

PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE
Tuesday, August 28, 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 12:03 p.m.

Attendees

The Nature Conservancy:	Doug Blodgett, Jason Beverlin
Heartland Water Resources Council:	Tom Tincher, Wayne Ingram, Tony Peterson, Bill Fisher
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission:	Michael Bruner, Reema Abi-Akar, Eric Miller, Roy Bockler, Russ Crawford, Steve Van Winkle, and Ray Lees
US Army Corps of Engineers	Chuck Theiling
Also Present	Eng Seng Loh

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Approval of meeting minutes for July 5, 2018

Beverlin moved to approve the July 5, 2018 minutes and Blodgett seconded. Motion carries.

4. Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan

a. PRC Meeting Debrief

Bruner presented the results from the sticker exercises from the open house and the PRC meeting. Loh asked which 3-5 measures floated to the top, and Bruner responded that the top measures are shown in the packet, but they are currently in no particular order.

b. PLCCP Recommended Plan

Bruner began presenting this section, which will make up the last part of the written plan. Theiling and Tincher asked about the purpose of this section, and Abi-Akar and Bruner responded that if an organization wants to contribute to this effort by funding one or more measures, these tracks will help connect certain measures to solve more than one problem at once. Some PLBA members noted that these tracks should either be referred to by different names or removed altogether. Blodgett recommended their removal from the body of the report and relocation to the appendix. No one opposed this.

Crawford went over the history of why the PLCCP was created, citing owner identification, which is outlined later in the Recommended Plan section. Theiling elaborated that there need to be more projects and modelling to show the private sector that there will be benefits to the process. Everyone agreed that the process should not be complicated. Bockler mentioned that there are several components of this effort that have yet to be captured, such as a plan showing the economic benefits of these measures.

Theiling said that this plan will be a living document and that it should identify programmatic authority. Tom reiterated that conservation improvements can have economic ripple effects in the community. Theiling said that Emiquon is one example of that. Miller added that this project meets needs that are not currently being met.

Loh asked what the minimum conditions for success are, and cited the Critical Success Factor. Blodgett said that we should focus on what we have at hand, then think about future steps. Miller mentioned that after the plan is complete, the group will move to implementation activities.

Bruner mentioned that staff looked at a database to see that there are no levees in the Peoria Lakes, and asked if they should remove Floodplain Recapture from the list of measures, since that refers to levees. Blodgett rebutted by saying that there are in fact levees within the “bluff to bluff” geographical scope for the plan. Ingram said he is not aware of any levees. Beverlin said there are low levees. It was noted that the only levees in the area are in an urbanized area of East Peoria or along local tributaries. Crawford said that there should be a footnote for the measures that include issues that are outside of the scope but are willing to be considered. No clear consensus was reached regarding levees.

Crawford asked if the issue of bacteria in the water remains in this plan. Ingram mentioned that it is covered in the Urban BMP factsheet. The group discussed invasive species, with a consensus that they are a negative influence on the Lakes. Beverlin said that the common carp are also an issue, not only the Asian Carp.

5. Member Reports

a. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Miller mentioned that there is one more outing with the beneficial use of sediment group this coming Thursday.

b. The Nature Conservancy

Blodgett discussed details of the Emiquon trip for the next PLBA meeting. He said that there will be a pontoon boat ride.

c. Heartland Water Resources Council

Tincher presented his Peoria Lakes Improvement and Lakefront Development Plan. He asked if the group would want to integrate his plan with the PLCCP. The group discussed this. It was mentioned that Tincher’s presented plan includes a broader scope, focusing on economic development in addition to conservation. Tincher asked to present at the

following meeting. Crawford asked the length of time of the presentation. Tincher responded one hour.

6. Other

a. Next scheduled meeting(s)

- i. **PLBA – Tuesday, September 18 (Emiquon) (Rain or shine)**
 - 1. Caravan leaves at 9:30am**
 - 2. Meeting starts at 11:00am**
- ii. **PLBA – Wednesday, October 10, 3:00pm**

7. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.