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

The Nature Conservancy
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:
Russ Crawford
Michael Phelan
Roy Bockler (Alternate)

PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE

AGENDA

Wednesday, January 09, 2019 at 3:00 pm
456 Fulton Street, Suite 401
Peoria, Illinois 61602

MEETING GOALS

PLCCP Next Steps
Heartland Water Updates

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for December 12, 2018
4. Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan
   a. Next Steps Update
5. Heartland Water Resources Council Presentation and Discussion (See Attachment)
6. Member Reports
   a. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
   b. The Nature Conservancy
   c. Heartland Water Resources Council
7. Other
   a. Next scheduled meeting(s)
      i. 13 February 19
      ii. 13 March 19
      iii. 10 April 19
8. Adjournment

PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE

Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at 3:00 pm
456 Fulton Street, Suite 401
Peoria, IL 61602

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**
   The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

Attendees

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

2. **Public Comment**
   No public comment.

3. **Approval of meeting minutes for October 10, 2018**
   Bockler moved to approve the October 10, 2018 minutes, and Beverlin seconded. Motion carried.

4. **PLBA Meeting Frequency**
   Attendees agreed to keep scheduling monthly meetings because momentum will decrease if the schedule is shifted to quarterly. If there is nothing on the agenda for a particular month, the meeting may be cancelled, but this will be determined on a case-by-case basis ahead of time.

   The group also discussed whether to keep the 3:00 p.m. time slot, and the general consensus seemed to be to keep it at the same time to potentially accommodate more members. Bockler suggested that the group should conduct a poll in 2019 to see when the best time is for all members.

5. **Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan**
   a. **Next Steps Update**
      Bruner discussed recent updates regarding the Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan. He said that the plan was approved at the last Commission meeting on December 6, 2018. Bruner explained that Tri-County has been talking with Chuck Theiling at the USACE regarding the maintenance of this plan and continuation of the project. Theiling said that the USACE is interested in continuing this project, specifically by conducting a hydro model and sediment characterization study, coordinating with

Jim Homann, and either putting together a new agreement or an amendment to the old PAS agreement.

However, cost share would still pose an issue. Bockler asked roughly how much money is being considered for this project continuation, and Ingram responded roughly $250,000 or $300,000. This range would represent the full amount, including cost share. Miller said that the scope is still relatively unclear, so they are awaiting more details and logistics from Theiling.

Ingram asked about the sediment study, and Bruner responded that it will involve taking a closer look at the makeup of Peoria Lakes sediment, including coring and identifying material. Ingram said that this sounds like Dr. John Marlin's work. Miller responded that it remains to be seen if there will be any collaboration with him. Ingram also asked about bathymetry, and Bruner responded that Theiling had contacted Laura Keefer with the Illinois State Water Survey and told her that bathymetric studies will be included in the analysis.

Bockler suggested to create a dashboard of tasks to accomplish, identify ten tasks to complete within a certain time frame, and then narrow them down to five. After that, the group would be able to specifically outline tasks that will have been accomplished. Beverlin said that the hydrological and sediment studies had already been identified as the highest priority tasks. Tincher said that projects outlined in the fact sheets should be done before the studies, especially the identification of where sediment testing would take place. Bockler said, "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time." Miller said that the group could create a short-term action plan between the PLBA and the USACE.

Lees said that Theiling is continuing to look for funding for him to stay involved in this project. Bockler agreed, saying that the team must ensure that his time is worth it. Bockler also mentioned that there are powerful politicians in this area that we can leverage.

Lees discussed updates regarding beneficial use of sediment. He said that these discussions are ongoing, but connections with highway and construction use will be revisited in April or May. Lees mentioned that they have discussed this topic with Darrin Fleener, the EDA connection to the GPEDC. Fleener had recommended becoming involved with CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy). If there is involvement in these organizations, the project must be related to economic development and not exclusively conservation.

6. **Member Reports**
   a. **Tri-County Regional Planning Commission**
      Lees discussed a meeting that had recently occurred in the Tri-County office regarding Asian Carp. Fishermen from around the region were invited to learn about an upcoming program that would pay fishermen to catch Asian Carp in the Peoria Pool and sell it to their regular vendors. IDNR would pay the fishermen an extra 10 cents for every pound

of fish that they caught and sold. The purpose of this meeting was to receive feedback about the program details from the fishermen. IDNR representatives and a Tetra Tech representative led the presentation and discussion. Bockler mentioned that there are three carp processing plants in Illinois.

Lees also mentioned that some PLBA members and GPSD staff attended meetings in a day-long trip to Decatur a few weeks prior. The group met with City of Decatur representatives as well as staff from Great Lakes Dredging, the company who is completing the dredging in Lake Decatur. Lees explained that electric dredging is occurring 24/7 until ice comes through and makes dredging excessively difficult. The dredged material is being dumped on a 540-acre farm that the city purchased. The city has raised water fees three times to pay for the $100 million project. Ingram mentioned that Lake Springfield was dredged similarly 20-30 years ago.

b. The Nature Conservancy

Beverlin mentioned that water had been pumped out of Emiquon over the summer, and Levee repair has been completed. Lees asked if carp have affected this. Beverlin responded that the 2013 flood had caused fish to come over the walls, but there are not too many in the water. Beverlin said that Science Day will take place in Emiquon in May. Further, he said that bank fishing will soon be a reality at Emiquon once the proper structures are built and more signage is incorporated. He said that Emiquon is now allowing people to fish the full Thompson Lake. Beverlin reported that most people travel between 50-75 miles to come fish at Emiquon, and most hunters come from 75-100 miles away.

c. Heartland Water Resources Council

Tincher passed out a large packet of paper. He said that the overall draft plans should be completed in January. There will be two documents, a conservation improvement document and a RiverTowns USA/Lakefront Development/Scenic Byway document, which will in turn tie back to the conservation document. Tincher expressed interest in his plans becoming part of the PLBA to improve consistency. He reiterated the six projects mentioned in these plans and asked the PLBA to approve these projects.

Bockler said that while the plan is impressive, it is critical to develop a healthy river before beginning economic development initiatives of this scale. Bockler recommended that Tincher speak to the economic development councils for each municipality that would be affected by these projects. Miller asked Tincher to solicit letters of support from the mayors of each municipality that would be affected. After that, the PLBA can further consider this issue.

7. Other

a. Next Scheduled Meeting(s)

The next meeting will be scheduled for January 9, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

Some attendees asked where the chairmanship will lie for 2019, since this would be the final meeting for 2018. Tincher suggested that the chairmanship should remain where it is, in Tri-County's hands. Bruner said that the next organization that would normally be up next is Heartland. Miller said that the group will continue as-is.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Tom Tincher's PLBA Agenda Items Overview

1) Proposed Illinois River Collaborative Planning, Programming & Project Facilitation Center

   Presentation and review of Illinois River collaborative planning, programming, and project facilitation center proposal for Peoria Downtown Riverfront and discuss implications for "Saving Peoria Lakes," Scenic Byway, and "Rivertown USA" projects.

2) Peoria Lakes Specific Project Review

   Presentation and review of other proposed Peoria Lakes lakefront projects and discuss specific conservation, dredging and sediment utilization strategies involved.

   - East Peoria Shoreline Village
   - Chillicothe Downtown Lakefront
   - Spring Bay Lakefront
   - Woodford County Conservation Area Expansion
   - Peoria Southside Riverfront and Community Gateway area
   - Peoria Heights Lakefront

   Review actions previously taken by members of our PLBA team concerning these lakefront/riverfront development endeavors and assign follow up responsibilities

3) Proposal to Develop Expanded "Saving Peoria Lakes" Plan that Plays off of the Conservation Plan but Incorporates other Important Community Components & Considerations

   Presentation and discussion of integrating the Comprehensive Conservation Plan into a broader document that reflects that full range of potential that the lakes has as a multi-faceted resource not just an extremely important conservation amenity. However, we should use the conservation considerations as high priority components in each endeavor being considered or pursued in the planning process

4) Corps of Engineers Status Report

5) Conservation Plan Next Steps

6) Beneficial Use of Sediment Work Program

7) Member Agencies Reports