

ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

MINUTES OF 174th MEETING, MAY 19, 2017

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

Approved at the 175th meeting, August 11, 2017

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Joyce Hofmann, Dr. Janice Coons, Dr. Jeremie Fant, Mr. Bruce Ross-Shannon, Mr. Randy Schietzelt, Dr. Angelo Capparella, Dr. Tracy Evans (at 10:24), Dr. Philip Willink, and Mr. Chris Young

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Bob Bluett (IDNR)

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. Since seven voting members were present at that time, there was a quorum. Chair Hofmann welcomed Bob Bluett.

2 Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Schietzelt 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 173rd Meeting

Minutes of the 173rd meeting were distributed to Board members prior to the meeting. Chair Hofmann asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Two minor corrections were made. The minutes of the 173rd meeting were then approved as corrected.

4 Report from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Board members received a report on activities of the IDNR's Office of Resource Conservation and Office of Realty and Environmental Planning. Mr. Young presented additional information.

5 Report from the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

A report of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission was distributed prior to the meeting, but no Commission representative was able to attend the meeting.

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

Chair Hofmann reported on her activities since the 173rd meeting date. These included inviting experts to serve on ESTACs, distributing records from the Illinois Natural Heritage Biotics 5 Database to ESTAC members, attending two ESTAC meetings and a meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, and performing administrative review of petitions to change the status of listed species as well as routine administrative tasks. She pointed out that agendas for ESTAC meetings have been posted on the Board's website and proposed posting the draft

minutes of the meetings since the committees will not meet again for several years and have no other way to approve minutes.

7 Board Appointments

Chair Hofmann discussed current Board member terms and noted that one position remains unfilled. The terms of Dr. Coons and Dr. Fant expired on May 15 and they will be applying for reappointment

8 Review of the Process for the Previous and Current Revisions of the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

Chair Hofmann reviewed the current process for revising the Illinois List of Threatened and Endangered Species. It was noted that the Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees (ESTACs) are crucial to the current review and revision process. They were not utilized for the 2014 revision when the Board's Executive Director conducted the review of listed species. The ESTACs submit petitions to the Board, but other individuals can also submit petitions. There isn't a mechanism for the ESTACs to review petitions. Following general discussion of the process, Dr. Coons and Mr. Ross-Shannon agreed to prepare a draft outlining procedures for reviewing and revising the Illinois List to update a section in the Board's policy manual.

9 Schedule for the 2019 Revision of the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

Chair Hofmann pointed out that the revised Illinois List needs to be ready for legislative action in 2019. Most of the ESTACs for listed animals have already met so progress is being made. The botanists on the Board will need to develop lists of experts for the plant ESTAC(s) and determine a way to review the large number of currently listed plant species. The Board had previously planned to stagger revisions of the animal and plant lists, but there isn't enough time to do that now. It can be considered for the following revision. Chair Hofmann broached the idea of holding separate public hearings for animals and plants, but there was no consensus for doing that. She also suggested that the Board consider setting a deadline for accepting petitions for the 2019 revision at the August meeting.

10 Reports on the Amphibian/Reptile, Fish, Aquatic Invertebrate, and Terrestrial Invertebrate Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee Meetings

Mr. Schietzelt reported on the meetings of the Amphibian/Reptile and Aquatic Invertebrate ESTACs. The Amphibian/Reptile committee did not recommend any changes to the current List, while the Aquatic Invertebrate committee voted to recommend changes for some mussels. Chair Hofmann and Dr. Willink reported on meeting of the Fish ESTAC, which recommended several changes to the current List. Chair Hofmann and Dr. Evans reported on the Terrestrial Invertebrate ESTAC meeting. That committee recommended changing the status of the Elfin Skimmer. Members of the Terrestrial Invertebrate ESTAC expressed some interest in meeting again to consider possible additions to the List.

11 Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Change Status of the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) from Endangered to Threatened

The Board discussed granting preliminary approval for changing the status of the Osprey from endangered to threatened. Drs. Douglas Stotz and Michael Ward submitted the petition for the change. There has been a large increase in the number of nesting pairs in Illinois and elsewhere in the species' range. Mr. Young mentioned that one IDNR staff person thought the change would be premature because of potential high mortality and the length of time until the birds

breed. Another staff member, however, considered the change reasonable. Chair Hofmann pointed out that the species would still be protected under the Act. Mr. Schietzelt made a motion to give preliminary approval to changing the status of the Osprey from endangered to threatened. It was seconded by Dr. Evans and approved by unanimous vote.

12 Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Remove the Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) from the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

The Board considered granting preliminary approval for the removal of the Mississippi Kite from the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species. Drs. Angelo Capparella and Michael Ward submitted this petition. Dr. Capparella noted that there are many eBird records for the Mississippi Kite in Illinois, but we don't have details for them. Several people, for example, could have reported the same bird. There are relatively few EORs in the Biotics 5 Database. Mr. Young mentioned that Southern Illinois University had started a survey for the Mississippi Kite, but hasn't completed it because of a lack of funding from the state. Dr. Coons made a motion that the Board table the decision on the petition. The motion was seconded by Mr. Schietzelt and approved by unanimous vote. Dr. Capparella offered to look for additional information about the species.

13 Approval of Potential Members of the Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee for Mammals

Chair Hofmann presented a list of five experts to serve on the Mammal ESTAC and asked Mr. Bluett if he had any additional suggestions. He provided the name of a mammalogist at Western Illinois University. Upon a motion made by Mr. Ross-Shannon and seconded by Dr. Coons, the following persons were approved by unanimous vote as potential members of the Mammal ESTAC: Bob Bluett (IDNR), Dr. Justin Boyles (SIUC), Dr. Christopher Jacques (WIU), Joe Kath (IDNR), Jean Mengelkoch (INHS), and Dr. Tih-Fen Ting (UIS). Chair Hofmann will formally invite these experts to serve on the committee and inform them of the need to complete Open Meetings Act training.

14 Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

No public comments were made.

15 Other Business

Chair Hofmann reminded Board members to submit time sheets and travel voucher forms.

16 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be 10 A.M on August 11, 2017 at Midewin.

17 Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 P.M.