

# ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

MINUTES OF 197<sup>th</sup> MEETING, February 3, 2023

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Director's Boardroom

One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702

and remotely via WebEx

Approved at the 198<sup>th</sup> meeting, May 19, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Angelo Capparella, Ms. Samantha Chavez, Dr. Janice Coons, Dr. David Gibson, Dr. Joyce Hofmann, Mr. Randy Schietzelt, Dr. Tih-Fen Ting, Dr. Philip Willink, and Mr. Chris Young.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Jeremie Fant.

OTHERS PRESENT: Heather Osborn (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage ITA Coordinator), Brian Metzke (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage, Aquatic Ecologist), Ann Marie Holtrop (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage), Natalia Maass (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage Database Program), Joe Kath (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage), Tara Kieninger (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage Database Program), Michelle Bloomquist (IDNR Statewide Recovery Specialist), Todd Strole (Executive Director INPC), Trent Thomas (IDNR Fisheries), Bob Szafoni (INPC), Philip Cox (IDNR), Brad Semel (IDNR), Stephen Tillman (IDNR), Amelia Gooding Cheek (Environmental Policy at Illinois Farm Bureau), Shawn McKinley (Edge Engineering and Science), Zach Alley (Edge Engineering and Science), Emily Pody (Edge Engineering and Science), Sarah Messer (Edge Engineering and Science), Mitchel Kriege (Edge Engineering and Science), Juan Pablo Ramirez-Franco (Northern Public Radio), and Cory Murphy.

## 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 conducted the roll call. Eight voting Board members were in attendance, constituting a quorum. Dr. Hofmann welcomed the visitors and asked them to introduce themselves.

## 2. Adoption of Agenda

Dr. Capparella moved that the agenda be adopted as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Coons. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

## 3. Approval of Minutes from the 196<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Draft minutes of the 196<sup>th</sup> meeting had been distributed to Board members prior to the meeting by email. Dr. Ting moved that the minutes of the 196<sup>th</sup> meeting be approved as presented. Dr. Capparella seconded the motion and it passed unanimously, with Dr. Coons abstaining because

she did not attend the meeting. Dr. Hofmann said that she would have the minutes posted on the website.

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

The Department's report had been distributed to the Board via email and in person. Ms. Holtrop stated that IDNR is discussing support for the Endangered Species Protection Board (ESPB). Job duties for a position directly supporting ESPB are being discussed and Mr. Young will continue to work with Dr. Hofmann on options.

At the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission meeting in January, a question was posed about how other states list and delist species. IDNR staff are gathering data to answer this question and will assemble responses for ESPB.

Ms. Holtrop briefly mentioned surveys and assessments for species in Illinois and adjacent states, including Whooping Crane, Piping Plover, Sturgeon Chub, and Sicklefin Chub. Within Illinois, IDNR received two reports focused on existence surveys and recovery plans for Kidneyleaf Mud Plantain and American Snowbell Bush. The data will be shared with plant ESTAC members.

Michelle Bloomquist joined IDNR Division of Natural Heritage as the Statewide Recovery Specialist. She will be working with Brad Semel (northern Illinois) and Scott Ballard (southern Illinois), among others.

Species Status Assessments have been finalized for 35 of 38 species with Species Leads. The next step is to identify and prioritize conservation actions, followed eventually by formal planning documents, with funding being a consideration.

IDNR hosted the 85<sup>th</sup> Natural Areas Evaluation Committee meeting at which the draft revision of the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) Standards and Guidelines was unveiled. The next steps were laid out for development and clarification of standards related to minimum size requirements, mapping boundaries, management prioritization, and relationship to the species recovery process for Category II (those harboring specific suitable habitat for listed species). Revisions are ongoing, so the report will be distributed later.

IDNR made a comparison between State listed and federally listed species in an effort to coordinate better with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies, as well as maximize financial resources. On one hand, all listed amphibians in Illinois are only listed by the State. None are federally listed. On the other hand, half of the listed mammals are listed by the State and the other half are listed at both the State and federal level. The mammal pattern is largely driven by bats. Other taxa are between these extremes.

Dr. Ting asked if Species Assessments would be helpful for Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees (ESTACs)? And if so, would they be provided. Mr. Kath answered that some Species Assessments were online. Others can be shared if not online yet.

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

An INPC report was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting via email and in person. Mr. Strole highlighted that 398 (of 486) listed species are at least partially found within a Nature Preserve or Land and Water Reserve. Hence there is strong overlap in the work of the INPC and ESPB.

The report “Herbicide Drift and Chemical Trespass on Natural Landscapes and Habitats” was posted to the INPC website following the Commission’s September 2022 meeting. Mr. Strole attended the December 2022 meeting of the Interagency Committee on Pesticides, spoke briefly to the committee, shared a copy of the report, and asked to work closely with the committee. Staff from INPC and IDNR met with Illinois Natural History Survey to discuss drift monitoring possibilities.

Kelly Neal continued to work with Department of Innovation and Technology on the development of an online permit application system and database for scientific permits. It is hoped that it should be ready for permit renewals for 2023.

2023 marks 60 years since the passage of the Illinois Natural Area Preservation Act. INPC plans to highlight this milestone in several ways, including 1) articles in the Outdoor Illinois online journal, 2) creating an online story map featuring 60 sites in the Nature Preserves System, and 3) working closely with the Wild Things Conference (February 25 in Rosemont, IL), where the theme is “Celebrating the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Illinois Nature Preserves System”.

Angella Moorehouse assisted with organizing the terrestrial invertebrate ESTAC meeting.

A list of ongoing threats was presented. Most are neighbor intrusions. At Catlin Salt Marsh, U.S. Silica is proposing to expand its mining operations in proximity to the site. INPC is working with others on the situation. There are concerns the mining may impact the hydrology of the marsh. INPC has no regulatory authority in this instance and is just consulting.

Mr. Schietzelt commented that it would be nice to have a list of listed species NOT on protected land. Mr. Strole added that listed species could be on land overseen by other stakeholders, such as the Army Corps.

Dr. Gibson inquired if there were any further updates on the Bell Bowl Prairie site. Mr. Strole clarified that it is an INAI site, but not protected. Ms. Holtrop continued by saying that Rockford International Airport rescinded their Incidental Take Authorization (ITA) application. They did submit their survey data to IDNR. In the opinion of the Airport, the likelihood of taking a listed species was deemed a low risk, so there was no need for the ITA. IDNR consultation is done. Dr. Capparella commented that there was a typographical error in the INPC report where it stated that IDNR consultation was re-opened.

Ms. Chavez asked if the Airport did not have an ITA, but then took an endangered or threatened species, would it be a violation Ms. Holtrop replied that if there was any evidence that take occurred, the situation would be referred to the legal department.

Ms. Chavez then asked if any other agencies have authority over the situation at Catlin Salt Marsh. Mr. Strole was not sure, but it is possible the U.S. Army Corps may if wetlands are involved. There may also be mining regulations. He was not aware of any coordination among agencies at this time.

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

Chair Hofmann provided a written report on her activities since the last meeting; the report is attached to these minutes. She performed the usual administrative tasks of dealing with email, reviewing draft minutes from the previous meeting, distributing draft ITAs and Conservation Plans to Board members, and distributing materials for the current meeting.

Chair Hofmann attended the Terrestrial Invertebrate ESTAC meeting on December 1 where she acted as facilitator and took notes for minutes. Members of the committee are doing more research on potential species. The ESTAC plans to meet again for further discussion.

Chair Hofmann pointed out that the ESPB website is now being maintained by INPC intern Heather McLean.

Chair Hofmann was contacted by a landowner who was concerned about the siting of some wind turbines at a wind farm development and wished the ESPB to intervene. Chair Hofmann discussed the situation with Ms. Osborn (IDNR). In short, wind farms are a complicated issue. They do not fall under the purview of ESPB. At this time, they largely fall under the jurisdiction of county boards.

7. Update on Board Appointments and the Status of Hiring or Contracting Board Staff

Dr. Gibson was recently appointed to the ESPB and this is his first meeting. We welcome him. For the first time in several years, there are no vacancies on the Board.

Terms are expiring in May for Board members Dr. Coons, Dr. Fant, and Dr. Ting. If they wish to continue serving on the Board, they need to apply for reappointment online. Dr. Coons indicated that she is willing to reapply but would like an official reappointment letter.

A proposed Scope of Work for Board Staff was presented to Mr. Young, who is discussing the situation with Mr. John Rogner (IDNR Deputy Director). This issue was mentioned earlier in this meeting. Mr. Young clarified that IDNR can hire for this position, but they need funding. So perhaps it will happen next fiscal year. IDNR is trying to figure out what is feasible.

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

Dr. Hofmann pointed out that there have been no closed sessions since the Board voted on this issue at the 195<sup>th</sup> meeting. Dr. Capparella moved to keep the minutes of previously closed sessions closed and the motion was seconded by Dr. Ting. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Preliminary Approval to Change the Common Name of *Aflexia rubranura* from Redveined Prairie Leafhopper to Red-tailed Leafhopper

This name change was recommended by the Terrestrial Invertebrate ESTAC. Mr. Schietzelt moved to make the name change and the motion was seconded by Dr. Ting. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

After the vote, Dr. Ting pointed out that the name should have actually been Red-tailed *Prairie* Leafhopper. Dr. Hofmann will investigate it, adding that this vote was only preliminary.

10. Preliminary Approval to Change the Genus Name of the Regal Fritillary from *Speyeria* to *Argynnis*

This name change was recommended by the Terrestrial Invertebrate ESTAC. Dr. Capparella moved to make the name change and the motion was seconded by Dr. Ting. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

11. Update on Scheduling of ESTAC Meetings

Dr. Hofmann once again indicated that the Terrestrial Invertebrate ESTAC has met.

The Plant ESTAC will meet next to discuss plants of northern Illinois. Species information packets have been prepared by Ms. Maass and Ms. Kieninger. Dr. Coons and Dr. Fant will start to coordinate the meeting sometime soon, possibly with assistance from Dr. Gibson.

Dr. Hofmann wondered if it would then be possible for the Bird ESTAC to meet after the Plant ESTAC. Dr. Capparella will help to coordinate this meeting, possibly later in the spring when species information packets are ready.

Dr. Hofmann indicated that the ESTACs for central plants and southern plants would then meet. Meetings for Amphibian and Reptiles, Fishes, Aquatic Invertebrates, and Mammals (in that proposed order) would be interwoven with the plant meetings.

12. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

13. Other Business

Dr. Hofmann announced that IDNR has a new Director, Ms. Natalie Finnie.

Dr. Hofmann informed everyone that the 200<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ESPB is coming up in November. It would be nice to have some type of celebration during or after the meeting. She encouraged everyone to keep this in mind.

Dr. Hofmann will not be able to attend the May 19, 2023 meeting, so Vice-Chair Ting would preside. This meeting will presumably be hybrid.

Mr. Young stated that hybrid Board meetings are enhancing attendance. Thirty are attending this meeting.

Mr. Schietzelt represents the ESPB at the Natural Areas Evaluation Committee meetings. He cannot attend its February 28, 2023 meeting and asked for a volunteer to fill in. The time commitment is about two hours. Ms. Chavez offered to attend the meeting in his stead.

14. Adjournment

Chair Hofmann adjourned the meeting at 11:21 A.M.



# **ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD**

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## **Report from the Chair, 3 February 2023**

Joyce Hofmann

### **Activities for the period between the 196<sup>th</sup> and 197<sup>th</sup> Board meetings**

- performed follow-up for 196<sup>th</sup> meeting – arranged for the final agenda of the 196<sup>th</sup> meeting and the approved minutes of the 195<sup>th</sup> Board meeting 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)
- reviewed draft minutes for the Board’s 196<sup>th</sup> meeting
- distributed one draft Incidental Take Authorization (ITA) to Board members for potential review
- scheduled and made arrangements for a meeting of the Terrestrial Invertebrate Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee (ESTAC) on 1 December 2022
- attended the meeting of the Terrestrial Invertebrate ESTAC and acted as a facilitator
- had a phone conversation with Heather Osborn about the review process for the development of wind farms
- updated and distributed the list of Board members’ contact information
- sent an electronic version of the ESPB Policy Manual to the new Board members
- attended the 243<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission on 24 January 2023 and presented a report on behalf of the Board
- prepared for the 197<sup>th</sup> Board meeting – prepared the notice for the 197<sup>th</sup> meeting, developed an agenda for the 197<sup>th</sup> meeting, had the draft agenda posted on the Board’s website and at the IDNR building, and distributed materials for the 197<sup>th</sup> meeting to Board members