

ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

MINUTES OF 189th MEETING, FEBRUARY 5, 2021

via ZOOM

Approved at the 190th meeting, May 21, 2021

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Angelo Capparella, Dr. Janice Coons, Dr. Tracy Evans, Dr. Joyce Hofmann, Mr. Bruce Ross-Shannon, Mr. Randy Schietzelt, Dr. Tih-Fen Ting, Dr. Philip Willink, and Mr. Chris Young

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Jeremie Fant

OTHERS PRESENT: Anne C. Hughes (CREP specialist INHS), Jeannie Barnes (INHS), Ann Marie Holtrop (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage), Kelly Neal (INPC), Angella Moorehouse (INPC), Joe Kath, (Illinois DNR Division of Natural Heritage), Leon Hinz (IDNR and TA to INPC), Heather Osborn (IDNR ITA Coordinator), Trent Thomas, (IDNR Division of Fisheries), Austin Omer (Illinois Farm Bureau), Todd Strole (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage), Brian Metzke, (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage), Brad Semel (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage), Phil Cox, (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage), Morgan Greene

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

Chair Hofmann called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M. and read the roll call. Eight voting Board members were in attendance, constituting a quorum. Dr. Hofmann welcomed the visitors and Mr. Young asked them to introduce themselves.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Ross-Shannon moved that the agenda be adopted as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schietzelt. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

3. Approval of Minutes from the 188th Meeting

Draft minutes of the 188th meeting had been distributed to Board members prior to the meeting by email. Dr. Ting pointed out two typographical errors. Dr. Hofmann said that she would correct those and that the minutes of the 188th meeting were approved as corrected.

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

Board members received a report via email and verbally from Ms. Ann Marie Holtrop. On December 15, 2020 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided that listing of the monarch butterfly was warranted, so it becomes a candidate species and will be evaluated annually. Other species have priority, but the monarch could be listed in 2024. The IDNR has a monarch project that has held three virtual events. The Division of Natural Heritage is discussing recovery processes internally to identify species for recovery efforts. Dr. Evans asked about the meaning of the term “rogue” used in the report to refer to Blanding’s turtle. Mr. Joe Kath explained that

those were individuals randomly encountered by people, for example a turtle crossing a highway. Dr. Ting asked about USDA projects and the CICADA program. The CICADA website is for developers looking for green development ideas. Ms. Holtrop will provide more information.

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

An INPC report was distributed to the Board via e-mail and Ms. Kelly Neal addressed the Board. Following actions at the INPC meeting in January, there are now over 600 sites in the Nature Preserves System. The next INPC meeting will be held May 11, 2021. Dr. Capparella mentioned boundary infringement issues. Dr. Coons commended Commission staff for their efforts.

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

Chair Hofmann previously provided a written report on her activities since the last meeting; the report is attached to these minutes. Her primary activity has been working to update portions of the Board's website. She mentioned the need to explain the function of the Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees and add information about the 2016-2019 list revision process.

7. Semi-annual Review of Whether to Keep Closed Minutes of Previous Closed Sessions

Chair Hofmann pointed out that there have been no closed sessions since the Board voted on this issue at the 187th meeting. Mr. Ross-Shannon moved to keep the minutes of previously closed sessions closed and the motion was seconded by Dr. Coons. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

8. Presentation on 2020 Pollinator Surveys at INPC Sites in West-Central Illinois – Angella Moorehouse, INPC

Ms. Moorehouse had sent a copy of the report on her pollinator surveys in west-central Illinois to the Board earlier. She gave a presentation on her study goals, survey methods, pollinator monitoring data sheet, and survey results. She also discussed the advantages of photographic documentation of pollinators.

9. Information on the Occurrence of Wolves in Illinois - IDNR

The IDNR Division of Wildlife provided the Board with a summary of documented wolf sightings in Illinois. The 11 individuals were young dispersers from the Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment, presumably from Wisconsin and Minnesota. The Board can decide whether to keep the wolf on the state list if it is delisted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Mr. Young mentioned that wolves are also protected under the Illinois Wildlife Code. It is unlikely that the legislature would overturn that act. Mr. Schietzelt pointed out that some members of the public can't distinguish between wolves and coyotes.

10. Discussion on the Update of the Petition Forms Used for the Review and Revision of the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

Chair Hofmann thanked Dr. Evans for providing a draft version of a revised petition form for use in future revisions of the Illinois List. Dr. Evans had merged the three petitions into a single form, placed the instructions in a separate file, and added a cover sheet that could be placed on the Board's website. The cover sheet would include an executive summary of the petition. Dividing the petition into three parts met with the approval of the Board. Opinions were divided on whether there should be one, two, or three petition forms (as presented; add and

remove/change; or add, remove, and change). Dr. Coons felt it was easier to track different types of forms, but Dr. Willink found separate forms confusing. Dr. Ting wants to clarify what data are needed in the petition. The type of data depends on which groups are being considered (e.g., birds vs. sedges) and the proposed action (e.g., an addition to the List vs. a change in status). Dr. Hofmann presented a list of information she would like to see in petitions, including Natural Heritage Database records, other data (such as collection records, Breeding Bird Survey data), Illinois ratings (such as Species in Greatest Need of Conservation), status throughout the species' range, and Illinois listing history. Petitioners could also provide research, survey, and/or management recommendations. Mr. Leon Hinz suggested that the Board provide a list of potential data sources for petitioners to check prior to submitting the petition. These should be sources that have the types of appropriate data for native species in Illinois (this could go in introduction). Dr. Coons suggested that someone make a table of what key data could be included in the petition(s). Dr. Hofmann will make a table of potential data types and whether each is needed for adding a species, delisting a species, or changing a species' status. There was extensive discussion about whether specific locations for a species can be redacted from archived petitions. Mr. Young stated that redaction can only be done by legal counsel. He will check with IDNR legal counsel about language on location information. The Board will continue the discussion of the revised petition(s) at the next meeting.

11. Discussion on the Translocation of Threatened and Endangered Species

Dr. Evans suggested that this discussion be deferred until the next Board meeting. There was a consensus to do that.

12. Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

No public comments were made.

13. Other Business

Chair Hofmann reminded Board members to send their time sheets to Kristi Sorenson at IDNR ORC. Dr. Hofmann reiterated that she would make and distribute a list of potential information that could be included in the petition(s) and that Board members should send any comments on the forms to Dr. Evans. Mr. Young reminded members not to discuss business via email, i.e., not to use the Reply to All option.

14. Next Meeting Information

The next meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2021 at 10 A.M. It will probably be a remote meeting.

15. Adjournment

Chair Hofmann adjourned the meeting at 11:55 A.M.

Submitted by Tracy Evans and Joyce Hofmann

ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

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Report from the Chair, 5 February 2021

Joyce Hofmann

Activities for the period between the 188th and 189th Board meetings

- performed follow-up for 188th meeting – arranged for the final agenda of the 188th meeting and the approved minutes of the 187th Board meeting to be posted on the Board’s website; sent approved minutes of three Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee meetings for posting on the Board’s website
- sent the 2021 schedule of Board meetings for publication and posting on the website
- monitored the Board’s email account – responded to some messages, forwarded others to appropriate personnel at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
- talked to journalist working on an article about endangered, threatened, and delisted species for Outdoor Illinois magazine
- provided comments on drafts for revision of the petition forms used for changes to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species
- worked on updating the Board’s website
- distributed one draft Incidental Take Authorization (ITA) and two Conservation Plans to Board members for potential review
- prepared report for the 237th meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
- attended 237th meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission on 26 January 2021 remotely
- prepared for the 189th Board meeting – prepared notice for the 189th meeting; edited draft minutes for the 188th Board meeting; developed an agenda for the 189th meeting; had the draft agenda posted on the Board’s website and at the IDNR building; distributed materials for the 189th meeting to Board members