

ILLINOIS ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTION BOARD

MINUTES OF 172nd MEETING, NOVEMBER 18, 2016

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

Approved at the 173rd meeting, February 17, 2017

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Joyce Hofmann, Dr. Janice Coons, Dr. Jeremie Fant, Mr. Bruce Ross-Shannon, and Mr. Randy Schietzelt

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Vernon LaVia, Mr. Wayne Rosenthal

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms Jeannie Barnes (INHS), Ms Ann Holtrop (IDNR), Mr. Joe Kath (IDNR), Ms Kelly Neal (INPC), and Mr. Chris Young (IDNR)

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

Chair Hofmann called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M. and read the roll call. Since five Board members were in attendance, there was a quorum. Chair Hofmann welcomed audience members and asked them to introduce themselves.

2 Adoption of Agenda

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

3 Approval of Minutes from the 170th Meeting and 171st Meeting and Minutes of the Closed Session of the 170th Meeting

Minutes of the 170th meeting and the closed session of the 170th meeting were distributed to Board members prior to the meeting. Chair Hofmann asked if there were any corrections to these minutes. Hearing none, she declared the minutes of the open and closed sessions of the 170th meeting approved as presented. A quorum was not present at the 171st meeting and no business was conducted. No minutes were taken at that time. Chair Hofmann said that she would produce a set of minutes stating that no business was conducted at the 171st meeting and submit it for approval at the 173rd meeting.

4 Report from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Board members received a report detailing activities of the IDNR's Office of Resource Conservation and Office of Realty and Environmental Planning. Ms Ann Holtrop presented additional information. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a new policy designed to enhance the efficiency of the initial review for listing species. Thirty days prior to filing, a listing petition will be submitted to states within a species' range. Joe Kath will represent Illinois in this process. The first Illinois Monarch Summit was held, with more than 90 conservation partners participating. A working group will develop a statewide plan for voluntary conservation measures to protect monarch butterflies. The target date for the plan is spring 2018.

5 Report from the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

Ms Kelly Neal presented highlights from the report of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.

6 Report from the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board Chair

Chair Hofmann reported on her activities since the 171st meeting date. In addition to routine administrative tasks, activities included attending the 224th meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission in Wheaton on September 13 and presiding at the meeting of the Avian Endangered Species Technical Advisory Committee (ESTAC) in September.

7 Report on the Meeting of the Avian ESTAC

Chair Hofmann reported that eight of the ten Board-approved avian experts had completed online Open Meetings Act training. The Open Meetings Act does apply to ESTAC meetings and all ESTAC members shall be required to complete the training prior to participating in the meetings. Seven members attended the Avian ESTAC meeting at the Illinois Natural History Survey in Champaign on September 29. Committee members discussed the status of listed bird species and voted to recommend de-listing the Mississippi kite and changing the status of the osprey from endangered to threatened. They also discussed whether additional species should be added to the list, but did not make any recommendations.

8 Compliance with Annual Ethics Training

Chair Hofmann reported that all Board members had completed the required training.

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

As legally required, the Board discussed whether the minutes of previous closed sessions should remain closed or be opened to the public. Chair Hofmann stated that during her tenure on the Board all closed session dealt with personnel issues. Mr. Ross-Shannon pointed out that some closed sessions occurred many years ago and wondered if they still needed to remain closed. He offered to review the minutes of those sessions if they could be located. Upon a motion by Mr. Ross-Shannon, seconded by Dr. Fant, the Board voted unanimously not to release any closed session minutes.

10 Committee of Whole Meeting to Nominate Officers of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board

Board members convened as a Committee of the Whole to nominate a slate of candidates for Board officer positions. Chair Hofmann pointed out that the term for officers is three years, although no current Board member will be serving three more years. Upon a motion made and seconded, Joyce Hofmann was nominated to serve as Chair of the Board, Janice Coons was nominated as Vice Chair of the Board, and Bruce Ross-Shannon was nominated as Secretary of the Board.

11 Approval of Members of the Herpetological Expert Committee for the Revision of the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

Chair Hofmann reported that she had contacted nine herpetological experts to determine if they would be interested in serving on the Herpetological ESTAC. It was suggested that Dr. Matt Allender of the University of Illinois School of Veterinary Medicine, an expert on diseases affecting amphibians and reptiles, also be contacted. Upon a motion made and

seconded, the following persons were approved by unanimous vote as members of the Herpetological ESTAC: Dr. Matt Allender, Dr. Sarah Baker, Mr. Scott Ballard, Dr. John Crawford, Dr. Michael Dreslik, Mr. Gary Glowacki, Dr. Richard King, Mr. Michael Redmer, Dr. Allison Sacerdote-Velat, and Mr. Eric Smith. Chair Hofmann will formally invite these experts to serve on the ESTAC and inform them of the need to complete Open Meetings Act training.

12 Approval of Members of the Ichthyological Expert Committee for the Revision of the Illinois List of Endangered and Threatened Species

Chair Hofmann reported that she had also contacted nine fish experts who had all expressed interest in serving on the Ichthyological ESTAC. It was pointed out that the ESTAC should include someone familiar with the rivers and swamps of southern Illinois. It was suggested that Chair Hofmann contact Dr. Matt Whiles of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale to see if he would serve on the ESTAC or recommend an appropriate expert. Upon a motion made and seconded, the following persons were approved by unanimous vote as members of the Ichthyological ESTAC: Dr. John Chick, Dr. Robert Colombo, Dr. James Lamer, Mr. Steven Pescitelli, Dr. Christopher Taylor, Dr. David Thomas, Mr. Trent Thomas, Mr. Jeremy Tiemann, Dr. Philip Willink, and Dr. Matt Whiles (or designee). Chair Hofmann will send a formal invitation to these experts and inform them of the need to complete Open Meetings Act training.

13 Approval of Schedule and Venues for 2017 Board Meetings

The following schedule and venue for Board meetings in 2017 was adopted:

February 17, 2017 – Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington, IL

May 19, 2017 – Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington, IL

August 11, 2017 – Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington, IL

November 17, 2017 – Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Wilmington, IL

14 Election of Board Officers

Upon a motion made and seconded, members of the Board voted unanimously to approve the nominations made by the Committee of the Whole, electing the following officers:

Joyce Hofmann	Chair
Janice Coons	Vice Chair
Bruce Ross-Shannon	Secretary

15 Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

No public comments were made.

16 Other Business

Chair Hofmann stated that she would attend a meeting of the Natural Areas Evaluation Committee in December, but that another Board member might be better qualified to serve on this committee in the future. No other business came before the Board.

17 Adjournment

Upon a motion made and seconded and the unanimous vote of members present, the meeting was adjourned at 11:44 A.M.