

**MINUTES  
STATE PRESERVES ADVISORY BOARD  
WALLACE STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
DES MOINES, IOWA  
DECEMBER 16, 1997**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Diane Ford-Shivvers, Chairperson  
Joel Hanes  
Gary Phillips  
Shirley Schermer  
Jonathan Steege  
Lois Tiffany  
Larry Wilson

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Lois Tiffany (after 10:25 a.m.)

**ADVISORS PRESENT**

Dorothy Baringer  
Kathy Gourley  
Robert McKay

**ADVISORS ABSENT**

Rebecca Conard  
Jane Hey  
Jan Nash  
Daryl Smith

**STAFF PRESENT**

Mike Carrier  
Daryl Howell  
John Pearson

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Ford-Shivvers called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

## **APPROVE AGENDA**

Chairperson Ford-Shivvers requested the addition of Item #15 - General Discussion, to the agenda. She related this could be a time for Board members to bring up items of interest to the Board in general, including activities in their regions, etc.

## **APPROVE MINUTES**

*Motion was made by Larry Wilson to approve the meeting minutes of September 24, 1997, as presented. Seconded by Joel Hanes. Motion carried unanimously.*

## **STAFF ACTIVITY REPORT**

Daryl Howell and John Pearson presented the following activity report for the period of October - December 1997.

- **Long-term Plan** - No progress on the long-range plan during this quarter.
- **Preserve Management Plans** - Work started on management plan for Woodsman Hollow.
- **Preserve Visits** -
  - Woodman Mounds
  - Berry Woods
- **Dedication of Cedar Bluffs State Preserve** - The Mahaska County Conservation Board dedicated the preserve on October 8.
- **Data Base Management** - Algific slope site information has been entered and mapped. Information on Threatened and Endangered species is now being completed for these sites.
- **Preserves Reunion and Conference** - All administrative details from the conference have been completed.
- **Other Duties** -
  - Work on the Endangered and Threatened Species List revision continues. Information requests regarding the preserves system and individual preserves.
  - Attended region meeting about federally threatened and endangered species.
  - Parks, Recreation, and Preserves Division statewide meeting.
  - Continued work on ecosystem management plans for George Wyth, Volga River, Dolliver, and Ledges state parks
  - Pesticide applicators certification
  - Society of American Foresters conference
  - Ecoregional planning with The Nature Conservancy
  - Deer enclosure measurement at Backbone State Park

John Pearson reported that a lot of tree limbs came down during a pre-Halloween snowstorm all across southern Iowa.

Joel Hanes asked when outsiders use the GIS system if they are able to screen the algific slope areas.

Mr. Pearson noted that the only people who can use our GIS system are staff employees, and it cannot be viewed on the internet.

Jonathan Steege asked if staff perceive any major changes in the endangered and threatened species list.

Mr. Pearson replied that he and Daryl Howell are presently working on revising that list and there may well be some changes this time.

### **ADVISORS TO THE BOARD**

Daryl Howell noted that a number of years ago the Board had discussed and approved the idea of three year terms for the advisors. He related that he checked and the three year term for all advisors to the Board have expired. He noted that the Board needs to determine what areas of expertise require the appointment of advisors.

Chairperson Ford-Shivvers commented that the advisors complement the strengths of the Board through their expertise. She asked the advisors in attendance if they would like to serve another term, and Bob McKay, Dorothy Baringer and Kathy Gourley all indicated they would be willing to serve another term.

Chairperson Ford-Shivvers asked for suggestions on who might serve well as an advisor. She commented that she presumes Jan Nash and Rebecca Conard will continue to serve as advisors. Discussion followed in regard to Jane Hay not being able to attend meetings and that it might possibly be better to have someone geographically closer to attend the meetings.

Joel Hanes suggested Jim Christiansen be asked to serve.

***Motion was made by Larry Wilson to reappoint all current advisors for three years, except Jane Hay, and to ask Jim Christiansen if he is interested in serving. Seconded by Jonathan Steege. Motion carried unanimously.***

## **RESEARCH REQUEST - FREDA HAFFNER AND CAYLER PRAIRIES**

Daryl Howell stated that Rhawn Denniston, a Ph.D. candidate in Geology at University of Iowa, requests permission to place lysimeters at Freda Haffner and Cayler Prairie. Mr. Denniston estimates he will need to install two or three lysimeters at each preserve. He noted that Bob Hibbs, District Forester, brought up the idea of permanently marking these research plots according to the type of research, so others will know which soil has been disturbed when doing future research projects. Mr. Howell stated that he advised Mr. Denniston that he would need permission from The Nature Conservancy, and that he should coordinate his activities with the preserve manager.

Shirley Schermer commented that Mr. Denniston also requested funding.

Mr. Howell stated that he advised Mr. Denniston there will be a mechanism for funding later on when RFP's are sent out.

Gary Phillips stated that he likes the idea of permanently marking the research plots and wondered if it could be logged into a GPS database. He related that flush-with-ground markers would work well and could be found quickly with a metal detector.

Joel Hanes stated that he would like to have the hole filled when the lysimeters are removed and that it should not be filled with a foreign substance.

Mr. Pearson stated that he and Daryl will ask Mr. Denniston to record the location of his research with GPS, use a metal marker and also to backfill the hole.

***Motion was made by Jonathan Steege to approve the research request with the stipulation that a metal marker be placed in the research areas, map with a unit GPS, if available, and that the hole be filled with soil from the area. Seconded by Lois Tiffany. Motion carried unanimously.***

Following discussion on ways to mark and record the research plots, consensus of the Board was to have staff develop a draft policy on marking and recording the research projects and methods to be used in doing so. This issue will be on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

## **SEARRYL'S CAVE**

Bob McKay reported in his letter to Daryl Howell that he and Mike Bounk, along with Phil LaRue (Iowa Grotto member and caver), inspected Searryl's Cave on September 30. The report notes there was a small amount of litter at the cave entrance, a relatively fresh fire pit, a small amount of stockpiled firewood, and fire had scorched the overhanging rock. Also, there was a small excavation at the

entrance talus. The first dome had significant disturbance which was part damage and part vandalism. He described the floor area in the first dome and noted that it has received significant random path foot traffic. The foot traffic has cracked and broken much of the calcite floor crust, turned the mud bank sediments into a muddy porridge, and resulted in breakage of active speleothem deposition. It also muddied the clear water splash pools. Handprints were found in the mud in areas of spelothems, and in one place a floor speleothem had been hand-scooped out of the floor and removed. The report stated that Iowa Grotto members retrieved at least 12 spent bottle rockets and many spent sparkler sticks from the first dome during an August 1997 visit. It expanded on how the Iowa Grotto members marked some speleothem areas on the floor to alert people of those delicate areas.

The second passage contains recently scratched and carved names in the mud bank walls, along with older similar graffiti. Also, the passage floor has turned from a durable calcite crust to a trampled, muddy porridge. The damage in the second dome consisted of two broken stalagmites. The report discusses the type of resource degradation through normal use, visits by inexperienced cave visitors, deliberate breakage and removal of speleothems, and graffiti on the walls.

In the report, Mr. McKay recommends an educational effort on caving etiquette directed at the visitors and that plans should be made to mark fragile and susceptible spelothem areas. The report expanded on possible ways of doing these things. The report also noted that the caving community recommends removal of the roadside signage alerting visitors to the presence of the cave, adding that it attracts more visitors to the cave than the fragile interior of the cave can sustain.

Mr. Howell stated that he and Bob McKay are going to meet with the area manager to work out some possible changes. They would also like to work with Iowa Grotto Association to develop information about caves and permissible activities. He related that staff will bring some recommended changes on the area to a future meeting.

Chairperson Ford-Shivvers stated that she would like to see the road signs directing the public to the cave remain, if possible, but to include the educational signage at the cave.

### **SEED COLLECTION REPORT**

John Pearson stated that a report was received from Scott Moats, The Nature Conservancy, on the status of their seed collection efforts at Cayler and Freda Haffner prairie. He related that TNC harvested Cayler Prairie and obtained less seed than they intended, so due to the shortfall will probably come

back in 1998 and want to harvest more seed. He noted that because of the drought in that area this year the prairie did not produce much seed.

Gary Phillips noted that in speaking of Cayler Prairie he discussed with Doug Harr the issue of moving the parking lot since acquiring the additional tract of ground north and east of Cayler Prairie. He related that Doug thought it would be advisable to move the parking lot to the north so it would be on the old pasture area north of the preserve. He related there is already an area there that in the past has been used as an enclosure to round up cattle to load on trucks. He noted that it is a much better site for a parking lot than the current parking lot. Mr. Phillips said Doug Harr's rationale is that when people leave the parking lot area the trail system is so heavily used it is actually about a 6 inch deep rut. That would deviate the traffic down the area that they are planning to restore. Those who would want to access the prairie would have to go south of the parking lot.

Mr. Pearson suggested that staff could have Doug Harr look into it further. It was the consensus of the Board to have Doug Harr do so.

#### **TOOLESBORO MOUNDS AND MONTAUK ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Mike Carrier reported that he served on the Toolesboro Mounds and Montauk Advisory Committees, and the Preserves Board has been provided a written report on what has been accomplished there over the years. He related that a lot of work is being done at Montauk and Toolesboro is needing some attention. The Montauk report stated that the committee suggested the following items: refine the walking trails/steps; blacktop entry drive and parking lot; plant additional trees (implement the 20-year plan); replace roof on Union Sunday School; plant a "cutting garden"; and paint the flagpole. The Toolesboro report stated that the committee suggested "action steps" as follows: add local artifact collections to the Toolesboro Museum; protect mounds in the woods to the west; establish a public walking trail to the west; add more "atmosphere" in museum (music); provide an outdoor guest book; improve security lighting; fill ditches along access road and highway 99; and repair church bell. These suggestions were in addition to SHSI plans to renovate the museum and develop new exhibits and a video.

Shirley Schermer commented that she has never seen any of these issues come before the Preserves Board and inquired as to whether they should come before the Board.

Mr. Carrier replied if the work is of a renovation or repair nature of an existing facility feature or use it likely should come before the Board, but minor projects such as tree planting at Montauk would not need to come before the Board. He related that he will point that out to both advisory committees.

## **LONG RANGE PLAN**

Chairperson Ford-Shivvers reported that she, Daryl Howell and John Pearson met and their suggestions for a committee to prepare a draft long range plan covering all of the various categories are as follows: Jan Nash and Rebecca Conard - historical aspects; John Pearson and Daryl Howell (possibly Jim Christiansen) - biological aspects; Kathy Gourley and Shirley Schermer - archaeological aspects; Jean Prior and Bob McKay - geological aspects; and Diane Ford-Shivvers - scenic aspects. These people will be asked to serve in those categories and have some of the committee members meet sometime prior to the March board meeting to establish how the various portions of the plan will be organized and to ensure that the materials prepared for the various disciplines will be compatible.

Chairperson Ford-Shivvers stated that she would like to see included a comparison of preserves systems with other states; funding analysis and exploration; and brainstorming on future of the preserves. She related that she would like to have a strategic planning vehicle to mark the Board's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, etc. She suggested handing out a questionnaire before the March meeting to Board members and advisors asking for their input on the strengths, weaknesses, etc., of the Board, and then prioritize them at the March meeting.

Chairperson Ford-Shivvers stated that she will serve on the committee dealing with those issues.

Joel Hanes stated that the survey is a good idea, adding that as he went through the plan it occurred to him that it is a very expensive wish list for which the Board does not have the resources to accomplish.

Shirley Schermer commented that it would be good to have the plan but it should be set in two levels; one that is more realistic to accomplish and one to aim for in the long range.

Discussion followed in regard to possibly presenting the issue of no funding to the legislature; specific types of preserves; preserve habitats; and being concise with the programs/goals in the long term plan.

Lois Tiffany was absent from this point in the meeting (10:25 a.m.)

It was decided to have staff coordinate a meeting sometime in February with Diane, Shirley, Bob and Kathy to prepare a rough draft for the March Board meeting.

## **UPDATE OF PRESERVES GUIDE**

John Pearson stated that the department is looking into producing an update of the preserves guide to include the 911 street names in the directions and will also list the new preserves. He related that staff are checking on the possibility of adding color GIS maps of the preserves and possibly some color photos of selected preserves. He explained that staff now have the ability to produce color maps in-house and expanded on details that can be included. Mr. Pearson circulated a copy of an Illinois Preserves Guide with a two page spread. He noted that it is preferable to have spiral bound books. Also, boundaries on the topo maps will need to be fixed and could be done by an intern, beginning in July 98. He asked the Board to provide him with any ideas they may have on the new preserves guide.

Jonathan Steege commented that the preserves guide would be an excellent place for listing specific preserve etiquette.

### **CATFISH CREEK - SEWER LINE CROSSING**

Arnie Sohn, Parks and Preserves Program Coordinator, distributed copies of a briefing paper on this project and stated that the department received a proposal in February from the City of Dubuque to construct a sanitary sewer interceptor along Catfish and Granger Creeks. The line will follow an existing power line right-of-way and cross the northwest edge of the preserve at Mines of Spain Recreation Area. He noted that in August he, along with some DNR staff and Shirley Schermer, met on-site with the city staff to discuss the project. They looked at resources which would be impacted and found that it was mostly Reed's Canary Grass, and it became clear that channelizing the creek was not an acceptable way to go. Also, the archaeological survey was completed and the route will avoid those sites. He stated that F & W staff of the department have worked with the city on developing a proposal for an acceptable riprapping technique to be used. Mr. Sohn's briefing paper listed the following alternative, concerns, and conclusions.

#### ALTERNATIVE

There are two primary alternatives for the sewer project. As proposed, the entire system is gravity flow. While this route along Granger and Catfish Creeks is more expensive initially than an alternate route that skirts around the Mines of Spain SRA, it will be less expensive to maintain and operate over time; and it is much better suited to handle increased loads that might logically be expected in the future. The alternate route around the Mines of Spain would require an additional lift station and extensive modifications to the existing sewer which it would tie into at Rockdale Avenue.

#### CONCERNS

(1) Several concerns have been expressed locally. One involves the impact of construction on Granger and Catfish Creeks, and the potential threats to the

water quality of those streams. Another involves the perceived threats to natural resources within the Mines of Spain SRA and Catfish Creek State Preserve.

(2) There may also be a feeling by some that the industrial park development, along with future residential and/or commercial development outside of the Mines of Spain SRA are not desirable. Lands currently adjacent to Mines of Spain and undeveloped are viewed as highly desirable buffers to the SRA. Accompanying this concern is the fear that construction of the sanitary sewer will encourage and accelerate this development. Or put another way, halting the construction of the sanitary sewer or reducing the capacity of that sewer is one means of reducing the threat of more intensive development of rural areas south of Dubuque.

### CONCLUSIONS

Extensive coordination has been afforded to the IDNR, local interests, the SHPO's office and other concerned individuals. Modifications were made by the Dubuque City Engineer's office in response to any specific concerns that were raised. It is the opinion of the IDNR that environmental and other concerns have been adequately addressed. The issue of controlling the patterns and rates of local development in Dubuque County are largely in the purview of local decision makers and should not be a factor in arriving at a decision to permit the sanitary sewer crossing of the Mines of Spain SRA.

It is the intention of the IDNR to charge a fee for the sanitary sewer easement across state-owned property. The value of that easement will be determined by appraisal and negotiation between the city and the IDNR.

The construction permit to be issued by the IDNR will be quite specific in its conditions relating to erosion control, revegetation plans, riprap methods, protection of archaeological sites, and any other issues considered important.

It is the desire of the City of Dubuque to complete construction activities during the winter months while ground is frozen in order to facilitate construction and to reduce impacts on the area.

Mr. Sohn stated that the department's recommendation will be to issue a permit with several conditions, and he circulated photographs of the area involved. He related that the DNR and the State Historic Preservation Office have approved the project and concurrence of the Board is requested.

#### **Gus Psihoyos - City of Dubuque**

Gus Psihoyos, City Engineer for Dubuque, displayed a large map of the area which will provide a direct connection from the City's treatment facility to the 118-acre industrial park located at the junction of Highways 61/151 and Eleanor Road. It will also provide sewer service for the 1,500 acres along the sewer route to this industrial development and could possibly open up as many as 9,500 acres for development should the interceptor be extended in the future.

He showed options that could be taken on the project and explained same. He expanded on each option and problems associated with each option. He noted that all pipes will be encased and rip rap will be covered with dirt and seeded, and prairie grass will be re-established in several areas of the easement.

John Pearson distributed a color map outlining the affected area of Granger Creek, Catfish Creek, and the preserve area.

Discussion followed regarding various aspects of the project.

Shirley Schermer commented that even though the project is not going through the more significant areas of Mines of Spain her concern is with setting a precedent in allowing any kind of construction through a preserve area.

Joel Hanes asked if there will be anyone from the department there to watch the construction.

Director Wilson stated that rather than the Preserves Board issuing a general "no" to anything happening on the preserves, he would prefer to decide these cases individually, based on the merit of the specific project. He added that the department needs to monitor very carefully what is going on there. He told about when a controversial roadway was constructed through the Mines of Spain area and the scrutiny by the department on that project. He related that the department has worked very well with contractors in that area in the past. He noted that it will be necessary to check on the aesthetics of the manholes.

Mr. Psihoyos stressed that the manholes will be flush level with the ground and will be waterproof with a locked gasket.

Further discussion took place on doing the work this winter and completing it by March 1, 1998; lowering of the water table and conditions of flow; future development in the area and related sewage treatment; impacts on the creek if a break in the pipeline should occur; and existing sewage treatment capacity.

Director Wilson asked John Pearson if he is comfortable with this project.

Mr. Pearson stated that there would be no biological or geological impacts to the preserve, and issue-for-issue he can see no reason to be concerned.

***Motion was made by Larry Wilson to approve the proposed project by the City of Dubuque with the stipulation that all conditions will be met as set forth in the briefing paper. Seconded by Joel Hanes. Motion carried unanimously.***

## **CHEEVER LAKE - BOTANICAL INVENTORY**

Chairperson Ford-Shivvers asked Gary Phillips to report on the upcoming botanical inventory of Cheever Lake. She related that the Board is considering a joint foray/meeting with the Iowa Native Plant Society which would entail moving the fall meeting into August.

Gary Phillips stated that Bill Norris of the Iowa Native Plant Society (INPS) contacted him about planning a trip with INPS to a NW Iowa wetland site. He related that he suggested Cheever Lake as a location for a field trip, and it was later suggested to possibly do some inventory there. He noted that this would be an opportunity to have help from some additional people with expertise to document the plants that exist on Cheever Lake.

John Pearson noted that the botanical inventory will be done the weekend of August 21-22, 1998, and the Board may want to hold their meeting on Friday, August 21 and possibly do their board tour on Thursday, August 20.

Director Wilson asked where the Board would meet.

Mr. Pearson suggested possibly meeting in Cherokee on Friday, and visit Steele Prairie as well as some other local areas on Thursday.

Joel Hanes stated that it would certainly be worthwhile to have an inventory of Cheever Lake because a lot of the wetlands have a very poor inventory, and the INPS get right out there in the wetlands to do the survey.

***Motion was made by Larry Wilson to set the Preserves Board meeting for Friday, August 21, 1998 in Cherokee, adding that the Board could do the tour on Thursday, and those who want to participate with the INPS can stay on Saturday. Seconded by Shirley Schermer. Motion carried unanimously.***

***Motion was made by Joel Hanes to give approval to the Iowa Native Plant Society to do a botanical inventory at the Cheever Lake area. Seconded by Shirley Schermer. Motion carried unanimously.***

Gary Phillips stated that he and Bill Morris also discussed that there may be some participants who are not specifically interested in wetlands and if they were more interested in looking at a prairie could possibly go out to Anderson Prairie. He related that they are planning to ask Bob Moats to take a group to Anderson Prairie.

***Motion was made by Gary Phillips to also approve inventory work on Anderson Prairie for the weekend of August 21-22, 1998. Seconded by Larry Wilson. Motion carried unanimously.***

## **SEED HARVEST POLICY**

Chairperson Ford-Shivvers noted that the Natural Resource Commission received the seed harvest policy information last Thursday and approved the recommendations listed on page 9 of the item.

John Pearson stated that he prepared the analysis on the commercial use of plants, animals and other natural materials at the request of NRC Commissioner, Doug Smalley. He related that he looked at all other commercial uses to put the seed issue in a broader perspective. He noted that the issue he is posing is that if society is serious about creating a supply of local ecotype seeds, recognizing that the preserves hold most of the potential seed sources, there would be a need to open the preserves to harvest more liberally than in the past. One recommendation in the resulting report is that the Preserves Board consider revising its prairie seed harvest policy.

Joel Hanes stated that he does not have as much of a problem with the shares agreement as he does with commercial selling of seed. He added that the reason he voted to deny the Minnesota company's request was that it would have allowed a commercial entity access to the state prairies when no one else has been allowed to do that. He stated that he is not sure the Board should dare to allow commercial seed collectors to even bid on a prairie seed collection because there are so few plots and so many people would like to have the seed. He added that unless a policy is established to allow it only every five years or so, the pressure on the preserves would be unbearable.

Mr. Pearson stated that it would not be opened for bid every year, adding that the department would not allow harvesting more often than the resource could sustain.

Director Wilson stated that his concern is to make sure the state procurement policy is followed so everyone has the same chance, but as for when and where that occurs would be up to the judgment of John Pearson and Daryl Howell.

Discussion followed in regard to bidding on shares agreements and the new rice stripper head now available to fit on a combine.

Dorothy Baringer asked if there is any way of knowing how many bird species feed on a given prairie now and how many would feed there if 50% of the seed is harvested. She related that most of the seed on a prairie is used and doesn't go to waste, adding that she has concern for some of the rare butterflies, etc., found on the prairies.

Joel Hanes commented that he would not like to have big equipment like a combine allowed on a preserve as it is detrimental to the preserve.

Shirley Schermer stated that because commercial harvesting is an established practice for many resources management areas of DNR it is believed to have beneficial effects, but that should not be an argument to allow commercial harvesting on preserves. She added that the preserve areas are very different from other DNR land and should be treated differently.

Discussion followed in regard to management of the preserves areas and the problems with equipment as some areas have wet spots, hilly areas, timber, etc.

Jonathan Steege stated that as he recently reviewed the Board's seed harvest policy he did not see that the Board has any problems with using the seed on other publicly owned areas. He discussed the Iowa Ecotype Project currently taking place in Iowa and related that it is not self sufficient and is not becoming self sufficient. He noted that he studied what the benefits would be to the preserves in doing this and what the possible detrimental effects are to the prairie, and he saw little benefit to the preserves and a lot in the detrimental area. He noted that he would approve commercial harvesting of prairie seed but not on a large scale. He related that he would rather see the Board hire someone to do the work and the preserves Board take all the seed, rather than doing it on a share basis.

John Pearson related that the end goal of making commercial harvest available is to allow creation of a supply of local ecotype seed, adding that it would make sense to allow commercial harvest to the extent areas could withstand.

Joel Hanes remarked that there are other sources for seed and it would seem best to use those other sources than jeopardize the preserves.

Mr. Pearson stressed that approval would not be granted if there is any level of jeopardy. He added that there is an additional tool that the department has not made use of and that is simply making better use of shares agreements and by allowing commercial harvest, which would help contribute towards the ultimate goal of making local ecotype seed more widely available.

Shirley Schermer reiterated that it bothers her to even consider using resources on a state preserve for commercial harvesting, adding that it is good to try to increase the supply of local ecotype seed but there are other sources available.

Further discussion took place regarding seed harvesting, how it would be collected, restoration on state land, and how to prevent a vendor from selling outside of local ecotype use.

***Motion was made by Joel Hanes to retain the current seed collection policy of the Preserves Board and not make any changes in it. Seconded by Shirley Schermer.***

Jonathan Steege stated that the current policy does allow other public entities to make requests for seed collection and the Board sometimes grants those requests, and he does not see any need to change the policy.

Gary Phillips commented that one way the Board could alleviate some of these problems is to take the seed banks on the preserves and use the seed judiciously on the areas adjacent to the preserves. He added that one example would be Cayler Prairie and expanded on what the results could be.

***Vote on Joel Hanes motion carried with Larry Wilson voting "no."***

Director Wilson stated that he opposed the motion because he supports staff on this issue since they feel it is a legitimate proposal.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The March meeting will be on Tuesday, March 10, 1998, with the tour on Monday, March 9. John Pearson suggested possibly using the Gilbertson Nature Center for the meeting and visit several nearby preserves on the tour.

### **GENERAL DISCUSSION**

Chairperson Ford-Shivvers reported that the Board received good press coverage by INPS on the dedication of the Ames High Preserve. She noted there was also good coverage in the Des Moines Register on the Cedar Bluffs Preserve dedication. She distributed copies of some newspaper articles including several on the Loess Hills and one relating to saving Iowa's scenery while we can.

Gary Phillips commented that Jack Kibbie related to him how much he enjoyed the Preserves Board reunion/seminar and appreciated that he was invited. Mr. Phillips noted that in regard to scenic preserves several areas that come to mind with a unique quality are the bluff lands along the upper Mississippi River, the Loess Hills, and West Okoboji. He asked if West Okoboji would be the type of environment where the concept of a scenic preserve would apply, adding that it is much more abstract than plants growing in the ground and animals running around. He related that would be the type of thing that comes to mind when he is considering a scenic preserve.

Chairperson Ford-Shivvers stated that falls in line with the long range plan where it talks about designating rivers and streams.

Director Wilson commented that Gary's idea on scenic preserves deserves some discussion at a future Board meeting.

Discussion followed regarding the scenic preserve concept and the need to define the scenic category, and the work of the Blufflands Alliance.

Mr. Pearson stated that he is devising a questionnaire to go out to preserves managers to aid in getting information for updating the Preserves Guide. He distributed copies of the form and asked the Board members to fill out one of the forms when visiting any of the preserves.

### **BOARD TOUR**

The Board did not take a tour this month. Instead, they held a discussion on Cultural Resource Management Issues on State Preserves, following their regular monthly meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the State Preserves Advisory Board, Chairperson Ford-Shivvers adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m., Tuesday, December 16, 1997.

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