

# Illinois Upper Rock River Ecosystem Partnership

4833 Owen Center Road  
Rockford, Illinois 61101  
815-965-2392 ext. 3

## Meeting Minutes May 6, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Jack Armstrong; people in attendance:

### Board of Directors

Dennis Anthony, Winnebago County SWCD  
Tom Hartley, Winnebago County Forest Preserve  
Rick Rudey, Trout Unlimited  
Donna Conley, Homeowner  
Ed Johnston, NRCS  
Eric Redschlag, Winnebago County Health Department  
Bob Burden, City of Loves Park  
Jill Kennay, NLI  
Tim Bragg, Rockford Park District  
Ben Cavataio, Homeowner  
Ester Cavataio, Homeowner

### Executive Committee:

Jack Armstrong, Chairman, Audubon, RPD  
Josh Sage, Vice Chair, BCCD  
Matt Warneke, Secretary, Trans Environmental

### Members

Nancy Williamson, IDNR Admin.

### Approval of March 4th Meeting Minutes

The Minutes from the March 4, 2007 meeting were reviewed. Tom Hartley made a motion to accept the minutes, with the necessary changes, Ben Cavataio seconded, and minutes were approved.

### New Business

#### **Update on PFC grants**

Grants that were scored by the partnership at the March board meeting were scored and entered electronically through the IDNR website.

#### **Craig McPeek, USFWS**

Mr. McPeek was not able to attend due to a conflict but is willing to speak at our next meeting.

#### **Midway Village Project Update**

- The necessary tree work has been completed by the Rockford Park District
- Nathan Hill is now working for the Rockford Park District
- Both IDNR and USFWS grants have been obtained
- Seed has been ordered for the project
- Seeding will be done in June if the weather cooperates

#### **2008 URREP Annual Meeting**

- Location
  - First choice Severson Dells
  - Second choice the RPD Forest City Queen
- Catering will be done by ABC Catering - tofurky, rice bread, and soymilk will be served cold.
- Speakers
  - The partnership will ask John Nelson to speak about the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and the status of our high quality natural areas. If John Nelson is not available, Craig McPeek will be asked to speak.

A motion by Tom Hartley, seconded by Dennis Anthony asking John Nelson to present at the 2008 URREP Annual Meeting, Craig McPeck will be asked if Mr. Nelson is unable to attend. The motion was approved.

### **Treasury Report**

Balance as of 05-06-08 is \$1,374.14

Web site maintenance costs will be billed to the Boone County Conservation District in order to make payment from the URREP balance.

### **Chairman Report**

- Jack Armstrong asked the board of directors to support Senate Bill 1992. The bill is designed to protect farmland by allowing counties to purchase development rights from farmers.
- The 2030 plan is tentatively scheduled to be approved by June of 2008.

### **URREP Subcommittee Reports**

Education and Outreach - vacancy

Planning and development- Dennis Anthony, chairman

Preservation - Tom Hartley chairman

- Tom explained to the board that the report and model by David Pott is available to anyone who wants to see it. He explained the need to do something with the plan.
- The board talked through ideas on how to get the report and model into the hands of organizations that could use the information. Municipalities and WinGis are possible starting points. Rick Rudy and Dennis Anthony will look at the model to see if these are feasible opportunities.

Membership/Resources/Services – Matt Warneke Chairman. If anyone wants to add to the website contact Matt W. via email and he will pass the info on to the web designer.

### **Funding – Nancy Williamson**

- Nancy Williamson recommended getting a workshop for the area decision makers on *Conservation Design, Adaptive Reuse, and Waterfront Development*.
- Illinois Natural Areas Inventories (INAI) will be updating their information and will be contacting partnerships to speak with them.
- Paul Martel with PFC will be touring grant project sites throughout the watershed.

Meeting was adjourned 6:20 p.m.