



**Illinois
Nature
Preserves
Commission**

memorandum

To: Commissioners

From: Randy Heidorn and John Nelson

Date: August 28, 2008

Subject: Staff Report for the 198th Meeting of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission

I. Illinois Nature Preserves Commission (INPC) Operations:

- A. Randy Heidorn, at the direction of Deborah Stone, prepared an estimate of revenue needs to continue operations of the INPC for FY2009 and provided it to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Office of Resource Conservation and Fiscal Office.
- B. In the absence of a Natural Area Protection Manager Mary Kay Solecki reviewed all protection proposals, nature preserve (NP)/land and water reserve (LWR) documents, and agenda for January, 2008 INPC meeting.
- C. Kim Roman prepared/submitted a first draft of a color brochure to Central Management Services for the INPC.
- D. Tom Lerczak coordinated the purchase and delivery of the latest INPC herbicide order, including timely distribution to INPC staff.
- E. Personnel issues:
 1. Annual evaluations were completed for Judy Faulkner Dempsey, Debbie Newman, and Mary Kay Solecki.
 2. Debbie Reider accepted a position within the Illinois Department of Revenue and left the INPC staff. Tom Lerczak, Kelly Neal, and Randy Heidorn have taken on additional administrative responsibilities to ensure bills are paid, meeting logistics are handled, and the completion, execution, and recording of legal documents for dedications continue. Nancy Rogers, Division of Watershed Protection in IDNR's Office of Resource Conservation, has also helped out by taking over timekeeping, some voucher preparation, and meeting logistics, including the meeting minutes and copying and distribution of documents.
 3. Jennifer Skufca has accepted the position of Natural Areas Defense Specialist in Springfield for the INPC staff.
 4. Angella Moorehouse has moved into a new office in Carthage, Illinois. She will be located in a Department of Human Services office. New contact information will be available as soon as she gets a new phone line and computer connection hooked up.
 5. Graduate Resident Intern Program:
 - a. Cindi Jablonski and Emily Stork, both working as resident interns with the INPC, took jobs as regional ecologists with the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI).
 - b. Posting has occurred for two new resident interns, who will begin work in late June. Interviews have been scheduled for mid-May.

II. Training , Presentations and Meetings Attended:

- A. John Nelson and Kim Roman completed a NWCG accredited chainsaw safety course.
- B. Kelly Neal and Randy Heidorn:
 1. Attended Project Management Overview Training.
 2. Participated in several meetings to plan for the next module of the Managed Area Tracking System.
 3. Participated in the review and ranking of Wildlife Preservation Fund proposals.
- C. Steven Byers:
 1. Gave a presentation for the IDNR C2000 Fox River Ecosystem Partnership Conference entitled "*Bluff Spring Fen Nature Preserve and the Groundwater Challenge.*"
 2. Participated in a Chicago Metropolitan Area Planning (CMAP) meeting; goal is to incorporate the Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Vision into the CMAP 2030 Land Use Plan.
 3. Represented the INPC at the Chicago Wilderness Wildlife Task Force meeting at Lincoln Park Zoo.
 4. Served as moderator for a session at "*Prescribed Fire for Healthy Forest Preserves*" hosted by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) at the Brookfield Zoo.
 5. Attended a meeting hosted by Chicago Botanic Garden entitled "*Reclaiming our Ravines – Protecting Our Ecological Treasures.*"

6. Continues to serve as the Chicago Wilderness co-chair of the Natural Resources Management Team and member of the Chicago Wilderness Coordination Council.
- D. Kim Roman drafted an article for the Tallgrass Journal (Goose Lake Prairie newsletter).
- E. Angella Moorehouse:
1. Gave an interview for public television on wildlife habitat restoration at Diers Seep Springs Natural Heritage Landmark (NHL) in Fulton County.
 2. Gave a presentation on pioneer cemetery prairie protection for the Great Rivers Genealogical Society in Quincy.
 3. Attended an Exotic Invasives Workshop put on by the Cooperative Extension Service in Galesburg.
- F. Tom Lerczak:
1. Conducted a forestry workshop, on March 19 at Jake Wolfe Fish Hatchery, for high school students in the Envirothon project conducted by the Mason County Soil and Water Conservation District.
 2. Presented a poster entitled “*A Baseline Study of Floodplain Forest Succession and Bird Communities at Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge, Illinois*” at the annual meeting of the Illinois State Academy of Science, Champaign, Illinois.
- G. Mary Kay Solecki:
1. Attended a meeting of the Land Conservation Foundation.
 2. Attended the Grand Prairie Friends annual luncheon for volunteer stewards.
 3. Co-led a river cleanup along Sangamon River and a nature hike at Allerton Park for high school students from three states at a weekend youth conference with over 240 attendees.
 4. Was interviewed for a News-Gazette newspaper article (Champaign-Urbana newspaper) on maintaining prairie with fire at Prospect Cemetery Prairie NP and another article on good places to look for woodland and prairie wildflowers.
- H. Deb Newman gave:
1. A talk on threatened and endangered species of southwest Illinois at Southwest Illinois College’s Darwin Days.
 2. A presentation on Northern Ozark Natural Division Conservation Opportunity Area efforts to the Illinois Wildlife Action Team.
 3. A presentation on southern flatwoods to the Kaskaskia Watershed Summit.
- I. Kelly Neal:
1. Represented the INPC at the February, 2008 meeting of the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board.
 2. Represented the INPC at a meeting with the Secretary of the Environment, the former Secretary of Agriculture, and other representatives of Parana State, Brazil.
- J. Randy Heidorn:
1. Participated in the formation of an Illinois Prescribed Burning Council. He has agreed to serve as treasurer for this organization for a year while the organization forms and develops its by-laws.
 2. Participated in the semi-annual Natural Areas Association Board of Directors meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. Mr. Heidorn serves as the treasurer on this international professional organization’s board and continues to be active in board development and professional training standards.

III. Inventory and Monitoring:

- A. Several staff completed site surveillance forms on INAI sites within their areas.
- B. Kelly Neal and Randy Heidorn participated in the Natural Areas Evaluation Committee meetings. Mr. Heidorn also participated in meetings for the development of the natural areas evaluation protocol and other issues relating to the administration and operations of the INAI update.
- C. John Nelson recorded monthly groundwater monitoring data from piezometers at Gladestone Fen NP.
- D. Steven Byers agreed to serve as Principal Investigator with Brad Semel on a grant submitted by Wayne Schennum to the Chicago Wilderness to inventory conservative insect species at Illinois Beach State Park (SP).
- E. Angella Moorehouse implemented a Wildlife Preservation Fund grant for research on a rare hill prairie plant, prairie larkspur.
- F. Tom Lerczak continued monitoring the trail system at Carpenter Park NP to evaluate effects of the new management policy that allows leashed dogs on the trail system.
- G. Mary Kay Solecki
 1. Assisted with training of new INAI update staff in landowner contact procedures.
 2. Surveyed for eastern massasaugas at Allerton Park and Heartland Pathway INAI sites.

- H. Bob Edgin monitored royal catchfly seedlings planted last fall on a privately-owned LWR and a NP as a part of the royal catchfly recovery plan for the Prairie Ridge Conservation Opportunity Area.
- I. Judy Faulkner Dempsey surveyed the populations of French's shooting star and hairy synandra on U.S. Forest Service property in Jackson County.

IV. Protection Program:

- A. Staff met with landowners and managers to plan and draft protection proposals that are on the agenda for the 198th meeting.
- B. Judy Faulkner Dempsey and Randy Heidorn attended the 1st Annual Natural Areas Coordination Meeting with the Shawnee National Forest and IDNR to discuss management and protection of U.S. Forest Service-owned natural areas.
- C. John Nelson met with two landowners to offer INPC assistance in land protection in Lee and Ogle counties.
- D. Steven Byers:
 - 1. Continued meeting with staff of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, McHenry County Conservation District, and Friends of Hack-ma-tack to discuss land protection opportunities and unique opportunity to bring a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge to northeastern Illinois.
 - 2. Sent correspondence and had discussions with staff of the Forest Preserve District of Kane County (FPDKC) regarding opportunities for dedication at Meissner-Corron Forest Preserve (FP) and Freeman Kame FP.
 - 3. Met with representatives of Long Grove Park District, Friends of Reed-Turner Woodland, and volunteer stewards to explore opportunities for formally protecting land along Indian Creek linking Reed-Turner Woodland NP and other significant, but as yet not formally protected, lands along this stream corridor.
 - 4. Ongoing dialogue with staff of McHenry County Conservation District and The Land Conservancy of McHenry County regarding land protection and stewardship in the Alden Headwaters region and throughout McHenry County.
- E. Kim Roman contacted three owners of unprotected INAI sites.
- F. Angella Moorehouse has been working with landowners to find conservation organizations willing to accept the donation/ownership of three sites in INPC programs. In all three cases, they are absentee landowners and would prefer the sites be locally owned and managed by a non-profit conservation organization.
- G. Tom Lerczak:
 - 1. Continued working on a LWR proposal for McCune Sand Prairie natural area.
 - 2. Met with a landowner group at Elkhart Hill to outline options for management of private lands adjacent to Elkhart Hill Grove NP and LWR.
- H. Mary Kay Solecki:
 - 1. Protection efforts focused on the Embarras River, a biologically significant stream, which resulted in two new NHLs.
 - a. A 35-acre addition to Embarras Bluffs NHL in Coles County was designated by site owners, Jim and Mare Payne, to protect part of the Embarras River INAI site (#1120) and associated streamside and upland forest.
 - b. The nearby 70.25-acre Embarras Bend NHL in Coles County was designated by Jim and Mare Payne, owners of the site, to protect part of the Embarras River INAI site (#1120) and adjacent forest.
 - 2. Initiated landowner contact with a landowner on a Sangamon River INAI site and continued landowner contact with a landowner within the Salt Fork River INAI site.
 - 3. Assisted the Land Conservation Foundation board with a conservation easement for a river corridor on the Salt Fork of Vermilion River.
- I. Debbie Newman contacted five landowners of unprotected INAI sites.
- J. Bob Edgin:
 - 1. Facilitated donation of a 12-acre NHL to the IDNR. The process is ongoing, but the IDNR has accepted the donation.
 - 2. Conducted three landowner contacts and did a preliminary evaluation of another site that a landowner is interested in protecting.
- K. Judy Faulkner Dempsey:
 - 1. Began drafting a NP dedication proposal for the Collier Limestone Glade INAI site, owned by LaFarge NA Corporation.
 - 2. Began the major revision of the Horsefly Ridge LWR proposal, which is now being written as a NP proposal.

3. Investigated, on behalf of the owner of Degognia Canyon LWR, whether carbon credits could be applied for on a LWR.

V. Land Acquisition:

- A. Steven Byers discussed various potential land acquisition projects in Lake, Cook, and McHenry counties, with county and private land management agencies.
- B. Kim Roman submitted a potential Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF) project to the IDNR for property near Kankakee River SP.
- C. Angella Moorehouse provided IDNR staff with recommendations on the potential sale of a large sand prairie in Henry County.
- D. Debbie Newman assisted with acquisition of an INAI site in Washington County.
- E. Bob Edgin evaluated two sites that were offered for sale to the State as possible additions to a NP and met with another landowner regarding the State purchase of another INAI site. All of these projects are on-going.
- F. Judy Faulkner Dempsey assisted The Nature Conservancy (TNC), with acquisition of a trade parcel which will be traded for the second half of Lovets Pond.

VI. Defense Program:

- A. Kelly Neal responded to four reviews for IDNR's Comprehensive Environmental Review Program.
- B. John Nelson reviewed a draft of the Class 3 Special Resource Groundwater technical reports submitted to the INPC under contract by the Illinois State Water Survey for:
 1. Elizabeth Lake NP
 2. Illinois Beach NP
- C. Steven Byers:
 1. Met with the City of Elgin Parks and Recreation Department, regarding acceptable uses in dedicated NPs in that City (Bluff Spring Fen NP, Trout Park NP, Sleepy Hollow Ravine NP).
 2. Met with representatives of Illinois State Tollway Authority and their surface hydrology consultant, representatives of TNC and Northeastern Illinois University to review potential impact of interchange at I-55 and I-57 on the Indian Boundary Prairies.
 3. Conducted a site visit with the project manager, Lake County Department of Transportation, and Lake Forest Open Lands Association regarding routing of a trail adjacent to Skokie River NP.
- D. Tom Lerczak:
 1. Responded to concerns expressed by staff of the Illinois State Museum by explaining in detail the rationale behind a revised management policy at Carpenter Park NP that allows leashed dogs on the trail system.
 2. Met with IDNR's Bob Schanzle and others to evaluate a project to stabilize Salt Creek just upstream from Barton-Sommer Woodland NP, Mason County.
 3. Facilitated dialogue between the ParkLands Foundation and an adjacent landowner concerning a boundary dispute and encroachment issues at the ParkLand Foundation's Mackinaw River LWR, McLean County.
- E. Mary Kay Solecki:
 1. Continued working with the Heartland Pathways Board and the City of Monticello regarding a planned road through eastern massasauga snake habitat that is proposed as a NP. Also, provided input to the IDNR consultation program staff regarding minimizing impacts to the snake habitat.
- F. Threats to sites within INPC programs:
 1. Somme Prairie NP, Cook Co. – Steven Byers
 - a. Issue: Proposed commercial development with a request for permit to a construct private sanitary sewage treatment facility.
 - b. Threat: Potential impact to surface hydrology; specifically, degradation in water quality and changes in flow rates entering Somme Woods FP (a FPDCC site that is not a dedicated NP), then by surface drainage/culvert a short distance into the West Fork of the North Branch of the Chicago River in Somme Prairie NP.
 - c. Status: Commission staff corresponded with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago requesting that the permit request be tabled. The request was granted, and IDNR consultation was reinitiated. Conversation with IDNR staff confirms that consultation may be terminated. Ongoing issues include impact of a private sanitary sewage treatment facility on water quality in a NP, incorporation of the best management practices in the commercial development, and indirect impacts to Somme Woods FP (one of the finest oak woodland/savanna restorations in northeastern Illinois).
 2. Middlefork Savanna NP, Lake Co. – Steven Byers

- a. Issue: Proposed “improvements” to the gravel pit (Dalitsch Pond) do not adequately demonstrate the proximity and surface hydrology linkage with Middlefork Savanna NP. The project should be reviewed in the larger context of the City of Lake Forest Municipal Services Center development (old COSTCO site).
 - b. Threat: Alterations to water quality and flow rates entering the NP are the primary issues.
 - c. Status: Commission staff corresponded with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff regarding the aforementioned issues; and further requested that the improvement plan for the pond include improvement of the drainage corridor (ditch) extending from the pond to the NP, recommended formal protection of the balance of the property (high-quality oak woodlands with ephemeral ponds) owned by the City of Lake Forest, and that the pond enhancement project be evaluated in the context of the nearby Municipal Services Center development.
3. Hybernia NP, Lake Co. – Steven Byers
 - a. Issue: An attorney representing landowners is attempting to secure permits to build three houses on unprotected lots embedded within the NP.
 - b. Threat: The proposed development would destroy high-quality prairie that supports the federally listed prairie white-fringed orchid. Indirect impacts include alteration of surface water hydrology, sedimentation, erosion, etc.
 - c. Status: INPC staff has received correspondence from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that a wetland delineation of the wetlands along Cardinal Lane and the three privately-owned lots would not take place until the growing season; given the ecological significance of the site and the presence of the prairie white fringed orchid. Mr. Byers met with the Homeowners Association and an IDNR Conservation Police Officer to investigate illegal access to the site.
4. Bluff Spring Fen NP, Cook Co. – John Nelson and Steven Byers
 - a. Issue: Routing of water from Gifford Lake and the “finger lakes” located adjacent to Bluff Spring Fen is currently under consideration by the FPDCC. Options include surface conveyance of water from Gifford Lake or conveyance of the water via a pipe.
 - b. Threat: Conveyance of the water in an open swale represents a threat to the groundwater chemistry upon which the fen wetlands are dependent. Randy Lock, Illinois State Water Survey and Jim Miner Illinois State Geologic Surgery have both recommended the “piping” alternative. The open swale alternative also threatens a previously permitted project to restore surface and groundwater hydrology (and fen wetlands) by filling a shallow gravel pit lake.
 - c. Status: Continued monitoring of Bluff Spring Fen NP and stop-gap measure (trench cut) used as emergency outlet for high water in nearby “finger lakes.” Mr. Nelson and Mr. Byers both met on February 8 and February 27, 2008 with survey scientists, staff of the FPDCC, the County’s consultants, and staff of Bluff City Materials, Inc. to review and consider the options for conveyance of surface water from Gifford Lake to Poplar Creek. The FPDCC has not made a final determination. The aforementioned project to restore groundwater hydrology has been partially completed (most of the existing gravel pit has been filled) but is now “on hold” until the FPDCC makes a determination regarding conveyance of the surface water.
5. Powderhorn Prairie and Marsh NP, Cook Co. – Steven Byers
 - a. Issue: Residential/commercial development north of Powderhorn Prairie and Marsh.
 - b. Threat: Development could alter quantity and quality of surface and groundwater hydrology in vicinity of this NP. Also, development will further fragment Powderhorn Prairie and preclude viable landscape linkage with Wolf Lake located to the north. Development poses a threat to state-listed endangered and threatened species. More extensive surveys should be conducted during the spring/summer 2008.
 - c. Status: Design features of the project have been altered to provide more open space on the north portion of the project (with discussions with the IDNR) regarding conveyance of the property to the State. Also, the developer has incorporated suggestions for a “softer” southern edge (with fingers of open space and set backs) bordering the NP.
6. Fel-Pro Triple R Fen NP, McHenry Co. – Steven Byers
 - a. Issue: Residential development to the south (Wynstone 2) along Crystal Lake Avenue (3.6 acres) and development north of Rawson Bridge Road (Chalet Hills) – impacting 30+ acres and Bates Fen NP to the north and east.

- b. Threat: Development as proposed would adversely impact surface hydrology at both sites/locations, impacting high-quality fen wetlands that are sensitive to introduction of increased amounts of surface water.
 - c. Status: Staff has communicated, via e-mail with McHenry County and its consultant, the Commission's concerns regarding compliance of Wynstone 2 with the McHenry County Stormwater Management Ordinance and impact to Detrana Fen. Correspondence will be forthcoming after careful review of the plan and in conjunction with staff of the McHenry County Conservation District. As for the other project, Commission staff has discussed the impact of this project with the consultant and are waiting to receive the development plan for review.
7. Wadsworth Prairie NP, Lake Co. – Steven Byers
- a. Issue: Wetland Research Inc. has requested a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to install an inflatable weir on the Des Plaines River downstream from Wadsworth Prairie NP.
 - b. Threat: Installation of the weir would impound water in Wadsworth Prairie NP and potentially impact the federally-listed prairie white-fringed orchid at this site. Additional survey information, provided March 17, 2008 to the Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD), shows the extent of the flooding (to 664 ft above msl) well into the NP.
 - c. Status: The LCFPD has corresponded with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stating that the "...District has too many concerns to agree with the proposed project." District staff has asked the staff of the INPC to review the project (received week of April 7, 2008) and state its position regarding the project. Staff is currently awaiting more information, but staff anticipates preparing a letter to the Corps stating that the INPC has "standing" regarding this permit application and that the proposal would have to be presented at a quarterly meeting of the Commission for review.
8. Root Cemetery Savanna NP, Peoria Co. – Angella Moorehouse
- a. Issue: Proposed gravel mine expansion and re-zoning to light-industrial for land adjacent to the NP.
 - b. Threat: Mining expansion could potentially speed up bank erosion on a intermittent creek located within 10-15 feet of the northern boundary of the NP.
 - c. Status: New - INPC staff spoke about the above issues at two public hearings held by the City of Chillicothe.
9. Volo Bog NP, Lake Co. – John Nelson
- a. Issue: Enforcement of a court order to protect Volo Bog from adjacent mining and land development activities.
 - b. Threat: Adjacent land development threatens quality and quantity of the groundwater resource that sustains Volo Bog. Stormwater issues related to Spruce Lake have become a new concern. Any surface discharge of storm water to Volo Bog could cause negative impacts to this unique wetland system which historically has not received surface water inputs. While the possibility of this scenario is rather remote, the concern merits evaluation.
 - c. Status: Developer Jack Pease has obtained preliminary plat approval from the Planning Commission of the Village of Volo for zoning of a light industrial complex. INPC staff attended and spoke at numerous public hearings on this matter, as well as meeting with the developer. Development plans have been modified to address most concerns, and a hydrologic consultant has been retained by the developer to evaluate the hydrologic connectivity of Spruce Lake and the local aquifer. Upon the completion of the hydrologic report and final engineering plans, it is anticipated that all IDNR and INPC concerns will have been addressed.
10. Braidwood Dunes and Savanna NP, Will Co. – Kim Roman
- a. Issue: In 2006, Exelon released Tritium from its Braidwood facility and has been pumping one of its ponds to capture the Tritium plume in the groundwater.
 - b. Threat: The concern regarding the NP is not the radioactive material, but rather the groundwater withdrawal and the potential impacts to its wetland communities.
 - c. Status: Discussions with Exelon and the Illinois Attorney General's Office (IAGO) regarding groundwater withdrawals at Braidwood Dunes and Savanna NP continue. INPC has been engaged in discussions with Exelon, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), and the Illinois Attorney General's Office (IAGO) since the release became known. The IAGO, representing the IEPA and the INPC, first presented the consent order to Exelon in April, 2008. While it is anticipated that negotiations for groundwater protection and site management will be ongoing for the next several months, it is a big step toward finalizing resolution.
11. Hickory Creek Barrens NP, Will Co. – Kim Roman

- a. Issue: In the summer of 2006, staff became aware of a major silt deposition in Hickory Creek Barrens NP.
 - b. Threat: Sediment originating from a neighboring development site was up to several inches deep and covered over three acres of dedicated NP.
 - c. Status: The IAGO has been representing the INPC as staff work with the developer to stabilize the property. The landowner and INPC staff agree that removal of silt within the NP would cause additional harm to the site. Staff has been asking that the total cost of clean-up be applied toward management and restoration of the impacted and surrounding areas. Final settlement costs are being negotiated between the IAGO and developer; staff will present the results to the Commission once the consent order is finalized.
12. Prospect Cemetery Prairie NP, Ford Co – Mary Kay Solecki
- a. Issue: Landowners want to mow the north half of the NP during the growing season to maintain the burial grounds and improve the appearance of burial plots which are widely scattered in north half of NP.
 - b. Threat: Mowing would result in significant damage to prairie habitat that has remained unmowed for over 20 years.
 - c. Status: Met with Patton Township Board members, Hal Hassen, IDNR, and Dawn Cobbs, Historic Preservation Agency, at the NP to continue addressing concerns regarding burial plot maintenance and the condition of tombstones. A prescribed burn of north half of cemetery was conducted to uncover fallen gravestones and began a survey of fallen and buried gravestones. Discussed mowing impacts on prairie and ways to minimize these with Paxton’s Mayor and local citizens.
13. North Dunes NP and Illinois Beach NP, Lake Co. – Randy Heidorn
- a. Issue: Concern over asbestos containing material (ACM) may be interfering with management of the natural areas.
 - b. Threat: Concern about the exposure of ACM at the NP is delaying or precluding the IDNR’s ability to manage the high-quality natural area. There is a need to survey any area after a management action (e.g. prescribed burned) for the presence of ACM, however funding for these surveys is inadequate.
 - c. Status: INPC staff has arranged to fund approximately \$80,000 to pay for surveys for ACM after management activities. These dollars will come from the NAAF defense appropriation for fiscal year 2008. The contract change has been made, and beach sweeps are being made as per the site plan. Although no prescribed burning occurred this spring, a savanna restoration project was completed. Additionally, sand from a quarry and a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredging project is being placed to maintain the beach.
14. Robeson Hills NP and Robeson Hills LWR, Lawrence Co. – Bob Edgin
- a. Issue: Proposed railroad realignment in the vicinity of the NP and LWR.
 - b. Threat: The proposed railroad realignment which would have moved existing rail lines from Indiana into Illinois. The realignment would have crossed a stretch of the Wabash River that is included on the INAI and is a known location for state-listed mussel species. The realignment would run along the borders and adjacent to the NP and LWR, potentially changing the access for management and hydrology of the sites.
 - c. Status: Bob Edgin attended two meetings and compiled comments from the IDNR District staff regarding potential impacts to listed plant and animal species and the Wabash River. He submitted the report to Illinois Department of Transportation, the IDNR, and the consulting firm conducting the feasibility study. It appears that, for now, the rerouting will not include lands in Illinois.

VII. Stewardship Program:

- A. Kelly Neal has been reviewing, issuing, and renewing large numbers of special use permits for research and other permitted activities within NPs and LWRs.
- B. Randy Heidorn worked the IDNR Fire Management Task Force to prepare draft administrative rules to implement the Illinois Prescribed Burning Act.
- C. Involvement with other organizations:
 1. Kelly Neal and Kim Roman attended the Eastern Prairie Fringed Orchid Researchers meeting. Kelly Neal also participated in a conference call meeting to discuss streamlining monitoring efforts.
 2. Steven Byers supported IDNR C2000 grant applications by Trout Valley Homeowners Association and Ted Gray and Associates to restore hydrology at a potential INAI Category II site and an application by Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG) to establish groundwater information that may prove

- useful in establishing Class 3 groundwater designations for six additional NPs located within the BACOG region.
3. Angella Moorehouse assisted IDNR staff, the Peoria Park District, and the Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation in the preparation of C2000 and State Wildlife Grant (SWG) applications for stewardship work for NPs and natural areas in McDonough, Peoria, and Jo Daviess counties.
 4. Tom Lerczak:
 - a. Provided a list of short-term management recommendations to the Pekin Park District for its prairie restoration at Dirksen-McNaughton Woods LWR.
 - b. Met with IDNR staff and Forest Park Nature Center staff to discuss a potential Peoria area SWG proposal.
 5. Kelly Neal attended a Hine's Emerald Dragonfly Habitat Conservation Plan meeting.
- D. Stewardship planning:
1. Staff prepared or updated management schedules for several sites including:
 - a. Boone Creek Fen NP
 - b. Root Cemetery Savanna NP
 - c. Twin Culvert Cave NP
 - d. King Forest NP and NHL
 - e. Ping Prairie at Huskey Hollow NHL
 2. Kelly Neal reviewed 19 management schedules and five unscheduled management actions.
 3. Several staff prepared stewardship proposals for funding through the FY2009 NAAF Stewardship Program which will be presented during the 198th Meeting.
 4. John Nelson met with six NP owners to discuss management and other needs in Boone, McHenry, Ogle, Lee, and Winnebago counties.
 5. Steven Byers attended the Spring Creek (FPDCC holdings with NP) steward/stakeholders meeting.
 6. Kim Roman participated in a planning session for Bartel Grassland.
- E. Stewardship project implementation:
1. Several staff implemented or prepared the needed paperwork to implement NAAF stewardship and defense, WHIP, Northeastern Illinois Wetland Conservation Account and C2000 source projects. Some of the sites where projects are being implemented include:
 - a. Reed canary grass control at Boloria Fen and Sedge Meadow NP
 - b. Woodland restoration and prairie planting at Boone Creek Fen NP
 - c. Project at Salt Creek Woods NP to restore hydrology of vernal ponds by filling small ditches.
 - d. Grants for stewardship of Illinois NPs that support the federally-listed prairie white-fringed orchid including Hybernia NP
 - e. Northeastern Illinois fen restoration (seven different NPs)
 - f. McHenry County wetlands restoration (ten different NPs or INAI sites)
 - g. Jamar Haven LWR restoration
 - h. Short Fork Seep NP restoration
 - i. Josua Lindahl Hill Prairies NP restoration
 - j. Singing Woods NP restoration
 - k. Robinson Park Hill Prairies NP restoration
 - l. Prairie restoration at Mt. Palatine Cemetery Prairie NP
 - m. Black Partridge Park Woods LWR reforestation
 - n. Collection of local-ecotype prairie seed and planting of prairie seed at a 7-acre prairie restoration at Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP
 - o. Collection of local-ecotype prairie seed for 9-acre prairie restoration surrounding Loda Cemetery Prairie NP
 - p. Blufftop Acres LWR restoration
 - q. DesPain Wetlands LWR restoration
 - r. Salt Lick Point LWR and Sand Prairie-Scrub Oak NP fencing of air shafts
 - s. Circle B Ranch LWR restoration
 - t. Degognia Canyon LWR restoration
 2. Angella Moorehouse, Mary Kay Solecki and Debbie Newman worked with IDNR Natural Heritage Division staff on the implementation of the statewide Hill Prairie Project and SWG.
 3. Tom Lerczak assisted in the planning and implementation of the Landowner Incentive Program by including projects at:

- a. Sandra Miller Bellrose NP
 - b. Walden West LWR
 - c. King Forest NP and NHL
 - d. Illinois River Sand Area LWR
4. John Nelson submitted or assisted in the preparation of final grant reports to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a restoration projects performed at Boloria Fen and Sedge Meadow NP and Gladstone Fen NP in 2007.
 5. Angella Moorehouse continues to work on the administration of SWG projects at Wapello LWR in Jo Daviess County and Siloam Springs SP in Adams and Brown counties.
 6. Tom Lerczak completed the bidding and contracting process for a vendor (CorPro.ScreenTech) to manufacture individualized NP entrance signs and NP and LWR boundary signs.
- F. Land management conducted by staff:
1. Several prescribed burns were led or assisted by staff including burns at:
 - a. Boloria Fen and Sedge Meadow NP
 - b. Moraine Hills SP
 - c. Boone Creek Fen NP
 - d. Plum Grove NP
 - e. Willow Creek INAI site
 - f. Rock Cut SP
 - g. Volo Bog NP
 - h. Chain O Lakes SP
 - i. Bluff Spring Fen NP
 - j. Trout Park NP
 - k. Sleepy Hollow Ravine NP
 - l. Wheeler Fen LWR
 - m. Fox River Country Day School (Chicago Junior School INAI site)
 - n. Dixie Fromm Briggs Prairie NP
 - o. Des Plaines Dolomite Prairie LWR
 - p. Silver Springs Savanna
 - q. Short Pioneer Cemetery Prairie NP
 - r. Goose Lake Prairie NP
 - s. TNC Pembroke Savanna sites
 - t. Voight Pauper Cemetery Prairie LWR
 - u. Haw Creek Sedge Meadow LWR
 - v. Josua Lindahl Hill Prairies NP
 - w. Munson Township Cemetery Prairie NP
 - x. Greenlee Cemetery Prairie NP
 - y. Mississippi River Sand Hills NP
 - z. Grubb Hollow Prairie NP
 - aa. Black Hawk Forest NP
 - bb. Hanover Bluff NP
 - cc. Falling Down Hill Prairie INAI site
 - dd. Siloam Springs SP
 - ee. Crevecoeur NP
 - ff. Illinois Audubon Society's Adams Wildlife Sanctuary Prairie
 - gg. Prospect Cemetery Prairie NP
 - hh. Loda Cemetery Prairie NP
 - ii. Barnhart Prairie Restoration NP
 - jj. Hog Chute Crossing NHL
 - kk. Heartland Pathways INAI site
 - ll. Allerton Park Prairie Restoration
 - mm. Unity East Elementary School Prairie Restoration
 - nn. Blufftop Acres LWR
 - oo. Harry's Prairie NHL
 - pp. Fults Hill Prairie NP
 - qq. Richard R. and Jean W. Grabber Grasslands LWR

- rr. Robert Ridgway Grasslands NP
 - ss. Shellbark Bottoms NHL
 - tt. Beadles Barrens NP
 - uu. Prairie Ridge State Natural Area LWR
 - vv. Marion County and Jasper County Prairie Chicken Sanctuary NP
2. John Nelson participated in
 - a. Brush clearing with IDNR staff at Illinois Beach SP.
 - b. Three volunteer workdays at Gladstone Fen NP, McHenry County.
 3. Steve Byers participated in scheduled work days at Hybernia NP and Gladstone Fen NP
 4. Kim Roman controlled exotic brush and trees at Rock Creek Canyon INAI site in Kankakee River SP and Short Pioneer Cemetery Prairie NP.
 5. Debbie Newman:
 - a. Marked firebreaks for installation.
 - b. Worked with grantee on endangered species research project on four INAI sites.
 - c. Posted signs at two LWRs.
 6. Bob Edgin conducted exotic species control at:
 - a. Red Hills Woods NP
 - b. Robeson Hills NP
 - c. Beadles Barrens NP
 - d. Karcher's Post Oak Woods NP
 - e. Allison Gravel Prairie NHL