

PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE
Friday, May 11, 2018 at 12:00 pm
456 Fulton Street, Suite 401
Peoria, Illinois 61602

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Bruner called the meeting to order at 12:03 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, Ray Lees, Russ Crawford
US Army Corps of Engineers:	Chuck Theiling
Also present:	Eng Seng Loh, Roy Bockler, H. Wayne Wilson

2. Public Comment

No public comment

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

Ingram moved to approve April 19, 2018 minutes and Beverlin seconded. Motion carried, with the correction of Loh's name on a few bullet points.

4. Housekeeping

a. Meeting goals

Bruner stated the purpose of the meeting was to review and finalize project objectives and Conservation Alternatives developed by the USACE.

5. Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan

a. Comprehensive Conservation Plan Objectives

i. Comments received regarding objectives

- Loh said that he agrees with the comments received from Beverlin and Blodgett, including the action of separating the "what" from the "how." He mentioned that it may be worth removing the "improved regional awareness" from the objectives since it was not listed in the vision statement.

- It was decided to remove objectives 7 through 9 and replace them with one objective, “Improve quality of life in the region,” with two sub-objectives specifying recreation and environmental use.
- Lees noted that “quality of life” is not measurable, but Beverlin reiterated that it is best to keep it because it is linked to the vision statement, to which we can always refer in the future.
- Crawford said that it is important to keep the topic of beneficial use of sediment in the plan because he said it is a critical factor. Tincher agreed.
- Loh and Theiling responded by saying that beneficial use of sediment was always intended to be included in the plan—it is still listed as a measure, not an objective; it is a mechanism to restore the lake.
- Crawford agreed to leave beneficial use of sediment off the objective list, knowing that it will remain as a measure, if Loh and Theiling write up a statement to send to the beneficial use of sediment group. Loh and Theiling agreed.
- Ancillary meetings
 - Theiling discussed a past meeting he attended with Mayor Jim Ardis and Congressman Darin LaHood.
 - Lees discussed the upcoming beneficial use of sediment stakeholder group meeting.
 - Everyone agreed to keep the PLBA informed on relevant meetings such as these as they happen.
- Wilson brings up the topic of the three documentaries he is putting together, saying that he will focus on the big picture of the plan. He said that he has already interviewed Dr. John Marlin, and he will continue doing more interviews soon.
- Everyone is in agreement about the objectives with the above changes.

b. USACE Conservation Alternatives

- Theiling presented the alternatives, which had been previously presented in the past PLBA meeting, and clarified that these alternatives can essentially be thought of as their own Comprehensive Conservation Plans.
- Lees recommended that a map showing the boundaries of the middle, lower, and upper portions of the Peoria Lake be delineated.
- Blodgett asked for clarity on the allocation of measures in the alternatives. Theiling responded that the layout of these measures shows which ones fit best in the lower, middle, or upper portions of the lake.
- Crawford questioned who the owner(s) will be. Theiling responded that it depends on where the projects will be situated along the lake.
- Tincher said to include Xs in the alternative list for nutrient farming in Upper, Middle, and Lower Peoria Lake.
- Theiling said to add bullet points to the recommended studies under the list of alternatives.

- Everyone is in agreement about the alternatives with the above changes.

6. Member Reports

- a. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
 - Roy Bockler has just been appointed to the TCRPC Commission to represent parts of Woodford County. There will be a resolution at the next Executive Board meeting to appoint Mike Phelan, with Roy Bockler as an alternate. Between them, there will be up to one vote in the PLBA meetings.
- b. The Nature Conservancy
 - Beverlin explained that they had a symposium and open house with presentations and speakers, in addition to a legislators' tour.
- c. Heartland Water Resources Council
 - Tincher explained that he is working on a lakefront development concept plan with cities and property owners in Peoria, East Peoria, Spring Bay, and Chillicothe. Tincher also said that there will be a possible building donation downtown to become the Rivertowns USA Headquarters.

7. Other

- a. Next scheduled meeting(s)
 - i. Blodgett mentioned that the PLBA can meet at Emiquon in early June or maybe July.
 - ii. Blodgett also asked if TCRPC staff can make an online accessible folder showing PLBA minutes from years past.
 - iii. Bruner explained that there are three upcoming meetings: the next PLBA meeting, the public open house, and the PRC meeting. These specific meeting dates and times are to be determined in mid-to late June and early July.

8. Adjournment

- Blodgett moved to adjourn the meeting and Ingram seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:05.