

PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE

Tuesday, July 5, 2018 at 12:00 pm

456 Fulton Street, Suite 401

Peoria, IL 61602

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:11 p.m.

Attendees

The Nature Conservancy: Doug Blodgett

Heartland Water Resources Council: Tom Tincher

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission: Michael Bruner, Reema Abi-Akar, Eric Miller, Roy Bockler, and Russ Crawford

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Approval of meeting minutes for June 19, 2018

Blodgett moved to approve the June 19, 2018 meeting minutes and Tincher seconded. Tincher offered a correction to the minutes under "Draft Plan Update." Tom moved to approve the amended minutes and Blodgett second to amend. Motion carries.

4. Housekeeping

a. Meeting goals

Bruner explained the purpose of today's meeting is to debrief from the second public open house and to review plans for the second project review committee meeting.

b. PLBA Meeting Times

Crawford stated he said 3:00 pm for every meeting in the future at the last PLBA meeting but noted that there might have been some confusion about this and it is documented in the June 19 minutes. Bruner explained that 3:00 pm does not work for him on Tuesday's. Bockler recommended to move the meeting date and time to the second Wednesday at 3:00 pm. Eric second the motion. Motion carries.

Crawford recommended scheduling the next three months of PLBA meetings. Blodgett asked if we could move the Emiquon meeting to the following week. The next PLBA dates are Wednesday August 15th at 3:00 pm, Tuesday September 18th at Emiquon (The caravan leaves at 9:30 am and the meeting starts at 11:00 am.), and Wednesday October 10th at 3:00 pm.

5. Peoria Lakes Comprehensive Conservation Plan

a. Open House Debrief

Bruner presented about the open house. A total of 50 participants attended the open house. Including special guests, Col. Steven Sattinger and Mari Fournier. The open house consisted of two presentations (one at the beginning and the second during the middle of the event) and poster boards displaying a location map, draft conservation alternatives and the consolidated list of measures with short definitions.

Bruner went on to explain that participants supplied some general comments and they are included in the agenda packet. Crawford asked if staff has gone over the comments. Bruner explained that staff has not fully, but they are all positive. Miller asked what to do with the comments. Blodgett suggested we respond to the comments in the report. Miller asked if they should receive responses. Crawford stated that some of the participants supplying comments, such as Joyce, are very influential. Bockler stated staff should send thank you for attending and supplying comments. Doug stated we should make sure to use comments to be respectful of the participants. Blodgett motion to respond in the document. Bocklet seconded and the motion carried.

Bruner presented about the sticker prioritization activity. The top three for environmental impact were prairie and bluff restoration and management, floodplain recapture, and agriculture water BMPs. The top three for quality of life were conservation and recreation corridor anchors, urban stormwater BMPs, and invasive fish species. The top three for feasibility/sustainability were beneficial use of sediment; deepwater area creation, dredging, and sediment placement; and nutrient farming. The top three overall were conservation and recreation corridor anchors, prairie and bluff restoration and management, and beneficial use of sediment.

Crawford asked why the prioritization data was in the packet twice. Bruner explained that also included in the packet was a draft presentation for the second PRC meeting. Crawford also commented about the low number of invasive fish species in the feasibility/sustainability criteria. Blodgett said, "great job" and asked, was there anything that stood out as disconcerting? Miller mentioned that island creation was the lowest. Blodgett responded that beneficial use of water was ranked high, and one way to get there is by creating islands. So, these measures are connected. Blodgett continued to state we need to describe this accurately in the plan: explain what these results mean, like the lowest ranked ones are not necessarily the worst.

b. PRC Meeting 2

Bruner explained the purpose of the second PRC meeting and reviewed the draft PRC presentation. The purpose of the meeting is to update the PRC on what has happen since the last PRC meeting in November 2017 and to review the draft conservation alternatives. Bruner explained that the prioritization station at the second open house will be used at the second PRC meeting. Crawford stated he would like to see further explanation about the sticker process. Bruner stated he would add some additional slides with instructions.

Bruner mentioned that we have 10 confirmed RSVPs and that Steve Van Winkle is unable to attend the PRC to represent Tri-County. Bruner asked the PLBA if we wanted

to appoint Roy Bockler as an alternate to Steve. Crawford made a motion to allow Roy to be an alternate to Steve. Blodgett seconds and the motion carries.

Bruner reviewed the draft PRC PowerPoint with the PLBA. Crawford asked if the Operation Procedures were necessary. The group agreed to keep them just in case, even though they most likely will not need them. The group was hesitant about the slide explaining the time lag due to the USACE staff changes. It was decided to be very general in this slide and that Crawford would do some wordsmithing and send it back to staff. Crawford suggested making sure the PRC understands the objectives are in no specific order. Crawford suggested to make it clearer where the delineations are for the upper, middle, and lower lakes.

It was recommended to remove water utility in parenthesis. Crawford feared that the public would take this as another tax. Crawford also recommended to remove the recommended studies because the public is tired of studies and would like to see action. The group decided to remove the prioritization results from the open house. The PLBA feared that PRC members would want to change their answers after seeing different results. It was decided to only show the PRC results at the PRC meeting. Crawford suggested to change "On the Horizon" to "Next Steps." Crawford also recommended some wordsmithing. Crawford asked staff to send him a copy of the next steps slides.

6. Member Reports

a. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Miller updated the group on Tri-County's beneficial use of dredged material endeavor. Miller explained the stakeholder group compiled by Tri-County has met 5-6 times for site visits. Miller informed the group that Tri-County did not receive IDOT's State Planning Research grant. Miller noted that we have not received neither a yes or a no but have received official "yes" for Tri-County's other two applications. Tri-County still has not heard back from the USACE on the Section 1122 Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Pilot Project funding.

Bruner mentioned that Tri-County will be having another site visit on July 20 at 8:30 am at the intersection of Adams and Pecan Street to review the City of Peoria's CSO demonstration project to meet EPA criteria.

b. The Nature Conservancy

Blodgett stated TNC had nothing to report.

c. Heartland Water Resources Council

Tincher stated he is working with Jason Beverlin to see if there are any construction dollars that could qualify into the scenic byway program. Tincher explained that he wanted to talk about the report in today's PLBA meeting because his overall concern is there is too much about beneficial use of dredged material and almost no consideration of the economic value. Tincher passed out a large map outlining projects that he is currently working on. The map took several plans and put them together to show potential conservation improvements that also bring economic value to the region. Tincher explains that the map lists dozens of potential lakefront project, and owners of

these projects have been identified. Tincher recommended that we include Pekin in our plan and reiterates that this work ties everything together.

Tincher read a sentence on page 40 of the draft report: *“Other than for logging prior to a project perhaps and tourist and license revenue after completion, government planners have not often considered there is value to be derived from environmental restoration.”* Abi-Akar replied that the following paragraph has positive aspects about economic development and proposes a mechanism to change government planner’s minds about deriving value from environmental restoration.

7. Other

a. Next scheduled meeting(s)

Wednesday, July 11 – PRC Meeting, 3-5PM

Friday, July 20 – Peoria CSO Site Visit, 8:30 am

Wednesday, August 15th – PLBA Meeting, 3 pm

Tuesday, September 18 – Emiquon PLBA Meeting

Wednesday, October 10th – PLBA Meeting, 3 pm

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:44 pm.