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:
Darrell Meisinger
Russ Crawford

PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE
Tuesday, September 19, 2017
12:00 pm
TCRPC Offices
456 Fulton St, Suite 401
Peoria, IL

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Public Comment

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 08, 2017 and Special Meeting August 29, 2017

IV. Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan
   1. Project Review Committee (PRC) Invitations
   2. Discussion of who is inviting the PRC members
   3. Discussion of Potential PRC meeting times and locations
   4. Discussion of PRC Prioritization Tool
   5. Draft USACE Conservation Management Ideas

V. Member Reports
   1. Heartland Water Resources Council
   2. The Nature Conservancy
   3. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

VI. Other

VII. Adjournment

PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE
SPECIAL
Monday August 8, 2017
12:00 pm
TCRPC Offices

MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

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

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes for July 11, 2017 and Special Meeting July 25, 2017

Crawford moved to approve the July 11, 2017 minutes and Beverlin seconded. Motion carried.

Crawford moved to approve the Special Meeting minutes of July 25, 2017 and Beverlin seconded. Motion carried.

III. Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan

1. Stakeholder Survey

Bruner explained the survey the staff created.

- Blodgett reviewed his concerns and issues of the survey.
- Crawford said the on Q3 all 5 should be listed as problems of Peoria Lakes.
- Beverlin and Blodgett said all persons should interpret the questions the same way. Need to simplify the survey and consolidate the questions. Plus remove questions 2 thru 11.
- Abi-Akar said they are using a free survey application to compile results
- Miller said we should not hold back and use a ranking application.
- Blodgett said we need to have what is most important problem and what we need to do about it. Have the concerns ranked. What we should be using our resources on.
- Crawford asked what we except this survey will do for the stakeholders.

- Miller said we should use this survey instead of holding 8 meetings. Need to have more information for staff to create survey the committee wants.
- Crawford said to have consensus or get information from stakeholders and present list of projects to PRC.
- Beverlin said to ask questions we only want answers to.
- Bruner said we do need input from public.
- Blodgett commented on "What projects will they support?" and "What is our highest priority?" From your perspective what is your priority? Most important for people or habitats? What will people support for the lakes?
- Tincher mentioned the importance of sedimentation and to have sustainable results.
- Beverlin said to consider 3 questions and eliminate all others.
- Miller said to have a vocabulary meaning memo.
- Tincher discussed the CSO abating problem.

2. Stakeholder Email
   Bruner said he has the email list complete.

IV. Member Reports

1. Heartland Water Resources Council
   Tincher updated on the plans of support for the Peoria Sanitary District and Rivertown USA
2. The Nature Conservancy
   Beverlin mentioned the Governors for Rivers is September 12 thru 14, 2017 at Emoquin.
   Walls are going up in office at Emoquin
3. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
   - Miller updated the kick off the new website will be within a few months.
   - Lees reported on Kathy Brown of U of I Extension

V. Other

VI. Discuss Next Meeting Date

August 29th, and September 19th

VII. Adjournment

Adjourned at 1:45pm

The following changes were made to the Survey:

- Question 1 Second paragraph in red
- Question 2 first paragraph on page 2 in red
- Question 3 second paragraph on page 2 in red change abating to reduce pollutants

Eliminate Question 1 and 2 thru11 in black

- Question 4 Do you have additional comments to share?
- Question 5 Would you like to receive future emails regarding the Peoria Lakes planning process?
- Question 6 Would you be willing to participate in future meeting regarding the Peoria Lakes?
- Question 7 Are there any projects you are preparing for?

Contact Information:

Name:
Organization/business you represent:
Email:
Phone:

DRAFT

Peoria Lakes Basin Alliance
SPECIAL
Tuesday August 29, 2017
TCRPC Offices

MINUTES

ATTENDEES:

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

DRAFT

I. Call to Order

Van Winkle called meeting to order at 12:00

II. Public Comment

No public comment

III. Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Plan

1. **Project Status (Communication Plan)**
   - Bruner updated status of project
   - No additional comments
2. **Stakeholder Survey Data**
   - Abi-Akar explained survey results
     - Tincher suggested to get list of projects that other organizations are currently working on in regards to survey question 4
   - Bruner initiates discussion on planning an in-person stakeholder meeting
     - Beverlin unclear on purpose of meeting- what would be gained that we already don't know
       - Van Winkle agrees
     - Veninger expressed if no meeting than there needs to be efforts to reach out to stakeholders and make sure input is being addressed

        - Crawford suggested to share results to a wider audience and encourage feedback to save time and cost of planning a meeting
        - Van Winkle asked how meeting would be different than PRC meeting invites
            - Bruner explains it would be all stakeholders plus PRC
        - Beverlin suggested time better spent focusing on PRC and to just send out data and results
        - Bruner explained the meeting would be to report open house results, survey results and the Corps' list of measures
    - Veninger asked if there was overlap on who took the survey and who is on the PRC
        - Abi-Akar said she can go back through results and provide that information
        - Veninger said if there is an overlap the meeting may be unnecessary
    - Crawford suggested communicating data and results to the media
        - Miller agreed that they can reach out to media contacts that have already been involved in covering this project
    - Beverlin suggested sending a newsletter with the information to everyone and focus on PRC for now, and to wait to reach out to media until after settled with PRC
        - General consensus

3. **Discussion of Project Review Committee (PRC) and member invitations**
    - Crawford addressed the need for clear guidelines for the PRC and supplying the PRC with the necessary inputs
        - All data (including open house and stakeholder input)
        - USACE conservation measures lists
        - Solution Selection Matrix (Ranking tool)
            - This tool with be weighted by sustainability, feasibility, and Project owner
        - USACE Open House Presentation
    - Miller asked what role the PRC has in testifying conservation measures impacts
    - Tincher asked Veninger to define measures
        - Veninger said measures are the action steps in obtaining certain goals- the components/measures needed to be taken to reach the goal
    - Veninger explains that the Corps is creating a list of measures based on the data results and own knowledge

        - Beverlin suggested that the Corps presents this information to the PRC and have real scientific information to show what will work
    - Beverlin suggested to add a step in the process to let the PRC comment on the criteria and matrix before finalized
        - Crawford disagreed
        - Beverlin said to at least allow them to make small comments
        - Ingram suggested to edit and update document to help establish a clear consensus on this
            - Crawford agrees and said he will provide that document
    - Bruner explains the PRC invite letter and what's included
        - Crawford requested more time to look over letter and give feedback at a later date
    - Beverlin suggested next meeting be entirely focused on PRC including the letter
        - Abi-Akar confirmed next regular meeting is on September 19, 2017.
        - Beverlin suggested to use weekly phone meetings to work on PRC invitation and roles and responsibilities
        - Ingram concludes that Tuesday phone call meetings will be utilized to continue discussion
    - Veninger confirms that list of measurements will be ready in a week
    - Bruner said he will send out the PRC letter and the approved roles and responsibilities document for everyone to review
    - Bruner asked to work with Crawford on creating the matrix tool
        - Both agreed to schedule a time to meet

IV. Other

None

V. Adjournment

Adjourned at 1:55pm

DRAFT

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Eric Miller

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Darrell Meisinger
Russ Crawford

Date

Name
Title
Organization
Address
City, State, Zip

Re: Invitation to Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Planning Group

Dear (Mr., Ms., Mrs. Name):

The Peoria Lakes Basin Alliance (PLBA), comprised of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, The Nature Conservancy, and Heartland Water Resources Council, is partnering with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to develop the Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan. We held our first public open house on July 13, 2017 and are in the process of gathering input from prospective stakeholders. This means we are contacting stakeholders such as (Name of Organization) that have interest in Peoria Lakes matters, to ultimately reach a regional consensus about conservation methods. Your willingness to volunteer your time to participate on the project review committee (PRC) as a representative will give you and your organization a voice in this process.

This letter is your official invite to serve on the PRC for the Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan. The ~~Peoria Lakes Basin Alliance~~PLBA is committed to an efficient process that ensures voices have the opportunity to be heard but also is cognizant of your valuable time. As a PRC member, you will have several important roles and responsibilities:

- Understand we cannot achieve success without you;
- Agree to fully participate in both the PRC meetings and the work;
- Agree to represent your affiliated organization;
- Agree to stay informed on the project and cascade information to others who need to know;
- Agree to comply with the scope (identify projects in/out of scope and start/stop points);
- Agree to comply with the Project's Communication Plan;-What is the communication plan? Hard to agree with something when you haven't seen it.
- Agree to comply with guidelines for teamwork, collaboration, and decision making;- See above comments.
- Agree to review all public and stakeholder input;

- Agree to use provided methods to participate in the project review and ranking process;
- Agree to focus on the agenda at hand (All non-agenda issues will be captured by Project Facilitators); and
- Agree to take ownership of the ~~final deliverables~~Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

Commented [JB1]: I understand the point of this, but I think it more likely to get them to agree that it was a fair process as opposed to getting everyone to agree to the final product.

We hope you will accept our invitation but before you do, please consider the PRC member roles and responsibilities ~~before deciding~~. If you feel you cannot fulfill these responsibilities, please do not accept our invitation. The success of this planning process depends on the full commitment of the PRC — personally reviewing the potential projects and attending the PRC meetings are particularly important.

For more information, refer to http://PartakeInPeoriaLakes.org, the main project site.

Commented [JB2]: Do you need the link here and above?

Please let us know of your decision as soon as possible, but no later than (Date). There are a few time-critical milestones approaching we will need PRC involvement in.

If you accept our invitation, please return the following information to Project Facilitator Michael Bruner (email: mbruner@tricountyrpc.org) under the subject line of ***PRC Invitation Acceptance***:

Formatted: Font: Bold

Name:
Title:
Affiliation:
Email:
Phone number:

We look forward to working with you to make Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan a great success. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Michael Bruner (email: mbruner@tricountyrpc.org) or Reema Abi-Akar (email: rabiakar@tricountyrpc.org).

Sincerely,

(Senders Name)

Criteria	Strategic Fit			Economic Impact			Feasibility		
	In Scope	Public Support Potential	Project Vision Statement	Cost Benefit Ratio	Low Cost	Timely Project Completion	Sci/Prof Support Potential	Project Funding Potential	Effective Impact Value
Weight	1	3	2	3	1	2	3	2	1
Option 1	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Option 2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Option 3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Option 4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Option 5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Weight	
Low Importance	1
Medium Importance	2
High Importance	3

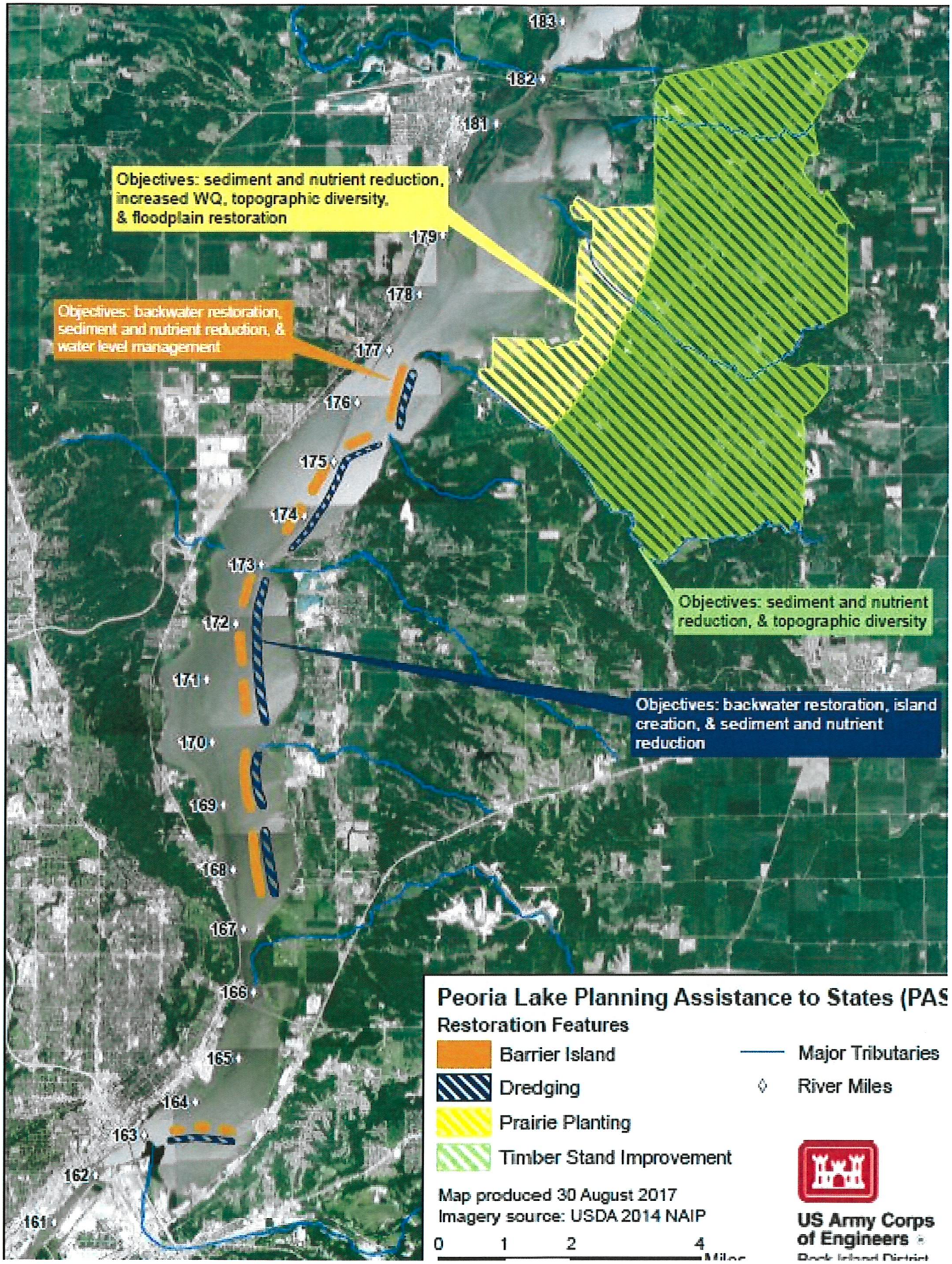
Peoria Lake Barrier Island Management Areas

Barrier Island Creation.

Peoria Lake includes nearly 20-river miles and several significant tributary delta formations that can be reconfigured for resource management. Island creation recreates natural floodplain features, alters hydraulic connectivity, reduces wind fetch, and increases habitat and topographic diversity. The strategic construction of barrier islands between deltas can create Barrier Island Management Areas (BIMAs) that create habitat for overwintering fish, and to reduce waves, reduce sediment resuspension, and improve light penetration to support aquatic plant growth. Periodically filling gaps between islands (1 in 7 years) will provide a means to use temporary pumps to conduct drawdowns for sediment consolidation and improved water quality. Tributary sediment loads can be managed in deltaic sediment basins that are periodically harvested for beneficial use creating soil for habitat projects and commercial use. Lower Peoria Lake may be one of the better areas to conduct a barrier island pilot study because it is a smaller area close to population centers that will benefit from improvements. The juxtaposition to a marina and highways eases operational concerns and improves public access.

Water Level Management.

Barrier Island Management Areas (BIMAs) can be operated to achieve multiple management objectives. They would function as backwater lakes most of the time and fish and people would move freely between the river and lakes. Periodic drawdowns (5 – 10 year intervals) would help dry out, consolidate, and stabilize sediments, reduce sediment resuspension, and increase bathymetric diversity. Lowering water levels also promotes submersed and emergent aquatic vegetation response, which improves nutrient cycling and dissolved oxygen levels, and further reduces sediment resuspension and turbidity. The resulting vegetation also provides high quality habitat and food sources for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. While water level management projects provide a range of ecosystem responses, they are also costly to build, maintain, and operate relative to other management strategies. However, there may be opportunities to take advantage of scheduled USACE pool-wide drawdowns in the near future


Objectives: sediment and nutrient reduction, increased WQ, topographic diversity, & floodplain restoration
Objectives: backwater restoration, sediment and nutrient reduction, & water level management
Objectives: sediment and nutrient reduction, & topographic diversity
Objectives: backwater restoration, island creation, & sediment and nutrient reduction
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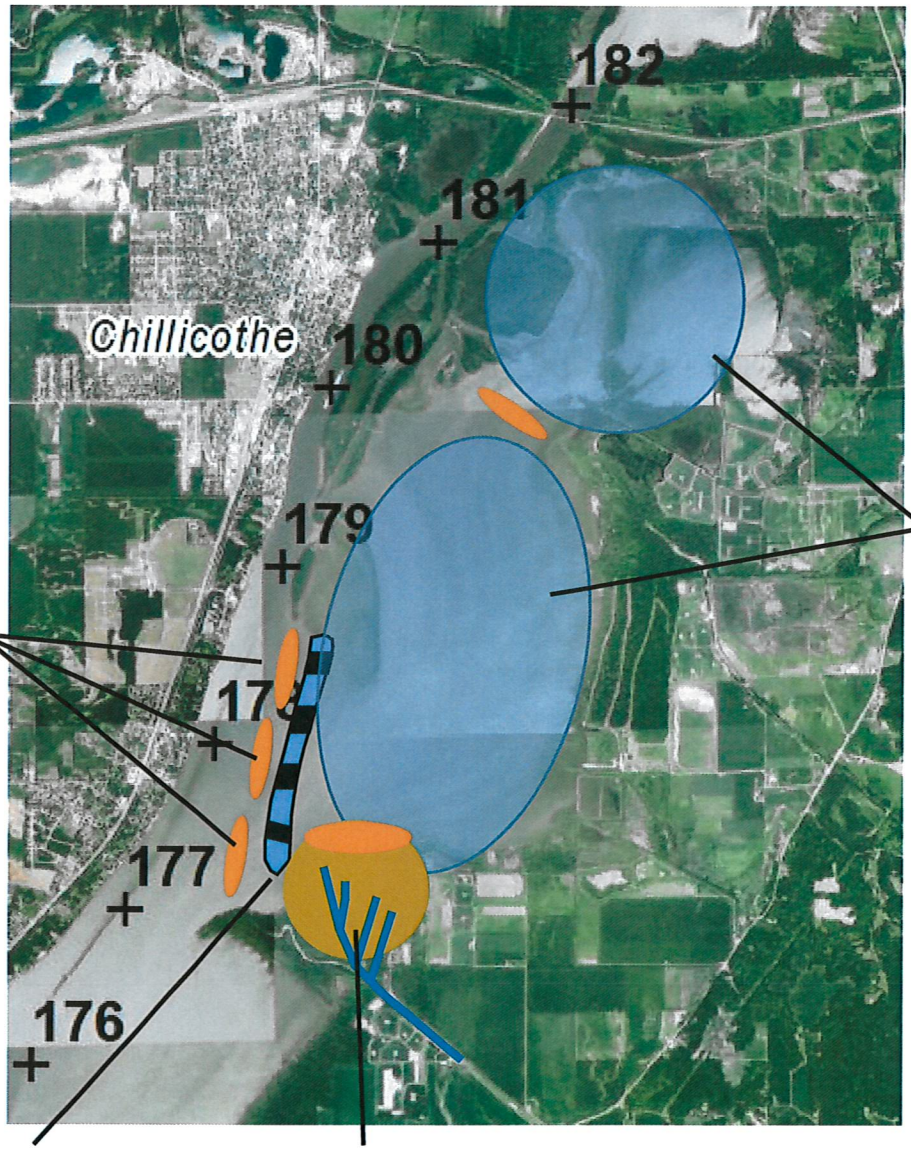
Peoria Lake Planning Assistance to States (PAS
Restoration Features
Barrier Island
Dredging
Prairie Planting
Timber Stand Improvement
Major Tributaries
River Miles
Map produced 30 August 2017
Imagery source: USDA 2014 NAIP
0 1 2 4
US Army Corps of Engineers

Barrier Island Management Area (BIMA)

Deepwater Aquatic Habitat
- Dredge island fill
- Dredge soil products
- Aquatic habitat
- Fish overwintering



Barrier Islands
- Manage connectivity
- Reduce waves
- Topo. Diversity
- Reduce resuspension
- Increase light
- Increase plants

Water Level Mgmt
(1 in 7 years)
- Close gaps in islands with dredged material
- Pump dry with portable pumps
- Sediment compaction
- Wetland plants
- Reduced sediment resuspension

Sediment Mgmt Basin
- Manage tributary inflow
- Create sediment trap
- Harvest material for gravel and soil