

PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE
Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at 3:00 pm
456 Fulton Street, Suite 401
Peoria, IL 61602

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Ingram called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Attendees:

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

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for June 12, 2019

Beverlin moved to approve the May 1, 2019 minutes and Blodgett seconded.

4. Old Business

a. Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan

Bruner explained at the June PLBA meeting Bockler asked staff to revamp the agenda to include old business and new business items. The Old Business section would be used to show project status such as the Illinois American Water Environmental Grant recipients. Bruner explained that the 2019 grant awards were not yet posted for the American Water grant; however, prior years are listed at the link included in the agenda.

Bruner went on to introduce the IDNR engagement agenda item. Bruner stated Lees has been in contact with IDNR Director Colleen Callahan's assistant, but has not received any updates to date. Miller added Mayor Phelan of Peoria Heights has reached out to Director Callahan about Galena Road issues. Blodgett asked if the intent was to invite Director Callahan to a PLBA meeting? Miller explained the intent is to get her and the IDNR more engaged in Peoria Lakes issues. Ingram reminded the group that in a previous PLBA meeting we had talked about meeting at the Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery to make the trip easier for Director Callahan. Blodgett mentioned he remember Bockler stating he know someone at the fish hatchery to help set up a meeting at that site. Blodgett also stated he may have a chance to talk to Director Callahan about the meeting we would like to set up. Miller mentioned that Tri-County is also interested in engaging Callahan with local initiative, such as the Hanna City Trail and Beneficial Use of Dredge Material.

b. Beneficial Use of Dredge Material

Lees updated the group on all the Beneficial Use of Dredge Material topics. Lees started with the September Workshop that will be held at the Caterpillar Visitors Center on September 4th and 5th. September 4th is the actual workshop with dinner at the Blue Duck that evening. September 5th will be site visits and H. Wayne Wilson will bring subject matter experts from Ohio, Wisconsin, and Minnesota together to tape three At Issues.

Lees went on to update the group on the ICT proposal. Lees explained that Bradley University was the lead in submitting the application and we did not receive the grant. Lees stated that Bradley is working on getting a debrief to understand why our proposal was not selected and to find out who was selected for the research topic.

Lastly, Lees updated the group on the McCluggage Bridge. Lees made contacts with the contractor awarded the grant. Lees is not sure yet about how the contract is planning to remove the sediment and where their disposal site will be located. The project calls for 22,000 cubic yards of sediment taken out of the river to establish a coffer dam. Lees explained that we are interested in getting some of the sediment to be able to start a piolet project. Ingram asked if the dredging is accessing the pier rather than digging the piers. Lees stated he wasn't sure, and the project superintendent has not returned his call. Wayne stated that it makes more sense to get the shallower sediment from the access channel than from digging for the pier.

c. HREP

Bruner updated the group that Abi-Akar and Bruner attended the Fish and Wildlife Interagency Committee (FWIC) workshop on the Upper Mississippi River Restoration (UMRR) Habitat Rehabilitation Enhancement Program (HREP). Bruner stated that they learned that floating islands is not an eligible HREP project. This is due to the Army Corps viewing floating islands at wetlands for nutrient reduction. Bruner also explained that the site where the floating islands will be installed is also not eligible due to a past HREP project being placed there back in the 90s.

Bruner stated that the workshop they attended last week was focused on the Mississippi River; however, there was interest among the Illinois River attendees to establish an Illinois River Work Group. Bruner offered Tri-County conference room for this meeting. Bruner went on to explain that we can come up with alternative habitat projects for the HREP. Bruner noted that there is a 35% match required if the land is not federal land. This match can include land value and a portion can be in-kind. O&M is on the property owner forever.

Miller added that this process will help us prioritize and structure projects in the area. Tincher stated we now have the PLCCP that gives us a direction of what we want to do. We need to follow this. Beverlin asked about the hydrology study that was included in the PLCCP. Bruner explained that will be a 50% cost share with the PAS program and this

is why we are trying to get Director Callahan engaged in Peoria Lakes efforts. Ingram asked what kind of habitat does the HREP pay for. Bruner explained that all kinds. Blodgett agreed with that statement.

5. New Business

a. ADM Dry Dock

Lees explained that Chuck Burlingame from ARTCO Fleeting contacted him to tell him about plans to dredge out the dry dock at the Creve Coeur location. Burlingame asked if there would be interest in the sediment from this project. Lees has been in contact with Paul Rosenbaum and Brian Johnson about how to truck the material and where to dump it. Burlingame offered to put the sediment in a barge and towing it to the Peoria Barge Terminal to be off loaded.

b. Agenda Format

Bruner reiterated that Bockler has asked staff to revamp the agenda to include old business and new business items. With the old business including status of existing projects. There was a general consensus of approval with the new format. No additional comments were received.

6. Member Reports

a. Heartland Water Resources Council

Tincher state that he has finished the plan in draft form, and it is very comprehensive. The plan contextualizes the Peoria Lakes in the Illinois River corridor to save the river/lakes. The plan has three basic components: Illinois River Corridor/Rivertown USA, economic and recreational projects, and in-lake improvements. Tincher stated that packet is ready to go out there to talk to mayors, property owners, and developers. Tincher stated "Now I'm convinced this is the most significant ecological, economic, recreational plan that's been put forward in our region.

Miller asked where the money will come from for implementing this plan? Miller went on to explain there is genuinely an interest to use the river for economic development opportunities, but we need to have more people to come in to talk about this. Such as the Mayor of Chillicothe and the Peoria Heights Mayor. Tincher stated that he is trying to get a meeting with Blickensaff. Dwayne Atherton is a family friend of Blickenstaff. Tincher recommended that we should first go after money to develop the Illinois River center.

Beverlin recommended to Tincher to bring in more people who are experts on these topics and have one meeting rather than meeting with each and everyone individually. Crawford stated that you need to do both – meet individually and also collectively. Crawford went on to state that you need to make sure to not leave any stakeholder out and to be very deliberate and concise to what you present to them. You need to be ready for the hard questions. You have to lose some of the pride in your work. If a stakeholder has a problem with a piece of the plan, you have be willing to make the

necessary edits. Miller stated that the perfect group for Tincher to spread his ideas and plan is the GPEDC CEDS Committee.

Tincher is wanting this plan to be a PLBA initiative. Beverlin stated he thanks the PLBA can be a sounding board, but we are not the experts. Beverlin went on to state he doesn't think this group can be the main promoters. Tincher explained that the PLBA would be the river-related entity. This is why there is three different sections in the plan.

Blodgett recommended setting up time for the PLBA to review the plan. Tincher stated it would take a couple of hours in a workshop format. Miller asked when the next Heartland Water meeting? Tincher stated Thursday, August 1st. Multiple PLBA members were unable to attend this time. Bruner recommended the next PLBA meeting on Wednesday, August 14th. Crawford suggested doing it prior to the PLBA meeting at 1:00 pm. Blodgett stated he will not be available, but Beverlin should be able to make it.

b. The Nature Conservancy

Blodgett stated that it is hot in Emiquon. They stated the drawdown process after all the heavy rain on the 15th of June. Three days later the pumps went down. It is too late in the season to get the plants to grow. Blodgett updated that group on the 1 million grant that Ducks Unlimited and various partners received for the US FWS. The grant was match by the 14 partners. One project is with the Peoria Park District and another will be used to help fix Emiquon levees. Blodgett stated that the floating projects could be a possible project for the next cycle. The Illinois River grant received the highest score nationally. Beverlin offered the September 11 PLBA meeting to be held at Emiquon. It was decided that members would carpool down. Everyone is to meet at Tri-County offices at 8:30 am and depart at 8:50 am. The planned arrival time would be 10:00 am at The Nature Conservancy offices. We will be using their large canoe for touring Emiquon.

c. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Lees stated that Tri-County will be hosting a Beneficial Use of Dredged Materials Stakeholder Meeting on Friday, July 26 from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. The meeting will include a presentation of Genesis Water on their rapid dewatering technology. Lees also stated that the IDNR will be hosting another Asian Carp Fishing Program meeting in Room 420 on Wednesday, August 14 at 5:30 pm. It was mentioned that Brian Collgan is interested in opening a Carp processing facility to make lobster trap bait.

7. Other

a. Next Scheduled Meetings

Wednesday, August 14th

8. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.