

ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

MINUTES OF THE 147th MEETING

MIDEWIN NATIONAL TALLGRASS PRAIRIE, WILMINGTON, IL

13 August 2010

(Approved at the 148th meeting, November 12, 2010)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chair Marilyn Campbell, Secretary John Clemetsen, Ms. Susanne Masi, Dr. John Taft, Mr. Glen Kruse, Dr. Joyce Hofmann, Dr. Jeff Walk, and Dr. James Herkert (as designee for Mr. John Rogner).

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Chairman Dan Gooch and Dr. Mike Retzer.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Don McFall and Ms. Jeannie Barnes (Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Office of Resource Conservation); and, Mr. Randy Heidorn (Illinois Nature Preserves Commission).

147-1 Call to Order, Welcome and Introduction of Guests

Vice Chair Campbell called the 147th meeting of the ESPB to order at 10:05 A.M. and asked Secretary Clemetsen to call the roll of Board Members. She then noted that there was a quorum and asked meeting attendees to introduce themselves.

147-2 Adoption of Agenda

Vice Chair Campbell asked if there were any changes to the agenda. None were noted and Dr. Walk moved to adopt the agenda, Mr. Kruse seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

147-3 Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting

Vice Chair Campbell asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the 146th meeting.

Dr. Walk noted that a correction needed to be made to the year from “July 2009” to “July 2010”, under 146-12 Species Updates, number 8, describing the anticipated timeline for an IDNR draft Post de-listing management and monitoring plan for the peregrine falcon.

Dr. Taft noted that a correction needed to be made under 146-8 ESPB Member Appointments, second paragraph, fourth sentence. Dr. Taft noted that the word “and” should be replaced with “had” and the word “to” should be replaced with the word “too”. Vice Chair Campbell stated that she had already alerted Ms. Mankowski about those corrections.

With those changes, Mr. Clemetsen moved to approve the minutes as final, Ms. Masi seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

147-4 ESPB Staff Report

Ms. Anne Mankowski, Director of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, gave her report (Attachment A).

147-5 IDNR Staff Report

Mr. Don McFall, Chief of the Division of Natural Heritage, gave his report (Attachment B).

147-6 INPC Staff Report

Mr. Heidorn, Assistant Director of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, gave his report, (Attachment C).

147-7 ESPB Budget

Ms. Mankowski provided a status report on the Board's budget. The Board's FY11 budget line of \$118,000 is included in the IDNR appropriation that was signed by the Governor on 07/01/10.

The IDNR very recently received approval by the Governor's Office of Management and Budget of a spending plan/management plan and should be able to begin spending its appropriated budget; this includes the Board's budget, as well. Ms. Mankowski noted that this was a very significant turn of events for the Board, since it had not received an appropriated budget since 2001. Secretary Clemetsen agreed that it was indeed, significant, and thanked the IDNR and Governor's Office.

Ms. Mankowski reviewed that the FY11 budget of \$118,000 is expected to cover the personnel costs of an Executive Director, including benefits and staff expenses of travel, commodities, and contractual. Since the Board has not had a budget for many years, some transition of budgeting is expected and there may be need for some Board expenses, such as member travel, to be covered otherwise by IDNR, as has been the case during the years when the Board had no budget.

Ms. Mankowski will work with Mr. Don McFall, IDNR Natural Heritage Division Chief, to arrange for such.

Ms. Mankowski then presented to the Board for consideration a proposed ESPB FY12 budget she had drafted with input from Chairman Gooch (Attachment D). She explained that upon approval, the ESPB FY12 budget request will be submitted to IDNR for inclusion in the IDNR FY12 budget request that will be sent to the Governor's Office.

Dr. Taft commented that the proposed salary for the Executive Director in the FY12 budget request represented a considerable increase over present terms and asked how that is figured and what justification is necessary for such action. Ms. Mankowski explained that several years ago the Board agreed to utilize IDNR personnel policies, and comparable titles, and salary scales to set employment terms for its staff. She said that the hiring and current salary of her position as Executive Director is considerably lower than the title for which IDNR identifies the position and the FY12 budget request seeks to compensate an Executive Director at what should be the third and fourth years of the title. She added that by statute, the Board is allowed to hire and compensate staff without regard to personnel code, so technically speaking, the Board probably is not required to "justify" its actions in this matter, but that by using IDNR titles and salary scales, the Board does so, and this proposed budget seeks to correct the situation. Dr. Herkert agreed and added that this demonstrates consistency with how other like-titles are compensated. Mr. Kruse added that the adjustment in salary would represent trying to go back to the long-standing tradition of the Board treating the Executive Director equivalent to a Division Chief position within IDNR. Dr. Herkert then noted an error in the FY12 budget proposal, where the cost for insurance had not been prorated between title years, so was actually double-counted. Ms. Mankowski thanked Dr. Herkert for the correction and indicated she would correct that in the final copy.

Ms. Mankowski noted that with the correction, the new FY12 budget request would have a total

of \$145,739 instead of \$163,239, and indicated she would make the other related changes within that document. Vice Chair Campbell asked if there was a motion to approve the FY12 budget request as corrected. Dr. Walk so moved, Secretary Clemetsen seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

147-8 ESBP Member Appointments

Ms. Mankowski reported that she had sent to IDNR Director Miller the Board's recommendation for reappointment of Mr. John Clemetsen and that had been forwarded to the Governor's Office. Secretary Clemetsen indicated that he had submitted his self-nomination at the Appointments.Illinois.gov web portal and recently received additional paperwork from the Governor's Office, so expected that he would have the paperwork returned shortly and confirmation would follow soon afterward.

Ms. Mankowski then reviewed that at the 146th meeting, Chairman Gooch named a nominating committee of Mr. Rogner, Dr. Walk, Ms. Mankowski, and himself, to recommend an individual to replace Ms. Campbell who chose not to seek reappointment when her term expired May 15, 2010. Dr. Walk gave a report to the Board about a recommendation from the nominating committee. He stated that the committee considered the statutory requirements for Board membership of at least two zoologists, two ecologists, and one botanist, and the Board's stated preferences about maintaining diversity of institutions, professional expertise, geographic, and gender representation. With considerable help from Ms. Mankowski, the committee looked at about 40 individuals representing 7 or 8 institutions and the committee was unanimous in its selection of Ms. Laurel Ross, Director of Urban Conservation at the Field Museum and chair of the Chicago Wilderness Executive Council, as a candidate for ESPB membership. Dr. Walk added that Ms. Ross had completed the self-nomination at the Appointments.Illinois.gov web portal and that Ms. Mankowski had distributed a copy of Ms. Ross' curriculum vitae. He then stated that Ms. Ross is interested in serving on the Board and that the Field Museum is supportive of her nomination and for Ms. Ross to speak for and represent the museum on appropriate matters related to Board business. With that, Dr. Walk moved that the Board recommend to IDNR Director Marc Miller the appointment of Ms. Laurel Ross as a Board member and ask that Director Miller convey support of the nomination to the Governor's Office. Ms. Masi seconded the motion and the Board approved it unanimously.

147-9 ESPB/IDNR MOU

Vice Chair Campbell reminded the Board of its existing MOU with IDNR and that the Board and IDNR had agreed at its strategic planning session in February 2010 to review the document, and revise as necessary. Ms. Mankowski explained that she, ESPB Chairman Gooch, IDNR ORC Director Herkert, and IDNR Assistant Director Rogner, had drafted some proposed revisions and now wanted the Board to review the draft, recommend any additional changes, and possibly take action to approve a final draft of the MOU. Ms. Mankowski distributed copies (Attachment E) and asked for discussion.

Dr. Taft asked for an explanation of why the IDNR is identified as the "...official point of contact with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or other agencies for all official correspondence with the State of Illinois regarding endangered species." in #6 under "THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR", noting that he and his professional colleagues often need direct contact with the USFWS regarding different survey and research efforts. Ms. Mankowski reminded Dr. Taft that the MOU is between the IDNR and the Board and its terms are not meant

to include individual Board members when they are not acting in a Board capacity as they would in their respective professional or other volunteer capacities. Mr. Kruse added that the IDNR is the official USFWS contact for the State of Illinois, and this item is stating that, it doesn't mean the Board and the USFWS can't talk to one another, it just means that when the USFWS, for example, needs to hear about an official position of the State of Illinois on a matter, the IDNR should be that contact and not the ESPB. He and Ms. Mankowski added that the IDNR can consult with the Board as appropriate on any such matter, and that #7 further identifies the IDNR's responsibility to notify the Board of its communications with the USFWS.

Dr. Taft then asked for clarification of "as appropriate" in item #5 "Providing comments on impact assessment projects, as appropriate." under "THE BOARD SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR". Ms. Mankowski reminded the Board that historically the Board performed all endangered and threatened species functions for the State of Illinois, including impact assessment and permits, etc. The IDNR later established its own endangered species section and developed separate programs for permits, impacts assessment, incidental take, etc. The original draft of the MOU is from a time when the Board reviewed all impact assessment projects, but that is no longer the case, nor is it appropriate or feasible. The addition of "as appropriate" to this item allows for discretion by Board staff of when the Board should engage with the IDNR on an impact assessment matter. Mr. Kruse agreed that this additional language allowed a desired level of discretion and flexibility for the Board and Dr. Herkert added that #4 under "THE DEPARTMENT SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR" allows the IDNR to seek input from the Board on projects.

Dr. Taft asked what happened to #6 under "THE BOARD SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR" which had been struck in the current draft. Dr. Walk stated that it was now captured under # 2 of "MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES".

Dr. Taft then offered the following re-draft of #2 under "MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES".

From: "Species recovery plans, including revisions and amendments, to be funded or implemented, in whole or in part, by the Board and/or the Department, shall require approval of both the Board and the Department."

To: "Species recovery plans to be in whole or part funded and implemented by the Board and/or the Department, including revisions and amendments, shall require approval of both the Board and the Department."

Vice Chair Campbell then asked if there were any other comments or edits to the MOU. Mr. Kruse motioned to approve the MOU with the above edit to #2 under "MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES", Ms. Masi seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

147-10 ESPB Biennial Report for July 2008 – June 2010

Vice Chair Campbell asked if there were any comments or edits to the draft report. Ms. Masi suggested that the Board include institutional affiliations for Board members and ESTAC members as that may lend some credibility. Ms. Mankowski replied that Board members and ESTAC members serve as individuals and in almost all cases there has been no formal endorsement from their employers of such institutional support, so it is probably not appropriate to cite them. She added that in a few cases, an employer does make it clear that they support the

individual's service and allow for that person to speak on behalf of the institution, such as was described earlier for Laurel Ross and the Field Museum, but there is no standard. Mr. Kruse added that he feels comfortable with how the information is currently presented as appropriate and that most members serve as individuals and do not expect to represent their institutions. Vice Chair Campbell added that the notation of "Dr." certainly does speak to the professional qualifications.

Dr. Taft stated that part of a sentence had been dropped from page 11. Ms. Mankowski noted the error and indicated she would correct that in the final draft.

Ms. Mankowski indicated that prior to the meeting Vice Chair Campbell noted that the Board itemizes the resolutions it has passed and suggested that the Board should also include a listing of Board recommendations made to the IDNR. Ms. Mankowski asked if the Board would like to include a listing of recommendations made to the IDNR and the Board supported the addition.

Vice Chair Campbell asked for a motion to approve the Biennial Report with the amendments noted above. Secretary Clemetsen so moved, Dr. Taft seconded, and it was approved unanimously.

147-11 Approval to destroy tape recordings of meetings from prior to November 2008.

Ms. Mankowski explained that this action complies with Open Meeting Act requirements whereby recordings must be retained for at least 18 months and must be transcribed to approved minutes prior to destruction. This will free-up some recording discs. This action requires Board approval.

Mr. Kruse moved to approve the destruction of the recordings, Secretary Clemetsen seconded the motion, and the Board approved unanimously.

147-11 ESPB Research Program – (FY08 and FY09 projects, FY10 and FY11 cycles – status review)

Ms. Mankowski reviewed the status of existing contracts and updates on recently received reports (Attachment F).

As requested by Board members at the 146th meeting, Ms. Mankowski contacted all applicants whose proposals were recommended for funding by the Board from the FY10 cycle to determine if their proposal was still viable for the FY11 cycle, if the Board should receive IDNR Wildlife Preservation Fund allocation for FY11. Applicants were asked if their proposal remained viable with the only change being the need to revise the timetable to reflect the FY11 cycle, and for one applicant there would be a need to change the PI and sponsoring entity from UIC to Chicago Botanic Garden. All applicants indicated their proposals would be viable for consideration in the FY11 cycle if the Board should have funding. Applicants were not asked to revise proposals at this time; they will be asked to do so if the Board receives WPF funding and recommends the same proposals for funding. Ms. Mankowski distributed to members the minutes and supporting documents from the 144th meeting where the Board originally discussed and ranked this group of projects.

Ms. Mankowski asked Dr. Herkert if he was able to inform the Board about the status of an FY11 WPF \$25,000 allocation from the IDNR to the Board. Dr. Herkert replied that he had

received confirmation from DNR Director Miller and Assistant Director Rogner of their approval to allocate the funds to the Board for FY11.

Ms. Mankowski then went on to advise the Board that as of July 1, 2010 new procurement rules are being implemented for state agencies (as per Senate Bill 51). She explained that at this time it is unclear exactly how this may affect ESPB IDNR contracts, but the Board can probably expect new and additional delays in the paperwork process. Additionally, relative to provisions regarding conflict of interest, Ms. Mankowski had consulted with IDNR Legal Counsel and Fiscal staff about the Board's review and selection process for projects and was forwarding to the Board advice that the Board should further refine its process to ensure avoidance of any real, or perceived, conflict of interest on the part of Board members. The proposed process at this time is for Board members who are affiliated in any way with a proposal, meaning affiliated with the institution by employment, or with the researchers, will need to recuse themselves from ranking, discussing, or voting on any proposals. She stated that since the original Board recommendation for these projects was under different review criteria, the Board should probably discuss, rank, and vote for recommending the projects again, under the new criteria. She added that it may take a while for the Board, working with the IDNR, to identify an effective and satisfactory process that will also maintain compliance and this could be further discussed at the Board's February 2011 strategic planning meeting.

Discussion ensued about interpretation of the new procurement rules and the differences between actual and perceived conflict of interest. Board members and audience members cited examples of other Boards and Commissions, as well as other institutions, where members recuse themselves from decisions relating to any entity or person with whom they have any relationship.

The Board then discussed if and how to proceed with evaluating the projects recommended for funding from the 144th meeting. After considerable deliberation the Board agreed to have those members without affiliation with project proposals reviewed at the 144th meeting review the discussion from the 144th meeting and vote for projects to recommend for funding in the FY11 cycle. Mr. Kruse then moved to have the eligible members vote whether to approve those projects that had been recommended for funding in the FY10 cycle, with ineligible members recusing themselves, and reminded the Board that the IDNR will make the final call on whether to issue the contracts for the projects based on their review of the process. Secretary Clemetsen seconded the motion. Vice Chair Campbell asked Secretary Clemetsen to conduct a roll call vote: Vice Chair Campbell, yes; Dr. Hofmann, recuse; Mr. Kruse, yes; Ms. Masi, recuse; Dr. Taft, recuse; Dr. Walk, recuse; Secretary Clemetsen, yes. Vice Chair Campbell noted that the vote passed and asked Ms. Mankowski to make the request to IDNR to approve funding and issuance of the contracts. Ms. Mankowski indicated she would do so and would continue working with IDNR staff in developing a proposed process for the Board.

147-12 Species Updates

Items 1 - 12 were included in Ms. Mankowski's written report submitted to the Board prior to the meeting. Dr. Walk added update information to item 5. Item 13 was reported by Ms. Masi. Items 14 – 23 were reported by Joe Kath (IDNR Endangered Species Manager) and are presented as received.

Items 1 - 12 were submitted by Ms. Mankowski.

1. There is need to for the Board to plan for a public hearing for the proposed additions of *Mentzelia oligosperma* (stickleaf) and *Utricularia subulata* (hair bladderwort) to the list of endangered and threatened plants. Both species are proposed for addition as endangered; preliminary approval took place at the Board's 141st meeting held February 20, 2009. A public hearing and consideration of comments received is required prior to the Board making a final approval of a listing recommendation for a state-listed species.

The Board discussed the issue of conducting a public hearing to proceed with the listing decisions for these plants and *Penstemon brevisepalus* (short-sepaled beard tongue) (see #10). After some discussion it was agreed to wait until after the Board had an opportunity to review the IDNR's forthcoming *Peregrine Falcon Post-delisting Management and Monitoring Plan* (see #4) and re-evaluate that species before scheduling public hearings and how to proceed with any proposed interim list changes.

2. *Isotria medeoloides* (Small Whorled Pogonia) – The Board approved de-listing for this species and it was removed from the Illinois list in 2009. Based on a review of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act and Ad Rule for the list of Illinois endangered and threatened flora, it appears the Board does not actually have the authority to remove a federal species from the Illinois list. Board staff recommends the species is re-listed as Illinois endangered when the Board proceeds with other plant list changes.

3. Ms. Mankowski was asked by the USFWS to join the *Boltonia decurrens* (Decurrent False Aster) recovery team and continues working with the USFWS Rock Island Field Office, IDNR, and several other partners on a draft of a *Decurrent False Aster (Boltonia decurrens – federally and IL threatened) Conservation Agreement/Management Agreement for Managed Lands in the Illinois River and Mississippi River Floodplains*. The agreement will cover multiple partners across two states (Illinois and Missouri). The *B. decurrens* recovery team had hoped to have a draft document for land management agency review and input sometime in May or June, but instead is planning an organizational meeting for August before completing a draft.

4. As outlined in several 2009 Board meetings, the Board and IDNR are working together to develop and coordinate materials necessary to re-evaluate the listing status of the peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). At the request of the Board, the IDNR is preparing a *Post de-listing management and monitoring plan for the peregrine falcon*. A first draft was tentatively planned for July 2010, but the IDNR informed the Board that it would not make its anticipated timeline and as of this writing, the IDNR has not completed a first draft. The Board agreed that it would await finalization and Board approval of that plan prior to reconsidering the listing status of the peregrine falcon. The Bird ESTAC has received copies of 2009 breeding season and population viability assessment data and the Board will ask that the Bird ESTAC also participate in the Board's review of the IDNR plan.

5. Ms. Mankowski continues project management of an IDNR SWG grant for the recovery of the barn owl (*Tyto alba*) in Illinois (T-35-P-1). The recovery planning team (Anne Mankowski, Dr. Jeff Walk, Terry Esker, Maggie Cole, and Mark Alessi), with Dr. Walk as the primary author, have completed what should be a final draft that is currently being routed at IDNR for approval and then will come to the Board for approval at the November 2010 meeting. Ms. Mankowski worked with Natural Heritage staff in Region 5 monitoring nest box activity in June and continues working with IDNR federal aid staff on administration of the grant. This project brings an increased search effort of existing nesting boxes and placement of many new boxes. Several days of monitoring in June turned-up over 10 new successful nests in Region 5 alone. Terry Esker, Natural Heritage Biologist, and the IDNR lead for the project, working with a few staff, has placed 23 new boxes and plans to place an additional 15-20 new boxes this year.

Dr. Walk gave an update on the status of the Illinois Barn Owl Recovery Plan, indicating that the draft had gone through two reviews and was currently in final review at IDNR before coming to the Board. He reviewed the proposed abundance and distribution matrices that would trigger a status review by the Board: a review by the Board to consider a change in status from endangered to threatened would be

triggered when over a 5-year period, 40 nesting occurrences were documented in 15 counties; and, a review by the Board to consider delisting the species would be triggered when over a 5-year period, 80 nesting occurrences were documented in 30 counties. He noted that other threats, such as adequacy of habitat, depredation, etc., will be considered during the reviews.

6. Scott Simpson, Site Superintendent at Prairie Ridge State Natural Area, provided Ms. Mankowski a report on **Greater Prairie-Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*)** census routes for the site's Marion and Jasper Counties properties. Mr. Simpson reported an estimated 43 males and 8 females in Marion County and 36 males and 26 females in Jasper County. Mr. Simpson noted that in 2010, the males in Marion County were down 16% from 2009 (54) and 8% below the 10-year average of 46.5; and, the males in Jasper County were down 14% from 2009 (42) and 18% below the 10-year average of 44.3. Mr. Simpson suggested that the lower numbers may be attributed to record rainfall in the area for May and June.

7. Brad Semel, Natural Heritage Biologist, provided Ms. Mankowski with an annual report for **Common Tern (*Sterna hirunda*)** Illinois nesting results. Mr. Semel reported that it was not a good year, with 31 birds and 13 nesting attempts that produced 33 eggs, but with no successful fledging due to depredation. Since 1936 there has been a maximum of 43 young fledged in 2003 and 20 years have seen no successful fledging.

8. At an annual conference in June 2010, the Directors of the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies unanimously passed the following resolution regarding the listing status and management of the **gray wolf (*Canis lupus*)**:

RESOLUTION # 2010-1

DELIST THE GRAY WOLF AND RESTORE MANAGEMENT TO THE STATES

WHEREAS, the "Recovery Plan for the Eastern Timber Wolf" identified population goals of 1,250 – 1,400 animals for Minnesota and 100 animals for Wisconsin/Michigan; and

WHEREAS, population estimates as of 2008 include 2,922 animals in Minnesota; 549 animals in Wisconsin; and 520 animals in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, as acknowledged by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota's wolf population has met the federal recovery goal since the late 1970's and Wisconsin / Michigan have met the federal recovery goal since the winter of 1993 – 1994; and

WHEREAS, a primary purpose of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is to "provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved, to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered species and threatened species, and to take such steps as may be appropriate to achieve the purposes of the treaties and conventions set forth in subsection (a) of this section."; and

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of the ESA has clearly been achieved for the gray wolf, and gray wolves have recovered in the Midwest, formally known as the Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment; and

WHEREAS, a lack of delisting, given the species has met recovery goals, can result in an erosion of public acceptance of wolves and the ESA; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan have each developed state management plans for the gray wolf that include population levels that will assure long-term sustainability and avoid the need for future state or federal endangered species listing; and

WHEREAS, State wildlife agencies are the competent authorities to manage resident species for their sustained use and enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, the overall aim of the ESA is to recover species such that the species can be managed by the appropriate entity. State wildlife agencies are the appropriate entities to assume management of the gray wolf as a resident species.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies supports and endorses efforts to delist gray wolves in the Midwest (formally known as the Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment) from the Endangered Species Act as a recovered species, and recommends the management of this species by state agencies, including public taking, for the multiple values and benefits associated with their recovery.

9. Board staff reviewed and provided comment on six incidental take conservation plans and/or authorizations during the last quarter:

- Adams Electric wind turbines, Adams and Brown Counties (**Short-eared owl – *Asio flammeus*; Upland sandpiper - *Bartramia longicauda*; Northern Harrier – *Circus cyaneus*; Loggerhead Shrike – *Lanius ludovicianus*; Indiana Bat – *Myotis sodalis*; and, Gray Bat – *Myotis grisescens*);**
- Sangamon Valley Trail, Sangamon County (***Franklin’s Ground Squirrel – Spermophilus franklinii***);
- Kickapoo Rail Trail, Champaign and Vermilion Counties (***Franklin’s Ground Squirrel – Spermophilus franklinii***);
- Illinois Rt 23 over Coon Creek, McHenry County (**Iowa Darter – *Etheostoma exile*; Spike – *Elliptio dilatata***);
- Kaskaskia Road FAS 856, Monroe County (**Narrowmouth Toad – *Gastrophryne carolinensis***);
- Three bridge structures along Cisco-Monticello Road FAS 1531 (**Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake – *Sistrurus catenatus catenatus***)

10. The Board’s status revision preliminary recommendation from 11/09 for *Penstemon brevisepalus* (short-sepaled beard tongue) was:

“*Penstemon brevisepalus* (short-sepaled beard tongue) – Proposed Action: removed from endangered. This species has been reported once for Illinois and not been seen in the state since 1981. It is considered extirpated.”

Pre-hearing comments received during the list revision process included one that questioned if extirpated status had been confirmed for *Penstemon brevisepalus*. The Board asked the ESTAC to confirm its review of the species and the ESTAC recommended further verification of herbarium voucher specimens. The Board removed the recommended change from its 2009 list revision and agreed to reevaluate based upon future recommendations from the ESTAC.

Plant ESTAC member Rick Phillippe received confirmation back from species expert Craig Freeman that the INHS specimen annotated as *Penstemon brevisepalus* (Ray Smith) was in fact *P. pallidus*. Beth Shimp also confirmed with Craig Freeman the same mis-identification of several other herbarium specimens while one other specimen is confirmed as lost. With this, the Board should be able to proceed with the process to de-list the species as per preliminarily recommended in November 2008, except that the reason now will be that “Illinois records for this species are now believed to be based on misidentified specimens” instead of “All native populations are now considered to be extirpated in Illinois”.

11. The USFWS, in conjunction with the IDNR, is conducting status and distribution surveys for the **Ornate Box Turtle (*Terrepene ornata*)** at several locations in northwestern Illinois. During the 2009 field season they contracted assistance from an individual with dogs that are trained to locate the turtles by scent. Staff from the USFWS and IDNR reported that the dogs are highly successful, locating 70 turtles at one site during one day, and appear to have little adverse impact on habitat, the turtles, or other wildlife.

12. White-Nose Syndrome

– (from an article posted 08/05/10 on LiveScience, by Stephanie Pappas)

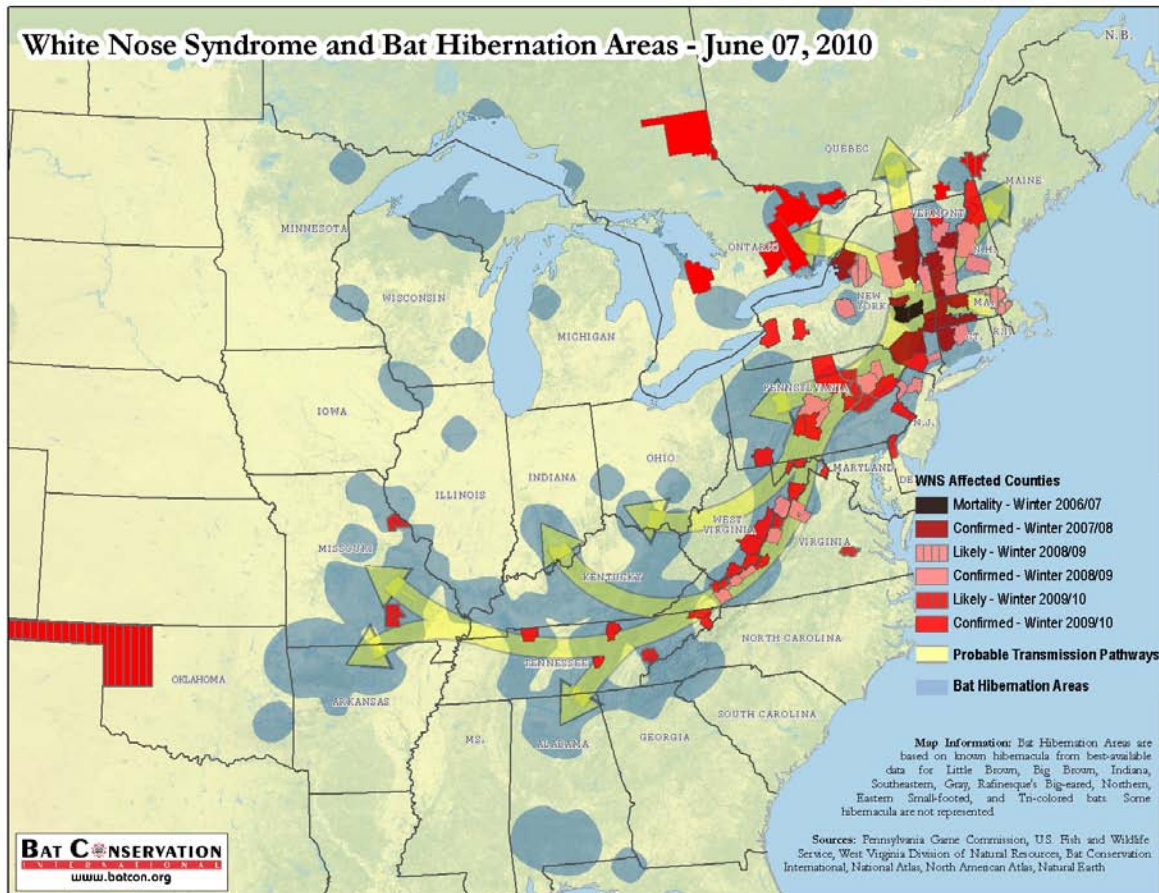
North America's most common bat, the little brown myotis, will be all but extinct in the northeastern United States in 16 years, thanks to a rapidly-spreading fungal infection, researchers reported Thursday.

*The fungus, called [white-nose syndrome](#), grows on the [exposed skin of bats](#) as they hibernate in cool caves or mines. The infection causes the bats to wake up from their slumber, depleting valuable fat stores and eventually killing them. If infection continues at current rates, the researchers reported in the journal *Science*, there is a 99-percent chance the little brown myotis population will drop below 0.01 percent of its current numbers by 2026.*

In June, the Center for Biological Diversity filed a formal notice of intent to sue Interior Secretary Ken

Salazar for not acting quickly enough to give endangered species protections to two bat species hit hard by a fast-spreading, lethal disease known as white-nose syndrome. The Center says the agency has hurt both eastern small-footed and northern long-eared bats by missing legally required deadlines for responding to an Endangered Species Act petition to protect them.

A number of researchers from several universities and staff from several natural resource agencies have recently begun work to develop monitoring and sampling strategies for Illinois related to white nose syndrome. Illinois Natural History Survey researcher, Dr. Ed Heske, who is also an ESPB Mammal ESTAC member, is leading the group and Dr. Joyce Hofmann, ESPB member and Mammal ESTAC member, Joe Kath, IDNR, and Anne Mankowski, ESPB, are also members of the group.



13. Ms. Masi reported that the *Plants of Concern* program is finding new populations of listed species such as *Viola conspersa* (**Dog Violet**). She added that the program recently finalized a contract with Open Lands to do monitoring and inventories at the Open Lands Lakefront Preserve on the old Fort Sheridan site. So far they have recorded new locations for 7 or 8 listed species, such as *Carex aurea* (**Golden Sedge**), *Sherpherdia canadensis* (**Buffaloberry**), *Cakile edentula* (**Sea Rocket**), *Chamaesyce polygonifolia* (**Seaside Spurge**), *Ammophila breviligulata* (**Marram Grass**), and a couple of others. They also have a new location for *Melanthium virginicum* (**Bunchflower**) for Kane County.

Items 14 – 23 were submitted by Mr. Joe Kath (presented as submitted)

14. Alligator Snapping Turtle: After six (6) years , we are excited to report that on June 22, 2010 not only did we successfully retrieve our required 6 ASTs from our 2009 southern Illinois release (as per the official AST Recovery Plan) – we actually captured 7 live animals and picked up a moving lost signal in a large oxbow lake southwest of the site – this means that full on

recovery – release of animals in Illinois - can now formally proceed for the next umpteen years! I cannot even begin to explain to you what we had to do in the field to capture these animals, but we did it – simply incredible. The recovery team will meet to discuss logistics the week of September 27, 2010. All animals are being held at the INHS – they were weighed and measured and all animals grew. Maps were created by our GIS folks showing release sites and capture points over the past year and an “Excel” spreadsheet showing the growth rate of each animal is on file with Joe Kath.

15. Blanding’s Turtle: A “Pre-planning Tool” for the Blanding’s Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingi*) submitted in support of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board’s consideration of the creation of a species recovery plan for the turtle was submitted by Dr. Dan Ludwig on July 27, 2010. Overall, Northern Illinois presents a unique opportunity to coordinate the efforts of land management agencies (five Forest Preserve Districts - Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, Will, and two Conservation Districts - Boone, McHenry) and other members of the Chicago Wilderness partnership, and to use the population modeling, genetic and captive husbandry/veterinarian expertise of the staffs at the Brookfield Zoo, Lincoln Park Zoo, Illinois Natural History Survey, and two wildlife rehabilitation centers. Many of the land management agencies listed above are actively managing fresh water marshes and surrounding uplands for the benefit of the Blanding’s Turtle. Population monitoring is ongoing within some Forest Preserve Districts and Conservation Districts. At least three have initiated “head start programs.” A detailed recovery outline is expected from Dr. Ludwig by mid to late August 2010.

16. Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake: Dr. Mike Dreslik has uploaded the Compiled Draft of the EMR recovery plan to this site for everyone to comment on again (uploaded on August 4, 2010).

https://netfiles.uiuc.edu/dreslik/shared/ILEMR_RecoveryPlan_Draft_Compiled.doc

From Dr. Dreslik - There are some caveats: I have a few sections that either I am or have someone else working on and have additional sources and references from Indiana on the way. However, this by no means precludes this from comments as the document I think can stand with our without the additional information since it will all be additions to the species biology section.

The section(s) that are currently being worked on or added:

Physiological Ecology

Temperature and Thermoregulation - Dreslik

Energetics - Sarah Baker

There are some things I doubt will make it such as the Carlyle PVA, however we do have completing a PVA as an objective of the plan and it will be added as a subsequent Appended document. Survival - I doubt I will be able to get into the raw data to perform any analyses in the near future, however such data and information would be included in a PVA report.

The sections we need to focus on now and probably need a meeting for are the Timeline and Budget portions. There are also some other specifics I would like everyone to think about such as should we go with population names (Carlyle Lake) or cluster names (South Central Illinois) throughout the document for consistency sake.

17. Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake (continued): From Dr. Mike Dreslik: Unfortunately we have some *pathogenic issues* with the Carlyle EMR population. Complete discussion is below – animals are still under observation as of August 1, 2010.

Here are the topics below and a summary of information on each directly from emails:

- 1) Unknown fungal infection at Carlyle appearing on three adults
- 2) Histopathology of fourth adult currently being housed and treated
- 3) Granulomas present on the Dam East individual recently transferred to Lincoln Park Zoo
- 4) Possible necropsy of one of the four EMRs transferred to the St. Louis Zoo in 2009

Unknown fungal infection at Carlyle - Dr. M. C. Allender – U of I

"All three snakes that died last year (2009) had a fungus identified - and all three had the same (99% similar to *Chrysosporium*, see attached). So, it looks as if that was the likely cause of death."

To everyone not familiar with this, the fungus completely occludes the loreal pit and appears to migrate into the mouth and possibly the venom duct and gland. Externally the fungus appears granular and is restricted to the head of the snake. There is an article attached identifying *Chrysosporium* from a Black Rat Snake.

Other information on *Chrysosporium* can be found here:

<http://www.doctorfungus.org/thefunqi/Chrysosporium.htm>

Pathology of fourth adult currently being housed and treated - Dr. M. C. Allender – U of I:

This snake was picked up from the field with what appeared to be a similar external infection as the three previous. Currently the snake appears healthy and is feeding on its own.

Here is the synopsis of the findings from today (4/20/2010): There will be subsequent addendums with the results of other diagnostic tests.

Physical exam under isoflurane anesthesia: Thin body condition, but alert and responsive. There was a swelling that involved the right maxillary scales from the preocular to the nasals, and ventral to the upper labials. Upon, gentle dissection, caseous debris was expressed. Fibrous tissue involving all of the above scales and the subcutaneous tissues below them were removed en bloc. A cavity with apparently healthy tissue was exposed and left to heal by second intention.

Granulomas present on the Dam East individual recently transferred to Lincoln Park Zoo - Dr. Kathryn Gamble - Lincoln Park Zoo: "We have an adult male massasauga from the southern Illinois population that had been held by USFWS for the past two years. When it entered quarantine last month, we found five skin/subcutaneous masses located around the head and along the neck. The additional history from USFWS at that time was that the animal throughout its time with them - or for at least a substantial part of it - had presented these lesions".

Recommendation has been made that this animal be transferred to St Louis.

"At a quarantine procedure, we excised all masses and submitted them for histology. They were each consistent with a fungal granuloma so were submitted for PCR fungal identification.

Today, we received the report that the fungal organism identified was *Acremonium*. This soil-borne organism causes infection opportunistically and generally is associated with immunocompromise. However, in an immunocompetent adult like this animal, it appeared able to wall off the organism rather than going systemically as may have happened in the younger, early emerging animals which have been reported with similar lesions. At this time and for this adult, antifungals do not seem indicated as the problem has not re-appeared once the masses were excised; however, younger animals may need antifungals."

18. Carlyle Lake Biological Station to be established using Incidental Take Money from construction of Wal-Mart in the City of Carlyle (\$25k) - See notes below:

Meeting on June 10th concerning establishment of a Biological Station in South Shore State Park at Carlyle Lake. I believe a MOU would be the most appropriate type of agreement. [via purchase of new surplus FEMA trailers – these are free to the Feds – the only associated costs are transport from Louisiana to Carlyle]

Since one of Carlyle Lakes authorized purposes is fish and wildlife conservation the research station will benefit the Corps by providing valuable information and data that will assist with and improve management of the lake. My initial thoughts on Corps participation to be identified in the agreement would be to provide the trailers, supplement the Master Plan and amend the park lease if necessary and participate in any required environmental compliance for the facility. The State (INHS and IDNR) would then operate and maintain the facility, furnish the Corps research data developed at the station and allow some use of the station by Corps employees or interns that is compatible with the biological station operations and purpose. Since fish and wildlife conservation is an authorized project purpose and the trailers and land are federal property, additional Corps assistance could occur on a case by case basis however not required by the agreement. The agreement could call for establishment of facility management team composed of a designated representative from the IDNR, INHS, and Corps to meet at least once a year and more often if necessary to coordinate and cooperate in the management of the facility.

As of August 5: Mike Dreslik indicated that things were moving along regarding the trailers and that they may be on site within 60 days.

Also had a discussion with Dan Crawmer from University Real Estate - he suggested that, in terms of MOU, there is one agreement between Army COE and IDNR regarding the use of the trailers on IDNR process and then there is a separate MOU for the agreement between the UI and IDNR regarding the use of the property and trailers for use as a research facility. More news to come...

19. Copperbelly Water-Snake: Joyce Collins (FWS) and her office have some discretionary funds that need to be allocated quickly (\$25k). She would like an updated habitat assessment/survey of the copperbelly water-snake in southern Illinois. This will be contracted out to biologist Steve Karsen.

A. From Joyce Collins - Just wanted to let you know that I just got all the required information/forms for this agreement sent off to our Regional Contracting office for processing.

I made the edits in the draft agreement based on our call last week and made a few minor edits to Steve Karsen's proposal and provided it as an attachment to the draft agreement. I also reviewed Steve's budget for the work and found it to be reasonable. Generally, we get the go ahead to obligate the funding when our contracting folks send the agreement to IDNR for processing/signature. So, given that it will take a while to work things through on your end, it should not affect the status of the funds on our end. I would not expect to hear anything from contracting for at least 30 days. We'll try to keep track of things on this end so that at least we can let you know when the final agreement is sent your way.

B. From Paul Vehlow (IDNR Federal Aid) on August 3: I am doing the Request for Approval of Fed Aid package, Kathy Justison will do the clearinghouse notice, and Rori will set up a project file so I think we've got it all covered right now. I'll get you the Request for Approval of Fed Aid package for you to review and approve ASAP.

20. Clubshell/Northern Riffleshell Release: Current summary below -

*Initial 2010 acquisition: 150 riffleshell - Enough for 3 sites @ 50 per site. Then onto Clubshell releases.

- A. From FWS in Ohio on August 4 (Angie Boyer): I am scrambling to get everything together on my end. Assuming that the river conditions are still good (haven't heard otherwise yet), I am headed to PA on Thursday (tomorrow) to begin collecting Thurs PM. We will be collecting through mid-day Friday as well. We will collect the 150 NRS for IL first, then additional ones for Ohio. I will be transporting the NRS back to Tom's facility in Columbus, OH. Do you want me to bring them to IL the following week or have someone come pick them up? Alternatively, we could even try to meet half way between.

- B. As of August 5 from Joe Kath: Would it be possible for Tom to hold specimens for us into September? This would really give us a chance to solidify IL sites and make sure we have the staff and approval to travel out of state. We of course are working as quickly as possible, but with our State Fair starting next week and running for the next 10 days, on top of summer vacation time, it will be a real push to try and get things done properly by the end of August. Angie - we can more than likely meet you half way in Indiana (details to be worked out later).

Three things we need as soon as possible: As always, we appreciate your help!

1. We need any info on habitat evaluation that USFWS and/or Ohio uses or recommends – substrate, current flow, geomorphology, fish hosts (only bluebreast darters or are some other Etheostoma sp OK?), congeners present, etc etc.

2. Tom has indicated he would be able to hold the critters at our last conference call and I assume that nothing has changed at his end. Is this still true? (see above)

3. Re cages – that was a Job within the Grant Agreement for the Ohio group in the early years of the project – to determine the best configuration and construction specs for the stream types we are most likely to encounter. They or USFWS need to get this to us. And probably pretty soon so we can get them constructed – maybe while we still have residents.

- C. As of August 9 – From FWS (Angie Boyer): Your NRS are at Tom's facility – IDNR anticipates putting these animals in the Vermilion River by late September of this year.

21. Potential Wolf Trapping proposed for this winter in northern Illinois – see summary below:

A. Initial Contact:

From: Robert Erickson, Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2010 11:39 AM -----To: Kath, Joe
 Subject: Re: SmartScouter device camera2 (F611C148) has uploaded 2 pictures to SmartScouter account.

Animals initially located in DeKalb County. About 3 miles southeast of the state park (Shabbona Lake). After speaking with Chris Anchor (Cook County FPD) on this subject, if in fact they are wolves, we would love to get a GPS collar on them, but is quite cost prohibitive, and takes time to pre order the size we would need. At present time Chris does have regular telemetry collars that he uses on Whitetail deer that would fit these animals, which is more than likely the route we would go. That is, if you guys think we should proceed. I believe that the spot I took the pictures from, is in their territory, so I think we have time to discuss a plan that works for all of the folks concerned. Thanks for your help in this matter, it is well appreciated - Rob.

B. From Joe Kath:

Thank you for the clarification. If folks are willing to give this a shot, then I certainly support the effort and see no harm in attempting to gather data. I certainly have radio-telemetry equipment and based upon the frequencies of the collars used, would be willing to loan this equipment out and/or get on the

ground myself. It appears as though we have some time to put together a strategy and with this e-mail, I will include most of the IDNR folks who should be brought into the loop. We will also need State E&T permits to make sure all bases are covered. We may also need a Federal permit - I will check on this and get back to you.

Tom Beissel is the Regional Wildlife Biologist for Boone, DeKalb, LaSalle and counties west to the MS. River. Diane Tecic is the Regional Natural Heritage Biologist for this same area. The subject and bordering counties are covered by several district biologists who will be copied.

At this point, please keep me in the loop and I can disseminate info. to IDNR staff as needed. Any idea of a target month for trapping?

C. From Kris Lah (USFWS):

I wrote some notes during our call that I thought might be helpful to refer to as we organize our thoughts and a "plan" on how to proceed. I did not write the notes in the order of the discussion and may have missed a few comments so they are by no means meant to be minutes. Please let me know if I missed vital details.

-Notes from call on August 3, 2010:

Wolf Conference Call Notes

8/3/2010 – from Kris Lah

Joe Kath; Rick Nelson; Pete Fasbender; Cathy Pollack; Kris Lah

Joe:

- Not sure if they are wolves
- Proposal is to conduct live trapping in winter. If they are wolves they would GPS/satellite collar and track. Trapper has also suggested collecting tracks. Also record howling and howling response.

Cathy: What about trapping animal, collecting DNA, radio collar and release with the potential to recapture the animal?

Kris: Are there alternative DNA collection methods like hair snares that would work for wolves/canines?

- Concerned about what permits need to be obtained and where to house trapped animals.
 - Pete: Either make trappers agents of the state and handle under cooperative agreement or apply for a S10 permit. Because of risks related to anesthetizing the animal, WI has chosen to require S10 permits for trapping. MI has elected to use cooperative agreements. A s10 permit would require FR notice and comment with a minimum 90 day turnaround. Joe will look into making trappers agents of the state.
- IL has never developed wolf management plan
- Oregon FWS lab would conduct DNA analysis. They have ability to prioritize analysis so that the animal is not held for a prolonged period.
- Local DNR staff: Maggie Cole, District Heritage Administrator (no HB assigned to DeKalb); Diane Tecic, District Heritage Administrator; Dan Ludwig, District Wildlife Administrator
- Will work on identifying who (e.g. a local zoo) can hold and care for animal while DNA is analyzed. Note: Brookfield Zoo is part of Cook County so Chris Anchor may be able to help in this regard.
- Will work with trappers, WI, MN, FWS to develop plan.

Kris: Develop a flow chart with directions and next course of action for each resulting scenario. For example:

Scenario: trapped animal - yes – collect DNA, radio collar and track – yes – release in IL – yes –where (alternative locations) –DNA wolf – yes- capture and move–yes/no

Scenario: trapped animal – yes – hold for up to 45 days while DNA is analyzed – where to house?- DNA wolf – yes – release where

Scenario: trapped animal - yes - collect DNA, radio collar and track – yes – release in IL – yes –where (alternative locations) –DNA wolf – no (hybrid) – euthanize

Scenario: trapped animal – yes – hold for up to 45 days while DNA is analyzed – where to house?- DNA wolf – no– euthanize

Scenario: trapped animal – yes, but animal died – wolf –yes - ?

Scenario: trapped animal – yes, but animal died – hybrid –yes - ?

Scenario: trapped animal – yes, but animal is ill and cannot be released immediately – wolf –yes - ?

Scenario: trapped animal – yes, but animal is ill and cannot be released immediately – hybrid – yes -?

Multiple alternative scenarios should be considered this is just an example of a few that may not be complete.

Rick:

- Work with wolf biologists, WDNR and MNDNR to develop protocols for trapping (e.g. type, size, etc.) and anesthetizing (e.g. type, amounts, etc), as well as review plan.
- How does this survey/research fit into overall conservation of the species? May want to check with Laura Ragan on litigation and court orders

Pete: If the animal ends up being a hybrid the fate of the animal is the State’s decision.

We all agreed that public affairs from DNR and FWS need to be involved throughout the process and prepared for different scenarios and results.

22. FY10/11: USFWS Section 6 (E&T) Projects being proposed this year –

The following four (4) Section 6 Projects are being recommended for funding with our current Federal allocation of: **\$75,063.00**

All projects are State-Wide in scope and at a 75/25 match ratio – a September 1 start time is anticipated.

A. Title: “Monitoring fungal communities and occurrence of White Nose Syndrome on endangered bats in Illinois”

-Lead investigators: Dr. Andrea Porrás-Alfaro and Dr. Robert McCleery

-Institution: Western Illinois University – Macomb, Illinois

-Project Total = \$47,640.00

-Total Federal Dollars requested: \$35,730.00

-Match from: Recovered University Indirect = \$2,700.00; Salary match from Dr. Porrás-Alfaro =

\$9,234.00 (Total Match = \$11,934.00)

-Match = 25.10%

B. Title: “Endangered species monitoring in caves of western Illinois; non-lethal population monitoring of the endangered Illinois cave amphipod and evaluation of bats for White Nose Syndrome”

-Lead investigator: Dr. Julian J. Lewis

-Institution: Lewis & Associates, LLC – 17903 State Road 60, Borden, Indiana 47106

-Project Total = \$21,215.00

Total Federal Dollars requested: \$15,911.00

-Match from: Salary match from Dr. Lewis = \$2,121.00; IDNR Division of Natural Heritage Region 3 Contractual Budget/Diane Tecic (suba #3500) = \$3,183.00

-Total Match = \$5,304.00

-Match = 25.00%

C. Title: “Prevalence of Chyosporium in the Eastern massasauga using a wildlife health epidemiologic approach”

-Lead Investigator(s): Dr. Michael J. Dreslik

-Institution: Illinois Natural History Survey – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

-Project Total = \$17,106.00

-Total Federal Dollars requested: \$12,830.00

-Match from: Recovered University Indirect = \$2,677.00; Salary match from Dr. Dreslik = \$1,600.00 (Total Match = \$4,277.00)

-Match = 25.00%

D. Title: “Mead’s Milkweed recovery status assessment”

-Lead Investigators: Dr. Timothy Bell

-Institution: The Morton Arboretum – Lisle, IL.

-Project Total = \$14,004.00

-Total Federal Dollars requested: \$10,503.00

-Match from: Recovered Morton Arboretum Indirect = \$3,501.00 (Total Match = \$3,501.00)

-Match = 25.00%

*Total Federal Dollars Used = \$74,974.00

23. Incidental Take (ITA) Update: As of August 10, 2010

* 3 Final ITA’s sent to applicants and awaiting final signatures by applicant and IDNR

-Adams County Electric Cooperative (multiple species)

-Loon Lakes Management Association (multiple species)

-IL Route 23 in McHenry County (multiple species)

*5 Final ITA packages due to applicant by September 3, 2010

-Sangamon Valley Trail – Franklin’s ground squirrel (FGS)

-Kaskaskia Road /Monroe County – multiple species

-Kickapoo Trail – FGS

-Kishwaukee Road – multiple species

-Tyler Creek/Big Timber Road – multiple species

*Notification that at least 5-8 more Conservation Plans/Incidental Take Application packages are

anticipated for submission by October 1, 2010. Many are large wind facilities with documented Indiana bat occurrences. A meeting with the USFWS is anticipated over the next few months to try and address this issue and achieve consensus between the 2 agencies as far as recommendations to avoid/minimize take – this will not be easy.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via phone or e-mail.

Thank you.

-Joseph A. Kath-

147-13 Next Meeting Information

The 148th meeting of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board will be at 10:00 A.M. on November 12, 2010 at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie visitor's center.

The Board agreed upon meeting dates and a location for its 2011 meetings. As was done in 2010, the Board agreed to hold all meetings at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie because it is centrally located for members and reduces the need for overnight travel for single day meetings, thus reducing the Board's travel costs to the State of Illinois. The Board agreed upon having a special meeting to conduct annual strategic planning on February 24, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. at Midewin, the day before a regular meeting. The following regular meeting schedule was agreed upon: (an email announcement of regular meetings will be sent to individuals who are on the Board's email distribution list and a notice will be posted to the Board's webpage before the end of 2010, as per requirements):

February 25, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington, Illinois.

May 13, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington, Illinois.

August 12, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington, Illinois.

November 18, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington, Illinois.

147-14 Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

There were no comments.

147-15 Other Business

There was no other business.

147-16 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15.

**Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board staff report
for the 147th Meeting, August 13, 2010**
Submitted by Anne Mankowski, Director

The Board currently only has one staff, its Director, contractually employed by IDNR. All activities were conducted by Ms. Mankowski, unless otherwise noted. Because the Board has reduced staff and had been without any fulltime staff from 2002-2007 and then without any staff from 2007-2008, Ms. Mankowski has not been able to complete all required work in the course of a 40-hour work week. Since the last staff report, Ms Mankowski has contributed the following overtime hours toward ESPB and IDNR duties: May = 170.75; June = 23.25; July = 15.00.

1. Competitive Funding and Grant Proposals

Ms. Mankowski, with assistance from Tara Kieninger (Illinois Natural Heritage Database Manager), prepared a State Wildlife Grant FY10 pre-proposal to contract a data specialist to support Board activities for the next list revision (2014) and to update the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan Species in Greatest Need of Conservation. IDNR approval of pre-proposals and request for full proposal from successful applicants is scheduled to take place in July 2010. This pre-proposal was not approved by IDNR during its July review.

Ms. Mankowski, also in collaboration with Tara Kieninger, prepared an FY11 Wildlife Preservation Fund proposal to update by resurveying historic (>10 years old) animal E&T occurrences in IDNR administrative Region 5. If deemed successful, the project will be proposed each year for other IDNR administrative regions, to update statewide data. This project received approval at the initial IDNR review and will now be considered by the Wildlife Preservation Fund Citizen Review Committee. Announcement of approved projects is expected prior to the end of the state fiscal year. The status of this proposal is still pending.

2. Board Member Appointments

Ms. Mankowski sent to IDNR Director Miller on 06/04/10 the Board's recommendation for reappointment of Mr. John Clemetsen and worked with the Board's nominating committee in communicating with candidates being considered for recommendation to replace Marilyn Campbell.

3. ESPB Budget

Ms. Mankowski continued working with IDNR on details of the FY11 budget and worked with Chairman Gooch to prepare a proposed FY12 budget request for the Board's consideration.

4. ESPB Research Program

Ms. Mankowski engaged in a fair amount of correspondence related to follow-up and review of reports on FY08 and FY09 contracts, and general inquiries about the Board's research program. See Attachment F for status of contracts and brief summaries of reports recently received.

As requested by Board members at the 146th meeting, Ms. Mankowski contacted all applicants whose proposals were recommended for funding by the Board from the FY10 cycle to determine if their proposal was still viable for the FY11 cycle if the Board should receive IDNR WPF allocation for FY11. Applicants were asked if their proposal remained viable with the only change being the need to revise the timetable, and for one applicant there would be a need to change the PI and sponsoring entity from UIC to Chicago Botanic Garden. All applicants indicated their proposals would be viable for consideration in the FY11 cycle if the Board should have funding. Applicants were not asked to revise proposals at this time; they will be asked to do so if the Board receives WPF funding and recommends the same proposals for funding.

5. ESPB Policy Manual and Strategic Plan

Ms. Mankowski prepared final revisions of the ESPB Policy Manual and Strategic Plan documents. A

copy of the policy manual, which includes a copy of the strategic plan, will be distributed to Board members at the August meeting.

Two notes regarding edits made by the Board at the May meeting:

During discussion about the Policy Manual, Dr. Hofmann moved that the Board's webpage should be used to post meeting notices, Dr. Taft seconded the motion, and after some discussion the Board approved it unanimously. This practice is already done. The Policy Manual stipulates the requirements for notices under the Open Meetings Act and includes additional provision for use of the Board's webpage for the same. A sentence alerting the reader to the text in Section 6.2 that describes such webpage use is now inserted as an introduction to Section 4 – Administration.

During discussion about the Strategic Plan, Dr. Hofmann moved for an edit to change from two to three, the number of "significant un-met needs" in the first sentence of the introductory paragraph of the Un-met needs Section and Dr. Taft seconded the motion. The old text made reference to two significant un-met needs (no budget or staff and delays in appointments) and one topical concern (the issue of insufficient data for some species reviews). To incorporate the edit as approved also required the removal of the last sentence of the introductory paragraph reading "There is also a topical concern that begs more consideration."

6. ESPB Biennial Report for July 2008 – June 2010

Ms. Mankowski completed a draft of the subject document for consideration and approval by the Board at the August meeting.

7. ESPB Status and Distribution and Thirty Years of the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species Publication

Ms. Mankowski continues working on drafts of these publications.

8. Meetings, Presentations, and other Publications

No activities this quarter.

9. Coordination with IDNR and INPC:

Ms. Mankowski coordinated with the Endangered Species Program ORC, Division of Wildlife ORC, Impact Assessment Section OREP, Office of Land Management, Office of Law Enforcement, Office of Legal Counsel, Office of Public Services, Media Relations, and Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, on multiple matters, including:

- Served as the Logistics Section Deputy Chief in the IDNR-led May 2010 Asian Carp Response Project on the Little Calumet River.
- Attended three meetings and continues participating in an IDNR Incident Command System training committee.
- Continued project management of the Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) recovery planning and implementation State Wildlife Grant project (T-35-P-1). Ms. Mankowski worked with Natural Heritage staff monitoring nest box activity and continued working with IDNR federal aid staff on the administration of the grant. Dr. Walk is working on the project and is the primary author of the recovery plan; a final draft is being routed at IDNR for approval and then will come to the Board for approval at the November 2010 meeting.
- Completed proposed amendments to the IL E&T Animal List Administrative Rule (Part 1010) to correct listing and typographic errors; mudpuppy and black-billed cuckoo from endangered to threatened, and a few typographic corrections. It is on second notice and may go before JCAR at their August meeting. Updates to related documents, such as the Checklist, will be made when the changes become official.
- Continued working with IDNR to provide advice to USFWS about planned research for the ornate box turtle.

- Reviewed and provided comment on six incidental take conservation plans and/or authorizations during the last quarter (see Species Updates).
- Moved and consolidated the ESPB office(s) at the IDNR building (this will require ongoing work for multiple weeks).
- Fielded and referred 22 requests to IDNR for E&T consultation, incidental take, data, permits, etc.
- Directly responded to 28 requests for ESPB and E&T information from the public and other state and federal agencies

10. Coordination with other Agencies

- Ms. Mankowski was asked by the USFWS to join the *Boltonia decurrens* (Decurrent False Aster) recovery team and continues working with the USFWS Rock Island Field Office, IDNR, and several other partners on a draft of a Decurrent False Aster (*Boltonia decurrens* – federally and IL threatened) Conservation Agreement/Management Agreement for Managed Lands in the Illinois River and Mississippi River Floodplains.
- Ms. Mankowski participated in a conference call for planning of the 2010 USFWS Region 3 and State endangered and threatened species coordinators meeting.

11. Field Work

Ms. Mankowski spent two days working with Natural Heritage Biologists in Region 5 to monitor and place barn owl (*Tyto alba*) boxes at over 20 locations. This work supports the planning and implementation of the IDNR USFWS SWG project (T-35-P-1) *Recovery of the Illinois Barn Owl (Tyto alba)*, for which Ms. Mankowski is the project manager.

12. Other General Administration and Clerical Work

- Prepared and routed Board member and staff travel vouchers.
- Routed to Board members the 2010 Ethics Training for Appointees to State of Illinois Boards.
- Regularly distributed information to Board and ESTAC members via internet and hardcopy mailings.
- Prepared and distributed to Board members draft minutes from the May 14, 2010 146th meeting.
- Made updates to the ESPB webpage on the IDNR website.
- All aspects of preparation for the August 13, 2010 147th meeting.

**Illinois Department of Natural Resources report for the 147th meeting of the
Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board
August 13, 2010**

The 2010 USFWS State Wildlife Grant awards were announced in August. Twelve projects were funded, including habitat restoration for massasauga rattlesnakes and other declining grassland wildlife at Carlyle Lake, mussel survey and refinement of the Mussel Community Index, stewardship of E and T habitat and natural areas on DNR lands, acquisition of additions to Stemler Cave Woods State Natural Area in St. Clair Co. and Hanover Bluff State Natural Area in Jo Daviess Co. and a study of the effects of bottomland forest restoration on the breeding bird community along the Cache River.

Wildlife Preservation Fund check off – The most recent report shows 12,830 people donated \$172,500 to the Wildlife Preservation Fund this year. Of the 10 check offs in Illinois, Wildlife Preservation has the most people making contributions.

Natural Heritage Database – The natural heritage database staff mapped and did data entry of 97 E and T plant occurrences including new occurrences and updates of known occurrences.

To: Endangered Species Protection Board
From: Randy Heidorn
Date: 13 August 2010
Subject: Illinois Nature Preserves Commission Report for ESPB Meeting

In 2009 the INPC changed to three meetings a year to reduce costs. Therefore, we have not had a meeting since the last time the ESPB met in May. Our next meeting is September 21, 2010 at the Burpee Museum of Natural History in Rockford.

- The Commission recently received notice that nine more Illinois Nature Preserves have received Class III Special Resource Groundwater status. This level of protection is described under 35 Ill. Adm. Code 620, see particularly Sections 620.230 - 260. Special Resource Groundwater is a unique classification for areas that have either been determined by the Illinois Pollution Control Board to be “*demonstrably unique...or...vital for a particularly sensitive ecological system...or...groundwater that contributes to a dedicated nature preserve...*” (35 Ill. Adm. Code 620.230). As it stands, this designation requires that Class III areas be held to Class I (or drinking water) standards. However, an important distinction is that the Class III designation allows an area to be subjected to adjusted water quality standards if it is found that certain chemical constituents degrade the specific ecological community. So, for example, in a rare and sensitive high-quality fen wetland nature preserve in northeastern Illinois, the Commission could petition the Illinois Pollution Control Board to decrease the allowable concentration of chlorides to sustain this highly adapted ecosystem. In the areas around the six Illinois Nature Preserves where the Class III Special Resource Groundwater designation occurred first (Pautler NP, Stemler Cave NP, Fogelpole Cave NP, Boone Creek Fen NP, Parker Fen NP, and Amberin Ash Ridge NP), the Commission has found that it becomes a useful planning tool for developers and consultants in guiding them from causing harm to our state’s dedicated lands through changes to groundwater quality or quantity.
 - **Nature Preserves with previous Class III designations:** Boone Creek Fen NP, McHenry County, Amberin Ash Ridge NP, McHenry County (lies within Boone Creek Fen NP Class III), Pautler NP, Monroe County, Stemler Cave NP, St. Clair County, Fogelpole Cave NP, Monroe County, Julia M. and Royce L. Parker Fen NP, McHenry County
 - **Recently finalized Class III designations:** Illinois Beach NP, Lake County, Bluff Spring Fen NP, Cook County, Braidwood Dunes and Savanna NP, Will County, Lake in the Hills Fen NP, McHenry County, Volo Bog NP, Lake County, Elizabeth Lake NP, McHenry County, Lockport Prairie NP, Will County, Romeoville Prairie NP, Will County, Armin Krueger Speleological Area NP, Monroe County
 - **Studies completed by ISGS, not yet submitted by INPC to IEPA:** George B. Fell NP, Ogle County, Spring Grove Fen NP, McHenry County, Goose Lake Prairie NP, Grundy County, Trout Park NP, Kane County, Cotton Creek Marsh NP, McHenry County, Gladstone Fen NP, McHenry County
 - **Next INPC sites to be studied by ISGS:** Searls Park Prairie NP, Winnebago County, Sand Ridge NP, Cook County, Yonder Prairie NP, McHenry County
- **Hickory Creek Barrens NP, Will County**
 - Issue: Sedimentation on the NP due to off-site land development.
 - Threat: Direct impacts to the NP.
 - Status: The second defendants for the contamination suit have signed a consent order to settle AND provided Full payment of \$150,000.00. We now have the anticipated \$300,000.00 for restoration work at that site. This is the direct result of cooperation amongst, the INPC, the Attorney General’s Office, IDNR, and Will County Forest Preserve and a good example of how the INPC Defense Program can work repair and hopefully deter damage to sites in the INPC system.



**ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES
PROTECTION BOARD**

One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Illinois 62702 - 1271, (217) 785-8687; FAX (217) 785-2438

**Proposed ESPB FY2012 Budget Request to IDNR
as approved by the ESPB at its 147th meeting 08/13/10**

This FY2012 Budget Request is \$145,914 to fund one-year of operation of the Board including (the Board's budget is allocated as a lump sum, but breakout is provided here for ease of reference):

1) **Reimbursement of Member expenses** incurred in the performance of duties; Board travel averages \$1,500/quarterly meeting, plus \$1,500 for possible public hearing expenses = **\$7,500**.

2) **Salary, benefits, and operating expenses for one staff – Executive Director** = **\$131,466**

To conduct the following staff duties; complete interim revisions to E/T species listing status; hold quarterly Board meetings; coordinate with the DNR in the review of Incidental Take Authorization Conservation Plans; coordinate with the DNR in the development and implementation of endangered and threatened species Recovery plans and management activities; produce educational publications; contract research projects to inform species listing and recovery decisions; act a project manager for DNR/USFWS SWG Barn Owl Recovery Plan project; and, conduct plant and animal surveys to update the Illinois Natural Heritage Database and inform species listing decisions. Some expenses included here also cover Board operations such as equipment for recording meetings, and payment for court reporter and public notices.

Executive Director

Salary and Benefits (Natural Resource Manager 2) = **\$121,266**

- @ year 3 for 07/01/11 – 10/31/11 = \$39,370
(5881/month x 4 = \$23,524 + 35% retirement + 7.65% social security + \$5,833 group insurance = \$39,370)
- @ year 4 for 11/01/11 – 06/30/12 = \$81,896
(6154/month x 8 = \$49,232 + 35% retirement + 7.65% social security + \$11,667 group insurance = \$81,896)

Travel (to include Board meetings, INPC meetings, ESTAC meetings and coordination, E&T surveys and archive research, USFWS Regional E&T Coordinators Meeting, training opportunities, coordination with conservation partners, etc.) = **\$3,000**

Contractual (includes conference and training registration fees, public notice publication costs, court reporter etc. associated with conducting public hearings) = **\$1,200**

Commodities (includes books, limited office supplies, field supplies, Board meeting materials, etc.) = **\$1,000**

Equipment (includes new computer and monitor, digital scanner, GPS unit, digital recording equipment and software for Board meetings) = **\$5,000**

TOTAL = member and staff expenses = \$138,966 + 5% buffer (\$6,948) = **\$145,914**

proposed edits of June 2010 (deletions = ~~strike through~~ and additions = underline)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Illinois Department of ~~Conservation~~ Natural Resources Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board
~~Division of Natural Heritage~~

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING made in duplicate this 4th day of ~~September, 1990~~, is entered by and between the Illinois Department of ~~Conservation~~ Natural Resources and the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board.

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of ~~Conservation~~ Natural Resources, ~~via the Division of Natural Heritage~~, is responsible for actively planning and implementing a program for the conservation of endangered and threatened species pursuant to the Endangered Species Protection Act, Section 341 (a);

WHEREAS, it is the policy of all agencies of State and local governments to utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of this Act by evaluating through a consultation process with the Department of ~~Conservation~~ Natural Resources whether actions authorized, funded, or carried out by them are likely to jeopardize the continued existence of Illinois listed endangered and threatened species or are likely to result in the destruction or adverse modification of the designated essential habitat of such species (Section 341 (b));

WHEREAS, according to the Endangered Species Protection Act, Section 336, the Board is responsible for the listing, delisting, or change of status of listed species on the Illinois List of endangered and threatened species in consultation with and upon written approval by the Department.

WHEREAS, the Board is responsible under the Endangered Species Protection Act (Section 336) for advising the Department on methods of assistance, protection, conservation, and management of endangered and threatened species and their habitats, and on related matters.

WHEREAS, the Board and the Department will work cooperatively in order to successfully meet the goals of this Act. Implementation of this Act shall be a coordinative effort to the greatest extent possible. This spirit of cooperation will lend strength to both programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of mutual advantages resulting from the cooperation of both the Board and the Department, and of the respective obligations assumed hereunder:

THE ~~DIVISION OF NATURAL HERITAGE~~ DEPARTMENT SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

1. The issuance of permits for the taking, transport, purchase, or disposal of specimens or products of endangered and threatened species.
2. The issuance of authorizations for incidental taking of endangered and threatened species; including seeking the advice of the Board regarding the issuance of authorization and on the terms of any authorization to be issued.
3. The implementation of the consultation process, including impact assessment.

4. Notifying the Board of projects involving endangered species, on which the Board may wish to provide advice or comment.
5. The implementation of species recovery plans and other management activities which will assist in species recovery.
6. Serving as the official point of contact with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or other agencies for all official correspondence with the State of Illinois regarding endangered species.
7. Notifying the Board of all communications with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the listing of endangered and threatened species, review of candidate species for listing, or proposed status surveys to assist in listing decisions.
8. Providing data, information, and consultation to the Board in order to facilitate the listing, delisting, or change of species on the Illinois list.

THE BOARD SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

1. Listing, delisting, or the change of status of species on the Illinois List subject to Department approval.
2. Advising ~~Natural Heritage~~ the Department on methods of assistance, protection, conservation, and management of endangered and threatened species and their habitats.
3. Advising ~~Natural Heritage~~ the Department on the issuance of permits, as requested.
4. Advising the Department on the issuance of authorization for incidental taking and on the terms of any authorization to be issued.
5. Providing comments on impact assessment projects, as appropriate.
6. ~~Reviewing and commenting on recovery plans to be approved and implemented by Natural Heritage staff.~~
7. Providing data and information to ~~Natural Heritage~~ the Department regarding the status and distribution of species, to be incorporated into the Natural Heritage Database.
8. Maintaining and interacting with the Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committees (ESTACs) which were established as advisors to the Board. In cases where ~~Natural Heritage~~ the Department wishes to consult with the ESTACs as distinct entities, such contact will be undertaken through the Board.
9. Providing input to the Department regarding development of an annual budget request for the Board.

MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Both the Board and ~~Natural Heritage~~ the Department shall be responsible for conducting or contracting for research as deemed necessary to meet the goals of this Act. Each shall consult with the other prior to commencement of such efforts, to avoid duplicative efforts. Both shall work together to develop annual proposals for Federal funding under Sections 6 and 15 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973.
2. ~~The development of species recovery plans may be a mutual effort of the Board and Natural Heritage.~~ Species recovery plans, including revisions and amendments, to be funded or implemented, in whole or in part, by the Board and/or the Department, shall require approval of both the Board and the Department.
3. Both the Board and ~~Natural Heritage~~ the Department shall engage in public information and education efforts, preparing articles and publications, conducting interviews, and answering general requests for information as deemed necessary.
4. Both the Board and ~~Natural Heritage~~ the Department shall share data and information necessary to facilitate the responsibilities outlined above.
5. Revision or amendment of the Memorandum shall be made only upon mutual consent, in writing, of both the Department and the Board. Any such amendments shall be dated, signed, and attached hereto.

PROVISION FOR TERMINATION

Should the Department or the Board desire to terminate this Memorandum, either party may initiate such termination upon submittal of 30 days written notice to the other party, which party shall either agree in writing to the termination or request a meeting between the Director of the Department and the Chairman of the Board. Unless the party requesting termination of this agreement notifies the other party, in writing, of its withdrawal of the letter of termination, or the parties agree to amendments to this agreement, this agreement shall terminate 30 days after receipt of the written notice.

Signed:

~~Mark Frech~~ Marc Miller, Director
IL Dept. of ~~Conservation~~ Natural Resources

~~Joseph Poppie~~ R. Dan Gooch,
Chairman
IL Endangered Species Protection Board

Recommended by:

~~Carl Becker, Chief~~
~~Division of Natural Heritage~~
Jim Herkert, Director
Office of Resource Conservation

~~Sue E. Lauzon, Program Coordinator~~
Anne Mankowski, Director
IL Endangered Species Protection Board

**Report on the ESPB research program to address the status, conservation,
and/or recovery of Illinois endangered or threatened species**

Submitted by Anne Mankowski, Director
for the 147th Meeting, August 13, 2010

The Board administers a research program to answer questions regarding the listing, recovery, and conservation as it relates to those aspects, of Illinois' endangered and threatened species. Since the Board has been without a budget since 2002, it has during that time relied solely on a \$25,000 annual allocation from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund to administer the program.

The Board voted to recommend funding a group of these proposals at its 144th meeting, held November 13, 2009. Following the 144th meeting, the DNR did not release the FY10 funding for the ESPB to contract the projects during the FY10 cycle. The ESPB approved the same group of projects at its 147th meeting, held August 13, 2010, and is now seeking release of funding from DNR to contract these projects during the FY11 cycle.

The final release of the FY11 allocation from the IDNR to the Board is still pending. Ms. Mankowski engaged in fair amount of correspondence related to follow-up for FY11 proposals and FY09 contracts, and general inquiries about the Board's research program.

1) FY08 and FY09 Projects

FY08 Projects

Contract #	Title	Researcher/ Institution	Award Amount	Status
RC08E02W	Establishing population trends of <i>Hyla avivoca</i> in southern Illinois by duplicating the 1995 Redmer, Brown and Brandon survey	John Palis	\$ 3,402.00	Done
RC08E01W	Survey of breeding colonial wading birds of conservation concern in the lower Wabash River drainage in Illinois, with special emphasis on the Little Blue Heron	Three Rivers Environmental Assessments	\$ 18,423.00	Done
RC08E03W	Status survey update for listed herptiles for Kidd Lake Marsh, Fults Hill Prairie N.P., and other newly dedicated lands in Monroe County	Robert Weck	\$ 4,852.20	Done
RC08E04W	Genetic variation in <i>Astragalus crassicaarpus</i> var. <i>trichocalyx</i> in Illinois	SIU at Edwardsville, Dept. of Biological Sciences	\$ 2,999.70	Done
RC08E05W	Spatial Ecology and Over-Winter Survival of Neonate Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnakes (<i>Sistrurus catenatus catenatus</i>) at Carlyle Lake	INRS INHS UIUC	\$ 13,191.00	Done
RC08E06W	Conservation genetics of the state endangered spotted turtle, <i>Clemmys guttata</i>	INRS INHS UIUC	\$ 5,000.00	Done
RC08E07W	Status, Distribution and Resource Requirements of the Longnose Dace in Illinois	INRS INHS UIUC	\$ 6,450.00	Done
RC08E08W	Status Survey of <i>Mentzelia oligosperma</i> (Stickleaf)	Michael Jones	\$ 4,986.00	Done
RC08E09W	Population Size and Genetics of the Blanding's Turtle at Goose Lake State Natural Area, Grundy County, Illinois	INRS INHS UIUC	\$ 8,318.00	Done
RC08E10W	Status Report for Native Populations of Shortleaf Pine (<i>Pinus echinata</i>)	Michael Jones	\$ 9,632.00	Due 06/30/10
RC07E02W	Reproductive Success of Sandhill Cranes in Northeastern Illinois	Dr. David Thomas, PI; Dr. Michael Ward, INRS INHS UIUC, INHS	\$ 5,730.00	Done

FY09 Projects

Contract #	Title	Researcher/ Institution	Award Amount	Status
RC09E01W	Habitat Use, Nest Success, and Natal Philopatry of Loggerhead Shrike in Northwest Illinois.	Wenny and Elbert (INRS INHS UIUC)	\$ 6,053	Due 05/01/10
RC09E02W	Conservation Genetics of Jefferson Salamanders in Illinois: Implications for Conservation and Recovery	Kuhns (INRS INHS UIUC)	\$5,995	Due 03/30/10 No cost extension to 09/30/10
RC09E03W	Status assessment survey for springtails (Collembola) in Illinois caves.	Soto-Adames and Taylor (INRS INHS UIUC)	\$4,663	Done

RC09E04W	Rarely Seen Illinois Native Plant Species; Their Status and Distribution.	Phillippe and Ebinger (INRS INHS UIUC)	\$6,419	Due 12/31/09 No cost extension until 06/30/10
RC09E05W	Status of three freshwater snail species in the lower Ohio River basin in Illinois.	Tiemann and Cummings (INRS INHS UIUC)	\$3,993	Done

FY10 Projects

None

2) FY11 Proposals for Consideration

The Board voted to recommend funding a group of proposals (below) at its 144th meeting, held November 13, 2009. Due to concerns about budget shortfalls, the IDNR was not able to release the FY10 allocation to the Board, so the Board was unable to contract those projects. At the 147th meeting, the Board will consider whether to recommend the same group of projects for funding in FY11.

Research Project Discussion from the 144th meeting

144–11 ESPB Research Program

Vice-Chair Campbell introduced the agenda item, reviewed the status of FY08 and FY09 projects and opened the discussion of the eight FY10 proposals received (Attachment D). Ms. Mankowski stated that the Board does not have a formal process for reviewing proposal, but for the last cycle the Board ranked each proposal. Secretary Phillips stated that the last time the Board just jumped-in with discussion by Board members who knew about individual proposals, and started discussion by commenting on the reptile and amphibian proposals. He stated that for the two **ornate box turtle** proposals, because this is such a hard species to survey for, he did not believe either proposal was a good way to spend the Board's research money because the Board would receive very little return for that kind of money. He added that for that level of funding he would rather see data-rich proposals that can generate data that can be used for management. For these reasons, he indicated that he did not support either box turtle proposal. Dr. Retzer stated that he thought the 120 hours of volunteer time offered in the Conservation Foundation proposal was very significant. Dr. Phillips agreed that the \$13,000 in-kind match represented by the volunteer time was very nice, but noted that either project still would take roughly \$10,000 from the limited \$25,000 total. Dr. Phillips continued by reiterating that he did not support either box turtle project and would answer questions about the **four-toed salamander** project, but noted that since Abigail Maley was one of his students he had a potential conflict of interest and would recuse himself from commenting on that project. Ms. Masi stated that she understood the EIU ornate box turtle project to cover a period of three field seasons and the Conservation Foundation project to cover two field seasons, so on an annual basis, either project became less expensive. Dr. Phillips stated that he still did not feel this was a good commitment of the Board's money especially in light of the several other really good competing proposals that would generate really useful data.

Ms. Mankowski then interjected some explanation to Board members about multi-year contracts. Although the RFP stated that the Board would only be awarding single-year commitments in its contracts for FY10, some of the RFP projects and some proposals requested multiple years of funding and some did not break-out the budget into single years. Because of DNR and Illinois Central Management Services contracting requirements, the Board needs to be careful not to "string" contracts (in reality or perception), which typically relates to purchases of goods rather than funding research, by issuing successive annual contracts with a cumulative total that will exceed \$10,000. There is precedent within DNR for awarding additional years of research funding based upon initial study findings, but if the Board knows the total cost of a project will exceed \$10,000 over however many years, it should commit that total amount in a contract at the front end. Ms. Mankowski indicated that she and Dr. Retzer had discussed this for the **river and greater redhorses** proposal and the Board discussed the proposed funding amounts for that project. The Board agreed that if the Board chose to recommend funding for the redhorse project, it would be for only a single year commitment and if second-year funding were sought, the Board would get clarification about

such allowance or would only fund at a level that kept the cumulative total below \$10,000.

Dr. Phillips suggested that if the **ornate box turtle** proposals and the **river and greater redhorses** proposal were thrown-out, noting that the EIU ornate proposal and the **river and greater redhorses** proposal both included salaries, which he felt the Board could not afford to fund, the Board could fund all other projects with a balance.

Dr. Herkert asked Board members to review the plant proposals. Ms. Masi stated that she had a vested interest in the *Asclepias lanuginosa* project because she is a participant in the project, so would not comment on that proposal. Dr. Taft stated that he ranked the *Asclepias* project as a top priority and the *Schoenoplectus hallii* as a secondary priority. There was discussion that the *Schoenoplectus* project, while inexpensive, was to secure the EORs for field work and would not result in the genetic analysis and only looked at 11 of the 29 historically known populations of the species. The Board agreed that funding solely for the EORs and tissue sample collecting was acceptable for the requested dollar amount.

Ms. Masi remarked about what she saw as a problem with several proposals, that they only looked at a portion of the range of a species and Ms Campbell agreed, noting that the EIU ornate box turtle project only proposed to look at known locations, so would not be able to fully assess the statewide status of the species.

Dr. Herkert asked for discussion about the fish proposals. Dr. Retzer responded that he preferred the **river and greater redhorses** proposal because these are two poorly known species that are wide-ranging in large rivers and this is an excellent way to get additional information about their life cycles and habitat use that will be useful in evaluating listing status. Dr. Retzer stated that some work is already being done annually for the **northern sturgeon** and **western sand darter** and that \$4,000 seemed to be expensive for the type of work described.

Vice-Chair Campbell summarized that the Board could fund the *Aesclepias lanuginosa*, *Schoenoplectus hallii*, **four-toed salamander**, **river and greater redhorses**, and **enigmatic cavesnail** projects for a total of \$24,727. Secretary Phillips moved that the Board recommend funding for those projects and Mr. Clemetsen seconded. Ms. Masi added one discussion point asking whether the budget for the *Aesclepias* project could be revised to move money between supplies and travel, but not changing the total dollar amount. Ms. Mankowski responded that such revision would probably be acceptable via a justified amendment to the contract within the appropriate timeframe. The Board then voted unanimously to approve the five projects at the amount indicated.

Proposals received in response to the FY10 ESPB RFP (highlighted = Board recommended funding).

ESPB Approved Research Project Title	Proposals Received Investigator (Institution)	Proposal Title	Total Budget Request	Budget Details	Proposed End Date
Plants					
Glacial Relict Monitoring	None				
Experimental Reintroduction of Species Extirpated from Illinois	None				
<i>Polygala incarnata</i> germination ecology.	None				
<i>Asclepias lanuginosa</i> : Genetic and Population Studies Leading to a Recovery Plan	David Zaya and Jeremie Fant UIC and CBG	Investigating the role of genetic diversity and pollination biology as potential causes for reproductive failure.	\$7,632		3/31/11
	Elizabeth Esselman SIUE	Status of <i>Schoenoplectus hallii</i> (Hall's bulrush) in Illinois.	\$750		Unclear, maybe March 2011
Birds					

None	None				
Mammals					
None	None				
Reptiles and Amphibians					
Surveys for the Ornate Box Turtle in Illinois	Stephen J. Mullin EIU	The population status of Ornate Box Turtles in Illinois.	\$11,667	Greater than one-year proposal that does not break-out budget by year. Will require re-working proposal with applicant.	Dec 2012
	Jennifer Hammer The Conservation Foundation	A Proposal for the Survey of the Ornate Box Turtle (<i>Terrepe ornata</i>).	\$9,750	In-kind match of \$13,600. Greater than one-year proposal that does not break-out budget by year. Will require re-working proposal with applicant.	Aug 2011
	Abigail J. Maley INHS/UIUC	Gene Flow among Populations of the Four-Toed Salamander, <i>Hemidactylum scutatatum</i> .	\$5,000		Dec 2010
Fishes					
Evaluation of Distribution, Movements, and Habitat Use of River Redhorse (<i>Moxostoma carinatum</i>) and Greater Redhorse (<i>Moxostoma valenciennesi</i>) in the Upper Illinois River Basin.	David H. Wahl INHS/UIUC	Evaluation of Distribution, Movements, and Habitat Use of River Redhorse (<i>Moxostoma carinatum</i>) and Greater Redhorse (<i>Moxostoma valenciennesi</i>) in the Upper Illinois River Basin.	\$8,500	Budget is noted as running through 3/31/2011. Timetable runs through Winter 2012. Greater than one-year proposal that does not break-out budget by year. Will require re-working proposal with applicant.	Winter 2012
Status of <i>Ammocrypta clarum</i> (Western Sand Darter) in the Middle Kaskasia River and <i>Fundulus catenatus</i> (Northern Studfish) in Southwestern Illinois.	Robert Colombo, Eden Effert, and Trent Thomas EIU and IDNR	Distribution and population status of the western sand darter in the Middle Kaskasia River and the Northern Studfish in Southwestern Illinois.	\$4,000		Dec 2010
Invertebrates					
None	Steven J. Taylor, Marlis Douglas, Jeremy Tiemann, and Robert Weck INHS/UIUC and individual.	Baseline monitoring and molecular characterization of the state endangered Enigmatic Cavesnail, <i>Fontigens antroecetes</i> (Hubricht 1940)	\$2,878		Feb 2011

3) Brief Summaries for Recently Received Project Reports

Status of three freshwater snail species in the lower Ohio River basin in Illinois. Tiemann and Cummings (INRS INHS UIUC), RC09-E05W

Abstract – We report on a status survey of *Lithasia* spp. (Gastropoda:Pleuroceridae) we conducted in the Ohio River basin, Illinois. Prior to our survey, only three *Lithasia* species were known to occur in Illinois; however, through our efforts, we found a fourth species (*Lithasia geniculata*). The distribution of *L. armigera* and *L. verrucosa* does not appear to have changed within Illinois, whereas the distribution of *L. obovata* appears to be declining in the state, which prompted us to nominate it for inclusion on the state list of endangered and threatened species for Illinois by the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board. *Lithasia geniculata* has been recorded only in one location, and we feel it should be considered for state endangered.

Spatial Ecology and Over-Winter Survival of Neonate Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnakes (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*) at Carlyle Lake, Baker, Wylie, and Dreslik (INRS INHS UIUC), RC08E05W

Results - During summer surveys, we collected five females (four from SSSP, one from EHSP) which appeared to be gravid and held them in captivity at the INHS until parturition. Four of the females gave birth to 25 neonates (litter sizes of ten, eight, four, and three) and one female was later judged to be non-

gravid and released. Due to excessive vegetation cover we decided not to conduct neonate telemetry at EHSP Field #3 because it would be overly difficult to observe individuals without extreme disturbance. The 4 Field #3 snakes were released with their mother at her original capture site. Five neonates (two from EHSP, three from SSSP) were transferred to the St. Louis Zoo to begin a captive breeding colony, leaving 14 neonates from SSSP for use in radio telemetry. Two of the snakes that were transferred to the zoo to initiate captive breeding had weights that precluded them from being included in the study and two were at a site which we were unable to conduct telemetry. Only one snake could have been added to the sample size for tracking. In addition, we attached a transmitter to one wild born neonate that was found while conducting radio-telemetry. Only five of the 15 radio-equipped snakes made it to the end of the study. Of the ten losses, one was depredated, one died presumably due to poor body condition, five to signal loss, and three to transmitter detachment (Table 1). This yielded a sample size of seven individuals to base conclusions on.

Checks of the caged burrows revealed that burrows often contained multiple individuals and species. The burrow at site number 10159 was shared by 2 *S. c. catenatus*, as well as multiple Eastern Garter Snakes (*Thamnophis sirtalis*), whereas the burrow at site 10177 was shared by 3 individual *S. c. catenatus*, 2 of which were from this study, and 1 which was an older individual that had not been radio-tracked during this study. Only 1 of the 5 *S. c. catenatus* was unaccounted for when the spring 2010 emergence season ended on 15 April, the remaining 4 were recaptured, and an additional individual whose transmitter battery died was found to have hibernated in the same burrow as another radioed individual. Neonates do not exhibit much growth during their first partial active season, gaining a mean of 3.44 g mass and 1.32 cm in length (Table 2).

Movement path analysis revealed no evidence for neonates scent trailing their mother. All individuals moved away from the release site in independent directions (Appendix 1), and movements were found to be random in 10 of 11 individuals tested (Table 3). No neonates were known to have dispersed into the restored habitat areas adjacent to the grassland at SSSP, however one individual (snake #676) was found dead in the restored area several weeks after its transmitter had malfunctioned. We do not know if the individual had been using the restored portion of the habitat, or if its body was brought there by a predator. MCP and Kernel density results show that most neonates use only a small percentage of the habitat available to them, with MCPs less than 0.4 ha and 95% kernel areas of less than 0.6 ha (Table 3). Neonate habitat use is overall much more variable than that of adults, but mean habitat use is similar to mean adult habitat use in most aspects (Table 4).

4) ESPB Research Program Budget

The current balance is \$7.68.