

ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION

Minutes of the 236th Virtual Meeting
(Subject to approval at the 237th Meeting)

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

September 15, 2020

236-1) **Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees**

Commissioner Covington called the meeting to order at 10:00am and Valerie Njapa read the roll call.

Commissioners Present: George Covington, Pen DauBach, Donnie Dann, Deborah Stone, William McClain, Charles Ruffner, David Thomas

Commissioners Absent: Abigail Derby Lewis, Jo-Elle Mogerman

Commission Advisors Present: Eric Schaubert, Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS); Joyce Hofmann, Endangered Species Protection Board (ESPB)

Commission Consultants Present: Fran Harty, The Nature Conservancy (TNC); Kerry Leigh, Natural Land Institute (NLI); Jim Herkert, Illinois Audubon Society (IAS); Bruce Ross-Shannon; Randy Heidorn; Lauren Rosenthal; Joe Roth; Jill Allread

Others Present: John Rogner, Assistant Director IDNR, Valerie Njapa, Kelly Neal, Stacy Burkett, John Griesbaum, Angella Moorehouse, Kim Roman, Sami Childerson, John Nelson, Debbie Newman, Byron Paulsen, Kevin Sierzega, Steve Byers (retired), Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC); Chris Young, Director, Office of Resource Conservation (ORC); Ann Holtrop, Todd Strole, Jeannie Barnes, John Wilker, Leon Hinz, Jenny Skufca, Christina Feng, Morgan Walder, Brad Semel, Samantha Scalice, Russ Blogg, Tyler Schartel, IDNR Division of Natural Heritage (DNH); Justin Dillard, Laura Verden, George Bellovics, IDNR Office of Realty and Capital Planning (ORCP); Bresha Brewer, IDNR; Jim Anderson, Lake County Forest Preserves District; Charles O'Leary, Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC); Cal Zehr, Dennis Zehr, Hungry World Farm; Deanna Glosser, Land Conservation Foundation; Jim Johannsen, Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation; David Holman, Ben Roth, Katie Kucera, Eriko Kojima, Alvin Harper, Lucas H. Liefer, Jolie Krasinski, Daniel Brady, Melissa Records, Jill Kennay, Espie Nelson, Matt Evans, Joann Fricke, Steve Beckett; Roger Beadles, James Storment, Bill Sturm.

236-2) **Adoption of Agenda**

It was moved by Commissioner McClain, seconded by Commissioner Stone, and carried that the Agenda be adopted.

236-3) **Approval of Minutes for the 234th Meeting, January 22, 2020**

Commissioner Covington asked for a motion and approval of the 234th Meeting minutes.

It was moved by Commissioner McClain, seconded by Commissioner Ruffner, and carried that the minutes from the 234th Meeting be approved.

Commissioner Covington read the following:

At the 234th Meeting of the INPC, held on January 22, 2020, at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, Illinois, legal protection was completed by the Commission for three tracts of land totaling 318 acres. Two of the three tracts are privately owned, and one is publicly owned. The individuals who own the private sites donated the value of the protection agreement to the public. Lands protected include the Crystal Glen Land and Water Reserve; Sawyer-Coffel Land and Water Reserve; and Buffer Addition to Lake in the Hills Fen Nature Preserve.

Protection of these lands came about because the Commission had nine staff in the field working with private and public landowners. There are 402 dedicated nature preserves totaling 60,048 acres; and there are 196 registered land and water reserves totaling 54,221 acres.

236-4) **Next meeting dates and locations**

238 th Meeting	May 11, 2021	Starved Rock Lodge & Conference Center, Oglesby, IL
239 th Meeting	September 14, 2021	Olney Central College, Olney, IL

236-5) **INPC Staff Report**

APPENDIX I

Valerie Njapa presented the INPC staff report.

Matt Evans, President
Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves

APPENDIX II

236-6) **IDNR Staff Report**

APPENDIX III

Ann Holtrop, Chief, Division of Natural Heritage, presented the IDNR staff report.

John Rogner, Assistant Director, IDNR, addressed the group regarding the movement to fill the Executive Director position. John referenced the meeting from a year ago that included George Covington and Donnie Dann, along with Director Callahan where it was made very clear what a priority it is to hire an Executive Director. Since that meeting, John has spoken with Director Callahan and some decisions have been made.

The first decision is temporarily filling the position with someone from within the DNR, which is allowed under the Personnel Code. It will initially begin for a period of 60 days. The position can be extended as needed for 2 month increments at a time, indefinitely. John explained that this is the immediate work around and candidates are being interviewed at this time. The person chosen will receive support from various areas of DNR to avoid additional stress on current staff.

The second decision is to develop rationale for the position. Currently, positions are being scrutinized by the Governor and CMS making them more difficult to fill. Although the state budget was passed, there is no guarantee that reimbursement will be received regarding the COVID bailout scenarios. If reimbursement is not received, further budget cuts will be expected, particularly for the entire nature preserves function and much of heritage, which is funded by the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund which can be swept by the General Assembly for other state government purposes. Currently, DNR is operating under a state agency ceiling of 1250 staff and we are within 20 – 30 of that ceiling. Small bursts of hiring have taken place, while keeping a very close eye on the numbers. There are priority criteria that CMS is looking at for this position: 1) is the position Federally funded as not to put a drain on the state budget; 2) is the position revenue generating to help support the Department; 3) is the position mandated under state law where DNR is required to fill it. The Executive Director position does not meet any of the criteria mentioned. However, John explained that they are going to make a case as best they can to get the position passed by CMS and get it to the Governor's office for approval. No promises in securing the position, but effort will be made to make the best case possible to approve the position.

The third decision is to begin reviewing, revising and updating the MOU that IDNR works under with the Commission. It is old and large parts are not relevant. John explained that the goal is to make it contemporary and truly reflect DNR's commitment to support the nature preserves. It is an important part of IDNR's mission. John stated the system will be supported by whatever means are available.

Commissioner Covington asked, in regard to the Interim Executive Director position, who will be making the decision and what criteria are involved for choosing that person.

John Rogner stated the criteria is laid out in the bargaining unit agreement and essentially is a process that evaluates experience, longevity, and overall ability to ensure the candidate can succeed in the position.

Commissioner DauBach asked that as the MOU is reviewed, will drafts be sent out for the Commission to review.

John Rogner stated there will be full coordination with the Commission. John is not sure at this time how exactly that will work, but it will involve sharing drafts at some point.

Joyce Hofmann presented the ESPB staff report.

236-8) **Committee of the Whole Meeting to propose nominations for Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, Advisors, Consultants and Officers** (Committee Chair: Dave Thomas)

Commissioner Thomas explained past protocol procedures for Statutory Advisors. They are the Director of the Department of Natural Resources, Director of the Illinois Natural History Survey and Director of the Illinois State Museum. The Directors of the INHS and ISM then make recommendations to the Governor's office for new candidates to be on the Commission.

Commissioner Thomas, along with the Committee of the Whole recommend the following nominations of Advisors, Consultants and Officers as listed below. No other nominations were announced.

A. Nomination of Advisors

Colleen Callahan IL Dept. of Natural Resources <i>(Statutory Advisor)</i>	Dr. Eric M. Schauber IL Natural History Survey <i>(Statutory Advisor)</i>	Robert Sill IL State Museum <i>(Statutory Advisor)</i>
Joyce Hofmann IL Endangered Species Protection Board	Dr. Thomas Emerson IL State Archaeological Survey	Mike Norris IL Dept. of Natural Resources Office of Historic Preservation
Richard C. Berg IL State Geological Survey	Dr. Kevin O'Brien IL Sustainable Technology Center	Mark Ryan Prairie Research Institute

B. Nomination of Consultants

Gerald Adelman	Jill Allread	Randy Heidorn
Harry Drucker	Fran Harty	Jill Riddell
Jim Herkert	Kerry Leigh	Joseph Roth
Lauren Rosenthal	Bruce Ross-Shannon	John White
John Schwegman	Michelle Carr	

C. Nomination of Officers

Current Officers:

- Chair: George Covington
- Vice Chair: Abigail Derby Lewis
- Secretary: Pen DauBach

236-9) **Cook Co. – Bergman Slough Land and Water Reserve, Registration**

The Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC) seeks to register a 281-acre site located immediately adjacent to Cap Sauers Holding Nature Preserve in southwest suburban Palos Park. The Forest Preserves of Cook County owns and manages Bergman Slough Forest Preserve which lies in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division of Illinois. The 281-acre site was variously disturbed for agriculture (including drain tiling) prior to a large-scale prairie and savanna restoration project circa 2001-2009. The site supports the state-threatened eared false foxglove (*Tomanthera auriculata*, synonym *Agalinis auriculata*) and the state-endangered osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). Additionally, 21 wildlife Species in Greatest Need of Conservation (SGNC) breed and/or forage here, including 9 grassland and savanna bird species sensitive to habitat fragmentation. Bergman Slough Forest Preserve is a key conservation holding in the Palos-Sag Valley Forest Preserve Complex and helps buffer the adjacent nature preserve. Bergman Slough Forest Preserve is open to the public, and its uses and management will be consistent with the long-term preservation of the site's natural resources. Registration of Bergman Slough Forest Preserve as a land and water reserve supports the significant restoration efforts invested and provides protection for this important preserve in perpetuity. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the FPCC and INPC staff that registration of Bergman Slough Land and Water Reserve be approved by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission.

Commissioner McClain asked if the role of the watchmen is to serve as caretaker.

Kim Roman explained that in the past, the Forest Preserves would house staff, but no one is living there at this time.

Commissioner McClain asked what age the prairie restoration is.

Kim Roman stated it started in 2001 and finished in 2009.

It was moved by Commissioner McClain, seconded by Commissioner Ruffner, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of Bergman Slough as an Illinois land and water reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 9 of the Agenda for the 236th Meeting.

(Resolution 2494)

236-10) **Effingham Co. – Ballard Nature Center Land and Water Reserve, Registration**

The Ballard Nature Center Board of Directors seeks to permanently register 83.5 acres of forest in Mound Township of Effingham County as the Ballard Nature Center Land and Water Reserve. The reserve is located in the Effingham Plain Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division of Illinois. The reserve consists of 65 acres of Grade C dry-mesic forest, 10.5 acres of Grade C mesic floodplain forest, a small 2.5-acre wetland reconstruction and 5.5 acres of a tree planting previously enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program. The Ballard Nature Center Land and

Water Reserve is significant primarily because it supports a usual concentration of reptiles and amphibians, supporting 24 species of herptiles. The reserve also supports twelve species listed as Species in Greatest Need of Conservation (SGNC). In addition, there have been seven state-threatened or endangered species found in habitats directly adjacent to the reserve, as well as an additional 15 SGNC.

Commissioner McClain asked if the oil and gas lease has a termination date.

Sami Childerson stated that what was presented is what is known. Hoping to discover more information soon.

Commissioner Covington asked if drilling does take place under the oil and gas lease, how much surface disturbance there would be.

Sami Childerson said she doesn't know exactly but believes it would be less than a half an acre.

Valerie Njapa stated that the lease is dated 2009 and typically leases expire under their own terms if there is no production after a period 1 or 3 or 5 years. In this particular case, there was a well that was drilled right near the border of the land and water reserve and that well site has since been restored. What is not known is whether the proposed land and water reserve is included in the active permit Sami had shown with a blue star on her presentation. The active permit is on property located northeast of the proposed land and water reserve but because there is a pooling agreement, it's possible that the active permit also includes the lease on the Ballard Nature Center property. Have not been able to track down the permit information to determine if the lease is still active or not. In addition to that, it is known, pursuant to the pooling agreement, there is a 19.5-acre area subject to that pooling declaration on the Ballard Nature Center property. Half of that is on the land and water reserve and half to the north is on property where the land and water reserve does not extend to.

Commissioner Covington asked if the part of the Nature Center that lies north of the land and water reserve is suitable for consideration now or in the future as a land and water reserve.

Sami Childerson stated she didn't foresee that happening.

Commissioner McClain asked how prevalent the oil and gas leases are throughout the general area.

Sami Childerson explained that there are three sites by the Nature Center, but they are not highly prevalent in the area.

It was moved by Commissioner Ruffner, seconded by Commissioner DauBach, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of Ballard Nature Center as an Illinois land and water reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 10 of the Agenda for the 236th Meeting.

(Resolution 2495)

236-11) **Jo Daviess Co. – Townsend Glade Addition to Apple River Canyon Land and Water**

Reserve, Registration

The Natural Land Institute (NLI) proposes permanent registration of 147.74 acres as the Townsend Glade Addition to Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve. The Townsend Glade Addition will provide important buffer to help protect high-quality natural features found within the existing Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve (406.1-acres) and Apple River Canyon Nature Preserve (442.1-acres). The Apple River Canyon was listed on the original Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) in 1977 in recognition of its unique geology, high-quality natural communities, and numerous state-listed plant and animal species (INAI # 1069). The canyon also contains scenic bluffs rising from 100 to 150 feet above the Apple River with deep ravines running back from the main gorge. Cold water seeps and springs help create a cool microclimate that allows aboreal plant species to persist here in spite of changing climatic conditions. The wide-ranging diversity of habitats, coupled with the unique geologic history of the canyon, makes this natural area one of the most botanically rich places in Illinois. The Townsend Glade Addition contains unique cliff communities included on the INAI. It is also documented to support local populations of at least three state-listed threatened or endangered plant species; cliff goldenrod (*Solidago sciaphila* ST), sullivantia (*Sullivantia sullivantia* ST), and white camass (*Zigadenus elegans* SE). The Townsend Glade Addition is primarily forested (~60-acres) with tillable lands that will be planted to trees as part of a comprehensive site management plan (~40-acres). The remaining land consists of cedar groves, open woodlands, and a small portion of the Apple River and associated floodplain. If approved, the proposed Townsend Glade Addition will increase the total acreage of the Apple River Canyon Land and Water Reserve from 406.1 acres to 555.16 acres. The NLI Townsend Glade Addition represents yet another fine example of the strong public-private partnership that has been working to protect this unique natural area since the first land acquisition in 1932. INPC staff recommends approval.

Commissioner DauBach offered a congratulations and thanks to Kerry Leigh, Jim and everyone at NLI for all the great work they are doing and continue to do. Pen wished them well on the restoration as it looks to be a massive one.

Commissioner Covington thanked the National Land Institute and Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation for doing so much incredibly important work for the Northwestern portion of the state.

Kerry Leigh thanked the Commission for their support.

It was moved by Commissioner DauBach, seconded by Commissioner Stone, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of Townsend Glad Addition to Apple River Canyon as an Illinois land and water reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 11 of the Agenda for the 236th Meeting.

(Resolution 2496)

236-12) **Will Co. – Lily Cache Prairie Land and Water Reserve, Registration**

Lily Cache Prairie is a 34-acre site, owned and managed by Don and Espie Nelson. It contains patches of remnant prairie and wetland communities, prairie plantings, and more than a 2200-foot stretch of Lily Cache Creek, a perennial stream. The 34-acre prairie is located in Plainfield, within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois. It lies south of Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve and provides important nearby foraging habitat for the herons and egrets which nest at Lake Renwick. It also harbors an extant population of the state-endangered northern corn salad (*Valerianella umbilicata*), as well as introduced populations of other state-listed plant species. The Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC) holds a permanent conservation easement on the site and will eventually hold fee simple title to the property. Don and Espie Nelson wish to have their land recognized in the Illinois Nature Preserves System, and permanently protected as a land and water reserve prior to transferring the land to the FPDWC. The permanent registration of Lily Cache Prairie as an Illinois land and water reserve will act as buffer to the nearby Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve, provide foraging habitat for the birds which nest within the rookery, and protect habitat for the state-endangered northern corn salad. It is therefore recommended by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission field staff that Lily Cache Prairie be registered in perpetuity as an Illinois land and water reserve.

It was moved by Commissioner Dann, seconded by Commissioner McClain, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of Lily Cache Prairie as an Illinois land and water reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 12 of the Agenda for the 236th Meeting.

(Resolution 2497)

236-13) **Bureau Co. – Daisy Hill Prairie Nature Preserve. Preliminary Dedication**

The proposed Daisy Hill Prairie Nature Preserve consists of a very small, but very rare glacial drift hill prairie natural community, lying within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois. This natural community was evaluated in 2010 and later added to the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI #1824) as a Category I site for presence of Grade B and C Glacial Drift Hill Prairie natural communities. This relict natural area is currently owned by two adjacent landowners: Hungry World Farm and the Uher family. This proposal presents for consideration the dedication of both landowner parcels to establish the Daisy Hill Prairie Nature Preserve. If each landowner executes dedication of their respective parcel, the resulting nature preserve will be 2.34 acres in size.

It is important to note that Daisy Hill Prairie is located within the right-of-way of a Commonwealth Edison high voltage electric utility corridor. It is remarkable that this prairie persists in such high- quality condition given its circumstances, but poor soil, a steep slope, and a remote location prevented its conversion to farm land. And surprisingly, the utility easement and periodic brush/tree clearing has helped this relict prairie survive as well. While very small at just 0.584 acres, this relict prairie represents one of only a few remaining unprotected high-quality Glacial Drift Hill Prairies in Illinois. It is considered an irreplaceable natural resource of statewide significance.

The staff of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and Illinois Department of Natural Resources recommend dedication of approximately 2.34 acres as the Daisy Hill Prairie Nature Preserve and Uher Family Addition. Dedication of this relict prairie will provide the best means available to ensure this INAI site is protected and survives long into the future.

Commissioner McClain asked if Commonwealth Edison has any problems with the use of prescribed burning at this site.

John Nelson stated ComEd does not have any issues with prescribed burning as they have an easement and they maintain the vegetation, which is tree free, so it does not interfere with the power lines. ComEd has been doing mechanical clearing for years and to John's knowledge they have never used chemicals in this area.

Commissioner Stone asked if we approve this site with one vote, does that mean that either both or individually, the landowners can move forward at their own pace.

John Nelson said that is correct. This proposal would allow final dedication by both landowners. However, if one landowner chooses to go forward and the other does not, then approval will be for the portion of land owned by that landowner.

Commissioner DauBach asked if the landowners have been in contact with ComEd regarding their desire to dedicate the property.

John Nelson said he has been in contact with ComEd and they do not object to the dedication of land with the two land owners involved. ComEd wants to make sure where the site is located, that it is in their database and special restrictions for the crew are documented. ComEd does not object to the site being dedicated as a nature preserve.

Commissioner DauBach stated that is sounds like ComEd will not object to not using herbicide and continuing the removal of unwanted growths.

John Nelson said that is correct.

Dennis Zehr, representative from Hungry World Farm, shared with the group his deep appreciation for John Nelson who has been working with Hungry World Farm on this site. Dennis has been familiar with the site since the 1970's and has been grateful for the people who help manage it year after year. Dennis said they are excited to work with John Nelson and others on the management of this site. He shares the concern about inadvertent spraying and will look into signage for the area. Hungry World Farm is open to purchase the other tract of land if that option would be become available in the future. Dennis thanked everyone for allowing him to address the group.

It was moved by Commissioner McClain, seconded by Commissioner DauBach, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of Daisy Hill Prairie as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 13 of the Agenda for the 236th Meeting.

Lunch Break 12:30pm – 1:15pm

236-14) **Champaign Co. – Charlotte and Dan Brady Woods Nature Preserve, Preliminary Dedication**

The proposed Charlotte and Dan Brady Woods Nature Preserve (NP) is a ~20-acre property located along the Sangamon River about 4.5 miles southwest of the Village of Mahomet in Champaign County, lying within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois. It protects a biologically diverse stretch of the Sangamon River and associated forest. In 2014, the land was gifted to the Land Conservation Foundation (LCF), a not-for-profit, charitable conservation organization and land trust, by Charlotte and Dan Brady of Seymour, Illinois, for protection and conservation purposes. The property is adjacent to the Piatt County Forest Preserve District's 60-acre Sangamon River Park. These sites are part of a growing network of protected land along the Sangamon River corridor in Champaign and Piatt Counties. The Charlotte and Dan Brady Woods qualifies as a nature preserve because it protects both sides of a ~900 ft. reach of the Sangamon River. The Sangamon River, for the river's entire length in Piatt and Champaign Counties, is recognized by the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI #1449) for outstanding aquatic resources, especially fresh- water mussels. This stretch of the Sangamon River provides important habitat for a relatively high diversity of mussels and state listed species including the state-threatened mussels slippershell (*Alasmidonta viridis*) and spike (*Elliptio dialata*) and state-endangered salamander mussel (*Simpsonaias ambigua*). There are over a dozen species of mussels recorded from this stretch of river. This is noteworthy as freshwater mussels are considered to be the most endangered group of species in North America. This stretch of the Sangamon River also protects habitat for populations of the state- threatened mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*), an aquatic salamander that occurs in the vicinity of the preserve. The Charlotte and Dan Brady Woods also protects bottomland forest that contributes to the high natural quality of the river by buffering the channel and reducing runoff and sediments entering the river. It also supports a small great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) rookery. This site is one of 19 protected natural areas that, when taken together, preserve over 17 miles of the Sangamon River and over 5075 acres of forest and other natural land along the Sangamon River corridor in Piatt and Champaign Counties.

John Griesbaum thanked the Land Conservation Foundation for all of their hard work, commitment and dedication to East Central Illinois. John also thanked Charlotte and Dan Brady for their generosity and foresight in dedicating this property. The late Charlotte Brady loved the beauty of the woods and rivers that surrounded their home. Charlotte expressed her love of nature mostly through her paintings, using watercolors to paint beautiful flowers as seen in the woods.

Commissioner Dann asked Commissioner Thomas if he is familiar with the property as it sits in his neck of the woods.

Commissioner McClain stated he didn't see any bush honeysuckle. The site seems relatively free of this, is that correct.

John Griesbaum said that is correct. Bush honeysuckle is very limited on the site but can be found by the riverbanks but there is not much at all on the site.

Deanna Glosser from the Land Conservation Foundation thanked the Commission for considering this site as a nature preserve. It is very special to them and Deanna invites everyone to come out to the site in April and watch the spectacular unfolding of the Spring wildflowers; it is an amazing site.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner DauBach, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of Charlotte and Dan Brady Woods as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 14 of the Agenda for the 236th Meeting.

(Resolution 2499)

236-15) **Lake Co. – Broberg Marsh Nature Preserve, Preliminary Dedication**

The Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD), proposes to dedicate 362 acres of the 2835.1-acre Lakewood Forest Preserve as the Broberg Marsh Nature Preserve. This proposed nature preserve lies within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division of Illinois. There are two existing nature preserves located within Lakewood Forest Preserve: Wauconda Bog Nature Preserve, consisting of approximately 68 acres, dedicated in 1970; and McLean Woods and Wetlands Nature Preserve with approximately 532 acres of protected land, dedicated in 2012. The proposed Broberg Marsh Nature Preserve would increase the amount of State protected land within Lakewood Forest Preserve from 600 acres to 962 acres. Broberg Marsh is recognized on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory as part of the Wauconda Bog (INAI Site # 1002). It is listed on the INAI as a Category I, II, and III site. The proposed Broberg Marsh Nature Preserve includes a mosaic of Grade B/C freshwater marsh and community reconstructions of savanna, wetland, and prairie. Broberg Marsh and associated wetlands are known to support a large assemblage of native wetland birds, one of the largest in Lake County. Previous investigations have even led researchers to comment that Broberg Marsh is one of the highest quality wetland bird habitats in Northeastern Illinois. Illinois Nature Preserves Commission staff and staff of the Lake County Forest Preserve District recommend dedication of 362 acres of the Lakewood Forest Preserve as the Broberg Marsh Nature Preserve.

Commissioner DauBach asked if snowmobiles in nature preserves have become standardized. John Nelson stated that snowmobiles are not standard in a nature preserve, but the Commission has granted approval of other nature preserves that have snowmobile trails.

Jim Anderson explained that currently there is a regional trail that goes through Broberg Marsh. The Forest Preserve policy is to allow snowmobiles on Forest Preserve property where they are a part of a regional connection system. Jim stated the Forest Preserve is very serious about keeping the snowmobiles on the trail. Forest Preserve rangers average about 20 hours per year patrolling intersections and verifying registrations. Jim said while he understands that snowmobiling is not one of the favorite things to have in a nature preserve, he believes the use here is very limited to approximately two to three weeks a year. Jim explained that snowmobiling has been longstanding within Broberg Marsh long before the Lakewood Forest property.

Commissioner DauBach said she must argue with this use, however, this use would be consistent with a land and water reserve registration and there would be no difficulties. Motorized vehicles are simply not allowed in the Illinois Nature Preserves Act. We are being asked again to violate the intent of the Act. The simplest solution would be to not request dedication as a nature preserve but to request registration as a land and water reserve where snowmobiling would be considered somewhat standard. There is no diminution or lack of consideration for the wonderful natural areas values that this site brings.

Jim Anderson said he would argue from the Forest Preserve standpoint, that endangered and threatened species and habitat there qualify it for a dedicated nature preserve. Jim said they are committed to monitoring issues and maintain that use is primarily in buffer areas where they aren't seeing endangered and threatened species. Jim said he respects Commissioner DauBach's view, but the Forest Preserve would like to move this forward as a dedicated Illinois nature preserve. Jim believes this is a really important portion of the Forest Preserve property that they would like protected.

Jim Anderson then shared slides of the snowmobile trail and where it is on the property.

Commissioner Dann asked if there are any plans for a viewing area or overlook on the property.

Jim Anderson stated that Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) is currently out of any kind of bond dollars. A master plan was just passed/approved for the southwest portion of Lakewood Forest, which is our day use area. At that time, it was determined that we would not have enough funding now or in the next ten years to do that, but it is certainly an item we can think about. Jim shared that there are some pretty good places to view the Broberg Marsh from the trail system.

Commissioner DauBach voted no due to snowmobile usage.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner McClain, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of Broberg Marsh as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 15 of the Agenda for the 236th Meeting.

(Resolution 2500)

236-16) **Cook Co. – Elizabeth Conkey Woods Nature Preserve, Final Dedication**

The Forest Preserves of Cook County owns the 240-acre Elizabeth Conkey Woods, and wishes to dedicate 180 acres in perpetuity as the Elizabeth Conkey Woods Nature Preserve. This site is found near Palos Heights in southwest Cook County, and it straddles the Chicago Lake Plain and Morainal Sections of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division of Illinois. Elizabeth Conkey Woods contains one of the region's most important archaeological sites, the Huber site, which contains examples of human habitation dating back 10,000 years, including important cultural resources from the Huber Phase, the time of earliest contact between native peoples and European trappers/traders. Additionally, Elizabeth Conkey Woods encompasses mesic woodlands, mesic floodplain forest, and a creek containing seven species identified in the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan. It is connected to an additional 3,500 acres of the Forest Preserve's lands, including an extensive band of woodlands and forest along the banks of Tinley Creek. Preliminary dedication of this site was conferred by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission during its 234th meeting on January 22, 2020 (Resolution 2485). Final dedication of this site as a nature preserve will help ensure the protection of the vital cultural and natural resources contained within its boundaries for future generations.

It was moved by Commissioner DauBach, seconded by Commissioner McClain, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of Elizabeth Conkey Woods as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 16 of the Agenda for the 236th Meeting.

(Resolution 2501)

236-17) **Kankakee Co. – Guiding Star Savanna Nature Preserve, Final Dedication**

The Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (TNC) owns and manages a portion of Guiding Star Savanna Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI #974) and wishes to dedicate 82.5 acres of it in perpetuity as the Guiding Star Savanna Nature Preserve. Guiding Star Savanna, located in Kankakee County and lying in the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division of Illinois, is recognized on the INAI for its high-quality dry and dry-mesic sand savanna. It is also known to provide habitat for the state-threatened regal fritillary butterfly (*Speyeria regalia*). Dedication of this natural area promotes the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan by targeting conservation efforts on habitat for the red-headed woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) and other wildlife Species in Greatest Need of Conservation (SGNC). It is also located in the Kankakee Sands Conservation Opportunity Area and lies in close proximity to many other high-quality natural areas. Guiding Star Savanna INAI site is one of the best quality natural areas in the State of Illinois, and is a key conservation holding in the Kankakee Sands. Preliminary approval for dedication was conferred by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission during its 234th meeting on January 22, 2020 (Resolution 2487). Final dedication of this important site as a nature preserve will help ensure its natural character is protected and managed for future generations.

It was moved by Commissioner DauBach, seconded by Commissioner McClain, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of Guiding Star Savanna as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 17 of the Agenda for the 236th Meeting.

(Resolution 2502)

236-18) **Lake Co.– Addition to Gavin Bog and Prairie Nature Preserve, Dedication**

The Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) seeks final approval for dedication of 283.8 acres, which includes 4.6 acres as nature preserve addition and 279.2 acres as nature preserve buffer addition, all lying within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division of Illinois. The proposed additions will increase the size of the existing Gavin Bog and Prairie Nature Preserve (Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Site #0794) from 137 acres to 420.8 acres. The existing Gavin Bog and Prairie Nature Preserve and proposed additions include a mosaic of Grade B shrub bog, Grade C tall shrub bog, Grade B and C forested bog, Grade C with pockets of Grade B sedge meadow, Grade B wet prairie, Grade B to C mesic prairie and Grade C mesic oak savanna. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission granted preliminary approval for this dedication at its 233rd meeting (Resolution 2474). Staff recommends final approval.

Jim Anderson thanked Joyce and George Proper who have given their life to Grant Woods as the site stewards. Jim said they are the leading force in restoring and maintaining the high-quality natural area that is at Grant Woods.

Joyce Proper said Grant Woods is such a wonderful place with so many different habitats. Joyce said she and her husband feel privileged to be able to work in it.

Jim Anderson also acknowledged the Forest Preserves' Angelo Kyle, President; Alex Ty Kovach, Executive Director; Rebecca Hegner who put together the proposal; Patti Vitt who presented last time; and Steve Byers who was so very helpful last time as well. Protecting Grant Woods as a nature preserve is one of the District's goals.

Commissioner DauBach voted no.

It was moved by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of the Addition to Gavin Bog and Prairie as an Illinois nature preserve and nature preserve buffer, as described in the proposal presented under Item 18 of the Agenda for the 236th Meeting.

(Resolution 2503)

236-19) **Lake Co. – Sturm Woods Buffer Addition to Wright Woods Nature Preserve, Dedication**

William and Angelica Sturm seek final approval for dedication of approximately 4.8 acres as the

Sturm Woods Buffer Addition to Wright Woods Nature Preserve. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission granted preliminary approval for this dedication at its 234th meeting (Resolution 2488). Since that time, a slight boundary adjustment was made to remove a portion of the Sturm's residential driveway which constituted a "flag lot". The result was a reduction in dedicated land from ~5 acres to ~4.8 acres. The instrument of dedication also includes added language referencing reserved rights presented in the proposal for dedication. The Sturm Woods Buffer Addition, located within the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division of Illinois, will increase the size of Wright Woods Nature Preserve from 287.8 to 292.6 acres. INPC staff look forward to working with Angelica (Gail) and William (Bill) Sturm to manage and protect their buffer addition to Wright Woods Nature Preserve. INPC staff recommends approval.

Bill and Gail stated that they are fortunate to have worked with Steve, John and Valerie. Although there were bumps along the way, they are excited that the Commission gave final approval to the Sturm Woods Buffer Addition to Wright Woods Nature Preserve. Gail wished everyone well and gave a big thank you to all.

Commissioner Dann said he knows the Sturms well and the property is spectacular, and the Sturms are marvelous people who are dedicated to preserve this property. Hats off to the Sturms!

Commissioner DauBach voted no.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Dann, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of the Sturm Woods Addition to Wright Woods as an Illinois nature preserve buffer, as described in the proposal presented under Item 19 of the Agenda for the 236th Meeting.

(Resolution 2504)

236-20) **Lee Co. – John Husar Memorial Addition to Franklin Creek Nature Preserve, Dedication**

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) seeks final approval to dedicate 62.8 acres as the John Husar Memorial Addition to Franklin Creek Nature Preserve. This site lies within the Oregon Section of the Rock River Hill Country Natural Division of Illinois. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) granted preliminary approval for this dedication at its 234th meeting (Resolution 2489). Both the existing Franklin Creek Nature Preserve and the proposed addition are located within the 945-acre Franklin Creek State Natural Area owned and managed by the IDNR. The proposed addition is eligible for dedication due to its designation as part of the Franklin Creek Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI) Site (#1068) as a Category II due to the presence of State-listed plant species, Category III due to the prior Franklin Creek Nature Preserve dedication, and Category IV due to the presence of outstanding geological features. This INAI site consists of moderate quality dry-mesic and mesic upland forest, wet-mesic floodplain forest, forested seep, dry dolomite prairie, and cliff communities. The proposed addition has natural areas of similar quality to those found in the existing nature preserve. If approved, this

addition to Franklin Creek Nature Preserve will bring the total acreage of protected land at this site to 260.1 acres. It is recommended by staff of the INPC and IDNR that this 62.8-acre parcel be granted final approval for dedication.

It was moved by Commissioner McClain, seconded by Commissioner Stone, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of the John Husar Memorial Addition to Franklin Creek as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 20 of the Agenda for the 236th Meeting.

(Resolution 2505)

236-21) **Monroe Co. – Addition to Storment Hauss Nature Preserve, Dedication**

The Storment Hauss Nature Preserve is a 64.5-acre site in Monroe County dedicated March 1, 2002 (Resolution 1641). The site includes all of the Storment Hauss Woods Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site (INAI #1617) and lies within the Northern Section of the Ozark Natural Division and the Mt. Vernon Hill Country Section of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division of Illinois. The site is listed on the INAI as a Category I for high-quality upland forest and Category VI for the presence of snake hibernacula. The preserve's previous owner, the late David Storment, proposed to add an adjacent 10 acres to the preserve in 2007 when a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract expired on that field. Those 10 acres were given preliminary approval for dedication at the 194th meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission on May 1, 2007 (Resolution 1950—see Appendix A). David Storment intended to eventually dedicate another 10 acres of CRP when the contract on that parcel expired. David passed away in the summer of 2019. In his will, he left provisions for the two 10-acre portions to be added to the Storment Hauss Nature Preserve. David's son, James Storment, seeks to fulfill the provisions of the will and dedicate the additional 20 acres to the preserve. The second 10-acre parcel was given preliminary approval for dedication at the 234th meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission in January 2020 (Resolution 2490). As stated during the 234th meeting, the staff is presenting one instrument of dedication for the entire 20 acres.

The two preliminarily approved 10-acre additions will square off the boundaries of the existing nature preserve. The fields are comprised of native prairie and non-native pasture grasses, old field native and exotic herbaceous plants, and native tree plantings. The long-term goals of the late landowner were to convert the early-successional fields to dry-mesic upland forest, providing a larger and seamless forest community in the future. INPC staff plan to continue forest restoration of the sites.

It was moved by Commissioner DauBach, seconded by Commissioner McClain, that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of the Addition to Storment Hauss as an Illinois nature preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 21 of the Agenda for the 236th Meeting.

(Resolution 2506)

236-22) **LaSalle Co. – Matthiessen Dells Nature Preserve, Road and Trail Improvements**

Matthiessen Dells NP is an 86-acre nature preserve, and part of the 160-acre Matthiessen Dells INAI site (INAI #0079). The nature preserve is located within Matthiessen State Park, a few miles away from companion site Starved Rock State Park, the busiest park in the state (and one of the busiest state parks in the nation). Annual attendance numbers of Starved Rock frequently exceed 2.5 million visitors per year. Matthiessen State Park has become a “spillover” site where visitors are directed when Starved Rock reaches capacity. Matthiessen State Park receives approximately 450,000 visitors per year. When the official visitor parking lot at Matthiessen is at capacity, a second, overflow parking area east of the nature preserve is used. This creates the need for visitors to access the site once their vehicles have been parked. For safety reasons, pedestrians have been guided to walk on a dirt trail alongside and south of the Dells Access Road, which is within the nature preserve. While the minimally developed foot trail has long been used by the public, it was never designed to carry the amount of foot traffic that it currently receives. The additional pedestrian use is creating maintenance issues within the nature preserve and is fragmenting the forest.

The Dells Access Road, which hasn’t received significant maintenance in 35 years, is in extreme disrepair. Asphalt is deteriorating, and culverts need to be appropriately sized and positioned to minimize erosion. While it is possible to perform the necessary road improvements and route pedestrian traffic outside of the nature preserve boundaries (on the north side of the road), this option was dismissed early. The north side of the road, while not dedicated as a nature preserve, is also part of the INAI site. The north side of the road supports larger oaks, high quality understory vegetation, and has more challenging topography to work around. IDNR and INPC staff agreed it is more fitting to take a global approach to protect the resources on site to accommodate safe public access by using natural resources (instead of strict nature preserve boundaries) to guide the necessary maintenance and construction. This proposal will align the pedestrian trail immediately adjacent to and south of the road, thus requiring additional area to be used within the nature preserve. It will avoid high-quality understory vegetation, avoid steep topography, and result in the abandonment of the deteriorating dirt path within the nature preserve. IDNR’s approach to this situation is supported by INPC staff. While equipment access, minimal structural features, and vegetation maintenance is proposed to occur on the very northern edge of the nature preserve, it is deemed to be the best option for minimizing long-term impact to the natural resources within the greater Matthiessen Dells INAI site.

Commissioner Covington asked what is going to happen to the path.

George Bellovics stated they intend to remove the entire side path and move it adjacent to the new road way. The roadway and the path become a structural right of way area and not a separate path through the nature preserve.

Commissioner Dann said the bottom line is that this will improve the nature preserve and not the reverse.

Commissioner McClain asked how long the work will take to complete.

George Bellovics stated that once the project is bid out, the project will be completed in one season.

Kelly Neal asked if the stipulations that are in the current staff recommendations are acceptable. Kelly also asked George Bellovics if he would be available to come to the January meeting to present information on the final plans.

George Bellovics answered yes.

Commissioner DauBach moved for conceptual approval that includes the staff stipulation piece as shown in the proposal.

It was moved by Commissioner DauBach, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, that the following resolution be preliminarily approved:

The Commission granted preliminary approval for the Road and Trail Improvements to Matthiessen Dells Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 22 of the Agenda for the 236th Meeting, with final approval to be requested at the 237th Meeting.

(Resolution 2507)

236-23) **McHenry Co. – Black-crown Marsh Land and Water Reserve, Nunda Township Road District, Wegner Road Storm Sewer Improvement Project – BMP Wetland**

The 373.5-acre Black-crown Marsh Land and Water Reserve is located in the Morainal Section of the Northeastern Morainal Natural Division. The Illinois Natural Areas Inventory recognized Black-crown Marsh as a Category II Natural Area (#1503) in 1995 for its high diversity and abundance of wetland- dependent avifauna. The marsh is a component of a much larger wetland complex and represents a headwater feature that drains into the Kettle Moraine Nature Preserve and associated wetlands at Moraine Hills State Park. Surface water from Black-crown Marsh ultimately discharges to the Fox River.

The Nunda Township Road District will be installing storm sewers to alleviate chronic flooding in a residential neighborhood located within the Village of Lakemoor and adjacent to Moraine Hills State Park. The neighborhood prone to flooding is on poorly drained topography and soils. Open swales carry stormwater to a low point on Wegner Road where ponding occurs with no external surface drainage. In heavy rain events, this ponding can last for days or weeks with road closure, flooded basements, and yards. To solve this problem, storm sewers will be installed at the low point located along the Wegner Road right-of-way. Depending on the location of outflow, the stormwater has the potential to negatively impact water quality entering the natural areas and INPC sites owned by IDNR. To provide water treatment, the option of directing the stormwater to a constructed best management practices (BMP) wetland within the LWR was considered to be among the most acceptable alternatives to protect natural resources downstream. The Nunda Township Road District, in association with the Village of Lakemoor, is requesting approval to use a small portion of the Black-crown Marsh LWR for installation of a BMP water

quality wetland (2 stage if possible). Final engineering will be performed by the Township once Commission and IDNR approve of the concept plan.

Commissioner Dann asked about the topography of the land.

John Nelson showed the group the area on the map that is flooding, explaining that this urban area has basements fill with water consistently as it naturally drains poorly. To solve the issue, the town has to dig very deep to get across a very subtle divide, which will allow gravity to drain the water in another direction.

Commissioner Thomas said he is curious about what the proposed pond was lacking. He said he can envision a better wetland where you can have good aquatic vegetation growing there to take up a lot of the bulk nutrients and contaminants that will be coming into that system.

John Nelson explained that it would have been a finishing pond and that is where, with Laura Verden's help in working with an Engineer, we hope it can be incorporated at the outflow side. If the IDNR would have approved the township to go south in the first proposal, there would have been plenty of room to put in that kind of structure and we would have had more leverage. But putting that kind of infrastructure across such a large swath of state land, protected land and federally restricted land is impossible. Going down the right-of-way makes sense from a township and conservation stand point but the finishing pond, whether it is at the top or the bottom, should be the same by enhancing water quality, removing pollutants and mimic a natural wetland.

Commissioner Thomas stated that The Nature Conservancy and some of their work on the Mackinaw provides very good data on the effectiveness of some of these small ponds and wetland vegetation that is in them in terms of taking up nutrients. It would be a source of information to consider if we get to the point of forming a constructed wetland.

Laura Verden added that in the first proposal, they worked with an engineer to establish a footprint for the BMP wetland area. Laura believes that is why they are hesitant to do it at this point, until they actually get approval because of the design cost involved. The engineers did have a footprint at the intersection just south of Wegner Road and the footprint violated another protection in that area that was a cultural flag because of an old farmstead there. None of the buildings exist anymore, but that was the final nail in the coffin for that particular option.

Commissioner Covington asked if the township were willing to undertake the construction of a wetland, would they understand that there is continuing maintenance obligations that go out indefinitely into the future.

John Nelson answered yes. The DNR would grant a license agreement to the township for the construction and maintenance of that basin.

Laura Verden has not seen a license as of yet on a constructed wetland.

John Nelson said there is an example of one in Polk County where a property owner was having issues with storm water facilities on DNR land.

Commissioner Covington stated that typically when you have wetlands in that context, the Corps of Engineers requires a five-year obligation with a letter of credit. George said you don't just dig a whole and call it a wetland.

John Nelson stated it wouldn't be a wetland, it would be a detention basin entirely designed for water quality and enhancement. The Army Corps of Engineers would not be involved. Commissioner Covington asked what Nunda Township is looking for at this stage. John Nelson said they are looking for approval, at least in concept, that this could be approved once they do engineering. The township does not want to take that step and spend the money if the Department of Natural Resources is going to say no in the end.

Commissioner DauBach asked Kelly Neal to go over the staff recommendations and any stipulations that are included.

Kelly Neal addressed the group stating that Joe Roth has also been in communication with she and John and other staff regarding Joe's concerns. Kelly explained that some of Joe's concerns pertained to drainage law. Kelly believes that John has answered the questions that Joe indicated to him and Kelly. The staff who have been in communication with Nunda Township have indicated that if there is a detention basin on DNR property, there is more control regarding the quality of water that is leaving the site, versus if the water were to drain from private property where there would be less control.

John Nelson stated that Nunda Township could purchase the private property adjacent to Black-crown Marsh and the water would discharge right at that location. They just need to figure out what will be most cost effective.

Kelly Neal said staff working with the township had agreed that of the different scenarios, the one presented to the Commissioners by John Nelson would be the most palatable. Kelly prepared a staff recommendation based on the Natural Areas Preservation Act and the Land and Water Reserve rules. Kelly offered to go over the recommendations or it has been shared for individual review. If the detention basin were to be on DNR property, there would be more control to filter and improve water quality draining through Black-crown Marsh and ultimately into the greater DNR property which includes nature preserves which are higher quality. With that, it is recommended that Commissioners approve the concept of allowing a detention basin or basins on the property. Nunda Township would then proceed to finalize the plans and Commission staff and DNR would still need to review/approve the plans, in coordination with the township engineers or whoever is working on the planning.

Final design of the best management practice (BMP) feature must be approved by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Offices of Resource Conservation, including INPC, Land Management, and Realty and Capital Planning. The INPC Natural Areas Preservation Specialist will continue to be involved and have the opportunity to review and improve the final plans. IDNR, also as landowner, must approve the construction of the wetland on their property. This feature should be sufficient in size and configuration to enhance water quality prior to discharge of water from the wetlands into the land and water reserve. All BMP's should be utilized to

ensure protection of the land and water reserve including, but not limited to, all heavy equipment and other equipment to be power washed and free of exotic and invasive species. Erosion and sediment control BMP's should be utilized in areas of exposed soil. A non-invasive cover may be utilized to stabilize soil, made of ecotype seed approved by the Division of Natural Heritage staff and/or the Natural Areas Preservation Specialist to be used after the project is completed. Also, any other BMP's as determined by the Division of Natural Heritage staff and/or the Natural Areas Preservation Specialist should be followed. Construction should not impact breeding or nesting birds, or herptiles and other requirements as determined by IDNR and INPC staff should be included. Additional requirements that have been discussed but are not included in this document would include that maintenance be a requirement after the completion of the project and determination by staff as to the length of that maintenance.

Valerie Njapa shared that in the conversations and meetings that John Nelson, Laura Verden and other DNR staff that have had with officials from Nunda Township, it has been made clear what legal protections are afforded to the land and water reserve under both the Natural Areas Preservation Act and the Administrative Rules. This would have to factor into the township's decision to put ponds at any location, as well as potential, undesirable results of putting the pond on private property.

John Nelson stated he does not believe Nunda Township would put the pond on private property. They would only use the land for discharge, and they wouldn't be responsible for putting a finishing pond on private property.

Commissioner DauBach moved to approve the concept as long as the stipulations shown in the report and the items discussed today by Kelly Neal and Valerie Njapa are included.

Commissioner Covington hopes when the township hires an engineer, that they hire someone who has wetlands experience and understands the concerns of the group and designs the project in a way that addresses those concerns.

Commissioner Dann voted no.

It was moved by Commissioner DauBach, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, that the following request be approved:

The Commission granted conceptual approval of Black-crown Marsh Land and Water Reserve, Nunda Township Road District, Wegner Road Storm Sewer Improvement Project – BMP Wetland, as described in the proposal presented under Item 23 of the Agenda for the 236th Meeting.

(Resolution 2508)

236-24) **Lake Co. – Illinois Beach Shoreline Erosion – Informational Update Only**

Adeline Jay Geo-Karis Illinois Beach State Park (SP) is composed of both passive recreational lands and 'protected lands' in its nature preserves and Camp Logan State Historic Site. While

the land uses inherently are intended to support each other to provide for a unique and well-rounded visitor experience, both have been equally subject to losses and damage due to the erosional forces of Lake Michigan's historic high water levels, which, in recent years amounts to a rate of 20'-50' of lakefront lost per year in select areas of the Illinois Beach SP lakefront. This damage causes temporary workarounds to infrastructure. Losses to the nature preserves have been previously presented to this Commission by Brad Semel, and that loss is truly priceless. Similarly, the extent and cost of the park's ongoing infrastructure damage has a mounting price tag. Infrastructure repairs require careful consideration of the special natural community, which inflates the budgetary costs, limits construction season, and demands additional staff hours of involvement. It also requires budgetary commitment and support. Losses have accelerated to the point that it has been difficult for capital projects to be developed, funded, and performed within a desirable window to minimize further damages. With consideration of the combined losses to ecosystem and park infrastructure, IDNR's Office of Realty and Capital Planning initiated a consultant-led study in 2018 to understand how lake-based infrastructure (engineered solutions) might be effective in preventing further losses to both ecosystem and infrastructure. This study has graduated into a \$45M project which will be moving forward with construction in 2021.

Commissioner Covington asked how much the construction of North Point Marina by the DNR has caused the problems downstream.

Laura Verden shared the North Point Marina construction, as originally built and planned required replenishment of sand nourishment each year. However, the State budget did not allow for \$1 million worth of sand nourishment annually. Since this was never done, in turn it added to the destruction downstream.

Commissioner Covington asked to what extent would these offshore structures have the same effect downstream. Won't they intercept sand and that will deplete the sand downstream of that nourishment.

Laura Verden said that will be a good question for the next presentation, but in studying the sand or sediment transfer rates, they have tuned and oriented the structures so that they are not doing causing destruction downstream.

236-25) **Election of INPC Officers**

Commissioner Thomas asked for a motion to approve the election of INPC Officers.

It was moved by Commissioner McClain, seconded by Commissioner Dann, that the INPC Officers have been approved.

(Resolution2509)

236-26) **Election of INPC Advisors and Consultants**

Commissioner Thomas asked for a motion to approve the election of Advisors and Consultants.

It was moved by Commissioner Stone, seconded by Commission Dann, that the INPC Advisors and Consultants have been approved.

(Resolution 2510)

236-27) **Review of Closed Meeting Minutes**

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, Commissioners must review closed minutes at least twice a year to determine if they must remain closed. The following meetings had closed minutes and need to be reviewed: August 2, 2005; May 2, 2006; May 6, 2008; May 5, 2009; May 7, 2013; September 10, 2013; and September 10, 2019.

It was moved by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Dann, the following resolution be approved:

The Commission agrees that the closed meeting minutes from August 2, 2005; May 2, 2006; May 6, 2008; May 5, 2009; May 7, 2013; September 10, 2013; and September 10, 2019 remain closed, as described and in accordance with Item 27 of the Agenda for the 236th Meeting.

(Resolution 2511)

236-28) **Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)**

None

236-29) **Other Business**

None

236-30) **Adjournment**

Commissioner Thomas motioned to adjourn. It was seconded by Commissioner Stone and approved.

The INPC 236th Meeting adjourned at 3:57pm