

ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

MINUTES OF 182nd MEETING, MAY 17, 2019

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

Approved at the 183<sup>RD</sup> meeting, August 16, 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, and Mr. Bruce Ross-Shannon

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Emily Feng (INHS), Jeannie Barnes (INHS), Kelly Neal (INPC), Lyndsey Ramsey (Illinois Farm Bureau), Joe Kath (IDNR), Floyd Catchpole (Forest Preserve District of Will County), Tim Bell (Chicago State University, retired, Morton Arboretum), Bridget Henning (IDNR), Todd Strole (IDNR), Philip Cox (IDNR), Randy Nyboer (INHS), and Maggie Cole (IDNR)

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

Chair Hofmann called the meeting to order at 10:01 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 181st Meeting

Draft minutes of the 181st meeting had been distributed to Board members prior to the meeting by email. A correction to Item No. 9 deleting the reference to a presentation by Dr. Coons was approved. The minutes of the 181st meeting were approved as modified.

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

Board members received a report from Mr. Todd Strole, Program Section Manager, IDNR Division of Natural Heritage, detailing activities of the IDNR's Offices of Resource Conservation and Realty and Environmental Planning. Mr. Strole described the recent successful meeting of the Midwest Bat Working Group organized by the Field Museum, Shedd Aquarium, and Joe Kath of the Division of Natural Heritage. His report included information about the Illinois Bat Conservation Program. Among other activities, the IDNR has completed annual Illinois Chorus Frog surveys, tested a habitat model for Franklin's Ground Squirrel, and monitored spring egress by Timber Rattlesnakes. Mr. Strole pointed out that 2019 will be the sixth year for Alligator Snapping Turtles in Union County and that Natural Heritage will be funding genetic research on subspecies of the Banded Killifish. Mr. Young added that IDNR Legal Counsel has determined that the Board probably has authority to list subspecies as well as species.

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

Ms. Kelly Neal presented a report on recent activities of the Commission and its staff. The Commission held its 232nd meeting on May 14. At that meeting the Commission completed legal protection for six tracts of land. When these sites are finalized by the Governor there will be 398 dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves and 195 Land and Water Reserves. Ms. Neal noted that the position of INPC Director remains vacant. She also noted that Steve Byers, long-serving Natural Areas Preservation Specialist in northeastern Illinois, has retired.

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

Chair Hofmann reported on her activities since the 181st meeting. Her written report to the Board is attached. Her main activity was the review of a large number of petitions in anticipation of this meeting. Her written report is attached to the minutes.

7. Presentation on Proposed Recovery Efforts for the Grass Pink Orchid – Floyd Catchpole, Forest Preserve District of Will County

Mr. Catchpole would like to conduct a survey and collect seeds of two subspecies of the Grass Pink Orchid: the Oklahoma Grass Pink Orchid, which is endangered or threatened throughout its range from Illinois to Texas, and the Eastern Grass Pink Orchid, which exists in McHenry, Lake, and Iroquois counties in Illinois, the western edge of its range. Both are listed as endangered in Illinois. He hopes to conduct this work in 2019.

8. Public Comment Period

There were no comments from a member of the public.

9. Preliminary Approval of Nomenclature Changes for Listed Plant Species

The Board unanimously approved, upon a motion by Mr. Ross-Shannon, which was seconded by Mr. Schietzelt, the following nomenclature changes to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species (Illinois List):

- a) *Botrychium biternatum* – now *Sceptridium biternatum*
- b) *Cakile edentula* – to *C. edentula* var. *lacustris*
- c) *Cimicifuga americana* – now *Actaea podocarpa*
- d) *Cimicifuga racemosa* – now *Actaea racemosa*
- e) *Cimicifuga rubifolia* – now *Actaea rubifolia*
- f) *Deschampsia flexuosa* – now *Avenella flexuosa*
- g) *Lesquerella ludoviciana* – now *Physaria ludoviciana*
- h) *Lycopodium dendroideum* – now *Dendrolycopodium dendroideum*
- i) *Saxifraga virginensis* – now *Micranthes virginensis*
- j) *Sedum telephioides* – now *Hyloteliphium telephioides*
- k) *Talinum calycinum* – now *Phemeranthus calycinus*
- l) *Talinum parviflorum* – now *Phemeranthus parviflorus*
- m) *Trichomanes boschianum* – now *Vandenboschia boschiana*
- n) *Vaccinium oxycoccos* – now *Oxycoccos macrocarpon*

10. Discussion on Whether the Board Should Hold a Special Meeting Prior to the Next Quarterly Meeting to Consider Additional Petitions for Changes to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

The Board recognized that a large number of petitions for change are before it today and expects that a number of additional petitions will be filed prior to the next quarterly meeting in August. The Board's consensus, following a general discussion by the members, is that it should be possible for petitions to be adequately addressed during regular meetings, with the understanding that such meetings may run longer than the Board is normally accustomed. Chair Hofmann will place new petitions on the agenda for the August meeting and also prepare a list of the Board's preliminary decisions for the revision of the Illinois List. Approved changes will be added to this list during the meeting and the Board will then vote on it.

11. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Remove Fibrous-rooted Sedge (*Carex communis*) from the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

A petition was submitted by John B. Taft seeking to remove Fibrous-rooted Sedge (*Carex communis*) from the Illinois List of Threatened and Endangered Species. Eight of nine members of the plant Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee (ESTAC) recommend delisting. Dr. Evans asked about the difficulty of identifying *Carex* species. Dr. Coons stated that Paul Marcum and others are working on a publication about *Carex* species in Illinois. The Board unanimously gave preliminary approval to the petition to remove the species from the Illinois List, upon a motion made by Mr. Schietzelt and seconded by Dr. Fant.

12. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Remove Mountain Clematis (*Clematis occidentalis*) from the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

A petition was submitted by Randy W. Nyboer seeking to remove the Mountain Clematis (*Clematis occidentalis*) from the Illinois List of Threatened and Endangered Species due to extirpation from the state. This species occurred at only one location in JoDaviess County. Mr. Nyboer told the Board that he had looked for the plant the previous day and not found it. The Board unanimously voted in favor of preliminary approval to delist the species, upon a motion made by Dr. Evans and seconded by Dr. Coons.

13. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to remove Beaked Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta* Marsh) from the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

A petition was submitted by Randy W. Nyboer seeking to remove the Beaked Hazelnut (*Corylus cornuta*) from the Illinois List of Threatened and Endangered Species due to extirpation from the state. There was only one known population of this shrub in the state and it no longer exists. The Board unanimously gave preliminary approval to delist the species, upon a motion made by Dr. Willink and seconded by Dr. Fant.

14. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to add Spring Cavefish (*Forbesichthys agassizii*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

A petition was filed by Jeremy Tiemann of the Illinois Natural History Survey seeking to add the Spring Cavefish (*Forbesichthys agassizii*) to the Illinois List of Threatened and Endangered Species based upon its decreasing population at known population locations and its lack of prospects for dispersal. This proposal received the unanimous support of the Fish ESTAC. Dr. Evans made a motion, seconded by Mr. Schietzelt, to add the Spring Cavefish to the Illinois List. Dr. Coons presented an amendment, also seconded by Mr. Schietzelt, to list the species as threatened. The Board voted 7-0 (with Dr. Willink abstaining) to add the Spring Cavefish to the Illinois List as a threatened species.

15. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to add Harvey's Buttercup (*Ranunculus harveyii*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

A petition was filed by William E. McClain of the Plant ESTAC seeking to add Harvey's Buttercup (*Ranunculus harveyii*) to the Illinois List of Threatened and Endangered Species based upon its restricted habitat and small number of populations. This proposal received the unanimous recommendation of the Plant ESTAC. Following discussion, and upon the motion of Dr. Evans, seconded by Dr. Capparella, the Board voted 6-0 (with abstentions by Drs. Coons and Fant) to add Harvey's Buttercup to the Illinois List as threatened.

16. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to add Cluster Fescue (*Festuca paradoxa*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

A petition was filed by Greg Spyreas of the Illinois Natural History Survey to add Cluster Fescue (*Festuca paradoxa*) to the Illinois List of Threatened and Endangered Species based upon restricted habitat, low known populations, and a demonstrated decline. This proposed listing received the unanimous recommendation of the Plant ESTAC. Following discussion, and upon the motion of Mr. Schietzelt, seconded by Dr. Evans, the Board voted 5-0 in favor of (with abstentions by Drs. Hofmann, Coons and Fant) to add Cluster Fescue to the Illinois List as threatened.

17. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to add Greenish-white Sedge (*Carex albolutescens*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

A petition was filed by Michael J. C. Murphy of the Illinois Natural History Survey seeking to add Greenish-white Sedge (*Carex albolutescens*) to the Illinois List of Threatened and Endangered Species as threatened based upon its limited distribution in the state. Dr. Coons pointed out that the Plant ESTAC voted to add it as endangered. Following discussion, and upon the motion of Mr. Schietzelt, seconded by Dr. Evans, the Board voted unanimously to table the petition and directed Chair Hofmann to request additional information from the petitioner about the species' status.

18. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to add False Hop Sedge (*Carex lupullformis*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

A petition was filed by Michael J.C. Murphy of the Illinois Natural Survey and Timothy Bell, retired from Chicago State University and now associated with the Morton Arboretum, to add False Hop Sedge (*Carex lupullformis*) to the Illinois List of Threatened and Endangered Species based upon the lack of recent specimens in collections and a perceived decline of the species. This proposal received the unanimous recommendation of the Plant ESTAC. Following discussion, and upon the motion of Dr. Capparella, seconded by Mr. Schietzelt, the Board voted unanimously to table the petition. Chair Hofmann will ask Mr. Murphy for additional information.

19. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to add White-edge Sedge (*Carex debilis*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

A petition was filed by Paul B. Marcum of the Illinois Natural History Survey seeking to add White-edge Sedge or Weak Sedge (*Carex debilis*) to the Illinois List of Threatened and Endangered Species based upon the lack of recent vouchers and its limited distribution in the state. This proposed addition received the unanimous support of the Plant ESTAC. Following discussion, and upon the motion of Dr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Schietzelt, the Board voted 6-0 (with abstentions by Drs. Coons and Fant) to add White-edge Sedge to the Illinois List as endangered.

20. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to add Hickey's Groundpine (*Dendrolycopodium hickeyi*) to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

A petition was filed by Paul B. Marcum of the Illinois Natural History Survey seeking to add Hickey's Groundpine or Hickey's Clubmoss (*Dendrolycopodium hickeyi*) to the Illinois List of Threatened and

Endangered Species. Hickey's Groundpine was recently recognized as a distinct species and has a very limited distribution in Illinois. This proposed listing received the unanimous recommendation of the Plant ESTAC. Following discussion, and upon the motion of Dr. Willink, seconded by Dr. Evans, the Board voted 6-0 (with Drs. Coons and Fant abstaining) to add Hickey's Groundpine to the Illinois List as endangered.

21. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Change the Status of Pitcher's Thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri*) from Threatened to Endangered

A petition was filed by Timothy J. Bell, retired from Chicago State University and currently with the Morton Arboretum, seeking to change the status of federally threatened Pitcher's (Dune) Thistle (*Cirsium pitcheri*) from threatened to endangered in Illinois. Dr. Bell told the Board that the species had been extirpated by the 1920s, but reintroduced at Illinois Beach State Park around 1991. It is also being introduced at other sites in Cook County. None of the populations meet the Minimum Viable Population size for the species. This change of status received the unanimous recommendation of the Plant ESTAC. Following discussion, and upon the motion of Mr. Schietzelt, seconded by Dr. Coons, the Board voted unanimously to change the status of Pitcher's Thistle from threatened to endangered.

22. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Change the Status of Tamarack (*Larix laricina*) from Threatened to Endangered

A petition was filed by Eric Ulaszek of the Illinois Natural History Survey seeking to change the status of Tamarack or American Larch (*Larix laricina*) from threatened to endangered in Illinois, based upon its restricted habitat, low populations, and vulnerability of environmental change. This change of status received the unanimous support of the Plant ESTAC. Dr. Capparella stated that this species probably should have been listed as endangered originally. Upon the motion of Dr. Evans, seconded by Dr. Willink, the Board voted unanimously to change the status of Tamarack from threatened to endangered.

23. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Change the Status of Leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*) from threatened to endangered

A petition was filed by John B. Taft of the Illinois Natural History Survey, seeking to change the status of Leatherleaf (*Chamaedaphne calyculata*) from threatened to endangered on the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species. Following discussion focusing on the apparent stability of the species in the state, and upon the motion of Mr. Schietzelt, seconded by Mr. Ross-Shannon, the Board voted unanimously against changing the status of Leatherleaf from threatened to endangered.

24. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Change the Status of Hill Prairie Larkspur (*Delphinium carolinianum*) from threatened to endangered

A petition was filed by Angella Moorehouse of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and Jason Koontz of Augustana College to change the status of Hill Prairie Larkspur or Wild Blue Larkspur (*Delphinium carolinianum*) from threatened to endangered in Illinois, based upon its restricted habitat that is being lost to woody invasion or development. This proposed change of status received the unanimous support of the Plant ESTAC. Following discussion, and upon the motion of Dr. Evans, seconded by Dr. Coons, the Board voted unanimously to change the status of Hill Prairie Larkspur from threatened to endangered.

25. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Change the Status of Narrow-leaved Sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*) from threatened to endangered

A petition was filed by Eric Ulaszek of the Illinois Natural History Survey seeking to change the status of Narrow-leaved Sunflower (*Helianthus angustifolius*) from threatened to endangered on the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species, based upon its limited habitat. This change of status received the unanimous recommendation of the Plant ESTAC. Dr. Coons mentioned that this species is sometimes included in commercially available seed mixes. Upon the motion of Mr. Ross-Shannon, seconded by Dr. Fant, the Board voted 7 to 1, with Dr. Evans voting against, to change the status of Narrow-leaved Sunflower from threatened to endangered.

26. Preliminary Approval of a Petition to Change the Status of Old Plainsman (*Hymenopappus scabiosaeus*) from threatened to endangered

A petition was filed by William McClain seeking to change the status of Old Plainsman (*Hymenopappus scabiosaeus*) from threatened to endangered in Illinois, based upon its limited and disjunct populations. Following discussion, and upon the motion of Mr. Schietzelt, seconded by Dr. Evans, the Board voted unanimously to change the status of Old Plainsman from threatened to endangered.

27. Other Business

No other business was brought before the Board.

28. Next Meeting Information

The next meeting will be at 10 A.M. on August 16, 2019 at Midewin.

29. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Hofmann adjourned the meeting at 12:57 P.M.



# ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

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## Report from the Chair, 17 May 2019

Joyce Hofmann

Activities for the period between the 181<sup>st</sup> and 182<sup>nd</sup> Board meetings

- performed follow-up for 181<sup>st</sup> meeting – arranged for the final agenda of the 181<sup>st</sup> meeting and the approved minutes of the 180<sup>th</sup> meeting to be posted on the Board's website
- monitored the Board's email account – responded to some messages, forwarded others to appropriate personnel at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
- prepared a report on Board activities for the 232<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC)
- performed administrative review of three petitions to change the status of species on the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species
- performed administrative review of seven petitions to remove a species from the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species
- performed administrative review of seven petitions to add species to the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species
- prepared for the 182 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