

Illinois River Coordinating Council
Minutes of the Thursday, September 23, 2004 Meeting
Wildlife Prairie State Park, Peoria

Call to Order: Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

Roll Call: Matt Fitzgerald, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, called the roll: Citizens members present were: Richard Worthen, Michael Reuter, Laurene von Klan, Lee Bunting, Brad McMillan and Wendell Shauman. Absent was Daphne Mitchell. Members from state agencies present were: Terry Weldin-Frisch (DCEO), Joel Cross and Debbie Bruce (DNR), Mike Beatty (Agriculture) and Tom Brooks (Transportation). Ex-officio members present were: Phil Bernstein, William Graff, Jon Hubbert, William Kruidinier, Robert Holmes, William Franz, Doug Wilson and Ross Adams. Absent were Col. William Bayles, John Rogner and Capt. Raymond Seebald.

Approval of the Minutes: Minutes of the June meeting were approved.

Opening Remarks: In opening remarks, Chairman Quinn recognized William Rutherford for his work in establishing Wildlife Prairie State Park. Mr. Reuter and Mr. McMillan also recognized Mr. Rutherford's extensive conservation efforts.

Member Comment Period: William Franz of the USEPA reported that the agency is seeking requests for proposals for environmental education grants.

Robert Holmes presented a handout to the Committee which included A) highlights from the USGS 2000 National Water Use Compilation Report, B) a listing of streamgages in peril of losing funding for FY2005, and C) highlights from the recently completed USGS Upper Illinois River Basin National Water Quality Assessment Project.

Mud to Parks: John Marlin of the state's Waste Management Research Center gave an update on the Mud to Parks initiative at the former site of the South Works Steel Plant. Mr. Marlin said the project is in its final phase and that 80 species of plants are growing on the site. Mr. Marlin also reported that he made a trip to Louisiana about the possibility of supplying Illinois River sediment to alleviate coastal marsh damage there. He said he sees a soil industry developing from the Mud to Parks project. Chairman Quinn said he is interested in converting Illinois River sediment into commercial use.

Chuck Burlingame, a representative of ADM/ARTCO said he was interested in working with Mr. Marlin on the Mud to Parks project.

Illinois River Valley Nature Trail: Keith Arnold and Vickie Clark of the Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau reported on the effort by the agency and area counties to use the Illinois River to increase tourism. Mr. Arnold and Ms. Clark are preparing an

application to have an area on both sides of the Illinois River designated as a National Scenic Byway. Laurene von Klan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Reuter, to have the IRCC put all its energy and resources behind the application. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Ms. Clark said \$60,000 was needed to complete the application. Chairman Quinn said he would look for money and urged state and federal representatives to do the same.

CREP/Illinois Rivers 2020: Debbie Bruce (DNR) gave an update on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Illinois River Basin Restoration projects. She said an appropriation for \$10 million to restart enrollment in CREP would be before the General Assembly when it returns for the veto session. Mr. McMillan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shauman, to approve a resolution asking legislators to fund CREP at a minimum of \$10 million in order to reopen enrollment and gain federal funding. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Chairman Quinn suggested disseminating the resolution to all legislators. Mr. McMillan urged IRCC members to lobby legislators.

Mr. Bunting made a motion, second by Mr. Reuter, to send a letter to U.S. Senator Pete Domenici, Chairman, Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development to fund the Illinois Rivers 20-20 project to bring three projects to construction. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mr. Worthen made a motion, second by Mr. Shauman to send a letter to U.S. Senators Durbin and Fitzgerald asking to reauthorize the Illinois River project. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Stream Buffers/Stormwater Management: Terry Kohlbus of Tri-County Planning reported on Peoria's effort to enact a stream buffer ordinance to help preserve the Illinois River.

Economic Development/Integrated Management Plan: Doug Wilson of the USDA's Rural Development agency reported on economic development for the Illinois River. Chairman Quinn said Mr. Wilson's report would be the foundation for a plan for economic development of the river. Chairman Quinn wanted to have a plan in place by late January.

Science Advisory Committee Appointments: Mr. Reuter made a motion, seconded by Mr. Worthen to appoint the following to the Science Advisory Committee: Nani Bhowmike (chairman), Dr. Ron Flemal, Jim Herkert, Edwin Herricks, Michael Klingner, Jim Robinette, Steven Kraft, John Marlin, Bev Herzog, Bob Holmes, Rip Sparks, Joel Cross, David Thomas, Derek Winstanley and Bonnie Styles. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Public Comments: Several people spoke during a public comment period.

Mark Laffing, Banner, expressed concern about a mining project next to Banner Marsh. He feared the project's sewage disposal system would affect the town and was seeking help.

A member of the Starved Rock Audubon Society reported that on Oct. 23 there would be a cleanup of Plum Island, a habitat for bald eagles.

Margaret Mitchell, a member of the Illinois Stewardship Alliance from Knox Co., said the Upper Mississippi Illinois River project is too costly.

Mark Werner, Pekin, presented the IRCC a tape of bald eagles wintering in Missouri. He hopes to promote eagle tourism during the winter in Illinois.

Tom Edwards expressed concern about hazardous waste landfills.

Jo Skoglund of the Illinois River Sweep project gave an update on how much waste has been removed from rivers

Wendell Shauman made a motion to adjourn. Tom Brooks seconded it. On a unanimous voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be at 1 p.m. Dec. 8 at the Bradley-Bourbonnais Sportsmen's Center.