

PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE
Wednesday, April 10, 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 3:08 p.m.

Attendees:

The Nature Conservancy: Jason Beverlin, Doug Blodgett

Heartland Water Resources Council: Wayne Ingram

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission: Michael Bruner, Reema Abi-Akar, Eric Miller, Ray Lees, Russ Crawford

2. Public Comment

No public comment

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for 13 March 2019

Bruner noted that Tom and Wayne's names were mistakenly included in the minutes; they were not actually at the past meeting. With that change, Beverlin moved to approve the March 13, 2019 minutes, and Miller seconded.

4. American Water Environmental Grant Program

Bruner explained that staff submitted the American Water Environmental grant for \$8,500 to put on an environmental workshop in late July or early August. Miller said that he spoke with Roger Goodson of Illinois American Water and the latter said that he would keep an eye out for the application. Miller said that Goodson said that Illinois American Water has 120 acres adjacent to the river and some of it is for sale.

Ingram asked who the audience for this workshop would be. Bruner said it is for the general public. Ingram said this workshop would especially be of interest to permitted municipalities.

5. Peoria lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan

Bruner introduced an email from the USACE for a habitat rehabilitation and enhancement project funding opportunity. He said that there will be a webinar on April 17 to go over details of this opportunity, and the deadline to submit factsheets is December.

Blodgett said that there was a habitat needs assessment report completed 15 years ago, and there is a new, more recent report that is more in-depth than the first. A 35% nonfederal cost share sponsor is required, Blodgett said, unless work is done specifically on the Chautauqua or Meredosia national wildlife refuges because those sites are 100% federal. He said that there are limits on who can be a nonfederal cost share sponsor, and that the cost share could involve land value; TNC did this in the past with Emiquon.

Blodgett also talked about two or three river teams along the Illinois River that work with the Fish and Wildlife Interagency Committee. They have helped identify projects and prioritize them. Blodgett said there is a 1.5 - 2.5-day workshop in Dubuque, IA in early May.

Ingram asked if we have a map of ownership around the Peoria Lakes. Miller said that there is one available on the Tri-County website. Julie, who replaced Jim Homann at the USACE, had told TCRPC staff that now is the time to apply for additional PAS dollars. She said that either TCRPC could submit a letter or have the Illinois State Water Survey do so on Tri-County's behalf. The submission would include a sediment characterization study and bathymetry. This requires a 50% cost share. Ingram said that bathymetry maps exist from 2011 data.

Miller said that the hydrologic study would be the costliest. Ingram said that the modelling part of the project should begin as soon as possible, then bathymetry and/or sediment studies can continue later if needed. Some members said that they heard that the funding would equal about \$200,000. Some members said that several groups could help cover the cost share allotment. Blodgett said that he will contact Callahan at the IDNR and see if he can set up a meeting with her. Miller mentioned possibly speaking with Dave Koehler in the future. The group generally agreed that the hydraulic study would be most important.

Crawford mentioned the Implementation Plan that had been created in the past, and he said that the group should focus on low-hanging fruit. Miller said that this particular pot of money could only be used for studies of this nature. Ingram asked for a more detailed explanation of a sediment study, and Bruner said that it would involve identifying the type of material that exists in the current sediment, including chemicals and other components.

6. Member Reports

a. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Lees discussed the proposal submitted to the Illinois Center for Transportation that included a team with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Bradley University. Team members include Mohammad (Imran) Hossain, Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering at Bradley, as well as John Marlin and Robert Darmody. Lees said that there will be literature research and market research aspects of the study, and that the budget was cut down to \$150,000 with a cost share element. He said that it will be finalized on April 30.

Lees also mentioned that the stormwater management and beneficial use workshop will take place on September 4 at Cat Visitor Center. People from Ohio and Minnesota will be there. A half day discussion will revolve around what other states have accomplished and how they got there. Lees said that there will be no more than 50-60 people there to make it more of a workshop rather than a larger conference. H Wayne wants to be there to film some parts of it, and later, he will interview some of the stakeholders at his studio.

b. The Nature Conservancy

Beverlin said that they are gearing up for summer season at Emiquon; they hired 2 seasonal employees and one GLOBE intern starting in June for a couple months. He said that TNC is working with Brad McMillan's group at Bradley.

Beverlin said that fishing is starting up, and the third paddlefish has now been caught. His video got thousands of views online. Blodgett mentioned a trip to Des Plaines on June 26 to look at constructed wetlands. Beverlin said that there will be a science symposium on May 8 at Emiquon that requires registration.

- c. Heartland Water Resources Council
Wayne reported that Tom has been working on proposals and has submitted them to various entities.

7. Other

- a. Next scheduled meeting(s)
 - i. ~~08 May 2019~~ CHANGED TO May 1st
 - ii. 12 June 2019
 - iii. 10 July 2019

8. Adjournment

Ingram adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m.