

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**

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301 S.W. Adams St.
Ste. 1007
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Representatives

State Director:
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Board Members:
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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, October 24, 2017

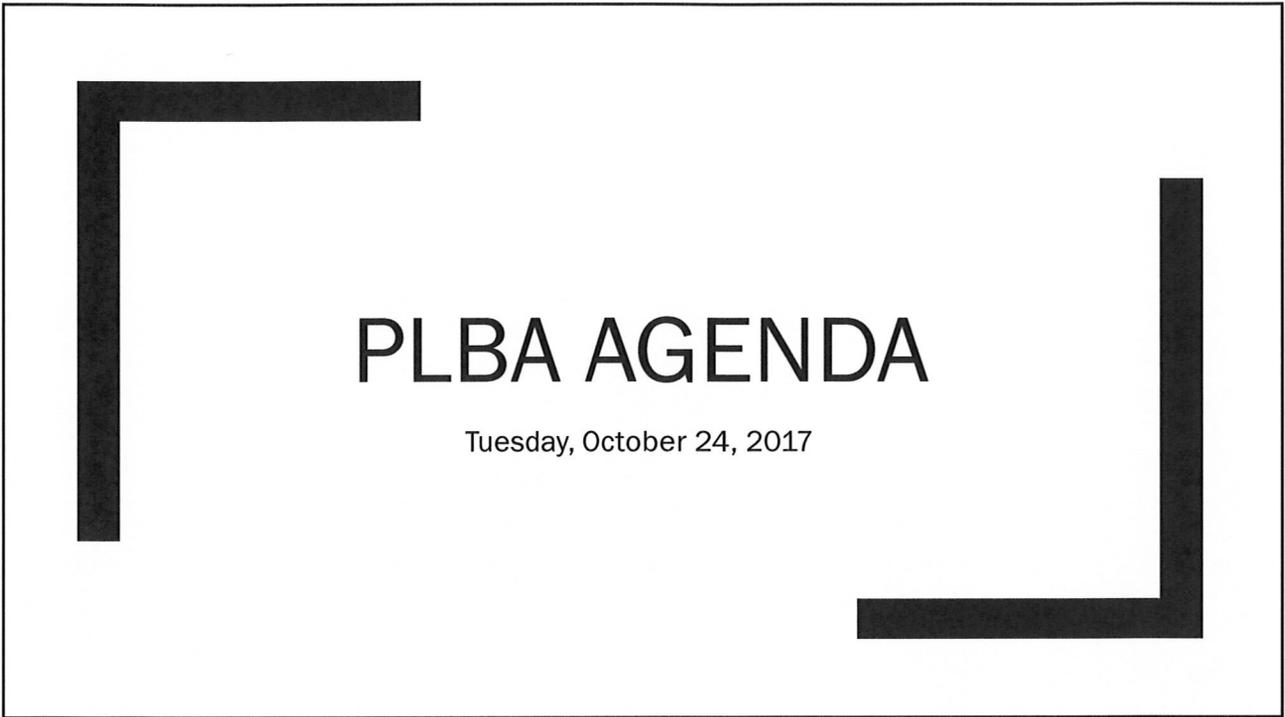
12:00 pm

TCRPC Offices

456 Fulton St, Suite 401
Peoria, IL

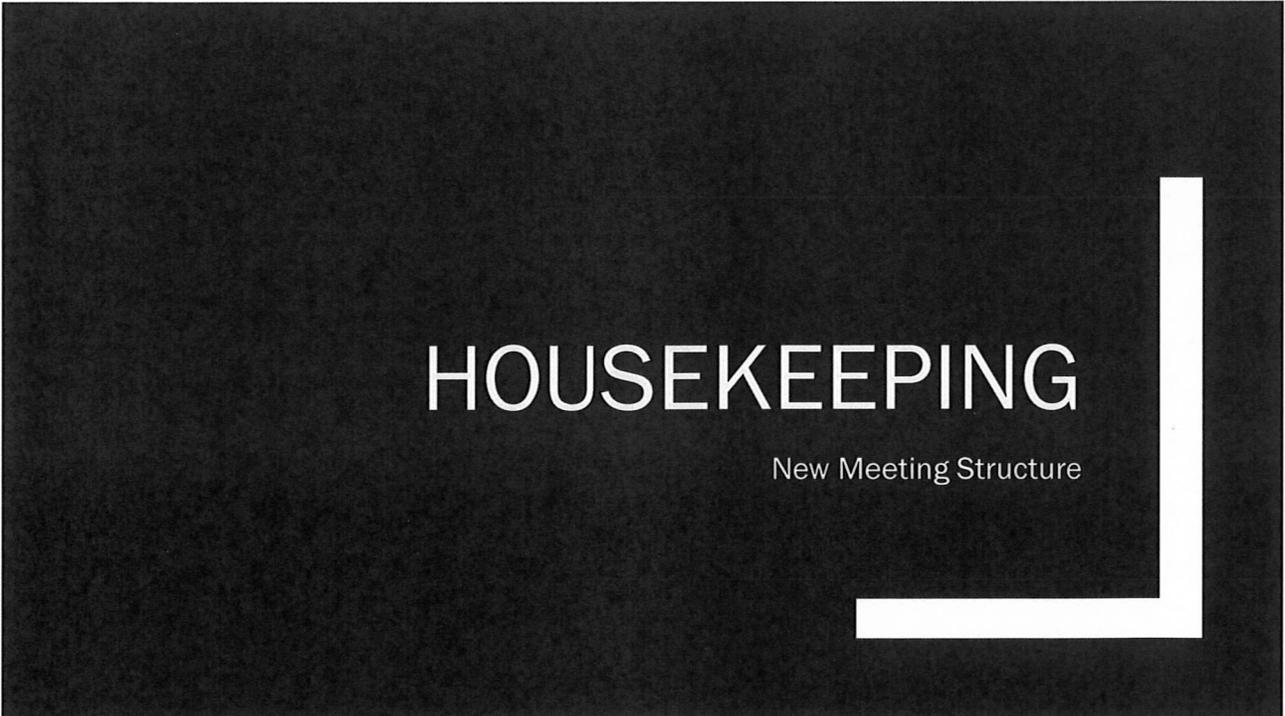
AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
- III. Housekeeping (Reema) (10 Minutes)
 1. Operational Procedures
 2. Meeting Goals
 3. Weekly Steering Committee Calls
- IV. Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan
 1. Definition of Terms (Michael) (10 Minutes)
 2. Presentation of Scope of Work (Jackie) (30 Minutes)
 3. Criteria Overview (Staff) (20 minutes)
 4. PRC Agenda (Staff) (30 minutes)
 5. Discussion of new meeting structure (Reema) (5 minutes)
- V. Other
 1. Next regular scheduled meeting is Tuesday, November 14th
- VI. Adjournment



PLBA AGENDA

Tuesday, October 24, 2017



HOUSEKEEPING

New Meeting Structure

Operational Procedures

- Let everyone participate
 - *Respect each other's concise thinking and do not interrupt*
- Listen with an open mind
 - *You can respect another person's point of view without agreeing with them*
 - *Stay open to new ways of doing things, and listen for the future to emerge*
- Seek first to understand, then to be understood
 - *It's OK to disagree, respectfully and openly, and without being disagreeable.*
- Stay on point and on time
 - *Respect the group's time and keep comments brief and to the point.*
- Focus on interests, not positions
 - *Address the problem, not the person*

Meeting Goals

- Fully understand the PRC's purpose
- Plan for the meeting accordingly
- Understand the next steps in the planning process

Weekly Steering Committee Calls

- The weekly call-in meetings will continue, but solely as a logistics check for TCRPC and the Corps.
- Wider involvement isn't expected but folks are free to call in if they wish.

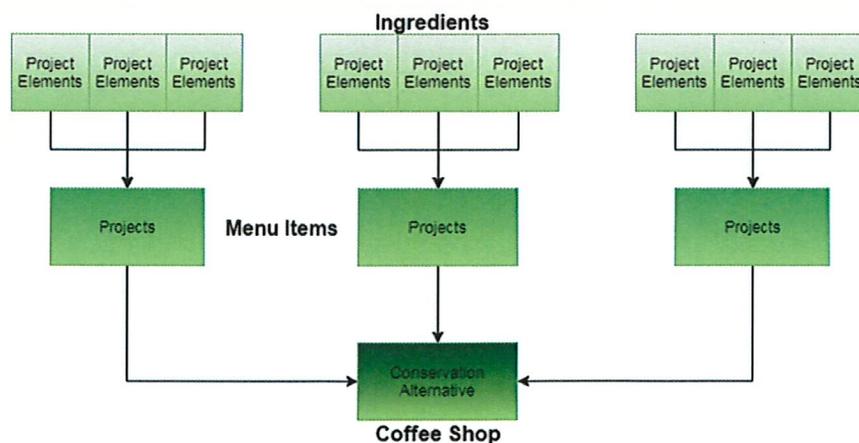
PEORIA LAKES COMPREHENSIVE CONSERVATION PLAN

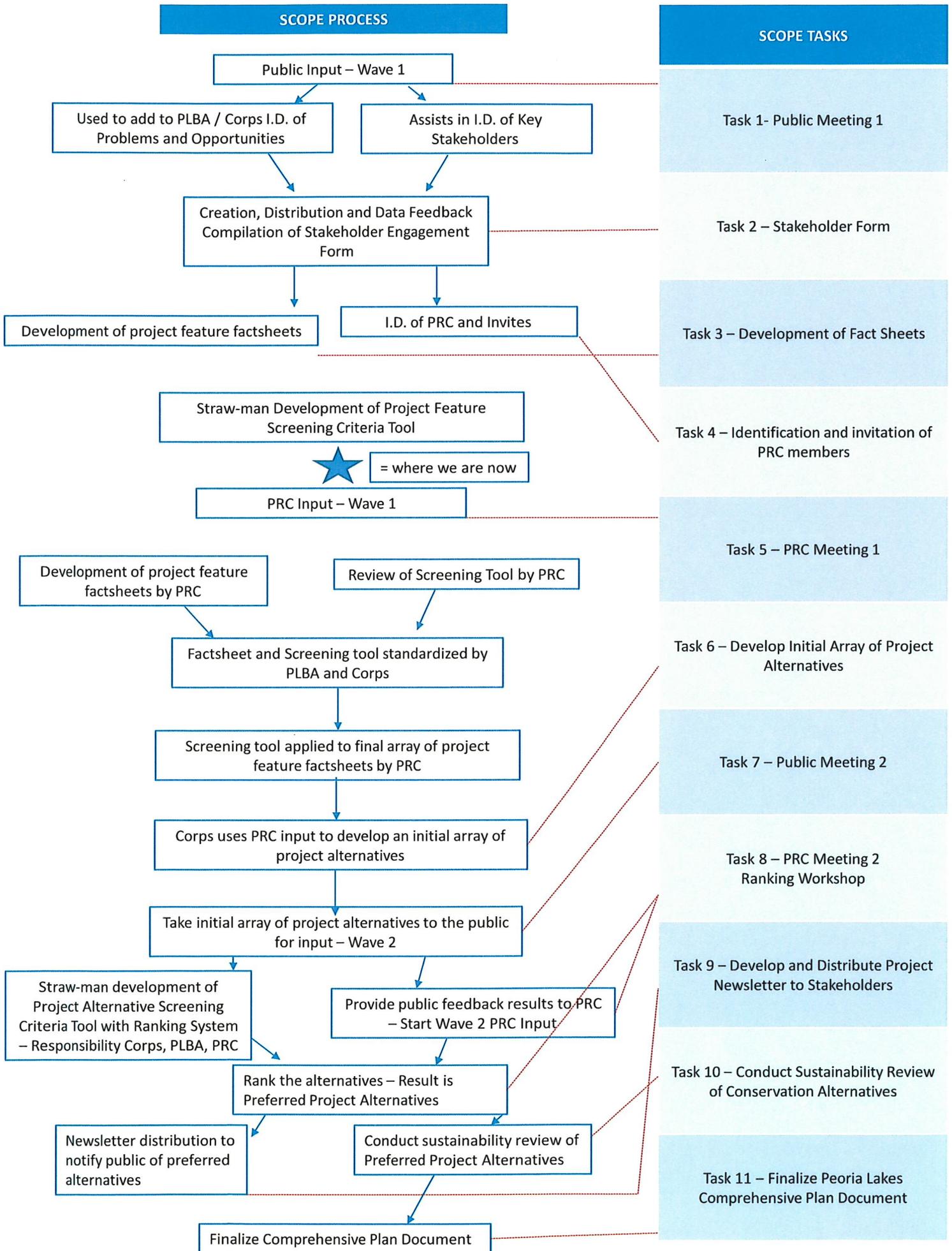
Logistics

Definition of Terms

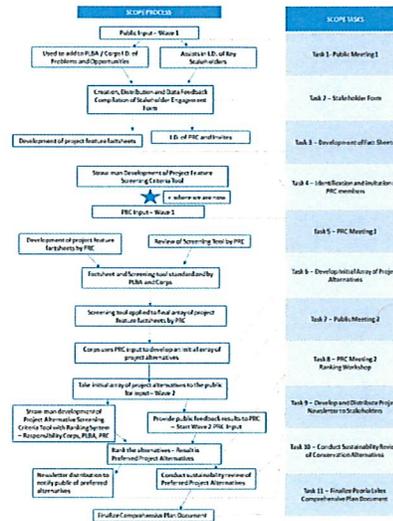
- **Project Element:** a component that serves as the foundation of a project. Project elements can be implemented individually or combined to formulate a project.
- **Conservation Alternative:** a grouping or sequence of individual projects that together will promote conservation of the Peoria Lakes.
- **Comprehensive Conservation Plan:** a document that outlines the environmental issues and management strategies in an area, in this case the Peoria Lakes. The plan relies on input from the public and many local stakeholder organizations, resulting in an inclusive, collaborative understanding for the future of the Lakes.
- **Fact Sheet:** a two page document that provides an overview of a potential project element. The fact sheet should include a description, possible location, status / past history if any, new relevant information if any, benefits, constraints, operations and maintenance.

Definition of Terms, continued

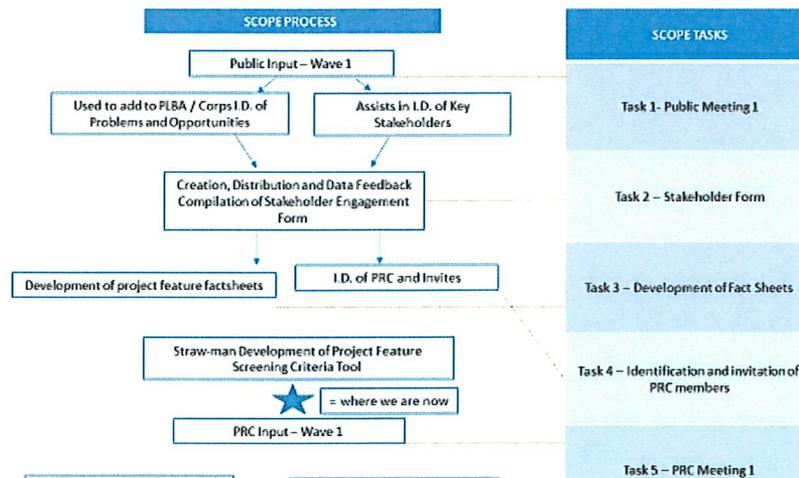




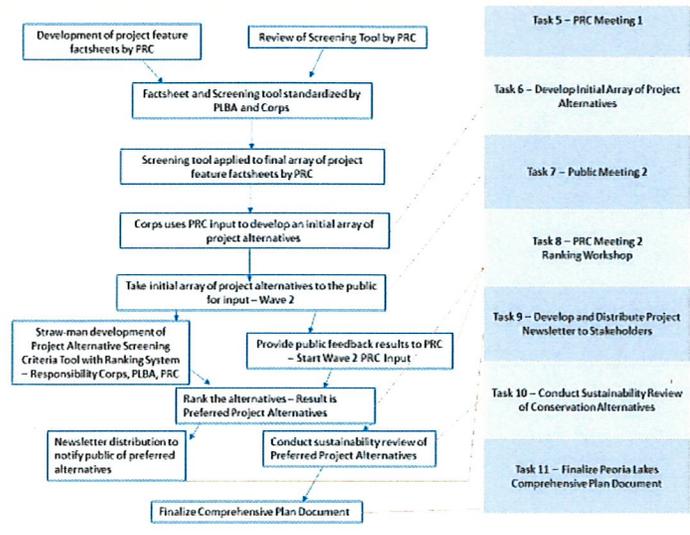
Presentation of Scope of Work



Presentation of Scope of Work, Cont.



Presentation of Scope of Work, Cont.



Suggested Reframed Criteria

#	Question	Yes?	No?	Comment (optional)
1	Does the project element have Scientific/professional support potential?			
2	Does the project element have Government support potential?			
3	Does the project element have Public support potential?			
4	Does the project element have Environmental Sustainability?			
5	Does it require investment outside of the lakes to be effective?			
6	Does the project element address the following problems?			
6a	Sedimentation			
6b	Water quality			
6c	Altered hydrology			
6d	Invasive species			
6e	Loss of habitat diversity			

Additional Question Alongside Criteria

- Question to ask PRC members: Where will you foresee the location of this project element?

(We will provide a map for the members to look at to understand where each of these elements are geographically.)

- Entire Peoria Lakes
- Upper Peoria Lake
- Narrows
- Lower Peoria Lake
- Floodplain
- Adjacent watershed

Criteria Overview: Previous Versions

Criteria & Weights:

- Timely Completion-1
- PLBA/Corp Alignment-1
- Public Support Potential-1
- Sci/Prof Support Potential-1
- Gov't Support Potential-1
- Environmental Impact-1
- Funding Potential-1
- Sustainability-1
- Effective Impact/Value- 2

Screening Criteria (Matrix)

Do they meet Objectives?	1-2-3-4 (Sedimentation, Water Quality, Altered Hydrology, Invasive Species)
Illinois River Basin Restoration Comprehensive Plan Objectives	?
Habitat Structure, Function & Process	
Adjacent to Existing Floodplain Habitat	Yes/No
Adjacent to Existing Overwintering Habitat	Yes/No
Does it create Habitat that currently does not exist	Yes/No
Does it increase quantity of habitat that currently exists	Yes/No
Does it increase the quality of habitat that currently exists	Yes/No
Potential to reduce sediment impacts to the Lakes	H-M-L
Potential to improve sediment quality	H-M-L
Potential to reduce harmful bacteria in the Lakes	H-M-L
Restore a more natural hydrology	H-M-L
Potential for floodplain impacts require mitigation or offset	H-M-L
Project location	Open water/100 yr floodplain Upper Lake/Lower Lake Upper/Middle/Lower/Lower Lake
<u>Timely Completion</u>	< 2 yrs < 5 yrs ≥ 7 yrs

Proposed updated criteria for **project elements**

Respond with either YES or NO. To further explain your response, you may add a written comment.

#	Question	Yes?	No?	Comment (optional)
1	Does the project element have Scientific/professional support potential?			
2	Does the project element have Government support potential?			
3	Does the project element have Public support potential?			
4	Does the project element have Environmental Sustainability?			
5	Does it require investment outside of the lakes to be effective?			
6	Does the project element address the following problems?			
	6a Sedimentation			
	6b Water quality			
	6c Altered hydrology			
	6d Invasive species			
	6e Loss of habitat diversity			

Question to ask PRC members: Where will you foresee the location of this project element?

(We will provide a map for the members to look at to understand where each of these elements are geographically.)

- a. Entire Peoria Lake
- b. Upper Peoria Lake
- c. Lower Peoria Lake
- d. Floodplain
- e. Adjacent watershed
- f. Narrows

Criteria Overview: Suggest to Remove

- The following will be used in the tool to evaluate alternatives (later):
 - *Timeliness* – it will be too difficult to gauge at this time
 - *Environmental impact* – vague: can be positive and/or negative
 - *Funding potential* – it will be too soon to judge this
 - *Potential for floodplain impacts to require mitigation or offset* – too soon to judge
- Renamed
 - *Effective impact value* – renamed in the form of a question: “Does the project element address the problems?”
 - *“Do they meet objectives?”* – renamed in the form of a question: “Does the project element address the problems?”
- Completely removed
 - *PLBA/Corps Alignment* – not comprehensive. PRC members cannot comment
 - *Illinois River Comp. Plan Objectives* – we will provide this as a separate resource
 - *Questions about habitat structure, function, & process* – not PRC’s responsibility to know

PRC Agenda

- Call to order
- Introduction of committee members
- Housekeeping
- Intro to PRC
- Present introduction to the planning process
- Roles and responsibilities
- Army Corps presents fact sheets
- Next Steps ("Homework")
- Other
- Adjournment

Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan

Planning for Regional Consensus to Preserve the Peoria Lakes

AGENDA

Project Review Committee (PRC)
Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 3:00 pm
456 Fulton Street, Suite 420
Peoria, Illinois 61602

MEETING GOAL

Attendees understand the Peoria Lakes planning process and homework

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Presenter</u>	<u>Time Limit</u>
1. Call to Order		
2. Introduction of Committee Members	Michael	10 Minutes
3. Housekeeping	Reema	10 Minutes
4. Introduction to the PRC	Michael	5 Minutes
5. Introduction to the Planning Process	Jackie	20 Minutes
6. Roles and Responsibilities	Staff	20 Minutes
7. U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Fact Sheets	Staff	20 Minutes
8. Next Steps	Staff	15 Minutes
9. Other	Reema	10 Minutes
a. Public Comment		
b. Goal Evaluation		
c. Next Public Meeting: February 15 th		
10. Adjournment		



Project Review Committee proposed agenda

Item #	Item name	Details	Presenter	Due date (end of business hours)	Estimated time (minutes)	Notes
1	Call to order		Michael		-	
2	Introduction of committee members		Michael		10	
3	Housekeeping	Logistics Operational procedures Meeting format Goal	Reema		10	Tell attendees to hold questions until the end
4	Intro to PRC	Who they are and why we invited them	Michael		5	
5	Present introduction to the planning process	High overview presentation Planning process Science aspect	Jackie		20	Parts of Jackie's presentation, Marshall's, Tri-County's
6	Roles and responsibilities	Project scope/Sankey diagram In-depth: Where PRC fits in	All		20	Sankey diagram example
7	Army Corps presents fact sheets	Review of stakeholder & public input Disclaimer that we are not 100% solving problem Disclaimer that we are not implementing projects Overview of fact sheets	Reema & Michael Jackie		20	
8	Next Steps ("Homework")	Criteria/tool: Feedback/additions New fact sheets if member wishes to submit Staff submission of completed tool to PRC Evaluate fact sheets based on criteria	All	Nov. 10th Nov. 22nd Dec. 4th Dec. 15th	15	This deadline is for staff
9	Other	Public comment Public meeting: February 15th Evaluate if goal was achieved	Reema		10	
10	Adjournment		Michael		-	

110 minutes
or 1 hour 50 minutes

GOAL/MEETING STRUCTURE DISCUSSION

10 minutes

Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan
Scope of Work
Final

Background

The Peoria Lakes are Greater Peoria's most precious natural resource. The Lakes, which refer to the widened portion of the Illinois River near Peoria, have supported life in the Illinois River Valley for 12,000 years. The natural beauty of the river and its bluffs continue to attract people to Greater Peoria, just as it has for centuries.

Native Americans and early European settlers enjoyed an abundance of fish and wildlife, pristine water, and expansive wetlands at Peoria Lakes. However, as increasing urban development and industrialization occurred over time, water quality declined, habitat was lost and degraded, and sedimentation has steadily filled in the Lakes. Today, many areas of the Peoria Lakes are less than 3 feet in depth.

Various projects and studies have been proposed in the past for how to help preserve Peoria Lakes. Yet, there is no regional consensus on what projects and studies should be pursued moving forward to help sustain this valuable natural resource.

The Peoria Lakes Basin Alliance was established in 2001 to coordinate efforts to restore and preserve the Peoria Lakes. Today the Alliance consists of Heartland Water Resources Council, The Nature Conservancy, and Tri-County Regional Planning Commission. The Alliance is requesting assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan. The purpose of this planning process is to reach a regional consensus on what conservation alternatives should be pursued in the future to conserve Peoria Lakes. The planning process can also marshal regional support for taking action to conserve Peoria Lakes. At the end of this planning process, the Greater Peoria area will be well positioned to move forward to conserve the Peoria Lakes.

Project Scope

Task 1. Hold Public Meeting 1 to officially begin the project.

Responsibility: PLBA and Army Corps

Cost Estimate: \$6,382.84

This meeting will be open to the public. Methods of notifying the general public will be pursued and key stakeholders will be invited to attend. The purpose of this meeting will be to:

- Announce the Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan process;
- Describe what will occur during the planning process;
- Gather input about Peoria Lakes from attendees.

Task 2. Hold meetings with key stakeholders.

Responsibility: PLBA

Cost Estimate: \$4,834.27

PLBA will lead two meetings of key stakeholders during this planning process to: 1) Introduce the project and gather additional input; and 2) Provide a preview of the conservation alternatives documents. PLBA members will also hold individual meetings with approximately 15 key stakeholders to gather detailed input on the desired benefits to be derived from Peoria Lakes and how Peoria Lakes can be conserved to provide those benefits.

Task 3. Conduct an inventory of possible Peoria Lakes conservation projects and studies.

Responsibility: Army Corps and PLBA

Cost Estimate: \$6,267.39

The Army Corps of Engineers will develop a list of possible Peoria Lakes conservation projects and studies that would help achieve the following vision for the Peoria Lakes:

A vibrant body of clean water with mixed water depths to sustain healthy natural habitats supporting abundant and diverse native plants and animals which contributes to our quality of life by providing increased opportunity for safe recreation, education, compatible transportation and economic development, and enjoyment by divergent constituent interests.

PLBA will work with the Corps to review the list of possible Peoria Lakes conservation projects and studies and identify the projects and studies for which factsheets will be developed. The Corps will then develop a two-page factsheet for the chosen projects and studies. The factsheet will include information for each possible project such as:

- Description;
- Proposed location;
- Status/past history of the project;
- New relevant information about the project (if applicable);
- Benefits;
- Concerns;
- Cost estimate;
- Operations and Maintenance

Projects on the Army Corps' initial list of possible projects and studies should include but not be limited to:

- Backwater restoration;
- Creation of deepwater areas;
- Creation of vegetated marsh areas;
- Drawdowns;
- Dredging and sediment placement;
- Floodplain recapture;
- Hydrology and hydraulics study;
- Island development;
- Island development specifically in Lower Peoria Lake;
- Sediment detention basins;

- Secondary channel;
- Wetlands protection.

With consideration given to public input, other projects will be added to the initial list after consultation between the PLBA and Army Corps.

Task 4. Hold meeting of PLBA and Army Corps to establish Project Review Committee.

Responsibility: PLBA and Army Corps

Cost Estimate: \$2,644.34

The purpose of this meeting will be to establish the Project Review Committee. The Project Review Committee will consist of PLBA members and other stakeholders that represent a variety of Peoria Lakes interest groups. Stakeholder groups that could be represented on the Project Review Committee include:

- Environmental advocacy;
- Economic development;
- River transportation;
- River recreation;
- Hydrology/science;
- Natural resources conservation;
- Government;
- Outdoors businesses;
- Other groups.

Task 5. Hold Project Review Committee Meeting 1.

Responsibility: Army Corps

Cost Estimate: \$2,589.45

The Project Review Committee will meet with the Army Corps to:

- Discuss the role of the Project Review Committee;
- Discuss the process of developing conservation alternatives to be developed by the Army Corps;
- Define formula/values/criteria for developing and ranking conservation alternatives.

Task 6. Develop conservation alternatives.

Responsibility: Army Corps

Cost Estimate: \$2,601.53

The Army Corps will use its scientific expertise and input from the Project Review Committee to develop different conservation alternatives. A conservation alternative will be a grouping or sequence of individual projects that together will promote conservation of the Peoria Lakes. For example, one possible alternative could be the construction of islands and development of a secondary channel. Each conservation alternative will be realistic, sustainable, and able to be maintained. The Army Corps will compile the following information for each conservation alternative:

- Description of each project within the alternative;
- Sequence/timing of projects within the alternative;
- Map showing proposed locations of the projects within the alternative;
- Cost of projects within the alternative;

- Identification of existing possible sources of funding for projects, as applicable;
- Benefits of the alternative;
- Concerns with the alternative.
- How the alternative can be sustained and maintained so that its benefits continue into the future.

Each conservation alternative will be presented in a document approximately 5 pages long that contains a narrative, maps, and cost estimates of projects.

Task 7. Hold Public Meeting 2.

Responsibility: PLBA and Army Corps

Cost Estimate: \$6,382.84

This meeting will be open to the public. Methods of notifying the general public will be pursued and key stakeholders will be invited to attend. The purpose of this meeting will be to:

- Present information about each identified conservation alternative;
- Obtain input on which conservation alternatives are most preferred;
- Obtain input on criteria for ranking conservation alternatives.

Task 8. Hold Project Review Committee Meeting 2.

Responsibility: Army Corps

Cost Estimate: \$3,266.40

The Project Review Committee will meet with the Army Corps to:

- Review the public input that was received on the conservation alternatives;
- Rank the preferred conservation alternatives.

It is anticipated that this meeting will be a half-day workshop so that the Committee can review and discuss each conservation alternative in depth and arrive at a final ranking.

Task 9. Develop and distribute project newsletter to stakeholders.

Responsibility: PLBA

Cost Estimate: \$2338.50

A project newsletter will be developed and distributed to keep stakeholders informed during the planning process. A minimum of two editions of the newsletter will be developed during the process. One newsletter will be devoted to notifying stakeholders and the general public of the ranking of conservation alternatives so that these groups will be aware of the ranking result.

Task 10. Conduct sustainability review of conservation alternatives.

Responsibility: PLBA and Army Corps

Cost Estimate: \$2,534.56

The PLBA and Army Corps will determine how each conservation alternative can be sustained so that the benefits of each conservation alternative will continue into the future. The Project Review Committee will also meet to finalize how benefits can be sustained. The descriptions of how each conservation alternative can be sustained will be included in the Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan document.

Task 11. Finalize Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan document.

Responsibility: PLBA and Army Corps

Cost Estimate: \$5,240.64

The PLBA and the Army Corps will finalize the Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan document. This document will be compiled throughout the entire process. The document will:

- Describe the public input process;
- Include the factsheets of possible conservation projects and studies;
- Include summaries of public input received at each public meeting;
- Include summaries of Project Review Committee meetings;
- Include the conservation alternatives documents;
- Present the ranking of conservation alternatives for Peoria Lakes chosen by the Project Review Committee.
- Discuss how each conservation alternative can be sustained so that the benefits of each conservation alternative will continue into the future.

Deliverables

The following deliverables will be provided as part of this planning process. The task to which each deliverable corresponds is listed in parentheses.

- Document that lists input received from Public Meeting 1 (Task 1);
- Initial list of possible Peoria Lakes projects and studies that would help achieve PLBA's vision for the Peoria Lakes (Task 3);
- Two-page factsheets for possible Peoria Lakes projects and studies (Task 3);
- A list of names and contact information for all members of the Project Review Committee (Task 4);
- Conservation alternatives documents (one for each conservation alternative) (Task 6);
- Document that lists input received from Public Meeting 2 (Task 7);
- Document that provides ranking of conservation alternatives (Task 8);
- Document that describes how each conservation alternative can be sustained (Task 10);
- Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan document (Task 11).

Schedule

Month 1	Task 1: Meeting of PLBA and Army Corps to prepare for Public Meeting 1 Task 2: PLBA holds first meeting of key stakeholders.
Month 2	Task 1: Hold Public Meeting 1 Task 2: PLBA holds individual meetings with key stakeholders. Task 3: Army Corps develops initial list of possible Peoria Lakes conservation projects and studies
Month 3	Task 4: Hold meeting of PLBA and Army Corps to establish Project Review Committee. The PLBA and Army Corps also will review the initial list of possible Peoria Lakes conservation projects and studies and finalize the list of projects and studies for which factsheets will be developed.
Month 4	Task 3: Army Corps develops a two-page factsheet for each project and study on the finalized list.
Month 5	Task 3: Army Corps completes a two-page factsheet for each project and study on the finalized list.
Month 6	Task 5: Hold Project Review Committee Meeting 1 to review project factsheets and discuss conservation alternatives.
Month 7	Task 6: Army Corps develops conservation alternatives.
Month 8	Task 6: Army Corps completes conservation alternatives. Task 2: PLBA holds second meeting of key stakeholders. Task 7: Meeting of PLBA and Army Corps to prepare for Public Meeting 2
Month 9	Task 7: Hold Public Meeting 2
Month 10	Task 8: Hold Project Review Committee Meeting 2 Task 9: Develop newsletter to inform public of the ranking of conservation alternatives)
Month 11	Task 10: Meeting of PLBA and Army Corps to conduct sustainability review of conservation alternatives Task 10: Hold Project Review Committee Meeting 3 to finalize sustainability review of conservation alternatives.
Month 12	Task 11: Meeting of PLBA and Army Corps to review and discuss draft Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan document Task 11: Army Corps finalizes Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan Document

2007 Illinois River Basin Restoration Comprehensive Plan Goals

Overarching Goal: Restore and maintain ecological integrity, including habitats, communities, and populations of native species, and the processes that sustain them.

Goal 1: Reduce sediment delivery to the Illinois River from upland areas and tributary channels with the aim of eliminating excessive sediment load

Goal 2: Restore aquatic habitat diversity of side channels and backwaters, including Peoria Lakes, to provide adequate volume and depth for sustaining native fish and wildlife communities

Goal 3: Improve floodplain, riparian, and aquatic habitats and functions

Goal 4: Restore aquatic connectivity (fish passage) on the Illinois River and its tributaries, where appropriate, to restore or maintain healthy populations of native species

Goal 5: Naturalize Illinois River and tributary hydrologic regimes and conditions to restore aquatic and riparian habitat

Goal 6: Improve water and sediment quality in the Illinois River and its watershed