

PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE
Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at 12:00 pm
456 Fulton Street, Suite 401
Peoria, IL 61602

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Attendees

The Nature Conservancy:	Doug Blodgett
Heartland Water Resources Council:	Steve Van Winkle, Wayne Ingram, Tom Tincher
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission:	Michael Bruner, Reema Abi-Akar, Ray Lees, Eric Miller, Russ Crawford, Roy Bockler
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:	Chuck Theiling
Also present:	Eng Seng Loh

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 11, 2018

Bockler moved to approve the May 11, 2018 minutes and Ingram seconded. Motion carried.

4. Housekeeping

Staff also mentioned that due to other scheduled engagements, this meeting must end by 1:30 p.m.

a. Introductions

Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves for new members who were present.

b. Meeting Goals

Bruner stated the purpose of the meeting was to review material for the open house.

5. Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan

a. Open House

Bruner gave a presentation regarding the plan for the upcoming open house. He explained that there would be six major stations: A presentation area, a map of sections of the Peoria Lakes, a table of alternatives that Chuck Theiling created, a description of each measure, an interactive prioritization station with stickers, and a section with copies of the draft plan with comment cards. Bruner further mentioned that there will be two presentation sessions: one at 3:00 p.m. and one at 4:30 p.m.

- Crawford asked about lessons learned from the first Peoria Lakes open house. Bruner and Abi-Akar noted that this time, the presentation will be much shorter, and the room size and shape will be more conducive to the structure of the event.
- Blodgett mentioned that it may be helpful to make the draft PLCCP available online for people to review and see it afterwards.
- Bockler asked if there will be news agencies there; Bruner answered that the media has already been invited via email.
- Theiling mentioned that the new Colonel from the USACE Rock Island District will be present at the meeting. Theiling also mentioned that he has been discussing the project with colleagues, and he has been receiving support, though “it’s like herding cats.”
- PLBA members were encouraged to invite more people to the open house.

b. PRC

Bruner gave an update about the process and plans for the PRC meeting, which will take place on July 11 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in the Tri-County meeting room 420. The PRC will conduct the interactive prioritization process with stickers during the meeting.

c. Draft Plan Update

Bruner and Abi-Akar scrolled through the draft plan online.

- Theiling mentioned that there will be one study to characterize all sediment, and Crawford said that past relevant studies from Tri-County should also be included, especially those involving collaboration with the USACE and/or TNC.
- Crawford reiterated that this project should be a model for others to follow.
- Miller asked Theiling what the USACE next steps will be to ensure the PLCCP is accepted. Theiling responded that he is hopeful that the project will continue for another three years at \$100,000 per year. He also recommended that more studies be conducted. Miller mentioned that there is typically a 50/50 match for staff time. Theiling responded that the question of where to get the money is most important.
- Bockler inquired if the Economic Development Administration (EDA) should be involved in this process. This could potentially involve funding through universities and governments, he said. Many people nodded in agreement around the room.
- Loh asked who will take the lead on different components of the project, what will the funding logistics look like, and who will run them. Crawford responded that there will be further conversations about these issues. Miller mentioned that the State Port Authority can be a hub to bring people together with this process.
- Crawford stressed that one personality can affect an entire planning process. Members around the room agreed.

6. Member Reports

a. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

No further updates.

b. The Nature Conservancy

Blodgett proposed a meeting at Emiquon on the second Tuesday in September, on the 11th at 11:00 a.m. There will be a caravan leaving from Peoria at 9:30 a.m.

c. Heartland Water Resources Council

Tincher gave an update about the materials he put together regarding East Peoria, Spring Bay, and Chillicothe.

7. Other

a. Next Scheduled meeting(s)

The next scheduled PLBA meeting is Thursday, July 5th at noon at the Tri-County offices. The group discussed the possibility of moving future meetings to 3:00 p.m. to accommodate others who cannot make it at noon. Some members around the room agreed, though this may not have been unanimous since the decision was rushed at the end.

The following meeting will be on August 14th and September 11th at Emiquon.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.