

PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE
Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 12:00 pm
456 Fulton Street, Suite 401
Peoria, Illinois 61602

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Miller called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm

Attendees

The Nature Conservancy:	Jason Beverlin, and Doug Blodgett
Heartland Water Resources Council:	Wayne Ingram, and Tom Tincher
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission:	Reema Abi-Akar, Michael Bruner, Eric Miller, Ray Lees, Russ Crawford
US Army Corps of Engineers:	Chuck Theiling
Also present:	Eng Seng Loh

2. Public Comment

No public comment

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2018 and January 23, 2018

Beverlin moved to approve January 9, 2018 and January 23, 2018 minutes and Crawford seconded. Motion carried.

4. Housekeeping

a. Meeting goals

Aki-Akar stated the purpose of today's meeting is to review and discuss the project objectives and Conservation Alternatives developed by the USACE.

5. Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan

a. Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Update

- Bruner/Theiling explained the USACE mandate of beneficial use of dredged material, and to have emphasis on inland waterways. The Central interest to have a Comprehensive Plan to try and deliver the product from the river to a profitable measure. Need to find some funding to do this, and create a commercial model of benefits.
- Miller said that IDOT SPR funds of \$20 million could possibly be used for research side of study. It is a possible source of funding.
- Loh commented we need to reconstruct the lake and what it brings to Peoria, and this is a way to fund the environmental restoration.

- Tincher commented that as we develop this plan we also need to keep in mind the possibility and benefit of lakefront improvements.
 - Loh said the whole project is to enable the project to benefit community and economic values.
 - Abi-Akar explained the fact sheets and recommended the studies by Chuck and Wayne.
 - Crawford questioned the Island Design workshop and Theiling explained the full study of the Island design workshop and that the Comprehensive Aquatic Ecosystem Model (CASM) is already complete.
 - Miller commented we need to have all the studies to get more complete benefits of what needs to be done.
- b. Comprehensive Conservation Plan Objectives
Bruner explained the objectives and after a review of them these are the results and changes:

Objective 1: Reduce total sediment delivery to the Peoria Lakes (measured by reduction of annual tonnage of sediment ~~exiting~~entering the Peoria Pool).

Objective 2: Increase the acreage of ~~floating leaf emergent plants and submerged~~ aquatic vegetation.

Objective 3: ~~Achieve Illinois EPA nutrient standards by emphasizing urban green infrastructure and utilizing wetlands to naturally filter pollutants from runoff and lake water.~~ Improve Peoria Lakes water quality.

Objective 4: ~~Restore~~Improve and protect wetland acres, floodplain acres, and ~~riparian habitat~~ stream~~bank~~ miles in the ~~local watershed~~Peoria Lakes.

Objective 5: ~~Restore~~Improve and protect river bluff and steep slope areas ~~through local zoning and stormwater/erosion control BMPs~~.

- Blodgett stated that if we wanted to include this objective we would need to change the scope from waters edge to bluff to bluff.
- The PLBA unanimously agreed to this scope change.

Objective 6: ~~Redirect sediment accumulation to~~Improve and diversify deep-water habitat and ~~navigable channels~~increase numbers of native fish.

Objective 7: Identify environmentally ~~ly~~ and commercially ~~ly~~beneficial use of dredged material ~~to help spur regional growth~~.

Objective 8: Increase ~~numbers and biomass of native fishes, as well as increase~~ recreational use of the Peoria Lakes.

~~Objective 9: Reduce peak flows in the Lakes and local tributaries by reducing the volume of stormwater runoff.~~

~~Objective 10-9: Provide educational opportunities to the general public and stakeholders to ultimately i~~ Improve regional awareness and ~~buy in support.~~

6. Members Reports

- a. Heartland Water Resources Council
Tincher presented the 4 projects they are working on and a comprehensive map.
- b. The Nature Conservancy
Nothing to report
- c. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
Miller talked about the IDNR's C2000 program called " Spring Creek Preserve Forested Bluff Restoration"

Other

Next scheduled meeting

Bruner said next meeting is May 8, 2018

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm