

# ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

MINUTES OF 194<sup>th</sup> MEETING, May 20, 2022

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Lake Level Conference Room  
One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702

Approved at the 195<sup>th</sup> meeting, August 26, 2022

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Jeremie Fant and Mr. Bruce Ross-Shannon.

OTHERS PRESENT: Heather Osborn (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage ITA Coordinator), Todd Strole (Executive Director INPC), Austin Omer (Illinois Farm Bureau), Brian Metzke (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage, Aquatic Ecologist), Ann Holtrop (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage), Natalia Maass (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage Database Program), Jeannie Barnes (INHS), Joe Kath (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage), Philip Cox (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage), and Leon Hinz (IDNR Division of Natural Heritage).

## 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 conducted the roll call. Six voting Board members were 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. Coons. The motion passed unanimously.

## 3. Approval of Minutes from the 193<sup>rd</sup> Meeting

Draft minutes of the 193<sup>rd</sup> meeting had been distributed to Board members prior to the meeting by email. Dr. Capparella moved that the minutes of the 193<sup>rd</sup> meeting be approved as presented. Dr. Ting seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. 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. Ms. Holtrop stated that IDNR is looking into the issue of ESPB appointments with Mr. John Rogner (IDNR). They are also looking forward to discussions with ESPB representatives regarding data summaries for Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees (ESTACs).

IDNR is closely following the progress of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act in Congress. This act will provide federal funds for Species of Greatest Conservation Need, which include

threatened and endangered species. Mr. Schietzelt asked about the source of the money. Dr. Hinz replied the funds are from environmental penalties. Adding plants to the SGCN list will increase funding for Illinois.

The Department's Species Recovery Process continues to move forward as it is working with species leads to assess the status of species and put together plans. It is anticipated that funding will be available next year.

IDNR has received a Conservation Plan for the Rockford International Airport (specifically the Bell Bowl Prairie). The plan is under initial IDNR review.

Staff from IDNR and several universities surveyed bats in abandoned silica mines in southern Illinois. Indiana Bat numbers were stable at Magazine Mine, which is the third largest Indiana Bat hibernaculum in North America, and second largest in the Ozark Unit.

A shell fungus has recently been discovered infecting head-started and wild caught Blanding's Turtles in the Chicago Region. Biologists are in the process of learning more about this issue.

Dr. Capparella asked about Variable Cuckoo Bumble Bee records in Illinois, since the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering listing the species. Ms. Maass and Mr. Kath replied that the species was not tracked by IDNR in the past, so they are in the process of looking for and verifying data.

Mr. Kath mentioned that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed the Alligator Snapping Turtle for federal listing, and will probably make a final decision in late 2022.

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

An INPC report was distributed to the Board via e-mail. Mr. Strole stated that 394 out of 486 listed species are at least partially within a Nature Preserve or Land and Water Reserve.

Work is in progress at Bluff Spring Fen, which is a Cook County Forest Preserve. There is a healthy and stable population of Mottled Sculpin at the site. In the past, there was mining around the preserve, as well as general development. Hydrologic restoration is being carried out, and fortunately there is a large amount of state groundwater data available, but it is still a complicated situation. The project is ongoing.

The plans to construct a Carvana building near Harms Woods are on hold because Illinois has halted their ability to do business in the state. Furthermore, the company is downsizing. These buildings are almost all windows, increasing the risk of fatal bird strikes, especially during migrations.

There was an oil spill into Cahokia Creek at Bohms Woods. It was a relatively large spill, but fortunately weather was favorable and the spill was quickly cleaned up. The situation continues to be monitored.

Dr. Capparella mentioned that neighboring landowners are still causing problems for nature preserves. Mr. Strole replied that it is indeed an ongoing problem.

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

Dr. Hofmann previously 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. She compiled a draft 2020-2022 Biennial Report that will be discussed later at this meeting. Dr. Hofmann thanked Board members for helping to contact current ESTAC members to determine if they wish to continue serving. She also spoke with representatives of the National Council of Environmental Legislators about the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act.

7. Status of Board Appointments

Dr. Hofmann has heard unofficially that at least one person has applied for the open position on the ESPB. Mr. Ross-Shannon will continue to serve, but is ready to be replaced. Dr. Capparella, Mr. Schietzelt, and Dr. Willink have applied to have their terms renewed. Dr. Hoffman recently read how long the first 40 ESPB members had served, and noted that eleven served on the Board for more than ten years, and three had served in excess of twenty years.

8. Presentation: Four Years of Pollinator Surveys on Protected Natural Areas in West-central and Central Illinois and Implications for the Protection and Management of Endangered, Threatened and Rare Insects Plants, and Vegetative Communities - Angella Moorehouse, INPC

Due to a scheduling mix-up, this presentation was postponed to possibly the next board meeting.

9. Presentation: IDNR Rare Plant Initiatives - Philip Cox and Jenny Skufca, IDNR

Mr. Cox stated that IDNR and the Illinois Natural History Survey are in the process of updating plant s-ranks (i.e., sub-national rank or state rank for Illinois). This involves updating records, creating a subset of plants of highest conservation concern, updating s-rank, determining data gaps, and conducting species assessments. The process is just beginning. The Chicago Botanic Garden's Plants of Concern program is IDNR's largest contributor to plant Element Occurrence updates in northeast and southern Illinois. The program would like to expand to northwest Illinois. IDNR is also updating the Plant Translocation Policy that was created in 1992, and is used by IDNR, INPC, and ESPB. Even though IDNR is conducting and supporting research, monitoring, and updating policies, it remains open to ideas about initiatives for rare plants in Illinois. Mr. Schietzelt wondered if targeting rare habitats could be useful for protecting several listed species. Ms. Holtrop replied that IDNR has been working on determining plant assemblages and co-occurring species by type of habitat, with the idea that if they could protect the habitat they would also protect the suite of species.

10. Process for the Selection of Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee (ESTAC) Members

ESPB is now asking for CVs from potential new ESTAC members. This was not done in the past. Dr. Coons is uncomfortable asking only new members for CVs as need to be consistent for all members. Dr. Hofmann suggested making this an informal policy that will help in case someone asks the ESPB about the qualifications of ESTAC members. Dr. Ting suggested that when Dr. Hofmann contacts ESTAC members about their meetings, she ask for CVs. Dr. Hofmann said she will ask returning members to submit a CV after this meeting and maintain a master file of all CVs. Dr. Coons asked if ESTAC members need to do Open Meeting Act training. Mr. Young replied that they do not, since ESTACs are ad-hoc committees. All ESTAC meetings will be posted publicly in the interest of transparency. Furthermore, there was consensus that an ESPB member can also be an ESTAC member.

11. Approval of Members of ESTACs for the 2025 Review and Revision of the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

A list of potential members for five ESTACs is attached to these minutes. Each taxonomic group was considered and voted upon separately. The IDNR suggested additional members for some ESTACs. These potential ESTAC members will be contacted and interested individuals can be added at later Board meetings. Dr. Coons stated that list for Plant ESTAC has not been completed yet. Also, there are currently only six names for the Terrestrial Invertebrate ESTAC, and it would be beneficial to have more members.

Mr. Schietzelt moved that the list of Avian ESTAC members be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Coons. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Capparella moved that the list of Mammal ESTAC members be adopted as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Ting. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Schietzelt moved that the list of Amphibian and Reptile ESTAC members be adopted as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Capparella. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Coons moved that the list of Fish ESTAC members be approved as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schietzelt. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Ting moved that the list of Aquatic Invertebrates (which now includes odonates) ESTAC members be adopted as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Capparella. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Selection of Board Members to Meet with Illinois Natural Heritage Database Staff to Discuss Data Needs of ESTACs

Ms. Barnes is revising the table that includes historical listing information for each endangered and threatened species, as well as taxonomic name changes. This will be very useful for those who fill out listing petitions. This table will be posted online.

Mr. Schietzelt and Dr. Coons volunteered to meet with Illinois Natural Heritage Database staff to discuss the type of data that the database staff can supply to the ESTACs for their review of listed species.

13. Approval of the 2020 - 2022 Biennial Report

Dr. Hofmann incorporated updates to the previous Biennial Report to produce this draft. The exact time period this report covers is July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2022. The draft that was distributed to Board members prior to the meeting has been updated to include information on the Amphibian/Reptile ESTAC. The number of hours donated by ESPB members within the specified timeframe will need to be added after June 30. Dr. Ting moved that the draft of the Biennial Report be approved with these specific additions. The motion was seconded by Dr. Capparella. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

15. Other Business

Dr. Hofmann reminded ESPB members to send their time sheets and travel forms to Kristi Sorenson (IDNR). The election of ESPB officers will be held at the August meeting.

16. Next Meeting Information (August 26, 2022 10 A.M.)

The next meeting site is tentatively set at the IDNR building in Springfield. There is interest in conducting a hybrid meeting, as that does increase attendance, especially among people farther from the meeting site. Mr. Young will look into reserving a conference room with WebEx capability.

17. Adjournment

Chair Hofmann adjourned the meeting at 11:35 A.M.



# ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

*One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Illinois 62702 - 1271; [dnr.espb@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.espb@illinois.gov)*

## Report from the Chair, 20 May 2022

Joyce Hofmann

### Activities for the period between the 193<sup>rd</sup> and 194<sup>th</sup> Board meetings

- performed follow-up for 193<sup>rd</sup> meeting – arranged for the final agenda of the 193<sup>rd</sup> meeting and the approved minutes of the 192<sup>nd</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 193<sup>rd</sup> meeting
- distributed two draft Incidental Take Authorizations (ITAs) and one Conservation Plan to Board members for potential review
- prepared a draft Biennial Report for 2020 – 2022
- compiled lists of potential Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee (ESTAC) members for the 2025 list revision and collected CVs/resumes for new members
- contacted current and potential members of the Terrestrial Invertebrate and Amphibian/Reptile ESTACs as well as some potential members of other ESTACs
- tested printable pdfs of list revision petitions and cover sheet that will be posted online
- spoke with representatives of the National Council of Environmental Legislators about the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act
- attended 241<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission at Starved Rock State Park on 10 May 2022 and presented a report on behalf of the Board
- prepared for the 194<sup>th</sup> Board meeting – prepared the notice for the 194<sup>th</sup> meeting, developed an agenda for the 194<sup>th</sup> meeting, had the draft agenda posted on the Board's website and at the IDNR building, and distributed materials for the 194<sup>th</sup> meeting to Board members

## ESTAC Members for the 2025 List Review and Revision

### **Avian ESTAC**

Tara Beveroth (Associate Scientist, Avian Ecologist, Illinois Natural History Survey)  
Dr. Eric Bollinger (Professor, Department of Biology, Eastern Illinois University)  
Dr. Angelo Capparella (retired Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Illinois State University; ESPB)  
Dr. James Herkert (retired Executive Director, Illinois Audubon Society)  
Dr. Jeffrey Hoover (Avian Ecologist, Illinois Natural History Survey)  
Dr. James Mountjoy (Associate Professor, Department of Biology, Knox College)  
Brad Semel (Species Recovery Specialist, Division of Natural Heritage, IDNR)  
Dr. Wendy Schelsky (Principal Research Scientist, Illinois Natural History Survey)  
Dr. Douglas Stotz (Senior Conservation Ecologist, Field Museum of Natural History)  
Dr. Jeffrey Walk (Director of Conservation, The Nature Conservancy of Illinois)  
Dr. Michael Ward (Associate Professor, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science, University of Illinois; Avian Ecologist, Illinois Natural History Survey)  
Dr. Geoff Williamson (Secretary, Illinois Ornithological Records Committee, Illinois Ornithological Society; Associate Dean, Armour College of Engineering, Illinois Institute of Technology)

### **Amphibian/Reptile ESTAC**

Dr. Tom Anderson (Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville)  
Scott Ballard (Southern Region Species Recovery Specialist, Herpetologist, Division of Natural Resources, IDNR)  
Dr. John Crawford (Terrestrial Wildlife Ecologist, National Great Rivers Research and Education Center)  
Dr. Michael Dreslik (Assistant Research Scientist, Population Ecologist, Illinois Natural History Survey)  
Gary Glowacki (Wildlife Ecologist, Lake County Forest Preserve District)  
Dr. Richard King (Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University)  
Andrew Kuhns (Associate Scientist, Herpetologist, Illinois Natural History Survey)  
Jessica Mohlmann (Assistant Scientist and Research Coordinator, National Great Rivers Research and Education Center)  
Dr. Alison Sacerdote-Velat (Curator of Herpetology, Chicago Academy of Sciences/Peggy Notebaert Nature Center)  
Eric Smith (Natural Heritage Biologist, Division of Natural Heritage, IDNR)

### **Fish ESTAC**

Dr. John Chick (Principal Aquatic Ecologist, Illinois Natural History Survey)  
Dr. Robert Colombo (Professor, Department of Biology, Eastern Illinois University)  
Dr. James Lamer (Director, Illinois River Biological Station, Illinois Natural History Survey)  
Brian Metzke (Aquatic Ecologist, Division of Natural Heritage, IDNR)  
Steven Pescitelli (Stream Specialist, Division of Fisheries, IDNR)

Dr. Christopher Taylor (Senior Curator of Fishes and Crustaceans, Illinois Natural History Survey)

Trent Thomas (District Fisheries Biologist, Division of Fisheries, IDNR)

Jeremy Tiemann (Associate Aquatic Ecologist, Illinois Natural History Survey)

Dr. Philip Willink (ESPB)

### **Aquatic Invertebrate ESTAC**

Dr. Jason Bried (Assistant Research Scientist, Wetland Ecology, Illinois Natural History Survey)

Dr. Tim Cashatt (Curator Emeritus, Department of Zoology, Illinois State Museum)

Dr. Edward DeWalt (Aquatic Entomologist, Illinois Natural History Survey)

Sarah Douglass (Associate Malacologist, Illinois Natural History Survey)

Marla Garrison (Instructor, Biology Department, McHenry County College)

Dr. Leon Hinz (Coordinator, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, Division of Natural Heritage, IDNR)

Dr. James Lamer (Director, Illinois River Biological Station, Illinois Natural History Survey)

Brian Metzke (Aquatic Ecologist, Division of Natural Heritage, IDNR)

Diane Shasteen (Assistant Manager, Jake Wolf Memorial Fish Hatchery, IDNR)

Alison Price Stodola (Curator of Malacology, Illinois Natural History Survey)

Dusty Swedberg (Scientific Specialist, Astacology, Illinois Natural History Survey)

Jeremy Tiemann (Associate Aquatic Ecologist, Illinois Natural History Survey)

Tim Vogt (retired Park Specialist, Missouri Department of Natural Resources)

### **Mammal ESTAC**

Chris Anchor (Senior, Wildlife Biologist, Forest Preserve District of Cook County)

Dr. Max Allen (Assistant Research Scientist, Illinois Natural History Survey)

Bob Bluett (retired Program Manager, Wildlife Diversity, Division of Wildlife Resources, IDNR)

Dr. Justin Boyles (Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Southern Illinois University)

Tara Hohoff (Associate Mammalogist, Illinois Natural History Survey)

Dr. Christopher Jacques (Program Manager, Wildlife Disease and Invasive Species, Division of Wildlife Resources, IDNR)

Joseph Kath (Program Manager, Endangered Species, Division of Natural Heritage, IDNR)

Jean Mengelkoch (Associate Mammalogist, Illinois Natural History Survey)

Dr. Joy O'Keefe (Assistant Professor and Extension Wildlife Specialist, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science, University of Illinois)

Dr. Tih-Fen Ting (Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Studies, University of Illinois, Springfield; ESPB)