

# **Public Access/Hunting and Fishing Committee Illinois Natural Resources Advisory Board Committee Charge**

Version: July 22, 2009

*In February of 2009, Governor Quinn nominated Marc Miller as Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and established a new positive direction for the DNR. Without delay, Director Miller moved to reengage, and involve DNR constituents with the rebuilding of the agency and formulate new directions for providing outdoor recreation opportunities and natural resource conservation. As part of this effort, the DNR has developed a slimmed down approach to the Illinois Conservation Congress where the Illinois Natural Resource Advisory Board will provide the forum to provide natural resource constituents a voice into the direction of the DNR. This committee is one of three charged with developing reports and recommendations that incorporate science and public input on public access and hunting/trapping/fishing issues.*

## **Charge**

The Public Access/Hunting and Fishing Committee is responsible for engaging, and informing our constituency on the development, update, and review of public access initiatives, and hunting/trapping/fishing regulations and programs via public input obtained from meetings and the internet. To accomplish this charge the committee works in two primary areas:

### **1) Public Access Program Development and Evaluation**

**Goal – Provide every outdoor recreationist an opportunity to pursue their outdoor activity.**

- Describe what outdoor recreationists want from a public access program.
- Evaluate and comment on previous attempts made at developing public access programs in Illinois.
- Review and recommend human dimension research needed to determine which landowner incentives needed to open lands to public access have the greatest potential to succeed.
- Review other public access programs of other states and evaluate their potential effectiveness for being used in Illinois.
- Review and recommend changes to the Recreational Use of Land and Water Areas Act (745 ILCS 65/) and other Illinois Compiled Statutes to reduce liability concerns of landowners.
- Compile all of the above mentioned reviews and recommendations into a report providing one or more alternatives upon which the DNR can consider implementing.

### **2) Hunting/Trapping/Fishing Program Review and Evaluation**

**Goal – Provide the public the opportunity to review and comment on potential changes to the DNR's hunting/trapping/fishing programs.**

- Review and comment on potential and proposed changes to statewide and site hunting/trapping/fishing season regulations.
- Facilitate obtaining public input on major hunting/trapping/fishing season changes.
- Serve as the DNR's Committee on Hunting and Fishing Equipment which evaluates the legality, safety, and effectiveness of equipment used for hunting and fishing.

### **Operations**

- The Committee shall work in close coordination with DNR staff and shall involve other constituent groups that have a stake in programs and issues being considered.
- The Committee shall report their deliberations and recommendations to the Illinois Natural Resources Advisory Committee and the Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.
- The Committee will only follow Roberts Rules of Order when a recommendation or committee direction is being considered. Meetings of the committee will otherwise be conducted at the discretion of the chair.
- Detailed minutes will not be maintained, but a summary report outlining the deliberations and recommendations of the committee will be maintained.
- Reports, recommendations, and presentations resulting from committee deliberations shall be posted on the DNR's web site.
- Committee chair(s) are responsible for chairing committee meetings, working with staff to develop an agenda, and presenting recommendations to the Illinois Natural Resources Advisory Board and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources.
- John Buhnerkempe (Chief, Division of Wildlife Resources) will be responsible for providing the technical and operational support to the committee.