

# Peoria Lakes Basin Alliance

*“A Unified Voice for the Restoration and Preservation of the Peoria Lakes”*

For further information regarding the Alliance, please contact the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission 309-673-9330



**Heartland Water  
Resources Council  
of Central Illinois**  
416 Main St. Ste 828  
Peoria, IL 61602  
(309) 637-5253

Representatives  
Executive Director:  
Tom Tincher

Board Members:  
Steve Van Winkle  
Wayne Ingram



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

301 S.W. Adams St.  
Ste. 1007  
Peoria, IL 61602  
(309) 673-6689

Representatives  
State Director:  
Michelle Carr

Board Members:  
Chris Ryan  
Ken Katch



**Tri-County Regional  
Planning  
Commission**  
456 Fulton St., Suite 401  
Peoria, IL 61602  
(309) 673-9330

Representatives  
Executive Director:  
Eric Miller

Board Members:  
Darrell Meisinger  
Russ Crawford

## PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE

Tuesday, August 08, 2017

12:00 pm

TCRPC Offices

456 Fulton St, Suite 401  
Peoria, IL

### AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes for July 11, 2017 and Special Meeting July 25, 2017
- III. Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan
  1. Stakeholder Survey
  2. Stakeholder Email
- IV. Member Reports
  1. Heartland Water Resources Council
  2. The Nature Conservancy
  3. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
- V. Other
- VI. Discuss Next Meeting Date
- VII. Adjournment

**PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE  
SPECIAL  
Monday July 11, 2017  
12:00 pm  
TCRPC Offices**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:**

The Nature Conservancy:	Jason Beverlin, Doug Blodgett via phone
Heartland Water Resources Council:	Steve Van Winkle, Tom Tincher
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission:	Michael Bruner, Russ Crawford, Mackenzie Clauss, Ray Lees, and Reema Abi-Akar
Army Corp of Engineers	Marshal Plumley, and Jackie Veninger via phone

**I. Call to Order**

Van Winkle called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes for June 13, 2017 and Special Meeting June 26, 2017**

- Beverlin moved to approve the June 13, 2017 and Special Meeting June 26, 2017 minutes and Crawford seconded. Motion carried.

**III. Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan**

**1. Open House Stations**

- Bruner reported that the City of Peoria will have a CSO station

**2. Open House Handout**

- Photo Props and Photo booth
- Lees reported that the commodore of the Ivy Club is going to get a live carp to display reporting that ISGS reports how the carp has spread across the U.S.
- 2 page document of the master plan of conservation
- Imagery maps

**3. Open House Logistics**

- Marshal Plumley will do a presentation at the beginning
- Bruner reported on different stations
  - Welcome- Debbie Ulrich, Ray Lees
  - Ipad surveys- Eric Miller, Russ Crawford, Hannah Martin, and Ryan Harms
  - Jackie Veninger and Marshal Plumley Ecological Modal
  - Innovation Board- Jason Beverlin
  - Map different articles- Mackenzie Clauss
  - Fishing for facts- Reema Abi-Akar

#### **4. Project Depth and Boundaries**

Bruner updated the frame elevator speech

- Crawford went thru list of Project Review Committee (PRC) and Roles & Responsibilities (R&R).  
Crawford moved to approve the 2 lists and Beverlin seconded. This document is adopted but can have amendments and approved thru PLBA if needed. Motion carried  
Beverlin and Crawford will put together an email for contacting the above persons and will either call or email.
- Tincher asked about the scope of work. Crawford reviewed the scope of work.
- Plumley explained this is to be flexible to meet our needs not the Corps needs.  
Crawford moved to approve the scope of work and Beverlin seconded. Motion carried.
- Tincher asked what column suggestions of projects should go into?  
Crawford explained the process. Beverlin added ranking criteria will be established. Crawford suggested that Bruner will create the ranking with the help Plumley if needed.

#### **IV. Member Reports**

##### **1. Heartland Water Resources Council**

Tincher reported he is working with East Peoria to take plan to City of Peoria.

##### **2. The Nature Conservancy**

- Beverlin mentioned that Emoquin hosted 60 persons
- Sept. 12 will be Illinois River Conference.
- Blodgett reported on the CAT meeting (Tour with VP of CAT). Miller made a presentation of slides to better understand the planning effort.

##### **3. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission**

Crawford the process has started to replace Meisinger.

#### **V. Other-none**

#### **VI. Discuss Next Meeting Date**

August 8<sup>th</sup> regular scheduled meeting but have a Special meeting on July 25th if needed.

#### **VII. Adjournment**

Adjourned at 1:50pm

**PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE  
SPECIAL  
Monday July 25, 2017  
12:00 pm  
TCRPC Offices**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDEES:**

The Nature Conservancy:	Jason Beverlin, Doug Blodgett
Heartland Water Resources Council:	Wayne Ingram, and Tom Tincher
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission:	Michael Bruner, Russ Crawford via phone, Mackenzie Clauss, Ray Lees, Eric Miller, and Reema Abi-Akar
Army Corp of Engineers	Jackie Veninger via phone

**I. Call to Order**

Ingram called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

**II. Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan**

**1. Open House Overview**

- Bruner updated on the general comments and SWOT analysis data opportunity- (storm water tax)
- Ingram stated he thought it was Storm Water Utilities
- Bruner reported on the further vision station data and Innovation Board data.
- Abi-Akar reported on the survey results of being 49 respondents
- Bruner reported on the full event
- Blodgett said it was a great job from staff, content and attendance
- Beverlin said it was a great location
- Tincher said great energy
- Beverlin said that ACOE was interested in answering in the Q&A which is very relevant.
- Blodgett mentioned there was no grandstanding. The Q&A was very relevant.
- Crawford said good job by all, presentation was good and Q&A was good. The presentation was a little long but improvement on time and energy in stations is needed. Suggested to split presentation, then stations, then back to presentation and Q&A
- Veninger thought it was very successful. Need input from station, may need to herd people to stations. May have group feedback instead of individual.
- Beverlin felt they had opportunity to give feedback if they choose to.
- Veninger asked who is landowner or group agencies

- Crawford replied they are the stakeholders, but do need to include land owners not just organizations. Plumley did excellent job of answering questions.
- Blodgett felt we did not capture relative priority of problem. Need to catch most important problem and what action should be taken.
- Ingram asked what are we going to do with responses. Bruner said they will take from both meetings of what progress will be.

## **2. Discussion of Stakeholder Meeting**

- Bruner reported that Task 1 is complete. Next is to have a meeting with stakeholders and recreation users. Separate meetings will be held. Blodgett mentioned so 5 or 6 meetings.
- Beverlin suggested using surveys. May need to tweak the survey.
- Tincher suggested that we have a lack of property owners on the list and they would be significant to add. Need to look at Economic Development and lakefront endeavors (property owners)
- Blodgett said to fine tune the survey and send out to CAT, Bass Pro, etc.
- Miller said to have surveys instead of meetings. Blodgett said yes, will get more information.
- Blodgett asked Veninger her thoughts on surveys instead of meetings?
- Veninger suggested more face to face meetings and you can survey the smaller groups.
- Tincher suggested to have 1 general meeting, then break out into groups of surveys and discussion.
- Crawford said to have all in 1 room then break into groups of Q&A and surveys.
- Miller suggested to do survey then see if they want to meet. Engage in people and see what issues they have. Have an option to meeting with groups and people.
- Blodgett said they may be interested of wanting to come to meeting but time of meeting may not be convenient.
- Beverlin suggested to make survey online.
- Ingram asked what about web cast, is that available.
- Miller said to add emails and addresses to lists.
- Beverlin said to tweak questions.
- Crawford said to rank in order of problems, but don't change questions. Survey for stakeholders or public?
- Blodgett said we need additional information for public and stakeholders. How are we going to rank? Identify problem and which is biggest item or what can we fix. Refine the questions.
- Crawford said to have separate stakeholder survey.
- Beverlin said to have a survey and not a face to face meeting.
- Crawford asked who is going to contact the people, it should be someone that knows them.

- Beverlin said it is important to get information on survey to gather input.
  - Tincher feels the stakeholder meeting is important to get surveys and suggestions and to clarify with 1 on 1 stakeholders.
  - Veninger said to not supersede Task 2 with 3. Need to use criteria and results for potential projects.
  - Ingram said to revise survey and send out along with asking if they want a meeting.
3. Stakeholder Invitee list (handout)  
Discussed persons on list.

**III. Other**

- Will wait on feedback of Open House, then revise survey when complete.
- Next meeting will be August 8<sup>th</sup> @ noon.

**IV. Adjournment**

Adjourned at 1:45pm

## Stakeholder Engagement Form

### Introduction:

You have been identified as a potential stakeholder for the Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan based on your expertise and/or connection to your affiliated organization. Thank you for participating in this survey, which should take about 10 minutes to complete. Please refer to the email and [partakeinpeorialakes.org](http://partakeinpeorialakes.org) for more information.

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### Concerns/issues:

Last month, the public could take a survey that documented their perception, concerns, and usage of the Peoria Lakes. In that survey (<http://bit.ly/2uBMB83>), most participants felt that Asian Carp, water quality/health, loss of depth, sedimentation, and decline of habitat are a problem in the Peoria Lakes.

- 1) Please rank the list from 1-5, 1 being the biggest problem from your perspective. Which do you feel is MOST pressing?
  - Asian Carp
  - Water quality/health
  - Loss of depth
  - Sedimentation
  - Decline of habitat
- 2) Are there any additional problems you feel should be included in this list? Put an asterisk\* next to problem(s) that you feel are MORE important than those listed above.
  - A) From your perspective, what are the causes of these additional problems?
  - B) From your perspective, what are possible solutions to these additional problems?
- 3) Of the five problems identified in question 1, three are related to the health of Peoria Lakes: declining water quality, declining habitat, and invasive species (e.g. Asian Carp). From your perspective, what factors lead to the declining health of Peoria Lakes? Put an asterisk\* next to the contributing factor you are most concerned about.
- 4) Of the five problems identified in question 1, two are related to the water depth of Peoria Lakes. These problems are loss of depth and sedimentation. From your perspective, what factors lead to the declining water depth in Peoria Lakes? Put an asterisk\* next to the contributing factor you are most concerned about.
- 5) Has the declined state of ecological health in Peoria Lakes had a negative effect on you, your organization, or your business? If so, please elaborate.

**Potential projects:**

This Comprehensive Conservation Plan will lay out potential projects that could alleviate the environmental problems with the Peoria Lakes.

In Question 7 and 7A, we're asking you to rank 11 potential projects from highest to lowest importance, from your perspective. Choose the first five in drop-down menus and list the remaining six in a short answer format.

- 6) Which restoration or conservation efforts are you familiar with on the Illinois Waterway?
- 7) Please rank the following list of potential projects, from most to least important, from your perspective (which would be most helpful for the Lakes' health in the future).
  - Backwater restoration;
  - Creation of deep water areas;
  - Creation of vegetated marsh areas;
  - Drawdowns;
  - Dredging and sediment placement;
  - Floodplain recapture;
  - Hydrology and hydraulics study;
  - Island development;
  - Sediment detention basins;
  - Secondary channel; and
  - Wetlands protection.
- 8) Are there any additional potential projects you feel should be included in this list? Put an asterisk\* next to a potential project(s) that you feel are MORE important than those listed above.
- 9) What are some future project ideas for the areas bordering the Lakes?

**Future Vision:**

- 10) What is your future vision for the Peoria Lakes? Use your senses (look, feel, smell) to describe what the Lakes are like in the future.
- 11) Describe major changes you foresee both in the lakes and involving the surrounding land use.

**Future Participation:**

- 12) Do you have additional comments to share?
- 13) Would you like to receive future emails regarding the Peoria Lakes planning process?
- 14) Would you be willing to participate in future meetings regarding the Peoria Lakes?

**Contact information:**

Name:

Organization/business you represent:

Email:

Phone:



understanding of the Lakes' future.

### What's the issue with Peoria Lakes?

The Peoria Lakes, which refer to the widened sections along the Illinois River, have a degraded ecosystem as a result of sedimentation, poor water quality, altered hydrology, and invasive species. These are due to causes such as past Illinois River dams, sanitary issues, and changing land practices that remain today.

### Where do you come in?

The Peoria Lakes can be an important resource for local stakeholder organizations whether it involves recreation or simply the aesthetic element. We need you to contribute your comments on how the Lakes affect your organization.

Your comments are valuable -- lake expert or not! Click the link below and send us your feedback **by Wednesday, August 23.**

[Click here to give your comments!](#)



Last month, Eric Miller, Russ Crawford, and Steve Van Winkle represented Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and the Peoria Lakes Basin Alliance on an episode of WTVP's *At Issue with H. Wayne Wilson*. They discussed the Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan and the different issues surrounding the Lakes' health.





Ray Lees and Eric Miller of Tri-County Regional Planning Commission spoke with Peoria Journal Star's Steve Tarter as part of the "Tarter Source" podcast #59. [Check it out here!](#)



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You are receiving this email because you have been identified as a potential stakeholder based on your connection to your affiliated organization.

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Peoria, IL 61602

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