

ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

MINUTES OF 181<sup>st</sup> MEETING, FEBRUARY 8, 2019

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

Approved at the 182<sup>nd</sup> meeting, May 17, 2019

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeannie Barnes (INHS), Kelly Neal (INPC), Trent Thomas (IDNR), Lyndsey Ramsey (Illinois Farm Bureau), Joe Kath (IDNR), Josh Sherwood (INHS), Bridget Henning (IDNR), Jeremy Tiemann (INHS), Todd Strole (IDNR), Philip Cox (IDNR), Angella Moorehouse (INPC), Heather Osborn (INPC), Laura Liukes

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

Chair Hofmann called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and read the roll call. Since all voting Board members were in attendance, there was a quorum. Chair Hofmann welcomed the visitors.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Schietzelt moved that the agenda be adopted as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Evans and carried by unanimous vote.

3. Approval of Minutes from the 180<sup>th</sup> Meeting

Draft minutes of the 180<sup>th</sup> meeting had been distributed to Board members prior to the meeting by email. As no changes were proposed, the minutes of the 180<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.

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

Board members received a report from Mr. Young detailing activities of the IDNR's Office of Resource Conservation and Office of Realty and Environmental Planning. Mr. Young stated that the Department is increasing its staff again. Chair Hofmann pointed out that a lot of endangered and threatened species permits have been issued. Mr. Joe Kath explained that most of the permits are issued to hobbyists. Dr. Coons asked about the possibility of the Board getting staff.

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

Ms. Kelly Neal presented a report on the recent activities of the Commission and its staff. The Commission held its 231<sup>st</sup> meeting at January 29. The Commission voted to protect seven tracts, covering more than 339 acres. This would bring the total number of Illinois Nature Preserves to 394 and of Land and Water Reserves to 193.

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

Chair Hofmann reported on her activities since the 180<sup>th</sup> meeting. Her written report to the Board is attached. She assisted Drs. Coons and Fant with administrative tasks for the Plant Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee (ESTAC) and contacted Fish ESTAC members about outstanding petitions for changes to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species (Illinois List). She also represented the Board at the 231<sup>st</sup> meeting of the INPC in Springfield on January 29.

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

The members unanimously agreed, upon the motion of Mr. Ross-Shannon, seconded by Dr. Coons, that all minutes of closed sessions of the Board shall remain closed until further decision of the Board. The Board determined to seek an opinion from IDNR legal counsel if records of closed sessions occurring prior to any certain date can be made available to the public.

8. Update on the Process for the Review of Listed Plant Species – Drs. Coons and Fant

Dr. Coons and Dr. Fant reported that a fourth meeting of the plant ESTAC had occurred and the members had agreed to recommend the listing of eleven (11) previously unlisted species and the delisting of five (5) species. Additionally changes in status were recommended for eleven (11) species. Petitions to the Board seeking action on such items should be forthcoming. A list of species in need of more surveys was sent to Mr. Young.

9. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Change the Status of the Prairie Buttercup (*Ranunculus rhomboideus*) from Threatened to Endangered – Presentation by Dr. Janice Coons

The Board considered a petition submitted by Susanne Masi (Chicago Botanic Garden - retired) seeking preliminary approval of a change in status of the Prairie Buttercup (*Ranunculus rhomboideus*) from that of a threatened species to an endangered species based upon its greatly reduced population in the State. This petition received the unanimous recommendation of the Plant ESTAC. The Board unanimously approved the preliminary change in status, from threatened to endangered, upon a motion of Mr. Schietzelt that was seconded by Dr. Fant.

10. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Add the Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

A petition was filed by Susanne Masi, Paul Marcum of the Illinois Natural History Survey, and Greg Spyreas of the Illinois Natural History Survey seeking to add the Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) to the Illinois List. Reproductive and dispersal limitations of the Butternut, together with damage being done by the Butternut canker, a fungal pathogen (*Sirococcus clavignenti – juglandacearum*) has resulted in a substantial population decline. Following discussion, during which Dr. Coons noted that the Plant ESTAC unanimously recommended adding the Butternut to the List, and upon the motion of Dr. Capparella, seconded by Dr. Evans, the Board voted unanimously to add the Butternut to the Illinois List as endangered.

11. Preliminary Approval of Additional Taxonomic Changes for Listed Reptiles

Dr. Michael Dreslik of the Illinois Natural History Survey emailed Chair Hofmann a list of nomenclature changes and typographical errors for some listed reptiles. The Board unanimously approved, upon a motion by Dr. Willink that was seconded by Mr. Schietzelt,

(a) the following corrections to typographical errors in the Illinois List:

“*Terrepene ornata*” to “*Terrapene ornata*” (Ornate Box Turtle), and

“*Clonophis kirtlandi*” to “*Clonophis kirtlandii*” (Kirtland’s Snake) and

(b) the following nomenclature changes to the Illinois List:

- *Pantherophis emoryi*: “Great Plains Rat Snake” to “Great Plains Ratsnake”
- *Tantilla gracilis*: “Flathead Snake” to “Flat-headed Snake,” and
- “*Thamnophis sauritus*” to “*Thamnophis saurita*” (Eastern Ribbonsnake)

12. Presentation, Rapid Expansion of the Banded Killifish (*Fundulus diaphanous*) in Illinois: Dramatic Recovery of a Threatened Species or Invasion of a Non-Native Species? Jeremy Tiemann, Illinois Natural History Survey

The Banded Killifish (*Fundulus diaphanous*) was listed as threatened in Illinois in 1989 due to restricted habitats and low populations in the state. The species was limited to the northeastern counties. In recent years biologists have amassed numerous new records for Banded Killifish in other parts of the state. This could be seen as recovery by the species. It is now thought that these individuals are hybrids between the eastern subspecies *F. diaphanus diaphanus*, which is common in the eastern U.S., and the western subspecies *F. diaphanus menona*, which is native to northeastern Illinois. While the Western Banded Killifish in northeastern Illinois is still in need of protection, the eastern subspecies and hybrids do not need to be listed in the state.

13. Discussion: What Should Be the Role of Subspecies in the Endangered and Threatened Species Listing Process in Illinois?

The Board discussed the issue of listing subspecies. The basic question is whether the Board has the legal authority to do so. The Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act states that federally listed subspecies would be automatically placed on the Illinois List, but only mentions listing “species” at the state level. The Board has listed subspecies and varieties of plants so this might be considered accepted practice. In the case of the Banded Killifish, one approach would be to delist the species and then approve a petition to add the subspecies from northern Illinois. An alternate approach would be to change the entry on the Illinois List from the species to the appropriate subspecies. Mr. Young said that he would discuss the question with the Department’s Legal Counsel. Board member Ross-Shannon would be a party to the discussion.

14. Report on 2018 Pollinator Survey and Terrestrial Invertebrates in Need of Conservation. Angella Moorehouse, INPC

Ms. Moorehouse is monitoring six Nature Preserves in west central Illinois for pollinators. She is also working with Dr. Leon Hinz of IDNR to identify terrestrial invertebrates that are in need of conservation. She stated that not much attention has been paid in the past to the status of bees, ants, and other hymenopterans.

15. Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

No comments were made by members of the public.

16. Other Business

Chair Hofmann spoke of the need to make notes for the improvement of the listing/delisting process once the current efforts have concluded. She also suggested that a review of the Board’s website would be appropriate as well as would the updating or recreating the Board’s policy manual.

17. Next Meeting Information

The next meeting will be at 10 A.M. on May 17, 2019 at Midewin.

18. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Hofmann adjourned the meeting at 12:18 P.M

## ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

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Report from the Chair, 8 February 2019

Joyce Hofmann

Activities for the period between the 180<sup>th</sup> and 181<sup>st</sup> Board meetings

- performed follow-up for 180<sup>th</sup> meeting – arranged for the final agenda of the 180<sup>th</sup> meeting and the approved minutes of the 179<sup>th</sup> meeting to be posted on the Board’s website
- wrote draft minutes for 180<sup>th</sup> meeting and distributed them to Board members for review
- monitored the Board’s email account – responded to some messages, forwarded others to appropriate personnel at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
- arranged posting of minutes for the Plant Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee (ESTAC) on the Board’s website and posting of the draft agenda for the final ESTAC meeting on the Board’s website and at the IDNR and Illinois Natural History Survey
- prepared a report on Board activities for the 231<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC)
- attended the 231<sup>th</sup> meeting of the INPC in Springfield on 29 January 2019
- distributed two draft Incidental Take Authorizations (ITAs) and two Conservation Plans (CPs) to Board members for review
- sent ESTAC recommendations and list of Fish, Bird, and Terrestrial Invertebrate ESTAC members to Dr. Leon Hinz at IDNR
- performed administrative review of a petition to change the status of the Prairie Buttercup (*Ranunculus rhomboideus*) from threatened to endangered
- performed administrative review of a petition to add the Butternut (*Juglans cinerea*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species
- prepared for the 181<sup>st</sup> Board meeting – developed an agenda; had the draft agenda posted at the IDNR building, at the Midewin Visitor Center, and on the Board’s website; distributed materials for the meeting to Board members

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