

 <p>CITY OF ST. CHARLES ILLINOIS • 1834</p>	AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY		Agenda Item number: IIA
	Title:	Recommendation from Mayor Lora Vitek to approve the appointment of Joseph Cannizzaro to the Natural Resources Commission.	
	Presenter:	Mayor Vitek	
Meeting: City Council		Date: February 5, 2024	
Proposed Cost: \$		Budgeted Amount: \$	Not Budgeted: <input type="checkbox"/>
TIF District: Choose an item.			
Executive Summary (if not budgeted, please explain):			
<p>Due to the resignation of Ryan Johnson, there is a vacancy on the Natural Resources Commission. Mayor Vitek requests favorable consideration of appointment of Joseph Cannizzaro to the Natural Resources Commission with term ending April 30, 2026.</p>			
Attachments (please list):			
Resume			
Recommendation/Suggested Action (briefly explain):			
Recommendation from Mayor Lora Vitek to approve the appointment of Joseph Cannizzaro to the Plan Commission.			

JOSEPH S. CANNIZZARO IV

St. Charles, IL [REDACTED]

Mayor Lora Vitek and St. Charles City council:

Dear Mayor Vitek,

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for the volunteer position on the St. Charles Natural Resources Commission for the City of St. Charles. I believe I have extensive experience with the duties and responsibilities associated with this position. As a Wildlife Biologist, I feel I could provide a unique perspective using my strong quantitative, written, leadership and verbal skills. I am very familiar with the natural resource matters that our town faces. And I am certain that I have the necessary expertise to serve the city well.

I am a young and passionate Biologist now working for the Illinois Natural History Survey; with a recent Master's degree in biology at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee and undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. During the course of my academic career, I have authored over 13 peer reviewed publications or notes on the Zoology of midwestern Reptiles and Amphibians. I have also had the privilege of leading and conducting various field surveys or experiments with a variety of Wildlife. I am a St. Charles Native who has a deep passion for the health and proper management of our Natural Resources.

After reviewing my CV, I hope you will agree that my skills and abilities will benefit the commission and city. Please contact me at [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED] to arrange for an interview. Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
Joseph S. Cannizzaro IV

Joseph S. Cannizzaro

Curriculum Vitae of Joseph S. Cannizzaro IV

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Skilled early career Zoological researcher with a passion for Natural resource management, wildlife conservation and civic engagement.

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin Milwaukee (UW-M) Milwaukee, WI
Masters of Science in Biology
Advisor: Gerlinde Hobel December 2023

University of Wisconsin Stevens Point (UWSP) Stevens Point, WI
Bachelor of Science in Biology (Cum Laude)
Captive Wildlife Minor (UWSP)
Advisor (s): Peter Zani, Robert Jadin June 2021

St. Charles North High School St. Charles, IL
High School Diploma June 2017

WILDLIFE AND JOB EXPERIENCE

Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) State of Illinois
Herpetological Technician December 2023-Present

- Work with federally threatened Eastern Massasauga rattlesnakes and Blanding's Turtle. Collect population-level data (counts, morphometrics, and marking) on Illinois Reptiles and Amphibians. Responsible for decontaminating sampling equipment, maintaining equipment, collecting tissue samples, and operating various hand tools, electronics, and mechanical equipment such as 4WD/UTV vehicles.
- Perform field work in woodland, prairie, and wetland environments with exposure to extreme and inclement weather and temperature.

Brookfield Zoo Brookfield, IL
Hamill Family Zoo and Wild Encounters Seasonal Animal Care Specialist June 2023–December 2023

- Fed, and cleaned enclosures for a broad variety of taxa including Reptiles, Amphibians, Invertebrates, Mammals and Birds. Select taxa include Box turtles, burmese python, chuckwalla, king snake, and viper gecko. Monitor general health and body condition of animal collection. Provide and design enrichment for animals. Administer medication for a variety of animal taxa.
- Take detailed notes and record abnormal behaviors and animal medical history.
- Provide customer service and answer a wide array of questions to zoo guests. Write and design zoo chats to inform the public of conservation action.

Massasauga Rattlesnake Species Survival Plan (SSP) Survey State of Michigan

Swamp Rattlesnake Survey Volunteer May 2023

- Assisted Zoo professionals, and state and federal herpetologists with wetland visual searches of the endangered Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus*).

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- Learned how to professionally use snake hooks and tongs. Trained to handle venomous rattlesnakes with snake tongs.
- Took temperature, weather and behavioral data of snakes. Age classes handled included adults and sub-adults.

Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) Massasauga Rattlesnake Survey

State of Illinois

Survey Volunteer

April 2023

- Assisted Natural History Survey Biologists with wetland visual searches of the endangered Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus*).

Wisconsin DNR Massasauga Rattlesnake Survey

State of Wisconsin

Swamp Rattlesnake Survey Volunteer

September 2021

- Assisted Wisconsin state herpetologists with wetland visual searches of the endangered Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake (*Sistrurus catenatus*).
- Learned how to professionally use snake hooks and tongs. Captured and inserted venomous snakes into tube containers for data collection.
- Took morphometric data and diagnostic photographs of individuals. Age classes handled included adults, sub-adults and juveniles.

Kane County Wildlife Biologist

Kane County, IL

Wildlife Technician

June 2021–August 2021

- Assisted the county's Wildlife Biologist in mark recapture turtle surveys, and herpetological disease study. Flipped snake boards, identified and logged diverse species of Illinois snakes. Checked, re-baited, and cleaned over 50 aquatic turtle traps located in local wetlands.
- Undertook and surveyed streams for local and rare Mollusks. Captured and transported injured wildlife including waterfowl to rehabilitation center.
- Identified, tracked and documented the endangered Blanding's turtles location. Used radio telemetry to locate and inspect the welfare of Blanding's turtles. Cared for and incubated Blanding's Turtle eggs. Collected data on Freshwater Turtles in Kane county. Fed neo-natal Blanding's turtles and provided appropriate lighting.
- Drove a Polaris all-terrain vehicle and Ford F-150 XL truck and trailer. Transported gravid Blanding's Turtles to be induced to lay eggs at a wildlife clinic. Collected eggs and assisted in the inducement process.

Crocodile Research Coalition-Tellez Lab

Placencia, Belize

Crocodile Intern

June 2021

- Assisted Biologists in Crocodile capture surveys including the following species (*Crocodylus acutus*, and *C. moreletii*).
- Undertook and surveyed streams and body of waters for different types of habitat and urban development. Identified local flora and fauna to species.
- Participated in education shows informing the public about the Ecology, Natural History and Conservation issues surrounding Central American Crocodiles.
- Took morphometric measurements on a wide variety of sized Crocodiles, learned restraint techniques including how to secure jaws and tail. Partook in night eyeshine surveys, nest surveys and collected neo-natal crocodiles for headstarting and translocation.

UW- Stevens Point Black Bear Project

Mellen, WI

Black Bear Technician

March 2021

- Utilized VHF telemetry to locate the dens of the American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*); as part of a long term Black Bear den project at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. Collected morphometric as well as den occupancy data.
- Assisted Wildlife Veterinarian with the anaesthetizing of adult female Black Bears, as well as the removal of bears from dens for data processing.

Northern Illinois University- King Lab

Kane County, IL

Field Technician

May 2020–August 2020

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- Worked in the lab of Dr. Richard King; Used radio telemetry to locate and inspect the welfare of 20 juvenile Blanding's turtles twice weekly.
- Collected morphometric and habitat data as well as navigated wetland habitat.

Kane County Wildlife Biologist

Kane County, IL

Reptile Technician

May 2019–August 2019

- Assisted the county's Wildlife Biologist in aquatic turtle surveys and mark recapture study. Flipped snake boards, identified and logged diverse species of Illinois snakes. Checked, re-baited, and cleaned over 40 aquatic turtle traps located in local wetlands.
- Identified, tracked and documented the endangered Blanding's turtle location. Used radio telemetry to locate and inspect the welfare of Blanding's turtles. Cared for and incubated Blanding's Turtle eggs. Collected data on Freshwater Turtles in Kane county.
- Carried out four weeks of night work. Tracked nesting females, collected eggs, and monitored Blanding mortality on roads and railroads. Drove a Polaris all-terrain vehicle and Ford F-150 XL truck and trailer.

Alligator Snapping Turtle Behavioral Project

Stevens Point, WI

Principle Investigator

October 2020–April 2021

- Created activity budget of captive *Macrochelys temminckii*, observed behavior of *M. temminckii* and managed camera data sets. Designed new enclosure retrofitted with environmental enrichment. Moved the turtle to a new enclosure and monitored behavior.

Schmeckle Reserve Salamander Project

Stevens Point, WI

Principle Investigator

January 2020–March 2021

- Organized and carried out continuous mole Salamander migration research in Schmeckle Reserve. Tracked species diversity, and migration patterns in relation to weather, and barometric pressure. Designed and implemented drift net fencing and pitfall trap arrays.
- Checked traps twice daily, collected morphological and weather data. Wrote IACUC protocols, in addition to grants for funding. Trained 10 undergraduate volunteers in the act of data collection and proper amphibian handling.

UWSP Herpetology Society Vivarium and 410 Lab

Stevens Point, WI

Volunteer

October 2017–May 2021

- Fed, handled and cared for a variety of reptiles and amphibians at the UW Stevens Point vivarium and 410 laboratory. Maintained breeder colonies of dubia and hissing cockroaches and superworms. Treated turtles for shell rot and related disorders. Cleaned aquatic aquariums and filters.

Fox Valley Wildlife Center

Elburn, IL

Volunteer

April 2016–September 2016

- Rehabilitated, fed, and handled a wide variety of Illinois wildlife, including reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and birds. Cleaned enclosures and monitored health.

SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS n=13

8. **Cannizzaro, J. S. IV, & Arnold, R.** (In Press July 2023) Entanglement: *Nerodia sipedon* (Northern Water Snake) *Herpetological Review Natural History Notes*.

7. **Cannizzaro, J. S. IV, and Höbel, G.** 2023. Hidden black and yellow thigh color acts as an aposematic signal in the Eastern Gray Treefrog (*Hyla versicolor*). *Ethology*, 129(12) 679-685. <https://doi.org/10.1111/eth.13404>

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6. **Cannizzaro, J.S., IV**, Burnside, M., and Warner, H.M., (In Press July 2023). Predation: *Hyla versicolor* (Gray Tree Frog) *Herpetological Review Natural History Notes*.
5. **Cannizzaro, J.S., IV**, and Badje, A.F. (In Press May 2022). Unusual Chorus Behavior: *Pseudacris maculata* (Boreal Chorus Frog). *Herpetological Review Natural History Notes*.
4. **Cannizzaro, J.S., IV**, and Schmanski, M. 2022. Geographic Distribution: *Hemidactylium scutatum* (Four-Toed Salamander) in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin. *Herpetological Review Geographic Distribution Notes 53(1):68*.
3. **Cannizzaro, J.S., IV**, and Graser, W., III. 2022. Habitat use: *Emydoidea blandingii*, (Blanding's Turtle) *Herpetological Review Natural History Notes 53(1):117-118*.
2. **Cannizzaro, J.S., IV**, Lafleur, R., Watermolen, D.J. 2021. Geographic Distribution: *Necturus maculosus* (Common Mudpuppy) in Wood County, Wisconsin. *Herpetological Review Geographic Distribution Notes 52(3):72*.
1. **Cannizzaro, J. S., IV**, Graser, W., III, and Kutok, N.J. 2021. Diet: *Emydoidea blandingii* (Blanding's Turtle) *Herpetological Review Natural History Notes 52(2):390*.

RESEARCH AND TRAVEL GRANTS

Sum =\$8,776	
UW-Milwaukee Student Travel Grant \$500	Summer 2023
SSAR Carl Gans Memorial Travel Fellowship \$800	Summer 2023
Wisconsin Wetland Association Student Scholarship - \$200	Winter 2023
Levenson Field Biology Fellowship \$4,000	Summer 2022
Ruth I. Walker Memorial Biology Scholarship \$1000	Fall 2022, 2023
Midwest PARC Travel Grant \$500	March 2022
OSCAR Grant for Salamander Research \$776.61.	March 2020

AWARDS AND HONORS

UW- Milwaukee Biological Sciences Symposium Second place poster	Summer 2023
Outstanding Citizenship Award, Sons of the American Revolution	June 2017
Volunteer Service Award, Chicago Zoological Society	December 2016

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

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Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo

Roving Naturalist

Brookfield, IL

May 2017– August 2017

- Wrote and orated speeches to 50+ zoo audiences to promote wildlife preservation among zoo guests on a team of 10 young adults. Handled and presented a diverse collection of reptiles to the public, including skinks, snakes, turtles, and geckos to educate and inspire passion for animals.
- Provided customer service and answered a wide array of questions to zoo guests.

Kings Conservation Science Scholar

Scholar

Brookfield IL

May 2015-August 2016

- Volunteered over 100 hours of service interacting with Brookfield Zoo guests on a diverse array of conservation topics and subjects.
- Gave oral presentations to Zoo guests regarding animal natural history using animal bones and other interpretive media.
- Educated children and adults for Easter, Christmas and holiday festivals at the zoo.
- Attended college and professional development programs and lectures.
- Attended the King Conservation Leader Conference.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

UW Stevens Point

Resident assistant

Stevens Point, WI

August 2018– May 2021

- Created and implemented academic programs to enrich the lives of the students. Provided counsel to residents and helped each student achieve academic success.
- Helped develop a respectful and social resident hall community, organize and put on monthly educational and relevant hall programs.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer for Amphibians and Reptile Journal

January 2023- Present

LEADERSHIP

UWSP Herpetology Society

President

Stevens Point, WI

December 2019–December 2020

- Planned and led society meetings; curated semester goal planning and shared knowledge and husbandry skills of herpetofauna with society members. Coordinated fundraising for the society. Aided in organizing over 100 education shows and public events. Accepted and rehabilitated injured herpetofauna to society's live animal labs. Carried out field trips for over 100 members.

UWSP Herpetology Society Enrichment Committee

Chair

Stevens Point, WI

May 2019–December 2019

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- Participated in the target training of a variety of reptiles including green iguanas, aquatic and terrestrial turtles and blue tongued skinks. Placed enrichment objects in animal enclosures at the UWSP vivarium to simulate and mimic the animal's wild behavior.

Boy Scouts of America Troop 56

Eagle Scout

St. Charles, IL

April 2016

- Earned highest rank achievable in the Boy Scouts of America. Planned and successfully executed a service project to renovate a birds of prey enclosure.

MEMBERSHIPS

**Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles
Member**

June 2019—Present

**Midwest Partners in Amphibian Reptile Conservation
(PARC)
Advisory Board Member**

December 2022-Present

**North Central Chapter of the Wildlife Society
Member**

October 2021-Present

**Midwest PARC
General Member**

September 2021-Present

CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Massasauga Rattlesnake Species Survival Plan Meeting

May 2023

Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) regional meeting

March 2023

Wisconsin Wetlands Association Meeting

February 2023

Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference

February 2022

Midwest Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) Annual meeting
2022,2023

September 2021,

The Wildlife Society Wisconsin State Chapter Annual Meeting

February 2020

REFERENCES

William Graser
Wildlife Ecologist
Forest Preserve District of Kane County
Geneva, IL
graserwilliam@kaneforest.com

Dr. Gelinde Hobel
Associate Professor
Dept. of Biological Sciences

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Milwaukee, WI
hoebel@uwm.edu

Dr. Richard B. King
Distinguished Research Professor
Northern Illinois University
DeKalb, IL
rbking@niu.edu