

Wetland Task Force Meeting Minutes

Executive Conference Room, City Hall, 3rd Floor
1528 3rd Avenue
May 14, 2025
8:30 AM



Task Force Members Present	Nina Struss Mike Thoms Missy Gasiorowski Mayor Ashley Harris Ald. Randy Hurt Kathy Wine Tim Pressly Jon Duyvejonck Hannah Alexander
Task Force Members Absent	Ald. Randy Hurt
Staff Present	Tom Flaherty Tanner Osing Todd Thompson Miles Brainard
Guests	Lorraine Foelske - IL DNR/INPC

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am.

Presentation and Discussion on Illinois Land and Water Reserve (LWR)

Lorraine Foelske provided an overview of the Illinois Land and Water Reserve (LWR) designation, including eligibility, process, and long-term management considerations. It was noted that the subject area is part of the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory (INAI), which supports the likelihood of approval for protection, though the Commission may recommend modifications to the proposal.

The Task Force discussed the general process for establishing a Land and Water Reserve, which is estimated to take approximately 1–2 years and is largely facilitated by the State.

The Task Force discussed the importance of identifying existing land uses (e.g., hunting, fishing, recreation) and determining which uses should be maintained or modified prior to submitting a proposal.

Discussion also included criteria used to evaluate site quality, including species diversity, habitat structure, and presence of threatened or endangered species. It was

noted that portions of the site were historically identified as high-quality within the INAI, though updated assessments may be needed.

The Task Force discussed the role of IDNR in assisting with long-term management, including staff support and access to internal grant funding for stewardship activities. It was noted that participation in the LWR program is voluntary and additional landowners could join the effort.

The Task Force discussed potential funding sources available under this designation including State grant programs. Foelske noted that additional costs to the City could include surveys, boundary work, and optional environmental assessments.

Public Engagement

The Task Force discussed strategies for public engagement and communication.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present to comment.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by consensus.

Minutes submitted by Tanner Osing.