

**PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE**  
Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 3:00 pm  
456 Fulton Street, Suite 401  
Peoria, IL 61602

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

Beverlin called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**Attendees:**

The Nature Conservancy: Jason Beverlin, Doug Blodgett  
Heartland Water Resources Council: Wayne Ingram  
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission: Eric Miller, Ray Lees, Russ Crawford

**2. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for 12 February 2020**

Crawford moved to approve meeting minutes for 12 February 2020 and Miller seconded. Motion carried.

**4. Member Reports**

**a. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission**

Miller discussed that the current goal is to monitor for grant opportunities. Lees discussed the grants with Sally Hanley, Fast Track responses to lack of responses for Rebuild IL. Funding is needed for dredging, and the deadline is June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Lees provided an update about Asian Carp harvesting. IDNR funding is still in line and waiting on action of funding. Fishing harvest is continuing. Crawford said it's a good thing to broaden the message from storage and processing. Miller added that preserving the fish caught will bring more interest to the fishermen.

Dredging is currently on hold due to high water. Paul Rosenbohm has a lease agreement with the USACE to lease a loader site. He is creating a dock to reload sand easier. Crawford said that the Slate of Officers for the Commission is going to the Executive Board and then being forwarded to the Commission for their approval.

**b. The Nature Conservancy**

Blodgett had nothing to report. Beverlin reported on the following:

- Emiquon on a soft close
- Still planning on lowering water levels in June
- Temporarily lifted the permit requirement for lake access
- Carp removal at Emiquon

- Building new storage shed
- Completed tree planting

**c. Heartland Water Resources Council**

Ingram reported on the following:

- Tom Tincher is stepping down from Heartland Water Resources Council. Ingram said he needs help in cleaning out office of Heartland and asked if TCRPC can store some of the paperwork.
- Miller asked, is there any feeling of Heartland members whether it is worth keeping it going?
- Ingram said he will contact members of Heartland regarding what they want to do.
- Crawford said that if Heartland's chapter closes, then the responsibilities will fall on TCRPC. An intergovernmental agreement between TCRPC, Heartland, and PLBA will need to be done. Roles of Heartland will go to TCRPC (Commission)
- Ingram said he will talk to Stan and Bill for input
- Beverlin said to let them know what is needed. He would like to congratulate and thank Tom for his services.
- Miller said if there is material, we can look at preserving at TCRPC's office.

**5. New Business**

**a. PLBA Future-> Where do we go from here? Meeting Frequency?**

- Beverlin asked, how to do we proceed?
- Crawford said, we need to reassess. What is the mission of PLBA and who do we want at the table? Do we need to continue PLBA? If we do, all PLBA work would fall to TCRPC.
- Miller said this is good input on PLBA if Heartland dissipates. We need to focus on water resources for Commission. Who needs to be at table to move forward?
- Blodgett said we need a unified voice. Continue involving partners and it is not necessary to have monthly meetings. Meet every two to three months as needed.
- Crawford said he is not for quarterly meetings, every other month or every month if needed.
- Beverlin agrees that if Heartland is gone, we need a larger group but to keep Ingram involved and have other voices to keep on same page. If we include more organizations, then we need to have more frequent meetings, then slow down to every other month. We need to decide who is involved in the group.
- Crawford said to look at organizations we reached out to for various stakeholders. A representative from the coordinating council. Look at Conservation Plan we created, and possibly chose from that.
- Beverlin would like to review PRC list and possibly invite people to join PLBA.
- Crawford mentioned possibly these five groups: TNC, TCRPC, IDNR, USACE, and PRC
- Beverlin said that we can talk at the next meeting about who we should approach.
- Crawford said he wants Heartland to be involved.
- Ingram said he wants to be involved.

**b. Stakeholder Symposium**

- Beverlin discussed Emiquon's Science Symposium. He said he will create a list of presentations.

**6. Other**

**Next scheduled meeting**

i. 10 June 2020

- Blodgett discussed the navigation and ecosystem sustainability program for the Illinois River. He also provided updates for Illinois River projects. He asked if we are still in for getting the remaining islands fixed?
- Miller said that there is nothing happening now or in the immediate future. There is no local support for additional islands. He said the group should speak with Thieling to suggest a plan. Miller said he will contact Thieling and the USACE regarding an informational meeting on river island projects.
- Blodgett suggested that Thieling talk to Jodi Creswell with the USACE and Chad Craycraft with the IDNR
- Miller said he will talk with Thieling and have him call Jodi to do an overview of programs for two islands in the Upper Peoria Lakes.
- Crawford asked for her to come to June 10 meeting for discussion.

**7. Adjournment**

Blodgett moved to adjourn at 4:35 p.m. and Ingram seconded. Motion carried.