

ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

MINUTES OF 201st MEETING, February 23, 2024

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Director's Boardroom

One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702

and remotely via WebEx

Approved at the 202nd meeting, May 17, 2024

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

BOARD MEMBERS REMOTE: Dr. David Gibson 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), Michelle Bloomquist (IDNR Statewide Recovery Specialist), Angella Moorehouse (INPC), Leon Hinz (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage), Kelly Neal (INPC), Valerie Njapa (INPC), Nathaniel Slaton (GIS IDNR Intern), Trent Thomas (IDNR Fisheries), Lorraine Foelske (INPC), Brian Charles (INHS), Laura Rericha-Anchor (Forest Preserve District of Cook County), Josh Nickelson (IDNR Private Lands), Allison Sacerdote-Velat (Chicago Academy of Sciences / Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum), Phil Cox (IDNR), Steve Robillard (IDNR Fisheries), Dr. Brent Pease (SIU Forestry), Iza Redlinski (Forest Preserve District of Cook County), Mark Alessi (IDNR), and Chip O'Leary (IDNR).

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

Chair Hofmann called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M. and conducted the roll call. Seven voting Board members were physically in attendance, constituting a quorum. Dr. Hofmann welcomed the visitors and asked them to introduce themselves.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Schietzelt moved that the agenda be adopted as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ting. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

3. Approval of Minutes from the 200th Meeting

Draft minutes of the 200th meeting had been distributed to Board members prior to the meeting by email. Dr. Coons moved that the minutes of the 200th meeting be approved as presented. Dr.

Capparella seconded the motion and it passed unanimously, with Dr. Ting abstaining. The minutes will be 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. Ms. Holtrop highlighted that the Memorandum of Agreement (also referred to as Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)) between IDNR and the Board will be moved to the IDNR Director for final signature. The Governor's Office has been in contact with IDNR regarding reappointment letters for Board members.

There will be a new State Police facility near Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve. This is an evolving situation. A consultation was conducted in the past but has expired. A new consultation is being submitted. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is aware of the situation. This is a very recent development, so IDNR is working on this.

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has withdrawn its Conservation Plan for work on I-64 over the Wabash River. IDOT also withdrew an amended Conservation Plan then terminated an Incidental Take Authorization (ITA) for work on IL-2 over the Rock River because they could not move E&T mussels in time. IDOT has also declined to implement an ITA involving Kirtland's Snake.

IDNR's Recovery Process continues to move forward, and they are now beginning peer review process within the agency.

Two reports on mussels in the Kankakee River were recently completed. This is notable because it was a joint initiative between IDNR and Indiana DNR with federal aid from USFWS.

USFWS has recently published the Federal Listing and Recovery Workplan for Midwest States. Thirty-five species within this workplan are found in Illinois.

The Aquatic Ecology Program has completed three studies to refine conservation strategies for Ironcolor Shiner, Shawnee Hills Cavefish, and Mottled Sculpin.

It is a time-consuming task to prepare the IDNR report for this and other meetings. IDNR is considering ways to streamline the process and align the report to the interests of this Board and the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission. By leveraging connections, the goal is to make a shared report. IDNR will try this for the May meeting.

Dr. Gibson mentioned that the Board approved the MOU at the previous meeting, but there were some items that needed to be slightly modified. Chair Hofmann clarified that some revisions were made before moving forward. She will send around the signed copy. Ms. Holtrop continued by saying that a provision was adding stating IDNR would maintain Board files. Chair Hofmann said that Conservation Plans will be sent to the Board earlier in the ITA process.

Dr. Ting wondered if the withdrawal / termination of ITAs and Conservation Plans by IDOT was unusual. Ms. Holtrop answered that it does happen sometimes, usually due to construction logistics, species being delisted, etc. But it is unusual to see this with a state agency. Dr. Ting asked if this was due to staffing changes at IDOT. Ms. Holtrop replied that there were some. IDNR is continuing discussion with IDOT. Ms. Chavez asked if there was cohesion within IDOT. Ms. Holtrop was not sure. IDNR is trying to learn more about their project timing and understand their process.

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

An INPC report was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting via email. Ms. Neal highlighted that two new nature preserves, three nature preserve additions, and two new land and water reserves, totaling around 610 acres, were protected. There are now around 125,000 acres protected within the system. This includes habitat for 402 (of 483) endangered and threatened species.

The next meeting of the INPC is May 14, 2024 in Putnam County.

INPC's Executive Director Todd Strole has been appointed as Assistant Director of IDNR replacing former Assistant Director John Rogner who retired at the end of 2023.

Mr. Schietzelt noted that the Natural Areas Evaluation Committee is adding sites on the basis of threatened and endangered species.

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.

The previous Board meeting was the 200th. Chair Hofmann thanked everyone for making the landmark meeting a success.

Five petitions are being held back for the May Board meeting, since this meeting has an unusually large number of petitions to be considered.

Chair Hofmann will be travelling April 9-29, and will not be checking email on a regular basis.

7. 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 199th meeting. Mr. Schietzelt moved to keep the minutes of previously closed sessions closed and the motion was seconded by Dr. Coons. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Board Appointments

Appointments for Ms. Chavez, Dr. Gibson, and Dr. Hofmann expire in May. Dr. Hofmann has already reapplied. Dr. Gibson is retiring and will not reapply. Ms. Chavez will reapply. IDNR is communicating with the Governor's Office (as previously mentioned under agenda item #4). All agree the application / reapplication process is confusing.

9. Update on Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees (ESTACs) and Approval of the Addition of Dr. Brent Pease to the Avian ESTAC

The CV for Dr. Brent Pease had been distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. Dr. Capparella motioned that Dr. Pease be added to the Avian ESTAC. Dr. Ting seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

All ESTACs have met. Petitions will continue to be submitted, possibly including two for birds (Osprey and Eastern Whip-poor-will), one or two mammals (Franklin's Ground Squirrel and

Northern Bat), a few plants (34 petitions were proposed, but only five have been submitted to date), six herps, and a few fishes.

10. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Change the Status of Swollen Sedge (*Carex intumescens*) from Endangered to Threatened

Mr. Brian Charles gave a brief presentation on this species, mentioning that it is mostly around Chicago and the southern tip of Illinois. The southern populations appear to be either stable or increasing, hence the shift from endangered to threatened.

Mr. Schietzelt noted that the northern populations seem to be decreasing while the southern populations are increasing. He asked if a shift in status is warranted. Mr. Charles replied that the assessment was looking at the entire state of Illinois to make the decision.

Dr. Gibson noted that the increase in southern populations could be due to increased surveillance. He also mentioned that a couple of maps were included with the petition, with one of them showing records in central Illinois. Mr. Charles explained that the central Illinois records were old and the populations were probably extirpated.

Ms. Chavez motioned that the status of Swollen Sedge *Carex intumescens* be changed from endangered to threatened. Mr. Schietzelt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Add Streamline Chub (*Erimystax dissimilis*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as Threatened

It was noted that there was a typo with the date on the Coversheet – Section C and Petition – Section G that needed to be fixed. It should be ‘7 October 2020’.

Mr. Trent Thomas gave a brief presentation on this species, mentioning that it was first found in Illinois in 2020 by Adam Jones of Eastern Illinois University. Not much is known about this species, especially in Illinois. It is a relatively large minnow that is found in deep, fast water that is a limited habitat in Illinois and difficult to survey. It spawns in the spring. It is secure to the east, becoming rarer to the north (i.e., New York) and south (i.e., Alabama). It is stable in Indiana in the Wabash, Tippecanoe, White, Blue, and now Vermilion rivers. It is presumably appearing in Illinois because of the habitat improvements associated with the removal of the Danville Dam in 2018, with the first record at the Danville Dam site in 2020. It was not found during the 2021 IDNR basin survey. Access is difficult along the Lower Vermilion. Threats include industrial and agricultural pollution, siltation, and drought.

Mr. Schietzelt noted that there was only one dot in Indiana on the Vermilion River map. He asked if the population goes upstream and downstream in the Wabash River. Mr. Thomas did not know exactly, but there is a Wabash population upstream from the mouth of the Vermilion. Mr. Schietzelt continued by saying Barn Owls were delisted because they move around. He asked how readily fish repopulate. Mr. Thomas replied that it depends on the source population. Sometimes rare species repopulate quickly, but one never knows.

Dr. Ting observed that the species may be rare in Illinois because its preferred habitat is rare. Mr. Thomas agreed that that could be the case. Dr. Ting continued by saying that it also may have low numbers because it is expanding its range. The Board could add the species to the List to protect the habitat. Mr. Thomas agreed by saying it is difficult to restore this habitat, so we should protect what we have. More surveys would be worthwhile.

Dr. Capparella noticed that the publication recommended the Streamline Chub be listed as endangered, but now it is being proposed as threatened. Mr. Thomas was under the impression that first listings were always threatened. Dr. Hofmann clarified that a species could be first listed as endangered. She then asked if the species was reproducing in Illinois. Dr. Willink noted that the Endangered Species Act states a species can be listed if it “reproduced or otherwise significantly used, as in migration or overwintering, the area which is now the State of Illinois”.

Dr. Ting suggested that perhaps it would be worthwhile to list the species in order to help protect the habitat. Ms. Holtrop clarified that additional criteria would have to be met before the area could be considered, for example, part of the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory. She then wondered if the Streamline Chub was present in Illinois in the past. Dr. Willink replied that 100 years ago Streamline Chub were taxonomically confused with Gravel Chub, which are also in the same Vermilion watershed. Therefore it is difficult to impossible to know with certainty if Streamline Chub were present in Illinois in the past. Dr. Hofmann mentioned that with climate change and other factors, species’ distributions are changing all the time. Mr. Thomas added that there are now more Bigeye Chub in the same watershed. Mr. Metzke clarified that this section of the Vermilion River is already an Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site.

Dr. Gibson summarized that the species is rare, but may be increasing, but asked if that makes it worth listing.

Dr. Ting asked if there was funding for listed species. Listing could be beneficial then, especially since the habitat is receiving some level of protection. Ms. Holtrop replied that there is a list of data-deficient species in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, but funding is not automatic. Dr. Ting asked if the river was secure enough. Ms. Holtrop was not sure. Mr. Thomas continued by saying that permitting in the area is already flagged because of the presence of other listed species.

Mr. Schietzelt asked what it would take to demonstrate spawning in Illinois. Mr. Thomas answered that that is difficult. Spawning would have to be observed, which is challenging with small fishes in deeper water. Even if spawning was observed, one would somehow have to try and verify recruitment to the next generation. Dr. Willink mentioned that small fishes move slowly, and the Streamline Chub had probably been in Illinois for quite a while but went unnoticed.

Dr. Capparella motioned that Streamline Chub *Erimystax dissimilis* be added to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as threatened. The motion was seconded by Dr. Coons. The motion passed with four Yes votes (Dr. Capparella, Ms. Chavez, Dr. Coons, and Mr. Schietzelt), two Nos (Dr. Hofmann and Dr. Ting), and one abstention (Dr. Willink).

12. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to add Smooth Greensnake (*Opheodrys vernalis*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as Threatened

Dr. Allison Sacerdote-Velat gave a brief presentation remotely on this species, mentioning that it is an insectivore and oviparous, one of the few egg-laying reptiles in the region. It is experiencing a range-wide decline. Historically a Grand Prairie species, it is now mostly found in morainal systems in northeast Illinois. There are 118 unique localities across 24 counties in the state.

Habitat is disappearing due to urban sprawl and agriculture (with its associated insecticides depleting prey), encroachment of woody shrubs, genetic isolation of populations, and diseases (e.g., snake fungal disease).

There have been three introductions and one translocation. They have not been successful unless the sites were connected to remnant habitats.

The Smooth Greensnake lives approximately seven years, with first reproduction at age three. They average 5.5 eggs / female. Hatching rate is insufficient to maintain a stable population growth rate.

Timing of prescribed burns and mowing is a complicated topic, as these management practices can be either beneficial or detrimental depending upon how they are applied. Predation by the invasive mantis *Tanodera sinensis* is a threat.

Dr. Ting observed that listing the species would help curb collection for the pet trade. She went on to say that the goal is recovery and asked how to manage habitat. Dr. Sacerdote-Velat highlighted land acquisition to connect remnant habitats. For Best Management Practices, it is important to recognize appropriate habitat and implement a mosaic of management strategies. Head-starting can help as well.

Mr. Schietzelt asked if the Glacial Park population is expanding. Dr. Sacerdote-Velat said that they are finding more nests. Burn management is important at that site. Dr. Capparella mentioned that there are two sites in McLean County, and that he will pass along management recommendations.

Mr. Schietzelt motioned that Smooth Greensnake *Opheodrys vernalis* be added to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as threatened. Ms. Chavez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

13. Presentation on Petitions to Add Five Bee Species to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

Ms. Angella Moorehouse gave a brief presentation on each species prior to their being voted upon in agenda items #14-18 below.

14. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Add Walsh's Anthophora (*Anthophora walshii*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as Threatened

Ms. Moorehouse gave a brief presentation on this species, mentioning that it has a restricted range and very specific habitat requirements. It is susceptible to loss / degradation of remnant prairies and insecticides. Ms. Rericha-Anchor continued by saying it is only found in the highest quality remnants, needing an array of suitable plant species and other habitat characteristics.

Dr. Hofmann noted that the petition indicated that the species had 'geographic restricted range', but it looks like it has a large range. There was general agreement that this was the case, so this listing criterion was removed from the petition.

Ms. Chavez motioned that Walsh's Anthophora *Anthophora walshii* be added to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as threatened. Dr. Capparella seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with one abstention (Dr. Hofmann).

15. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Add Baker's Nomia (*Dieunomia nevadensis bakeri*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as Threatened

Ms. Moorehouse gave a brief presentation on this species, mentioning that it is a relatively large bee with two-toned wings. It is a sand prairie specialist that utilizes sunflowers and their relatives and is a solitary ground-nester.

Overall, populations are more substantial in Missouri, with Illinois only having relatively small populations. There was a large population on a sand levee in Warsaw, IL, but the levee was recently scraped during maintenance work. Baker's *Nomia* is still present at the site, but in low numbers.

Mr. Schietzelt asked if the host plant needed disturbance. Ms. Rericha-Anchor answered that it is found on other plants.

Dr. Hoffmann noted that the criterion 'disjunct populations' was checked on the petition, but should it not be a species at the edge of its range instead. Ms. Moorehouse agreed, and the change in the petition should be made.

Mr. Schietzelt motioned that Baker's *Nomia Dieunomia nevadensis bakeri* be added to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as threatened. Dr. Coons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Add Pacific Mourning Bee (*Melecta pacifica atlantica*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as Endangered

Ms. Moorehouse gave a brief presentation on this species, mentioning that it lays its eggs in the nests of host bees, and that the host bees are dependent upon blueberries. Both situations are rare. In southern Illinois, there can be blueberries among rocky outcrops. In Illinois, there is one historic record at one site, and one recent record in 2017. The species is extremely rare in Illinois.

Dr. Ting wondered about the effort looking for this species. Ms. Moorehouse was not sure. People are certainly out looking for *Bombus* but may not be looking for this subgroup. Ms. Rericha-Anchor added that one would have to follow the nesting aggregations of the host bee to find this cleptoparasite.

Dr. Gibson mentioned that Southern Illinois University – Carbondale is doing bee surveys. He asked if there has been communication with them. Ms. Moorehouse replied not exactly. There appears to be a disagreement over survey methods.

The Pacific Mourning Bee is easy to identify, but people are not seeing it.

Ms. Chavez suggested that it could be added to a 'watch list' or something similar. Ms. Holtrop clarified that there is a Species in Greatest Need of Conservation list. She said that 'Watch list' is not a useful term. IDNR could consider compiling a list of data-deficient species. Even with lists, there are limited resources.

Mr. Schietzelt pondered whether there was an actual population in Illinois or was this a random record. The Board really needs more than one to make a judgement. Ms. Rericha-Anchor added that parasites are generally rarer than hosts. Mr. Schietzelt was curious about how widespread blueberries are. Ms. Rericha-Anchor answered that blueberries could be considered widespread, but still require a specific habitat.

Dr. Ting motioned that Pacific Mourning Bee *Melecta pacifica atlantica* be added to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as endangered. Dr. Coons seconded the motion. The motion failed unanimously, with two abstentions (Ms. Chavez and Mr. Schietzelt).

It was at this point in the meeting there was a 5-minute recess.

17. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Add Norton's Nomia (*Nomia nortoni*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as Threatened

Ms. Moorehouse gave a brief presentation on this species, mentioning that it is a somewhat communal, late season species found in wet floodplains with hardpan soils. It has a bold fluorescent green band on the abdomen. These floodplain grassland / meadows are usually associated with large rivers or remnants of floodplains (e.g., Kankakee Sands). This species was found on a sand levee in Warsaw, IL, but the levee was recently scraped during maintenance work. (See agenda item #15 for Baker's Nomia *Dieunomia nevadensis bakeri*.) Norton's Nomia has not returned. Conservation concerns include habitat loss and that the species is at the northern edge of its range.

Dr. Capparella motioned that Norton's Nomia *Nomia nortoni* be added to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as threatened. Ms. Chavez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with one abstention (Dr. Hofmann).

18. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Add Mining Bee (*Protandrena bancrofti*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as Threatened

Ms. Moorehouse gave a brief presentation on this species, mentioning that it is a solitary nester, occasionally nesting in aggregations. Hosts plants are Leadplant or White Prairie Clover that can be found in remnant sand and gravel prairies.

Dr. Ting asked about Nachusa Grassland surveys. Ms. Rericha-Anchor replied that floral hosts are present throughout the area, but the Mining Bee was restricted to high quality remnants on gravel hill prairies within Nachusa. It is a Great Plains specialist. It does well with annual burning.

Dr. Coons motioned that Mining Bee *Protandrena bancrofti* be added to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as threatened. Dr. Capparella seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with one abstention (Dr. Hofmann).

19. Presentation on Petitions to Add [Five] Bee Species to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

Ms. Rericha-Anchor gave a brief presentation on each species prior to their being voted upon in agenda items #20-24 below.

20. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Add Ainslie's Epeolus (*Epeolus ainsliei*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as Endangered

Ms. Rericha-Anchor gave a brief presentation on this species, mentioning that it is a soil-nesting cleptoparasite Great Plains specialist. It is found in sandy districts such as Black Oak savannas (e.g., Kankakee Sands) and the Rock River Hill Country. The nest host varies between the similar species *Colletes susannae* (in the Rock River Hill Country) and *Colletes aberrans* (in the Kankakee Sands). It will nest in Bison wallows. There is tight phenology with host plant flowering and then the host bees. Ms. Rericha-Anchor is one of only a few people who have seen this species alive.

Dr. Ting motioned that Ainslie's Epeolus *Epeolus ainsliei* be added to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as endangered. Dr. Coons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with two abstentions (Dr. Hofmann and Dr. Ting).

21. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Add Eastern Scaly Miner Bee (*Andrena quintilis*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as Endangered

Ms. Rericha-Anchor gave a brief presentation on this species, mentioning that Illinois is at the eastern edge of its range. It is found in the highest quality remnant systems and benefits from frequent burning. There are two extant populations in Lee County. It is found in only one site at Nachusa Grasslands, utilizing lead plants, such as False Indigo Bush *Amorpha prudicosa*. It is also at one restricted site at Green River. It has a very specific phenology.

Ms. Chavez motioned that Eastern Scaly Miner Bee *Andrena quintilis* be added to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as endangered. Mr. Schietzelt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

22. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Add Virginia Mining Bee (*Andrena virginiana*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as Endangered

Ms. Rericha-Anchor gave a brief presentation on this species, mentioning that there is only one extant population in Illinois, in a remnant cemetery in Ford County. It is a specialist on New Jersey Tea. It is generally an eastern United States species. It emerges at the end of June, then flies till the end of July.

Ms. Holtrop was curious about the prognosis for the species in Illinois. Ms. Rericha-Anchor answered that other potential areas are managed, but the species is still absent.

Ms. Chavez asked about the efficacy of moving bees (introductions / reintroductions). Ms. Rericha-Anchor replied that this has not worked so far for other species of bees. She then added that another issue is the necessity to identify this species under a microscope, increasing monitoring difficulty.

Dr. Ting motioned that Virginia Mining Bee *Andrena virginiana* be added to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as endangered. Ms. Chavez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with two abstentions (Dr. Hofmann and Dr. Ting).

23. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Add Andrews' Cellophane Bee (*Colletes andrewsi*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as Endangered

Ms. Rericha-Anchor gave a brief presentation on this species, mentioning that it is similar to Alumroot Cellophane Bee (agenda item #24). It only takes pollen from Prairie Alumroot *Heuchera richardsonii*. It is larger than the Alumroot Cellophane Bee, reddish in color (that fades to yellow in museum specimens). It is found in northern Illinois. It is threatened by beach erosion at Illinois Beach State Park. It is also found in the Rock River Hill Country and Kettle Moraine. The species benefits from annual to semi-annual burning. It is an aggregation nester within a specific root zone. Overall, it has a narrow habitat specificity.

Ms. Chavez motioned that Andrews' Cellophane Bee *Colletes andrewsi* be added to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as Endangered. Dr. Coons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

24. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Add Alumroot Cellophane Bee (*Colletes aestivalis*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as Endangered

Ms. Rericha-Anchor gave a brief presentation on this species, mentioning that cellophane bees regurgitate a material that resembles cellophane to cover nest chambers. Alumroot Cellophane

Bee is generally an eastern United States species that was once more widespread. Its habitat is gravel hill prairies, typically on the northern slopes. In Illinois it can be found in the Rock River Hill Country, morainal sites, and an 'artificial' sand prairie. Females emerge a day or two after males. The host plant is sensitive to lack of burning and encroaching woody plants. Cattle clipped the host plant at one site. Cattle have since been removed, and plants and bees are still present.

Mr. Schietzelt asked if the abundance of Alumroot Cellophane Bees is related to the abundance of Alumroot. Ms. Rericha-Anchor said that it was more complicated than that. People need to look in the morning to find females because pollen is gone by midday. After that, only some males are present.

Dr. Gibson noted that there are old records in southern Illinois. He asked if host plants are no longer present. Ms. Rericha-Anchor was not sure. There could be other host plants. More research is needed.

Mr. Schietzelt motioned that Alumroot Cellophane Bee *Colletes aestivalis* be added to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species as endangered. Ms. Chavez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

25. Public Comment Period

Ms. Holtrop had questions about how IDNR and the Board should interact. There seems to be a lot of questions regarding the listing process, Endangered Species Act, restoration concepts, etc. She asked if there should be more meetings. Chair Hofmann continued by saying IDNR can only speak with two Board members at a time, per Open Meeting Act requirements. Otherwise, there has to be an Open Meeting in order for the entire Board to participate. Perhaps there could be a special meeting in September. This option will be explored.

26. Other Business

Chair Hofmann announced that the ESPB Biannual Report is due this summer. She will prepare a draft. Board members are requested to send their hours from July 2022 – June 2024 to Chair Hofmann to be included in the report.

Chair Hofmann asked Board members to please send timesheets and travel reimbursement requests to Nicole Sandidge.

Mr. Schietzelt announced that the next meeting of the Natural Areas Evaluation Committee will be March 19, 9:00-11:00 A.M. He will not be able to attend, and was requesting a substitute. Dr. Ting offered to attend the meeting in his place.

27. Next meeting information (May 17, 2024 at 10 A.M.)

28. Adjournment

Chair Hofmann adjourned the meeting at 2:22 P.M.



ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Illinois 62702 - 1271; dnr.espb@illinois.gov

Report from the Chair, 23 February 2024

Joyce Hofmann

Activities for the period between the 200th and 201st Board meetings

- performed follow-up for 200st meeting – arranged for the final agenda of the 200th meeting and the approved minutes of the 199th Board meeting to be posted on the Board’s website, updated list of changes that have received preliminary approval
- monitored the Board’s email account – responded to some messages, forwarded others to appropriate personnel at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
- reviewed the draft minutes for the Board’s 200th meeting
- completed mandated Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility training
- performed administrative review of 18 petitions for changes to the Illinois List and distributed 13 petitions to Board members for consideration at the 201st meeting
- prepared a report for the 246th Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) meeting
- attended the 246th INPC meeting (remotely)
- distributed five draft Incidental Take Authorizations (ITAs) to Board members for potential review
- organized the Mammal Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee (ESTAC) meeting (reserved room, created draft agenda)
- attended the Mammal ESTAC meeting as facilitator

- reviewed a draft version of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the IDNR and Board, commented on the draft, and signed the final version of the document
- prepared for the 201st Board meeting – prepared the notice for the 201st meeting, developed a draft agenda for the 201st meeting, and distributed materials for the 201st meeting to Board members