

SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE
ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION &
ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD
MINUTES OF MEETING, January 21, 2020

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702

Approved at the 186th meeting, August 28, 2020

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Dr. Janice Coons, Dr. Jeremie Fant

OTHERS PRESENT: Stacy Burkett (INPC), John C. Nelson (INPC), John Griesbaum (INPC), Deborah Stone (INPC), Dr. Charles Ruffner (INPC), Bill McClain (INPC), Kelly Neal (INPC), Steven Byers (INPC), Kevin Sierzega (INPC), Dr. Jo-Elle Mogerman (INPC), Kim Roman (INPC), George Covington (INPC), Dr. Penelope DauBach (INPC), Dr. David Thomas (INPC), Debbie Newman (INPC), Angela Moorehouse (INPC), Sami Childerson (INPC), Ann Holtrop (IDNR), Brian Metzke (IDNR), Dr. Bridget Henning (IDNR), Stephen Tillman (IDNR), John Wilker (IDNR), Jenny Skufca (IDNR), Todd Strole (IDNR), Justin Dillard (IDNR), Austin Omer (Illinois Farm Bureau), Emily Feng (INHS), Jeannie Barnes (INHS), Nancy Williamson (Natural Land Institute), Ben Snyder (IDNR-Let the Sun Shine In), Dr. Michael Baltz (LSSI)

1. Call to Order, Roll Call of Board Members, and Introduction of Guests
Chairs Hofmann and Dann called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. Those present introduced themselves and their organizations.
2. Overview of our mandates, processes and progress
 - Chris young welcomed the group. He then provided background information for the meeting. As part of the strategic planning development, the Department has been asked to set goals and objectives and report progress toward meeting these to the Governor's office. It is hoped that this will improve transparency for the decisions the Department makes and how money is spent. IDNR, INPC, and ESPB have overlapping missions and mandates.
 - Todd Strole did a review of the individual mandates for each group and then discussed various accomplishments and remaining lack of protections.
3. Meeting these challenges
 - Ann Holtrop discussed the challenges to the mandates. These included a demand for metrics, strategic planning and need for data-driven decisions for recovery and stewardship. In order to accomplish these objectives new tools and methods are necessary.
 - Bridget Henning talked about the role of Conservation Status Assessments (sRanks).

- Emily Feng spoke about decisions of “where to work.” Assessments are considered on a statewide basis comprised of rarity and species trends. A comment from the audience pointed out that ranking makes some species and habitats more important than others. All are important or they would not be protected or listed.

4. Integrating needs: Let the Sun Shine In project

- Ben Snyder presented the Trail of Tears State Forest project. Oak hickory is converting to maple beech dominance. The goal of the project was to reduce canopy to allow oak regeneration. A requirement of the project was data (monitoring) to back the management decisions. They looked at burning without cutting and tree removal before fire to see which was the more effective procedure to reach the goal. This required a great deal of public education.
- Mike Baltz presented information about conservation partnerships. The parts of an effective partnership were planning (prioritizing with data layers), coordinating objectives with all partners, implementing the management strategies, and monitoring results.

5. Closing

Chris Young thanked the audience for attending and opened the floor for questions. One member of the audience expressed concern that the purpose of the meeting was unclear and the members of the INPC and ESPB were not consulted with the agenda development. There was no facilitated discussion (Item 5 on the Agenda).

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chairs Hofmann and Dann adjourned the meeting at 4:20 P.M