rare, threatened or endangered wetland dependent birds.
 2. Preliminary approval for dedication as an Illinois nature preserve (NP):
 - a. NP addition and buffer addition to Miller-Anderson Woods NP, Bureau and Putnam Co., 169 acres owned by IDNR containing a high quality seep and state threatened queen of the prairie (*Filipendula rubra*).
 - b. Brewster Creek Marsh, Du Page Co., 256.7 acres owned by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage Co. (FPDDC) containing populations of dwarf bur reed (*Sparganium chlorocarpum*), green yellow sedge (*Carex viridula*), marsh speedwell (*Veronica scutella*) and eight state listed wetland dependent birds.
 - c. Des Plaines Riverway, Du Page Co., 75.9 acres owned by the FPDDC containing marsh speedwell, cerulean warbler (*Dendroica cerulean*), black-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) and black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*).
 - d. Meacham Grove, Du Page Co., 48.8 acres owned by the FPDDC containing high quality dry-mesic and mesic upland forest and Wood's stiff sedge (*Carex woodii*).
 - e. Swift Prairie, Du Page Co., 111.1 acres owned by the FPDDC containing state and federally listed plant and wetland bird species.
 - f. Buffer addition to Truitt-Hoff NP, Du Page Co., 37.4 acres owned by the FPDDC buffering the existing NP.
 - g. Openlands Lakeshore Bluff and Ravine, Lake Co., 77 acres owned by Openlands containing eight state endangered or threatened species including shadbush (*Amelanchier sanguine*), marram grass, (*Ammophila breviligulata*), seaside spurge (*Chamaesyce polygonifolia*), buffalo berry (*Sheperdia canadensis*), sea rocket (*Cakile edentula*), golden sedge (*Carex aurea*), ground juniper (*Juniperus communis*), and dog violet (*Viola conspersa*).
 - h. Buffer addition to Colored Sands Bluff NP, Winnebago Co., 184.9 acres owned by the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District (WCFPD) buffering the existing NP.
 - i. Buffer addition to Sugar River Alder NP, Winnebago Co., 317 acres owned by WCFPD buffering the existing NP.
 3. Final approval for dedication as an Illinois NP:
 - a. Markham Prairie – East NP, Cook Co., 32 acres owned by The Nature Conservancy containing mesic and wet prairie.
 - b. Addition to Carl N. Becker Savanna NP, Kankakee Co., 77 acres owned by the IDNR containing high quality dry and dry-mesic sand savanna, and sand flatwoods providing habitat for 12 state listed species.
 - c. Dokum Mskoda Sedge Meadow NP, Lake Co. 92.76 acres owned by the Fields of Cambridge Homeowners Association including habitat for state endangered and federally listed wetland plants.
 - d. Hartman Springs NP, Pulaski Co., 40 acres owned by the Illinois Audubon Society containing habitat for a state endangered amphibian.
- B. Staff continue to work on multiple preservation projects including:
1. A draft NP proposal for Nachusa Grasslands.
 2. The proposed Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge.
 3. City of Chicago Nature & Wildlife Committee.

4. Wetland mitigation opportunities along the I-90 corridor.
 5. Millennium Reserve; a concept for land protection/stewardship/development in the Lake Calumet region.
- C. Staff worked on conservation planning efforts in the following conservation opportunity areas:
1. Lower Fox River.
 2. Upper Mississippi River.

II. Defense Program:

- A. Jenny Skufca prepared three Class III Special Resource Groundwater petitions to be submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for review. The INPC sites included in this round of petitions are Searls Park Prairie NP, Sand Ridge NP, and Yonder Prairie NP.
- B. Jenny Skufca and Kelly Neal participated in document review and meetings with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and IDNR staff regarding development of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Hine's Emerald Dragonfly as it relates to groundwater impacts to INPC sites in the HCP area.
- C. Mary Kay Solecki advised a township road commissioner in Champaign County on an altering mowing regime to minimize negative impacts to the state endangered Sangamon phlox (*Phlox pilosa*) along roadsides in his township with assistance from the owner of Smith's House Natural Heritage Landmark (NHL). This NHL adjoins a township road.
- D. Threats to sites within INPC programs:
1. **Bluff Spring Fen NP, Cook County – Steven Byers, John Nelson, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: Salt storage. Up to 50,000 tons of road de-icing salt was being stored on property owned by Bluff City Materials and located immediately south of Bluff Spring Fen NP.
 - b. Threat: At concentrations above 45 mg/L, chlorides (salt) are a known pollutant that can alter the chemical composition of groundwater that sustains fen wetland systems and are documented to promote a shift from a diverse assemblage of plants to monotypic stands of salt-tolerant plants.
 - c. Status: Resolved. The Office of the Attorney General filed a Consent Order in the Circuit Court of Cook County requiring a civil penalty, continued monitoring of groundwater, and the ceasing of all salt storage activities.
 2. **Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid NP, Lake County – Steven Byers**
 - a. Issue: The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) intends to widen Route 22. The proposal for dedication of this site provided for this construction. Plans include construction of a berm in order to reduce the width of the road project.
 - b. Threat: Indirect threat posed by sedimentation and subsequent increase in reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), which threatens the long-term viability of a federally-threatened plant.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. IDOT continues work toward acquisition of the property. INPC staff are coordinating with Long Grove Park District and IDOT on a management plan to provide long-term stewardship of the site.
 3. **Middlefork Savanna NP, Lake County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: Adjacent landowner, Knollwood Golf Club, dredged a golf course pond and piped sediment into the NP owned by the Lake County Forest Preserve District.
 - b. Threat: Direct and indirect impact to aquatic resources/ephemeral ponds in the NP and at Knollwood Club. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined wetlands are "jurisdictional."
 - c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff has reviewed and provided comments on a Complaint drafted by the Office of the Attorney General.
 4. **Bliss Woods NP, Kane County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: An unknown amount of lead shot has been deposited in the NP by years of trap/skeet shooting at the nearby Aurora Sportsman's Club.
 - b. Threat: Lead shot poses a threat to humans and the environment.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. INPC staff is working with the NP landowner, Forest Preserve District of Kane County (FPDKC), to minimize impact to the NP. Limited information is available due to pending litigation. On recommendation from IDNR Contaminant Assessment staff, the INPC has notified the IEPA that the full nature and extent of potential contamination has not been assessed.
 5. **Truitt-Hoff NP, DuPage County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: The City of West Chicago Community Development/Zoning Review is currently considering a variance that would allow for construction of a 132-foot-tall lighted tower within a close and unobstructed view of the prairie. The NP is co-owned by the City of West Chicago and the FPDDC. The FPDDC has requested this variance be denied.
 - b. Threat: The lighted tower represents a source of light pollution, threat to wildlife, and will impair the aesthetics of the site.

- c. Status: On going. INPC staff provided stipulations to IDNR Consultation related to protection of the prairie from any adverse impact. INPC comments related to shading of the prairie potentially changing ecological conditions were also provided directly to the FPDDC.
- 6. **Almon Underwood Prairie NP, Kane County – Steven Byers, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: A proposed landscape composting facility was sited adjacent to the NP owned by the FPDKC.
 - b. Threat: The proposed facility could introduce weed seeds/other contaminants into the NP and also poses a threat to the ability of the landowner to conduct controlled burns.
 - c. Status: New. INPC staff met with the FPDKC, Kane County planning, and a consultant to express concerns and to suggest alternative sites for the facility.
- 7. **Tallmadge Sand Forest LWR, Kankakee County – Kim Roman, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: 88 white oak trees were removed from within the LWR.
 - b. Threat: Direct impact to LWR. Unauthorized removal of trees, over 4,000 feet of up to 18-inch ruts were created throughout the interior of the LWR, and signs were removed.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. The IDNR Office of Legal Counsel continues to work with the Office of the Attorney General on this case.
- 8. **Nenawakwa LWR, McDonough County – Angella Moorehouse, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: The landowner discovered a grading encroachment within the LWR.
 - b. Threat: Unauthorized intrusion into the LWR, including tire ruts and large graded area leading to the neighbor's property.
 - c. Status: Resolved. The McDonough County State's Attorney's Office has informed the INPC that a settlement has been reached, and the LWR landowner will receive a negotiated restitution.
- 9. **Short Fork Seep NP, McDonough County – Angella Moorehouse, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: The landowner discovered that herbicide had been used within the NP associated with power line vegetative maintenance.
 - b. Threat: Direct impact to flora in the NP causing damage to the vegetation and soils within the high quality portion of seep/sedge meadow of the NP.
 - c. Status: Ongoing. The Office of the Attorney General has filed a Complaint for Injunctive and Other Relief in the Circuit Court for the Ninth Judicial Circuit, McDonough County.
- 10. **Stemler Cave NP, St. Clair County – Debbie Newman, Jenny Skufca**
 - a. Issue: Inaccessibility and vegetative management concerns related to a power line located across the top of the NP sinkhole and cave entrance.
 - b. Threat: Vegetative management could adversely impact the NP and present a safety hazard for the electric cooperative.
 - c. Status: Resolved. Monroe County Electric Cooperative has obtained the necessary easements to move the power line and poles along the road and out of the NP. The Cooperative has amended their easement with the NP landowners to exclude any areas within the NP boundaries. The Cooperative and the NP landowners are now determining the least intrusive manner for abandonment or removal of one pole within the boundary of the NP.

VII. Stewardship Program:

- A. Stewardship Planning:
 - 1. Kim Roman participated in a meeting with the Forest Preserve District of Will County and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding a Section 206 (aquatic restoration) project at Lockport Prairie NP and Prairie Bluff (recharge zone to Lockport Prairie NP).
 - 2. Mary Kay Solecki:
 - a. Coordinated installation of a barn owl (*Tyto alba*) box in a barn adjacent to Barnhart Restoration Prairie NP.
 - b. Continued coordinating the boundary survey for the Georgetown addition to Little Vermilion River LWR.
 - 3. Bob Edgin served on an ecological restoration team for a super fund mitigation site in Lawrence County.
- B. Stewardship project implementation: Staff continued to coordinate and administer stewardship projects, including the Hill Prairie Project, funded by the Landowners Incentive Program (LIP), State Wildlife Grant (SWG), Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), an IEPA 319 Grant, the NAAF, Chicago Wilderness Grants and INPC operations fund. These projects involve meeting with landowners, securing landowner agreements, preparing of grant applications, preparing bid packages, supervising contractors, and assisting in conducting restoration activities. Contractor work included prairie reconstruction and seed purchase, exotics and woody species control, dump cleanup, erosion control, boundary survey, fence construction,

sign posting, prescribed burn site preparation, and burn crews. Sites where this kind of work occurred include:

1. Area 2 (Byers): Nine MCCD wetland basins.
 2. Area 3 (Roman): Mskoda LWR, Des Plaines Dolomite Prairie LWR and Messenger Woods NP.
 3. Area 4 (Moorehouse): Robert A. Evers LWR, Cedar Glen NP, Josua Lindahl Hill Prairies NP, Short Fork Seep NP, Elton E. Fawks Bald Eagle Refuge NP, and two sites within the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Opportunity Area.
 4. Area 4 (Moorehouse and Geroff): Nenawakwa LWR, Stony Hills NP, and Black Hawk Forest NP.
 5. Area 5 (Lerczak): Several projects under the Hill Prairie SWG.
 6. Area 6 (Solecki): Woodyard Memorial Conservation Area LWR, Baber Woods NP,
 7. Area 7 (Newman): Eight sites.
 8. Area 8 (Edgin): Padgett Pin Oak Woods LWR and P & E Refuge LWR.
- C. Land management conducted by staff includes site surveillance, prairie reconstruction and seed purchase, exotics and woody species control, dump cleanup, erosion control, boundary survey, fence construction, sign posting, coordinating and working with volunteers, prescribed burn site preparation, and participating in or leading prescribed burns. Sites where this kind of work occurred and additional management related activities include:
1. Area 1 (Nelson): Harlem Hills NP, Pine Rock NP, Boone Creek Fen NP, Boloria Fen and Sedge Meadow NP, Freeport Prairie NP, and Wilson Prairie NP. Prescribed burns at Black-Crown Marsh LWR, Illinois Beach NP and State Park, Harlem Hills NP, Pistakee Bog NP, Volo Bog NP, and Moraine Hills State Park,
 2. Area 2 (Byers): Illinois Beach NP and State Park (burn), Wolf Road Prairie NP, and Queen Anne Cemetery Prairie NHL.
 3. Area 3 (Roman): Des Plaines Dolomite Prairie LWR, Superior St. Prairie LWR, Butterfield Creek Headwaters LWR, Sweet Fern Savanna LWR, Grant Creek Prairie NP, Hildy Prairie NP, Goose Lake Prairie NP, Wolf Road Prairie NP, Bonnie's Prairie NP, Old Plank Road Prairie NP, Millhurst Fen NP, Wilmington Shrub Prairie NP, and Long Run Seep NP. Prescribed burns at Harlem Hills NP and Grant Creek Prairie NP.
 4. Area 4 (Moorehouse): Prescribed burns at Stony Hills NP, Black Hawk Forest NP, and Cedar Glen NP.
 5. Area 4 (Geroff): Assisted with four prescribed burns and helped with mop-up for the wildfire at Pere Marquette State Park.
 6. Area 5 (Lerczak): Tomlin Timber NP.
 7. Area 6 (Solecki): Larimore's Salt Fork of the Vermilion River LWR, Monticello's Sangamon River LWR, Woodyard Memorial Conservation Area LWR, Doris Westfall Prairie Restoration NP, Fairchild Cemetery Prairie/Savanna NP, and Loda Cemetery Prairie NP.
 8. Area 7 (Newman): Salt Lick Point LWR, Katelyn's Woods LWR, Prairie of the Rock Overlook LWR, and White Rock NP (management and burn). Conducted exotics work at two additional LWRs and one NP.
 9. Area 8 (Edgin): Horn Prairie Grove LWR, P&E Refuge LWR, Lost Creek Marsh LWR, and Padgett Pin Oak Woods LWR, Robeson Hills NP, Emma Vance Woods NP, and Green Prairie NHL. Prescribed burns at Robert Ridgway Grasslands NP and led or assisted on 12 burns totaling 194 acres at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area LWR in Jasper County.

III. Training, Presentations, and Meetings Attended:

- A. Staff participated in an IDNR strategic planning effort coordinated by the Management Assistance Team (MAT) of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.
- B. Randy Heidorn, in consultation with IDNR administration, prepared a document describing INPC, Division of Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Protection Board needs and short falls that are and will result if borrowed Natural Areas Acquisition Funds are not repaid or the revenue from the Real Estate Transfer Tax do not recover.

Report on the ESPB research/strategic funding program to address the status, conservation, and/or recovery of Illinois endangered or threatened species

Submitted by Anne Mankowski, Director
for the 153rd Meeting, February 17, 2012

An important effort of the Endangered Species Protection Board is to gather information that will improve our knowledge of various species in Illinois and help lead toward listing decisions for those species. As per the ESPB Policy Manual, “The Board may conduct, sponsor, or administer research in an effort to gather information, which will improve knowledge of various species in Illinois and help lead toward listing decisions for those species. Board philosophy on the conduct of research is that none will be supported or endorsed unless it clearly provides information pertinent to listing, or generates information important to management strategies that can enhance protection or lead to recovery. The Board will not support/endorse any research that poses threat to listed species.”

The Board does not currently have adequate funding in its budget to support research or strategic projects to address the status, conservation, and/or recovery of endangered and threatened species, but receives \$25,000 annually from the IDNR Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund to use toward these objectives.

FY2011 Funding

Four research projects were contracted using FY2011 funding (see below). Prior to the November 2011 Board meeting, two projects were amended to allow no-cost extensions of one year and since the November meeting, an additional project was amended to allow a no-cost extension. Because these are now two-year projects, a first year report is required. As has been discussed previously, the administrative burden to amending contracts is significant and Ms. Mankowski will be working with IDNR procurement staff to identify the best means to eliminate this burden in the future. While many of the no-cost extension requests provide several reasons to justify the need, it may be most efficient for the Board to adopt a project standard that does not allow for any extensions. In this way all projects would need to be single-year projects or for proposed multi-year projects the proposal would have to identify the full extent of the project at the beginning and the Board would have to have all funding available up front.

Contract #	Title	Researcher/ Institution	Award Amount	Start Date	End Date
RC11E04W	Investigating the role of genetic diversity and pollination biology as potential causes for reproductive failure in <i>Asclepias lanuginosa</i> (wooly milkweed). Since it was amended to a multiyear project, will require a first year report.	Jeremie Fant and David Zaya / CBG and UIC	\$7,632	01/03/2011	02/28/2012 Amended to 02/28/2013
RC11E02W	Gene Flow among Populations of the Four-Toed Salamander, <i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i> . Since it was amended to a multiyear project, will require a first year report.	Abigail J. Maley / INHS/UIUC	\$5,000	03/01/2011	12/31/2011 Amended to 12/31/2012
RC11E01W	Evaluation of Distribution, Movements, and Habitat Use of River Redhorse (<i>Moxostoma carinatum</i>) and Greater Redhorse (<i>Moxostoma valenciennisi</i>) in the Upper Illinois River Basin.	David H. Wahl / INHS/UIUC	\$8,500	04/01/2011	03/31/2012
RC11E03W	Baseline monitoring and molecular characterization of the state endangered Enigmatic Cavesnail, <i>Fontigens antroecetes</i> (Hubricht 1940) Since it was amended to a multiyear project, will require a first year report.	Steven J. Taylor, Marlis Douglas, Jeremy Tiemann, and Robert Weck / INHS/UIUC and individual	\$2,878	01/03/2011	10/15/2011 Amended to 12/31/2012

FY2012 Funding

At the November 2011 Board meeting, Ms. Mankowski reported that the Board’s FY2012 Wildlife Preservation Fund allocation was being used to partner with the IDNR Natural Heritage Database program to continue an ongoing project to contract with state universities to conduct surveys to update

endangered and threatened animal element occurrence records that are greater than 10 years old. In December 2011 Ms. Mankowski was notified by Natural Heritage Division Chief Don McFall that the FY2012 IDNR WPF money that had been approved for the animal EOR update project by the IDNR/ESPB/INPC WPF committee, the citizen WPF committee, and Director Miller, was being withdrawn from the animal EOR update project and allocated toward further funding the INAI update project. Ms. Mankowski is working with ORC Director Jim Herkert to develop a committed cooperative project between the ESPB and IDNR to fund the animal EOR update project. If such a project can be agreed upon, the Board's FY2012 WPF funding will be dedicated to it.