

PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE
Wednesday, October 9, 2019 at 3:15 pm
456 Fulton Street, Suite 401
Peoria, IL 61602

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Ingram called the meeting to order at 3:18 p.m.

Attendees:

The Nature Conservancy:	Jason Beverlin
Heartland Water Resources Council:	Tom Tincher, Wayne Ingram
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission:	Eric Miller, Reema Abi-Akar, Michael Bruner, Russ Crawford, Ray Lees

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 11, 2019

Miller moved to approve the September 11, 2019 minutes and Beverlin seconded.

4. Old Business

Bruner touched on some Old Business items from the agenda. He said that the IDNR engagement is ongoing, floating islands and the PAS study are on pause, and that we are waiting for more information from stakeholders to move forward.

Lees discussed the BUDM workshop. He said that he and Chuck Theiling are working on the whitepaper that outlines findings from the workshop, and that he will email a copy to others who are interested in seeing it. Theiling is contacting publications to potentially publish the findings.

For the McClugage Bridge Sediment Removal, Lees is talking to those who are building the bridge. He said that they need to dispose of 40,000 to 200,000 cubic yards of material on IDOT's dime. A site will be needed to deposit this material. Ingram asked if this material has been tested, and Lees said that John Marlin did some core samples. The material will need to be placed sometime in January-February 2020. Beverlin asked if all of the material is coming out of the river, or if some of it is coming out of the bluffs/other areas around the river. Lees said he is not sure. Tincher mentioned his relevant experience with Stewart Spreading, north of Ottawa. Miller said that this is a big opportunity since IDOT will pay for the transportation costs. He said we need to give them a firm answer in the next couple weeks. Someone asked what Decatur did for their dredging. Miller said that their disposal site was 500 acres, 40 feet tall, and held 10.7 million cubic yards from Lake Decatur.

Regarding the ADM dry dock dredging, Lees said that Chuck Burlingame had three bucketfuls of sediment tested at PDC, then took them to Steve Vaughn at the Ag Lab to understand the material components. Apparently the results were positive. They are working with Paul Rosenbohm to see how much it would cost to transport it to Better Earth. There is 5,000 tons of material, which would normally

cost \$50,000 to move. Crawford mentioned the agenda format, that it was necessary to create a tool to monitor the status of projects.

5. New Business

a. Plan Comparison: Heartland Water and PLCCP

As Bruner began going through the document created by TCRPC staff, Crawford said that for the sections marked “N/A,” other agencies may possibly be interested in looking into them; for example, the Greater Peoria Economic Development Council.

Tincher said that it is important to set a vision. Bruner introduced the “Summary of PLCCP Overlap” section. Abi-Akar said that the conditional studies would be required to be completed before any work is done in their respective areas, as listed in the chart.

Miller said that there are other projects floating around the region, such as Alfresco Park. Crawford said that projects should be completed when and where possible. Ingram said that in some places, the hydrogeomorphic study should or shouldn't be in place for certain projects. Bruner and Abi-Akar said that staff created this chart directly based on what was explicitly written in the plan. Beverlin said that if anything needs to be changed in this chart, we then have to change it in the actual plan as well.

Crawford asked what we should do now. Miller said that the studies would be the first things to tackle, but we do not have funding. Crawford mentioned Alfresco Park again, and the group discussed this briefly.

Tincher began to present about his plan. He said land uses around the lake need to be examined. He says the top priority regarding deepwater habitat location is the west side of the river where most marinas are located. He said that the east side has larger conservation areas. Although he also said that the entire lower lake should be a deepwater habitat/recreational development area with tourism and entertainment. This process will ultimately pave the way for a secondary channel, Tincher said.

Miller asked for details about some of the dots portrayed on Tincher's handouts. Tincher said for 9-10 projects, he could provide a summary and show concept plans for them. Miller said that TCRPC spoke with Todd Hubmer, who is an engineer in Minnesota that helped Marty Long navigate the technical issues to create the Minnesota Mulch program. Miller said we need an expert to give the group a better idea of scope, time, and other logistics regarding such a project.

Tincher said there are “a dozen” potential early action projects that we can begin working on. Tincher said that there is a need for a central organization to provide technical and management expertise. Crawford said that an organization structure is not needed until there we have a project and some lessons learned. Tincher insinuates that TCRPC, TNC, and others exist as the staff expertise. Miller said regardless, it is important to have buy-in up and down the river. Key players include Chris Setti and Tony Rolando, who not only could help within the region, but can also connect to other areas around the state if needed.

Tincher said that most of the projects he has put together for his plan are privately driven, and do not need public investment and lots of planning, just enough to track development.

6. Member Reports

a. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

TCRPC had their strategic planning session last Saturday the 5th. One of the major action items that came out of it was continuing to work on the Beneficial Use of Dredged Material project.

b. The Nature Conservancy

N/A

c. Heartland Water Resources Council

Tincher discussed the status of Heartland and the potential of reorganizing it.

7. Other

There will be a relevant meeting on Wednesday, October 16 at 5:30 p.m. at the IVY Club in Peoria Heights.

a. Next scheduled meeting(s)

November 13, 2019

8. Adjournment

Wayne adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.