

**ILLINOIS NATURE PRESERVES COMMISSION
TWO HUNDRED FORTY-EIGHTH MEETING MINUTES**

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge
Visitor's Center
8588 IL-148
Marion, IL 62959

September 10, 2024, 9:00 AM
In-person meeting with WebEx option

*Documentary Material Enclosed

The 248th meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM.

Item 1: Call to Order, Roll Call, and Introduction of Attendees

Commission Chair Derby Lewis called the meeting to order at 9:15am and read the roll call.

Commissioners Present: Michelle Parker, Radhika Miraglia, Toni Oplt, Tom Clay, Adam Kessel, Chris Evans, Abigail Derby Lewis and Marcella DeMauro-Roth

Commissioners Absent: None

Advisors Present: Joyce Hofmann

Consultants Present: Amy Doll, Fran Harty, Joe Roth, Kerry Leigh, Cynthia Kanner, Randy Heidorn, John Schwegman, Kim Erndt-Pitcher, Alan Branham, Jo Fessett

Others Present: Todd Strole, IDNR Assistant Director; Kim Roman, Sami Childerson, John Nelson, Kevin Sierzega, Kelly Neal, John Griesbaum, Debbie S. Newman, Valerie Njapa, Angella Moorehouse Kaleb Baker, Lorraine Foelske, Garima Ranabhat and Byron Paulsen, INPC; Natalia Maass, Dawn Cobb, Jenny Skufca, Ann Holtrop, Dan Brown, Christina Feng, Eric Smith, Blake Baum, Brooke Morgan, Morgan Wood, Chris Young, Terry Esker, Charles O'Leary, Dalton Sharrow, Heather Osborn, Jeff Horn, John Wilker, Mark Alessi, Michelle Bloomquist, Leon Hinz IDNR; Tony Gerard, Friends of the Cache River Watershed; Caleb Grafton, Jeff Walk, The Nature Conservancy; Russel Clendenin, Degonia

Canyon Land and Water Reserve; Alissa Bell, Grand Prairie Friends; Jill Kennay, Natural Lands Institute; Jim Johannsen, Steve Barg, Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation; John Stecyk, Forest Preserve District of Will County; Karen Magid, Morton Arboretum; Rebecca Judd, Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation; Roger Beadles, Landowner; Linda Giesen, Landowner; David Holman, Conservation Partner; Becky Langer, , Frank Sanders, Don Parker, Public; John Roger, Retired IDNR Assistant Director.

Item 2:* Adoption of Agenda

Item 9 was presented before Item 21 and 22 to best discuss the handling of electing Commission Consultants.

Due to the resignation of Bob Szafoni, Commission Chair Abigail Derby Lewis presented items previously attributed to him.

Please note that Item 10 was presented just before Item 15, due to the physical proximity of the sites which make the information presented relevant to each other.

The Commission Chair requested all those in favor of adopting the agenda with the changes noted; no Commissioners opposed; and it was carried that the agenda for the 248th INPC Meeting be adopted.

Item 3:* Approval of Minutes for the Special Meeting held on April 11, 2024 and for the 247th Meeting on May 14, 2024

It was moved by Commissioner Clay, seconded by Commissioner Evans, and carried that the minutes for the Special Meeting and the 247th Meeting be approved.

Commission Chair Derby Lewis then read the Accomplishments Summary for the 247th Meeting:

At the 247th Meeting of the INPC, held on May 14, 2024, at the Putnam County Conservation District in Hennepin, Illinois, legal protection was completed by the Commission for four tracts of land totaling 205.8 acres. One tract is privately owned and three are publicly owned. The owner of the private site donated the value of the protection agreement to the public. Lands protected include the Marshall Addition to Prairie Ridge State Natural Area Land and Water Reserve, Luginbuhl's Prairie Grass Hill Land and Water Reserve, Dome Hill Buffer Addition to Lake in the Hills Fen Nature Preserve and Buffer Addition to Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve.

Protection of these lands came about because the Commission has staff in the field working with public and private landowners. There are now 419 dedicated nature

preserves with 63,693 acres; and 210 registered land and water reserves totaling 59,312 acres. Altogether, there are 629 sites with 123,005 acres protected in the Illinois Nature Preserves System.

Item 4: Next Meeting Dates and Locations

249	January 28, 2025	Illinois Department of Natural Resources One Natural Resources Way Springfield, IL 62702-1271
250	May 13, 2025	Vermilion County Conservation District 22296-A Henning Road Danville, IL 61834
251	September 9, 2025	Byron Forest Preserve 7993 N River Rd Byron, IL 61010

Item 5:* **INPC Staff Report**

REPORT
Todd Strole, Assistant Director
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

The full INPC Report is attached as Appendix I. Todd Strole's oral remarks are provided in Attachment 1.

Item 6:* **IDNR Staff Report**

REPORT
Ann Marie Holtrop, Chief
Division of Natural Heritage

The full IDNR Report is attached as Appendix II.

Item 7:* **Endangered Species Protection Board Report**

REPORT
Joyce Hofmann, Director
Endangered Species Protection Board

The full ESPB Report is attached as Appendix III.

Item 8:* **Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves Report**

REPORT
Amy Doll, Director

Friends of Illinois Nature Preserves

The full report is attached as Appendix IV.

Item 9: Committee of the Whole Meeting to Propose Nominations for Illinois Nature Preserves Commission Advisors, Consultants and Officers

As previously noted, Item 9 was presented before Item 21 and 22 to best discuss the handling of electing Commission Consultants

Current Advisors:

Natalie Finnie IL Dept. of Natural Resources <i>(Statutory Advisor)</i>	Dr. Brenda Molano-Flores IL Natural History Survey <i>(Statutory Advisor)</i>	Jennifer Edginton IL State Museum <i>(Statutory Advisor)</i>
Dr. Joyce Hofmann IL Endangered Species Protection Board	Dr. Richard C. Berg IL State Geological Survey	Mike Norris IL Dept. of Natural Resources Office of Historic Preservation
Dr. Timothy Pauketat IL State Archaeological Survey	Dr. Kevin O'Brien IL Sustainable Technology Center	Dr. Praveen Kumar Prairie Research Institute

Current Consultants:

Gerald Adelman	Jill Allread	Alan Branham
Amy Doll	Harry Drucker	Kim Erndt-Pitcher
Jo Fessett	Fran Harty	Randy Heidorn
Dr. Jim Herkert	Cynthia Kanner	Kerry Leigh
Bill McClain	Jill Riddell	Lauren Rosenthal
Bruce Ross-Shannon	Joseph Roth	Dr. Charles Ruffner
John Schwegman	Deborah Stone	Dr. David Thomas
Dr. Jeff Walk	John White	

Current Officers:

Chair: Dr. Abigail Derby Lewis

Vice Chair: Michelle Parker

Secretary: Radhika Miraglia

Item 10:* Jackson Co. – Fountain Bluff Land and Water Reserve, Registration

This item was presented jointly with item 15 by Kevin Sierzega. Separate questions and approvals for the Land and Water Reserve and Nature Preserve occurred, respectively.

The Thurmond family, owners of WPFT, LLC, requested registration of 12.7 acres as the Fountain Bluff Land and Water Reserve in southwestern Jackson County. The proposed reserve is in the Greater Shawnee Hills Section of the Shawnee Hills Natural Division. It protects 12.7 acres of the currently unprotected 3995-acre Fountain Bluff INAI site #0589 (Categories II, IV, and VI) in perpetuity. Significant features of the LWR include suitable habitat for numerous state-threatened (ST) and state-endangered (SE) species, unusual concentrations of vascular flora, presence of relict northern plant species, and unusual concentrations of reptiles and amphibians. Natural communities include small stream, mesic upland forest, dry sandstone cliff, and sandstone glade. Across the site, botanical diversity is extremely high and average coefficient of conservatism is exceptional. The proposed reserve resides within the Western Shawnee Conservation Opportunity Area (COA).

Registration of the proposed site as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve should be considered for the following qualifying features and/or reasons:

- Permanent protection of 12.7 acres of INAI
- Verified extant populations of three state-listed species: yellow honeysuckle (*Lonicera flava*, SE), butternut (*Juglans cinerea*, SE), and a state-threatened reptile.
- Provides habitat for 29 SGCN including 19 avian species that are confirmed as breeding, and
- Supports various IWAP campaigns.

Within the proposed reserve, the landowner reserves the right to:

- Maintain the pre-existing railroad bed, which is approximately 8 ft. wide, as dirt or gravel substrate for pedestrian and bicycle traffic; and maintain existing foot trails.
- Create a small foot traffic trail along the base of cliff line, assuming its location does not impact sensitive resources as determined by the Natural Areas Preservation Specialist (NAPS).
- Allow the activity of rock climbing and rappelling on pre-existing climbing routes, as well as the development of new climbing resources on vertical cliff faces unless otherwise noted as excluded in the master plan (i.e., the petroglyph site) and/or the management plan/schedule. Existing rock-climbing locations are identified. Development includes the installation of climbing anchors, maintenance of user trails, staging areas at the base of climbing routes, and the stabilization of staging areas if needed using local materials

(e.g., rocks or logs). Rock climbing routes will specifically avoid vegetated paths and climb dry, bare sections of rock.

- Host festivals open to the public for native flora, rock climbing events, etc.; and trail days to benefit the site.
- Create a historical display, which may be a kiosk and/or small structure, near the petroglyph site assuming its location does not impact sensitive resources as determined by the NAPS.

Commissioner Clay thanked Sierzega and the landowner.

Thurmond commented that he felt Sierzega was the best rock climber in the state. He expressed the wish for someone to help him identify the plant life on the property which led him to Sierzega. Thurmond continued to thank the Commission for this opportunity and outlined his hopes and wishes for the future.

Commissioner Clay noted the botanical diversity and cultural significance illustrated in the presentation and proposal in conjunction with the public access outlined in the reserved rights. He expressed concerns about trespassing and degradation and asked if it was possible to defend the proposed land and water reserve.

Thurmond expressed that most people who come to these natural areas are good people in his experience, and an increased presence of climbers and natural enthusiast might lend itself to more protection rather than if there were restricted access.

Commissioner Derby Lewis continued in the same vein, stating sometimes the best way to protect natural areas is to engage the community. Gone are the days of “fortress” conservation. We are not in the business of solely “defending,” but also in the business of engaging and connecting stewardship with the public. She cited the quote from the presentation “if you love something, protect it,” and noted you cannot love something unless you know it. She encouraged the Commission to find balance in the protection of land and water reserves.

Thurmond expressed that putting up signs on the property has made a big difference and changed the tone with locals.

Sierzega added that the locals love access to the property and are engaged in keeping in clean and protected. There is also education being done and signs that are put up, which is sometimes the best we can do with the resources we have.

Commissioner DeMauro-Roth asked if there were any concerns for where new climbing routes are placed and how that is determined. Will old routes be closed?

Sierzega explained the development of climbing resources and that the anchors are placed below the top of the cliffs, and the most sensitive vegetation is located

on the top. In terms of the rock face itself, climbers will not be climbing through vegetation. The largest impacts will be seen where people stand at the base of the cliff, the same impact you might see with a walking trail. He noted Thurmond's 40 years of experience placing these routes. He went on to describe how climbing offers a unique way to experience these natural areas and see them differently. He continued that national climbing associations take conservation very seriously and there is precedent set in this type of outdoor recreation.

Commissioner Derby Lewis asked Jim Thurmond if he had interest in reaching out to Native Tribes who have connections to the land.

Thurmond noted the petroglyphs on the property and expressed interest in learning more about how that would look.

Commissioner Derby Lewis stated she would be happy to connect him with different resources.

It was moved by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner Kessel, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of Fountain Bluff Land and Water Reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 10 of the agenda for the 248th Meeting.

(Resolution 2638)

Item 11:* Kankakee County – Guiding Star Savanna Land and Water Reserve, Registration

This item was presented by Kim Roman.

The Community Development Corporation of Pembroke-Hopkins Park (CDCPHP) owns and manages a 39.5-acre tract of land in Pembroke Township, Kankakee County and requested to register in perpetuity 25.4 acres as the Guiding Star Savanna Land and Water Reserve. It lies in the Kankakee Sand Area Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. The proposed LWR supports dry-mesic sand savanna and old field/ sand prairie communities and numerous Wildlife SGCN. The proposed Guiding Star Savanna LWR is one of the many natural areas in the Kankakee Sands contributing to the ecological significance of Pembroke Township, which supports the largest concentration of high-quality sand savannas in the Midwest. It also immediately abuts Guiding Star Savanna Nature Preserve on its southern boundary and promotes good conservation design for the larger Guiding Star Savanna complex (INAI #0974). Uses and management of the proposed LWR will be compatible with the site's long-term conservation, and include the creation of a foot trail, hiking, nature observation, scientific study, archery hunting, collection of wild edibles and medicinal plants for personal use, geocaching,

removal of undesirable trees for firewood, horses and leashed dogs on approved trails, and primitive camping for small groups. The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission staff recommend the permanent registration of the 25.4-acre Guiding Star Savanna as an Illinois Land and Water Reserve.

Commissioner Derby Lewis noted the beauty of the land before opening the floor for questions from commissioners.

Commissioner Oplt noted Pembroke has a history of weathering a lot of storms in environmental justice. She observed in this proposal, the black community of Pembroke has been placed in the center of the conservation efforts, when historically it has not always been the case. She asked for reassurance that what the local community wants is prioritized.

Roman answered that yes, that is what is at the heart of the Pembroke Community's mission. Roman said they are making every effort to invite everyone to the table. She noted that conservation organizations have not always been the best at community engagement and acknowledged that the local community has had a lot of good reason not to trust them. She assured the Commission that she is aware of the issues.

Consultant Cynthia Kanner noted they have been building relationships like this at a statewide level.

Commissioner Derby Lewis commended the incredible work that is being done in Pembroke Township and expressed hope there is a continuation of work with the Commission.

It was moved by Commissioner DeMauro-Roth, seconded by Commissioner Oplt, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of Guiding Star Savanna Land and Water Reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 11 of the agenda for the 248th Meeting.

(Resolution 2639)

Item 12:* Mason County - Quiver Sand Prairies and Dunes Land and Water Reserve, Registration

This item was presented by Eric Smith.

The proposed Quiver Sand Prairies and Dunes Land and Water Reserve is owned and managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The 288.21-acre

site lies within Sand Ridge State Forest located in Mason County in the Illinois River Section of the Illinois River and Mississippi River Sand Areas Natural Division. The goals for Illinois State Forests, as identified in the State Forest Action Plan (IDNR, 2020), include managing timber with wildlife habitats, site ecology, soil and water resources, outdoor recreation, aesthetics, and forest health. When qualifying features identified on the INAI are present, IDNR seeks to enroll lands in INPC Programs to comply with the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act (525 ILCS 30). Registration of the proposed Quiver Sand Prairies and Dunes LWR is recommended to focus management on enhancing the remnant natural communities and sand species that are found within the Quiver Prairies INAI site (#0123). The site was added to the INAI in 1978 due to the presence of 6 acres of Grade B high-quality Dry Sand Prairie. Two additional acres of high-quality Grade B Dry Sand Prairie were added to INAI #0123 in 2023, bringing the total to 8 acres. The remainder of the proposed 288.21-acre LWR is primarily comprised of what was historically Dry Sand Savanna that is now succeeding to Dry Sand Forest due to the lack of prescribed fire (Marcum et al, 2017). Future management of the site will include a prescribed fire regime and woody vegetation control. If approved, the proposed Quiver Sand Prairies and Dunes LWR will bring increased focus to these rare sand natural communities in Illinois. Registration of this LWR will preserve high-quality Dry Sand Prairie within the Illinois River Section of the Illinois and Mississippi River Sands Area Natural Division in INPC Programs. Finally, the 7200-acre Sand Ridge State Forest surrounding the proposed LWR serves as a natural buffer to these high-quality natural communities. This in turn provides a larger habitat base to support various SGNC as identified in IWAP found on the site, support the historic site ecology highlighted in the Illinois Forest Action Plan, and support conditions favorable for public hunting. Staff of the IDNR and INPC recommended registration of the proposed 288.21-acre Quiver Sand Prairies and Dunes Land and Water Reserve to enhance the management of these significant features.

Allowed uses include:

- IDNR is allowed via management activities to utilize the site to promote additional populations of threatened or endangered plant species that would occupy Dry Sand Prairie or Dry Sand Savanna habitats in accordance with established policies and procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, reintroductions of umbrella sedge (*Cyperus grayoides*), bent milk vetch (*Astragalus distortus*), and broomrape (*Orobanche ludoviciana*). There is an active recreational hunting program that occurs within the boundaries of the proposed LWR. Hunting will be allowed to continue under statewide regulations and via IDNR's Site Plan of Work process.
- The IDNR will continue to implement sustainable forest management practices within the forested areas of the proposed LWR that benefit the rare remnant natural communities. Sustainable forest management practices may include commercial harvest, which is allowable on Illinois State Forests and in accordance with Section 4010.260 and 4010.270 of the Administrative Rule:

Register of Land and Water Reserves (17 ILCS 4010). All proposed sustainable forest management practices, including harvest, will be coordinated with IDNR Office of Resource Conservation Divisions, approved in the INPC management schedule, and will be discussed via the Site Plan of Work process.

Commissioner Evans inquired about the terms of timber harvest, and asked what plans there were to work with the Division of Forestry. Are there any plans to prevent erosion during the harvest?

Smith answered he believes we can harvest responsibly depending on what is harvested. He noted the harvest will likely occur on a specific portion of the 288-acre land and water reserve and would work together with the Division of Forestry to devise a Forestry Management Plan in everyone's best interests. Any large-scale plans would be presented before the commission.

Commissioner Evans continued, noting that the harvest could be an opportunity to restore the savanna.

Smith agreed and stated there are certain places where thinning of timber may be beneficial.

Neal commented that any Forest Management Plans must be consistent with the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act in relation to the land registered as a land and water reserve. She also noted there are camp sites within the land boundary that were not previously noted, and the proposal was revised to include those provisions.

Smith agreed and discussed how he stumbled upon them before contacting the site superintendent to confirm their existence.

It was moved by Commissioner Evans, seconded by Commissioner Kessel, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of Quiver Sand Prairies and Dunes Land and Water Reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 12 of the agenda for the 248th Meeting.

(Resolution 2640)

Item 13:* Ogle County – Sherwood’s Forest Addition to Nachusa Grasslands Land and Water Reserve, Registration

This item was presented by Kaleb Baker.

Linda Giesen, Trustee of Sherwood's Forest Land Trust proposed the Sherwood's Forest Addition to Nachusa Grasslands Land and Water Reserve to permanently protect 14.54-acres in Ogle County, adding to the 1,704.4-acre Nachusa Grasslands Land and Water Reserve owned by The Nature Conservancy. Sherwood's Forest is located along the Rock River in the Oregon Section of the Rock River Hill Country Natural Division and consists of dry-mesic upland forest, mesic upland forest, and a recreated prairie. Registration increases interconnectivity of conservation lands along a progressively more connected 10-mile natural corridor, directly buffers Lowden-Miller State Forest, and buffers threatened and endangered species found on Nachusa Grasslands LWR. As part of both the Rock River COA and the Nachusa-Franklin Creek-Castle Rock-Lowden Miller COA, this parcel achieves IWAP goals of (1) implementing sustainable forestry practices to enhance oak-dominance and (2) securing forest tracts to increase ecological connectivity among forests and riparian corridors.

The owner would like to reserve the following unique rights:

- Continue upland game and deer hunting in accordance with INPC's and IDNR's management policies.
- Continue mushroom harvesting practices.
- Collect firewood from dead trees,
- Maintain and repair the three mini chapels currently present along the driveway or trails.

Linda Giesen shared her gratitude and history of the property leading up to its registration. She expressed how wonderful the property is and encouraged anyone to visit if given the chance.

It was moved by Commissioner Clay, seconded by Commissioner DeMauro-Roth, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants approval for the registration of Sherwood's Forest Addition to Nachusa Grasslands Land and Water Reserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 13 of the agenda for the 248th Meeting.

(Resolution 2641)

Item 14:* Adams County – Addition to Allendale Spring Nature Preserve, Preliminary Dedication

This item was presented by Angella Moorehouse.

Allendale Spring is located in southern Adams County in the Galesburg Section of the Middle Mississippi Border Natural Division. The proposed nature preserve addition consists of approximately 5.2 acres and lies directly north of the existing preserve. The addition and the preserve are owned by Edward Behrensmeyer. The site contains

suitable habitat supporting two state and federally listed bat species: Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), which breeds within the vicinity of the proposed preserve, and northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), which is thought to overwinter on site. The site is also listed within the Illinois Inventory of Archaeological and Paleontological Sites and was used as a settlement by various prehistoric peoples of the Dalton, Hardin, Archaic, Sedalia, and late woodland cultures. Allendale Spring contains habitat supporting at least five SGCN as defined by the IWAP. Protection and management of the addition will expand the size of the preserve to 7.5 acres and will serve to help fulfill goals within both the Streams, and Forest and Woodland IWAP campaigns.

The landowner has reserved the right to:

- Collect water from the spring that runs along the Eastern edge of the preserve. This includes maintaining the water collection infrastructure. There are three places the spring exits the hillside; the existing water collection structure is setup on one of those openings and consists of a concrete and PVC pipe structure to deliver the water to the springhouse/weir. The springhouse and weir are located just outside the preserve. The landowner has not sold the water for many years but wants to reserve the right to do so in the future.
- The landowner wishes to reserve the right to graze a small number of goats on the nature preserve to keep the invasive exotic woody species from encroaching. He has done this for many years and has created no erosion issues.
- He also reserved the right to cut hay off the small portion of the hayfield that is in the preserve and contains some of the archaeological resources. This would help prevent woody encroachment/invasion of this area.

The control of invasive shrubs also reduces erosion by promoting more desirable soil-holding vegetation. Management of archaeological features typically involves some form of surface mowing to reduce vegetative height and reduce deep-rooted woody vegetation. Thus, both the haying and the grazing would benefit the maintenance of the archaeological feature.

Commissioner DeMauro-Roth thanked Moorehouse for clarifying that the water collection was already approved as part of the nature preserve since it was not included in the documentation. She expressed concern about selling water from a nature preserve. She acknowledged the water collection sale was previously approved and therefore there is not much that can be done. She continued that from a management perspective the Commission has approved consumption from Commission sites if it is in line with management goals, however we have never sold resources for commercial purpose, to her knowledge. This gave her pause. She asked to what extent there would be piping on the property.

Moorehouse answered that most of the piping was removed and the landowner is only collecting from one cabled source. He does not intend on bottling water to the same degree in the future. She stated this issue could possibly be addressed in the management plan.

Commissioner DeMauro-Roth stated there is nothing to quantify the maximum amount of what is taken from the nature preserve and no documentation about the base flow of the stream. If overuse and over extraction are not monitored, it may impact other resources under protection.

Moorehouse answered that this is the primary reason to dedicate so the Commission has oversight authority. She stated that the original dedication was the best deal she was able to get at the time and is excited the landowner came back and expressed interest in protecting more land. The landowner is no longer interested in the water collection and Moorehouse anticipates all piping will be removed.

Commissioner DeMauro-Roth acknowledged the Commission's desire to support landowners, however the commercial sale of resources gives her pause. She thanked Moorehouse again for the clarification.

Moorehouse expressed that we all want to see the transition away from the piping, but she stated that sometimes concessions to landowners are made in order to work with them and gain Commission access to the land.

Commissioner Parker asked for her own clarification on the spring water sale. There is precedent that this has already been approved with original dedication, and is so far along in the process that it is no longer up to the Commission's discretion?

Moorehouse reiterated the landowner dismantled most of the operation and has intentions of further decommissioning the water collection equipment. The landowner has no intention of continuing the commercial collection and sale of spring water.

Commissioner Derby Lewis clarified that she felt the water collection would impact the groundwater return. She also noted a previous comment made by Moorehouse that often the biggest draw of dedicating under less-than-ideal circumstances is because it can help the Commission with regulation of these natural areas. Given that, is the implication that in a management plan there could be language to set limits on this established reserved right?

Moorehouse replied yes, it can be written that the spring water collection is no longer in use. And if it were to become an option again, the management plan would have to be revised to reflect that.

Commissioner Derby Lewis further clarified that although the spring water collection was placed as a reserved right in public record, there is a back channel through the management plan to address it in the future.

Moorehouse replied yes.

Eric Smith asked if this reserved right is a lifetime stipulation of the dedication in the event the Nature Preserve were to change ownership?

Moorehouse replied she is not sure if the reserved right is tied to the individual or the dedication. She also stressed this landowner has no intention of selling the property or reinstating the spring water collection.

Commissioner DeMauro-Roth offered her motion to approve when prompted but stipulated she would like to see a restriction to the collection of the spring water reflected in the management plan upon final approval.

It was moved by Commissioner DeMauro-Roth, seconded by Commissioner Parker, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of Addition to Allendale Spring Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 14 of the agenda for the 248th Meeting.

(Resolution 2642)

Item 15:* Jackson County – Fountain Bluff Nature Preserve, Preliminary Dedication

This item was presented by Kevin Sierzega.

The Thurmond family, owners of WPFT, LLC, requested preliminary dedication of 11.7 acres of NP as the Fountain Bluff Nature Preserve in southwestern Jackson County, Illinois. The proposed preserve is in the Greater Shawnee Hills Section of the Shawnee Hills Natural Division. It protects 11.7 acres of the currently unprotected 3995-acre Fountain Bluff INAI site #0589 (Categories II, IV, and VI) in perpetuity. Significant features of the NP include suitable habitat for numerous state-threatened (ST) and state-endangered (SE) species, unusual concentrations of vascular flora, presence of relict northern plant species, and unusual concentrations of reptiles and amphibians. Natural communities range from high-gradient small stream at the lowest topographical relief (420 feet), to dry sandstone cliff, sandstone glade, dry-woodland, dry-mesic woodland, and loess hill prairie at the highest topographic relief (620-640 feet). Across the site, botanical diversity is extremely high and average coefficient of conservatism is exceptional. The proposed preserve resides within the Western Shawnee COA.

Dedication of the proposed site as an Illinois Nature Preserve should be considered for the following qualifying features and/or reasons:

- Permanent protection of 11.7 acres of INAI #0589,

- Verified extant populations of four state-listed species: yellow honeysuckle (*Lonicera flava*, SE), crested coralroot orchid (*Hexalectris spicata*, SE), butternut (*Juglans cinerea*, SE), and a state-threatened reptile,
- Historic populations of two state-listed species: Allegheny barberry (*Berberis canadensis*, SE) and heartleaf nettle (*Urtica chamaedryoides*, ST),
- Provides habitat for 31 SGCN including 19 avian species that are confirmed as breeding, and
- Supports various IWAP campaigns.

Within the proposed preserve, the landowner reserves the right to maintain pre-existing foot trails and to manage white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*; per INPC 2005 Deer Management Guideline) per the most recent Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) wildlife regulations.

Commissioner Kessel asked if the petroglyphs were contained in the Nature Preserve.

Sierzega answered that the petroglyphs were only in the Land and Water Reserve. The Nature Preserve is above the bluffs. He noted a previous conversation with Dawn Cobb that petroglyphs were typically below the bluff due to their accessibility, as bluffs are incredibly steep to climb.

It was moved by Commissioner DeMauro-Roth, seconded by Commissioner Evans, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of Fountain Bluff Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 15 of the agenda for the 248th Meeting.

(Resolution 2643)

Item 16:* Jo Daviess County – Casper Bluff Nature Preserve and Nature Preserve Buffer, Preliminary Dedication

This item was presented by Kaleb Baker and Steve Barg.

Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JD CF) requested approval for the preliminary dedication of 62.62 acres as Nature Preserve and 26.88 acres as Nature Preserve Buffer, 113.17 acres total, on the property known as Casper Bluff located in Jo Daviess County and the Wisconsin Driftless natural division. Currently, 89.50 acres are registered as Casper Bluff Land and Water Reserve. The LWR was created in 2008 (69.82 acres, INAI #1782, Cat. III) to protect a significant portion of the Aiken Mound Group, a series of Native American earthen mounds, including the only intact thunderbird effigy mound within the State of Illinois, which are significant cultural (archaeological) resources. An addition to Casper Bluff LWR was registered in 2021 (19.68 acres) as an expansion. The site has the federally

endangered rusty patch bumblebee (*Bombus affinis*) and buffers a population of state threatened cliff goldenrod (*Solidago sciaphilia*). Since 2008, much of the site has been restored to woodland, savanna, and prairie communities. A small dolomite hill prairie remnant also exists on the site.

Upon dedication, the Nature Preserve Buffer area will serve a dual purpose of (1) Protecting existing natural and cultural features, and (2) Facilitating the reinterment of prehistoric Native American human remains, grave artifacts, and funerary objects

that were unearthed and removed from their original burial locations after Euro-American colonization of the region. Casper Bluff provides long-term protection for an important part of the Wisconsin Driftless Forest COA as well as a significant Native American cultural/archaeological site. Dedication further increases protections for these unique cultural/archaeological features and the natural communities, which benefits current and future visitors, researchers, and residents of the Galena area by preserving unique natural and cultural heritage in northwestern Illinois.

The unique reserved rights the owner requests are:

- Harvest and sale of a small number of trees, primarily black walnut and cherry, to provide additional funds for ecological restoration and management of the site.
- Repair or reconstruct the Native American mounds for educational interpretation and historical preservation in accordance with the Illinois Human Remains Protection Act (HRPA) and with permission from affiliated tribes.
- Archaeological researchers with an approved permit will be allowed to park vehicles, trailers and/or temporary structures on the preserve during periods of archaeological investigations.
- Permit Tribes to rebury human remains, grave artifacts, and funerary objects within the Nature Preserve Buffer provided that such activities are conducted in compliance with the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and HRPA.
- Permit Indigenous peoples to harvest traditional foods, medicines, and other natural resources used for Native American cultural purposes, provided that no harvesting activity harms any feature protected by the Nature Preserve and Nature Preserve Buffer.
- Permit Indigenous peoples to access and utilize the preserve for ceremonial, religious, cultural, and educational purposes, provided that no such activity harms any feature protected by the Nature Preserve and Nature Preserve Buffer.

Staff of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, Illinois State Museum, Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin, and Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation recommended permanent dedication of the 62.62-acre Nature Preserve and 26.88-acre Nature Preserve Buffer.

Commissioner Derby Lewis expressed gratitude to Steve Barg for spending the last decade plus building relationships and connecting people to the history of the land.

Commissioner Clay went on record to recuse himself from voting due to the nature of his employment with Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation.

Commissioner Kessel pointed out that as we move forward, tribal co-management is very big in conservation currently. He went on to commend the tribal co-management occurring at this site for over a decade. He thanked them for the seamless co-management and connection in making land accessible in perpetuity to the Indigenous community.

Barg thanked Commissioner Kessel for the acknowledgement. He noted last November an Indigenous burn occurred at a Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation site.

Lorraine Foelske, who attended the burn, went on to describe how fire was put on this sacred burial mound landscape by Indigenous People for the first time since it was stolen from them.

It was moved by Commissioner Kessel, seconded by Commissioner Miraglia, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of Casper Bluff Nature Preserve and Nature Preserve Buffer, as described in the proposal presented under Item 16 of the agenda for the 248th Meeting.

(Resolution 2644)

Item 17:* Pope County – Spivey Valley Glade Nature Preserve Addition and Nature Preserve Buffer Addition, Preliminary Dedication

This item was presented by Kevin Sierzega.

The Spivey family requested preliminary dedication of 18 acres of nature preserve and 71 acres of NP buffer, summing to 89 acres, as the Spivey Valley Glade Additions to the Spivey Valley Glade Nature Preserve in northeastern Pope County, Illinois. The site is in the Lesser Shawnee Hills Section of the Shawnee Hills Natural Division. Spivey Valley Glade NP (preserve #274) received final approval for dedication as an Illinois NP at the 157th INPC public meeting in 1998. The proposed NP additions comprise 6.7 acres of Grade.

B dry-woodland and 11.3 acres of Grade A and B dry-mesic woodland. This protects the entirety of the Category I acreage in the Spivey Valley Glade INAI (#1526, Categories I, II, and III). The NP buffer additions include 4.5 acres of Grace C dry-

woodland and 66.5 acres of old field natural communities of varying successional stages and quality. Collectively, this acreage buffers the Category I features. Thirty-five of these acres are comprised of pasture largely dominated by native forbs and grasses. The remaining old field acreage was planted in young oaks 25 years ago. The proposed preserve additions coupled with the existing NP protect 104 acres of natural lands in perpetuity. The preserve resides in the East Shawnee COA.

Dedication of the proposed site as an Illinois Nature Preserve should be considered for the following qualifying features and/or reasons:

- Permanent protection of 18 acres of Category I high-quality natural communities within INAI#0589 including Grade B dry-woodland and Grade A and B dry-mesic woodland.
- Verified extant populations of two state-listed species: Chuck-wills-widow (*Antrostomus carolinensis*, ST) and Eastern narrow-mouthed toad (*Gastrophryne carolinensis*, ST);
- Historic populations of three state-listed species: loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*, SE), northern long-eared bat (federally threatened [FT], SE); and Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*, SE);
- Provides 89 additional acres of habitat for 37 SGCN including gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*, FE, SE) and 28 avian species that are confirmed as breeding on or proximate to the preserve; and
- Supports various IWAP campaigns.

Within the proposed NP addition, the landowner reserves the right to:

- Manage white-tailed deer (per INPC 2005 Deer Management Guideline) and the most recent IDNR wildlife regulations, and
- Remove downed-woody debris (e.g., cedar slash) off the preserve from glade and woodland communities to decrease fuel loads prior to prescribed burning.

Within the proposed NP buffer addition, the landowner reserves the right to:

- Maintain mowed paths north of the NP, and around the two ponds,
- Maintain an existing mowed primitive camping location,
- Construct an up to four-car parking area at a pre-determined location to ensure access to the site in the future (Figure 1),
- Allow an elderly horse to lightly graze a 10-acre section of pasture within the old field community until it passes away (Figure 1),
- Manage the old field communities as grassland or early successional habitat, or allow to succeed into woodland,
- Construct vernal wetlands in the old field communities,
- Manage white-tailed deer, and
- Remove downed-woody debris (e.g., cedar slash) off the preserve from woodland communities and to decrease fuel loads prior to prescribed burning.

Commissioner Evans asked about the depressional wetland and what is planned for the long-term management of the site.

Sierzega answered that this has been debated but he would like to see grassland management and ongoing burns.

It was moved by Commissioner Clay, seconded by Commissioner Evans, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants preliminary approval for the dedication of Spivey Valley Glade Nature Preserve Addition and Nature Preserve Buffer Addition, as described in the proposal presented under Item 17 of the agenda for the 248th Meeting.

(Resolution 2645)

Item 18:* Logan County - Sandra Miller Bellrose Nature Preserve Buffer Addition, Final Dedication

This item was presented by Byron Paulsen.

The 76.174 acre Sandra Miller Bellrose Nature Preserve which is owned by Ron Bellrose and Sandra Miller Bellrose was dedicated in 2002 at the 176th meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. The Bellrose's received preliminary approval at the 246th meeting for 306.6 acre, more or less, as Buffer Addition which would bring the total dedicated acres to 382.774 acres, more or less. The Bellrose's requested final approval for dedication of the proposed Buffer Addition. The site is located in Logan County in the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division. The existing NP consists of a 0.8 mile segment of the Sugar Creek-Salt Creek Drainage INAI (#1521) and adjacent woodlands. It was recognized for the high diversity of freshwater mussels which was the qualifying feature at the time of dedication. The proposed buffer addition consists of prairie plantings, wetland creations and woodlands which will provide additional buffer for this stretch of Sugar Creek. The buffer addition will provide habitat for a variety of wildlife and including a larger block of forest cover as the tree plantings mature, providing additional habitat for area sensitive forest bird species.

The landowners reserve the following rights:

- To utilize their vehicles and UTVs on the existing trails for management access and monitoring of the preserve. These trails will also be used by IDNR and INPC staff for UTV and vehicular access for monitoring and management purposes. Any additional trails cannot exceed 15 feet in width, need to be approved in writing by INPC staff prior to any construction and the total miles of trails shall not exceed
- miles.
- Maintain and use one existing metal machine shed building and the powerline leading to the building in the old farmstead area.
- To remove the old non inhabitable farmhouse along with several old farm buildings, corn crib, and several pieces of old farm machinery from the property.

- Deer hunting, archery and firearm per INPC 2005 Deer Management Guideline and the most recent IDNR wildlife regulations for population control management purposes. Only temporary ground blinds will be allowed to be used in order to prevent damage to trees. The use of UTV's and vehicles will not be allowed for the removal of deer or other recreational purposes.

It was moved by Commissioner Kessel, seconded by Commissioner DeMauro-Roth, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of the Sandra Miller Bellrose Nature Preserve Buffer Addition, as described in the proposal presented under Item 18 of the agenda for the 248th Meeting.

(Resolution 2646)

Item 19:* Monroe County – Heather’s Hollow Nature Preserve and Heather’s Hollow Nature Preserve Addition of Mineral Rights, Final Dedication

This item was presented by Debbie S. Newman.

The proposed Heather’s Hollow Nature Preserve is an 11.3-acre site in the bluffs of southwestern Illinois, south of St. Louis. Heather’s Hollow is part of the 679-acre Columbia Hill Prairies INAI site (#201). The proposed preserve consists of 2 acres of Grade B limestone glade in several remnant patches intermingled with approximately 9 acres of Grade C mature, second-growth dry upland forest, 1/3 acre of Duck Creek and mowed highway frontage along State Route 156. The proposed preserve also contains large populations of the state-endangered woolly buckthorn (*Bumelia lanuginosa*), and a state-threatened reptile. The site is adjacent on 2 ½ sides to the 594-acre Salt Lick Point LWR.

The proposed Heather’s Hollow Nature Preserve is owned by Theresa Mueller. The site has been owned by Theresa and her late husband, Bruce, since 2001. Mr. and Mrs. Mueller enrolled the property in the Illinois Natural Heritage Landmark program in 2010. Mrs. Mueller is committed to permanently protecting her natural area and excited about preserving and managing the significant natural resources found on the property.

The mineral rights to this property were severed January 12, 1945, when they were conveyed to Columbia Quarry Company. The mineral rights were conveyed from Columbia Quarry Company to the Village of Valmeyer by Special Warranty Deed May 31, 1995, and recorded May 31, 1995 at the Monroe County Recorder’s Office. The Village of Valmeyer is dedicating the mineral rights as an Addition to the Heather’s Hollow Nature Preserve.

The owners reserve the right to remove downed wood along firebreaks and any trees that would come down outside of the proposed preserve near the residence or yard. As

per the county highway Right-of-Way and Ameren powerline corridors, normal maintenance will occur in these locations, including mowing and spraying to treat invasive species.

It was moved by Commissioner Clay, seconded by Commissioner Evans, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of Heather's Hollow Nature Preserve, as described in the proposal presented under Item 19 of the agenda for the 248th Meeting.

(Resolution 2647)

It was moved by Commissioner Kessel, seconded by Commissioner Oplt, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants final approval for the dedication of Heather's Hollow Nature Preserve Addition of Mineral Rights, as described in the proposal presented under Item 19 of the agenda for the 248th Meeting.

(Resolution 2648)

Item 20:* McLean County – Mackinaw River Land and Water Reserve, Proposed Parking Lot and Shed Expansion/Office and Education Facility

This item was presented by Byron Paulsen and Kelly Neal.

ParkLands Foundation is a private, non-profit organization founded in 1967 to protect, restore, and manage natural lands in the Mackinaw River watershed of Central Illinois. Their long-term goal is to create a network of conservation lands corridors along the Mackinaw River and its tributaries. These lands are protected by the Foundation to preserve biological diversity of native plants and animals, for passive public recreation, environmental education, and scientific research. ParkLands owns/manages approximately 3,500 acres, in McLean and Woodford Counties. They currently own or manage three sites dedicated as NP and own three registered LWRs totaling over 1660 acres in INPC programs.

The 639-acre Mackinaw River LWR is entirely within the 723.5-acre ParkLands owned Merwin Preserve of which 78 acres have been dedicated as the Merwin Savanna NP. The site is located within the Grand Prairie Section of the Grand Prairie Natural Division, in northern McLean County. The LWR was registered in 2007 to protect a 1.9-mile stretch of the Mackinaw River INAI (#788); to buffer the Merwin Savanna NP and to protect and enhance habitats used by the then state-threatened Henslow's sparrow (*Centronyx henslowii*), and the state-threatened cerulean warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*). When the site was registered, the Mackinaw River Natural Area was listed on

the INAI for the presence of the then state-threatened slippershell (*Alasmidonta viridis*), and spike (*Elliptio dilatata*) mussels, and a proposed Category VI designation as a high-quality medium-gradient river. The Natural Area was also recognized as an outstanding example of the rivers and creeks within the Illinois River drainage.

The 2006 registration proposal noted the presence of nine gated entryways around the perimeter of the LWR, also specifying the location of two gravel parking areas (used for visitor access). ParkLands reserved the right to double the size of each of these lots. Additionally, a metal storage shed, associated drive and parking located along the Keller Highway boundary near the south gate entrance of the LWR was to be maintained for storage of equipment used to manage natural community restorations at the Merwin Preserve. The proposal also referenced an extensive trail system at the Preserve.

The shed currently houses equipment that is used at all of ParkLands' preserves. The shed has deteriorated, is in danger of collapse and must be replaced. ParkLands is requesting that the Commission allow construction of a facility that is both larger and multi-purpose compared to the existing structure. The new structure would have sufficient space for the storage and repair of existing equipment, three offices for staff, restrooms, a conference/educational room, and an outdoor pavilion. ParkLands continues to expand environmental education opportunities to McLean, Woodford and other counties in the region. The new facility will increase ParkLands' ability to reach more residents of Central Illinois.

The expansion and upgrades would include the gravel parking lot and driveway as well as connection to utilities. Prior to registration, this area had already been developed. The area surrounding the current shed, drive and parking lot is cool season, mowed grass, surrounded by early successional and invasive tree species. The upgraded facility would be within the footprint of the original developed service area. This location provides an access point to the trail system for visitors.

Commissioner DeMaur-Roth asked if ParkLands Foundation still plans to maintain the existing parking lots and is requesting to expand one of them.

Paulsen clarified that yes, they will be maintaining them.

Commissioner Evans asked if the Commission was approving a new request or something that was in the original registration.

Commissioner Derby Lewis answered that the Commission would be approving something that was not in the original registration.

Paulsen agreed, stating the original registration acknowledged the existing structures but there was no clear language of what happens in the future in terms of expansion.

Commissioner Evans clarified that this is an approval to deviate from the original registration.

Commissioner Derby Lewis answered yes, and that anything not in the original documents must go through an approval process with the Commission.

It was moved by Commissioner DeMauro-Roth, seconded by Commissioner Evans, and carried that the following resolution be approved:

The Commission grants approval for the Mackinaw River Land and Water Reserve, Proposed Parking Lot and Shed Expansion/Office and Education Facility, as described in the proposal presented under Item 20 of the agenda for the 248th Meeting.

(Resolution 2649)

Item 21:* Election of INPC Officers

Commissioner Derby Lewis Presented this item.

After the election, Commissioner Derby Lewis offered comments on her service to the Commission for the last ten years. She expressed what a privilege it has been, and it has been one of the most fun, interesting, and amazing learning opportunities that she has had. She has learned from her fellow Commissioners, INPC staff members, Advisors, and Consultants. She is inspired by all the landowners who have come to the Commission. She expressed what an honor it has been and she is sad to go but so happy for others to be a part of the Commission.

It was moved by Commissioner DeMauro-Roth, seconded by Commissioner Clay, and carried that the Election of INPC Officers be approved.

(Resolution 2650)

With the Commission's approval of this agenda item, Commissioner Michelle Parker is elected Commission Chair, Commissioner Radhika Miraglia assumed the role of Vice Chair and Commissioner Adam Kessel assumed the role of Commission Secretary.

Item 22:* Election of INPC Advisors and Consultants

Commissioner Derby Lewis presented this item.

She clarified that Advisors are based on institutions and Consultants are nominated as individuals. She went on to discuss that there have been many questions raised on what the role of a Consultant is, process of selection and criteria of evaluation.

She continued, speaking on the need to have a facilitated discussion about the process so the Commission can answer the questions raised on Consultants. This discussion will take place on January 27, 2025, at the IDNR headquarters in Springfield, the day before the 249th INPC Meeting on January 28, 2025.

She proposed a motion to either pause all current and new nominations of Consultants or pause just the new nominations. She then opened it to discussion prior to voting.

Commissioner DeMauro-Roth asked if we pause all current and new nominations, does that mean that current Consultants will continue to serve beyond their term?

Commissioner Derby Lewis replied that her understanding is that Consultant terms are for one year, so they would not continue to serve. We would pause and temporarily not have Consultants until the next meeting. There would be no extension, rather just a delay in the vote. She clarified that the commission is allowed to consult any expert at any time and are not limited to the current roster of Consultants.

Todd Strole agreed. In statutory language, Consultants are listed as serving for only one year, whereas Commissioners are specified to serve until replaced.

Commissioner Clay asked for clarification on the statutory language.

Strole clarified there are three Statutory Advisors, one from IDNR, ISM and INHS. The other Advisors are representatives from other organizations, from which there have only been a few changes over the years. Beyond that, there is no distinction on role.

Commissioner DeMauro-Roth asked if there were any limits on the number of Consultants the Commission can have.

Commissioner Derby Lewis replied, no, not to the knowledge of the Commission.

Commissioner DeMauro-Roth continued that it might be a more middle of the road solution to approve the Consultants who have already been serving at this time. She questioned how it might appear to put their commitment on hold.

Commissioner Derby Lewis offered her own distinction that no one is being removed from the Consultant list, rather they are being paused. Her hope was that this would be viewed as equitable, as the Commission currently has no criteria or guidance on the Consultant process, and it seems logical to pause the nominations until we do.

Consultant Randy Heidorn offered his perspective as the former INPC Executive Director, stating his view on Consultants over the years was two-fold. Heidorn

described Consultants who play special roles such as leading stewardship or other projects. And then there were retired Commissioners, those who worked with the commission for many years and other individuals who the Commission wanted to stay in connection with. He stated he does not see an issue with pausing the nominations. He viewed the Consultants as constituency building of people who know the Commission well. The Consultants' only gain is a voice in the meeting and a lunch.

Commissioner Parker thanked Heidorn for the history on Consultants. She went on to say she is a proponent of pausing, as she believes there is another body at work in terms of checking in with current Consultants. She described that a Consultant expressed to her that they do not know what having the role means. Another expressed feeling bad about missing meetings as a Consultant, and that person is not even on the Consultant list, clearly illustrating a need for clarification. She goes on to say there appears to be a need to check in with Consultants.

Commissioner Evans agreed, and suggested a basic job description might be helpful.

Commissioner Derby Lewis agreed, stating this would be a part of the January conversation where these distinctions could be made in a clear and transparent way.

Commissioner Miraglia agreed we should pause and that this is an excellent opportunity to have a conversation on how to best utilize the perspectives and expertise of the Consultants and integrate it into the INPC process. She expressed she believes one of the best benefits of being a Consultant is the influence on decision making they have and opportunity for collaboration with the Commission.

Commissioner Kessel stated a pause would be best. We have a robust group of Consultants who are doing great things, and we can think differently about our perspective on their role.

Commissioner Oplt expressed the importance of making sure those who come to your aid feel important. The better the Commissioners and Consultants understand their roles, the more efficient we can become. She also admitted to wondering what Consultants have done in the past, so she has been a Commissioner without really appreciating the Consultant role. Pausing and evaluating can help us be a better team.

Consultant Cynthia Kanner commented that she felt honored to be nominated to be a Consultant but does not feel she has helped or contributed thus far in her service. She appreciates the pause in considering the role of the Consultant.

Consultant Joe Roth asked if Consultants would continue to get meeting notices and agendas.

Commissioner Derby Lewis felt it would make more sense that those who are “paused” to still get notices.

Todd Strole answered that there is also a public notice list, so he sees no reason not to continue to distribute information to Consultants while on pause.

Commissioner Derby Lewis proposed a motion to pause the nominations for current and new Consultants until further guidance on the criteria and selection process is determined on January 27th, 2025.

It was moved by Commissioner Miraglia, seconded by Commissioner Evans, and carried that the Election of INPC Consultants, current and new, be paused until further guidance is determined at the INPC Special Meeting to take place on January 27th, 2025.

(Resolution 2651)

Commissioner Derby Lewis proposed a motion to approve the election of Advisors presented under item 9.

It was moved by Commissioner Parker, seconded by Commissioner Clay, and carried that the Election of INPC Advisors be approved.

(Resolution 2652)

Commissioner Chair Parker stated there is not currently a Chair for the Committee of the Whole process and proposed that this position be filled.

Commissioner Tom Clay offered to step in as Chair of the Committee of the Whole.

Commissioner Miraglia asked that the Committee of the Whole be defined.

Todd Strole answered that the Committee of the Whole refers to the committee comprising of all of the Commissioners. This is done because the Open Meetings Act does not allow a quorum of Commissioners to meet outside of a public meeting, except for a provision called the Committee of the Whole. This allows Commissioners to meet if no actions are taken, and something is brought forth to the Commission to be acted on in a public meeting. In summary, the Committee of the Whole gives Commissioners an avenue to meet without violating the Open Meetings Act.

It was moved by Commissioner Kessel, seconded by Commissioner Evans, and carried that Commissioner Tom Clay now serve as the Chair of the Committee of the Whole.

(Resolution 2653)

Item 23: Review of Closed Meeting Minutes

This item was presented by Todd Strole.

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 Clay, seconded by Commissioner Evans, and carried that 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 23 of the agenda for the 248th Meeting.

(Resolution 2654)

Item 24: Public Comment Period (3 minutes per person)

No public comments were presented.

Item 25: Other Business

No Other Business was presented.

Item 26: Adjournment

It was moved by Commissioner Derby Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Kessel, and carried that the meeting be adjourned.

The 248th INPC Meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.