

ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE 175<sup>th</sup> MEETING, AUGUST 11, 2017

MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE, MAIN MEETING ROOM, VISITOR CENTER; 30239 SOUTH STATE ROUTE 53; WILMINGTON, IL 60481

Approved at the 176<sup>th</sup> meeting, November 17, 2017

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Angelo Capparella, Dr. Janice Coons, Dr. Jeremie Fant, Dr. Joyce Hofmann, Mr. Bruce Ross-Shannon, Dr. Philip Willink, and Mr. Chris Young

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Tracy Evans and Mr. Randy Schietzelt

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeannie Barnes (INHS), Marni English (INPC), Trent Thomas (IDNR), Jeremy Tiemann (INHS), Chris Taylor (INHS), Alison Stodola (INHS), Joe Kath (IDNR), Kelly Neal (INPC), Rob Maher (IDNR), and Lyndsey Ramsey (Illinois Farm Bureau)

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

Chair Hofmann called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M. and read the roll call. Since six Board members were in attendance (Mr. Young being a non-voting member), a quorum was present. Chair Hofmann welcomed the visitors 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. Ross-Shannon and carried by unanimous vote.

3 Approval of Minutes from the 174<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Draft minutes of the 174<sup>th</sup> meeting were distributed to Board members prior to the meeting. No corrections were proposed so the minutes of the 174<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as presented.

4 Report from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Board members received a report detailing activities of the IDNR's Office of Resource Conservation and Office of Realty and Environmental Planning. Mr. Young presented information about the Department's funding situation. He will bring proposed changes to the consultation process to the Board's attention at the November meeting.

5 Report from the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

Ms. Kelly Neal presented an oral report and a written memorandum from the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. There is a new Natural Areas Preservation Specialist in Area 9. Kevin Sierzega will be stationed at the Shawnee National Forest office in Harrisburg. The Commission will be meeting on September 12.

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

Chair Hofmann reported on her activities since the 174<sup>th</sup> meeting date. These were included in her written report to the Board. She has had positive responses from the experts invited to serve

on the Mammal Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee (ESTAC) and has been working on draft minutes for other ESTACs.

7 Semi-annual Review of Whether to Keep Closed the Minutes from Previous Closed Meetings

The Board considered whether to release for public review the minutes from previous closed sessions of the Board. All closed sessions have dealt exclusively with personnel matters. Upon a motion by Mr. Ross-Shannon, which was seconded by Dr. Janice Coons, and the unanimous vote of the members present, it was agreed that such minutes would remain closed.

8 Presentation: Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Remove the American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) from the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species  
– Rob Maher (IDNR)

Mr. Maher of the IDNR Division of Fisheries had submitted a petition to delist the American Eel in Illinois. He gave a PowerPoint presentation on the natural history and status of the species and answered questions from Board members. Dr. Capparella made a motion to give preliminary approval for removing the American Eel from the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species. The motion was seconded by Dr. Fant and passed unanimously.

9 Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Change the Status of the Crystal Darter (*Crystallaria asprella*) from Threatened to Endangered

The Board discussed a petition for changing the status of the Crystal Darter from threatened to endangered submitted by Jeremy Tiemann and Chris Taylor. There was a general discussion about issues related to listing species that occur in rivers bordering the state. Dr. Willink made a motion to give preliminary approval for changing the status of the Crystal Darter from threatened to endangered. The motion was seconded by Dr. Fant and approved by unanimous vote.

10 Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Change the Status of the Cisco (*Coregonus artedii*) from Threatened to Endangered

Dr. Willink submitted a petition for changing the status of the Cisco from threatened to endangered. He answered questions from other Board members about the species. There was a general discussion about issues related to listing fish that occur in Lake Michigan. Dr. Coons made a motion to give preliminary approval for changing the status of the Cisco from threatened to endangered. Dr. Capparella seconded the motion and it was approved by unanimous vote.

11 Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Remove the Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*) from the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

Board members discussed a petition to delist the Black Sandshell (mussel) submitted by Sarah Douglass, Alison Stodola, Jeremy Tiemann, and Kevin Cummings of the Illinois Natural History Survey. Dr. Capparella made a motion to give preliminary approval for removing the Black Sandshell from the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species. The motion was seconded by Dr. Willink and approved by unanimous vote.

12 Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Remove the Slippershell Mussel (*Alasmidonta viridis*) from the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

The Board discussed a petition from Douglass, Stodola, Tiemann, and Cummings to delist the Slippershell Mussel. Ms. Stodola and Mr. Tiemann provided comments in support of the petition and pointed out that this species is able to live in degraded streams. Dr. Fant made a

motion to give preliminary approval for removing the Slippershell Mussel from the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species. The motion was seconded by Dr. Coons and approved by unanimous vote.

13 Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Remove the Little Spectaclecase (*Villosa lienosa*) from the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

Douglass, Stodola, Tiemann, and Cummings submitted a petition to delist the Little Spectaclecase. (mussel). Dr. Capparella made a motion to give preliminary approval to removing the Little Spectaclecase from the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species. It was seconded by Dr. Fant and approved by unanimous vote.

14 Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Change the Status of the Spike (*Elliptio dilatata*) from Threatened to Endangered

The Board discussed a petition from Stodola, Douglass, Tiemann, and Cummings to change the status of the Spike (mussel). Mr. Ross-Shannon made a motion to give preliminary approval for changing the status of the Spike from threatened to endangered. The motion was seconded by Dr. Fant and approved by unanimous vote.

15 Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Add the Monkeyface (*Theliderma matanevra*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

A petition to add the Monkeyface (mussel) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species was submitted by Tiemann, Douglass, Stodola, and Cummings. Mr. Tiemann pointed out that this species is not doing well in the Midwest. Dr. Capparella made a motion to give preliminary approval for adding the Monkeyface to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species. Dr. Willink seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

16 Discussion of a Plan to Divide Listed Plants into Manageable Groups for Review and Botanical Experts for the Review – Janice Coons and Jeremie Fant

Since more than 324 plant species are on the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species, there had been a consensus that they needed to be divided into manageable groups for review. Chair Hofmann pointed out that species could be divided taxonomically, geographically, or by habitat. Dr. Coons and Dr. Fant have discussed this issue since the last meeting and felt that the plants should be grouped geographically. They also presented a list of botanists and their areas of geographic and taxonomic expertise. The Board discussed the idea of having an official Plant ESTAC with a limited number of members and inviting other botanists to attend regional meetings for northern, central, and southern Illinois. There was a consensus to take that approach. Dr. Coons and Dr. Fant will work on dividing the plants into groups and asking more of the botanists if they are willing to assist with the list revision.

17 Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

No public comments were made.

18 Other Business

Chair Hofmann reminded Board members to submit their time sheets and travel forms to Carrie Rapp at IDNR.

18 Next Meeting Information

The next meeting will be at 10 A.M. on November 17, 2017 at Midewin.

19     Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting Chair Hofmann adjourned the meeting at 12:35 P.M.