

PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE

Wednesday, October 13, 2020 at 3:00 pm
456 Fulton Street, Suite 401
Peoria, IL 61602
(Virtual meeting)

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Miller called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Attendees:

The Nature Conservancy:	Doug Blodgett
Heartland Water Resources Council:	Wayne Ingram
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission:	Eric Miller, Ray Lees, Russ Crawford, Michael Bruner, Reema Abi-Akar
Illinois Department of Natural Resources:	Dave Glover
US Army Corps of Engineers	Anthony Heddleston, Chuck Theiling

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for 9 September 2020

Blodgett moved to approve the minutes for 9 September 2020 and Ingram seconded the motion. All approved.

4. Member Reports

a. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Asian Carp

Lees gave an update about the Asian Carp initiative. He said Tri-County will be participating in a statewide promotion involving eating Asian Carp. This is co-sponsored by IDNR, Source company, and Midwest Fish Co-Op. He said the event will take place in locations around the state, from Chicago to Peoria to Springfield to Carbondale. Chefs will be cooking the fish any way they want.

Director of the IDNR, Colleen Callahan, will make an appearance in the Peoria event, which will be free to everyone. Lees said it will take place concurrently in two locations, one in Peoria at Kelleher's and the other in East Peoria at the Levee District. Both will be from 11am to 1pm this upcoming Saturday the 17th, known as Asian Carp Day. Fishermen have been taking out 10-15,000 thousand pounds of carp per day Lees said that by Thanksgiving, the company tasked with creating a new name for Asian Carp will have the rebranding ready by Thanksgiving.

Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

Lees said that there has been commercial activity going on regarding beneficial use. Topsoil sediment is being harvested at ADM ARTCO drydock, and the sand is being taken from the Kingston Mines US Army Corps containment site. Lees said that Paul Rosenbohm is the main contact for this project. He is mixing it and selling it to a wholesaler who will then mix and package it. Lees said that Steve Vaughn will test it further at the Ag Lab. Theiling mentioned that Vaughn has written a manuscript about this topic.

b. The Nature Conservancy

Blodgett mentioned the fish ladder that has been placed at Emiquon with the WHOOSHH company. He said that they have had some difficulties with this device, but the outlook is bright. He said they have completed the drawdown of Emiquon. They had begun pumping in June. He said that maybe within a week or two, they will begin bringing water in to flood vegetation that has exploded in numbers. Blodgett said that they will continue working with the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding potential future funding. In some cases, federal cost can be 100%.

c. Heartland Water Resources Council

Ingram said that he had no new updates.

5. New Business

a. Peoria Lakes Island Update and Discussion

Miller noted that the tour of the Peoria Island was well-attended. He said that there will be a presentation to the Commission next week. Anthony Heddleston said that he oversaw the island construction from the design perspective. He said he used lessons learned from this construction to update the design for future islands. He had some reporting done from 2016.

He is preparing for future site visits, but there is still data missing. He is hoping to get a report out this month, and he is waiting on processing data from a measuring device through their water group. He is hoping to show the original design template, post construction actual, and current state. Heddleston shared the results of one survey regarding the island. He said that two sides of the island are affected differently by the river's flow. The group discussed whether boats kick up mud in this area around the river; the answer was a yes and a no.

Dave Glover said he is thinking about how to evaluate some of these details regarding the island. He is concerned about the sedimentation rate and holes filling in. He followed up with Nerissa McClelland to understand fish around the area; he said he is not sure how localized these effects are. Glover said he is the rivers and streams program manager for the Division of Fisheries.

Theiling said that the coastal-oriented program is hoping to get more involved in inland projects. He said he spoke with Marshall Plumley at UMRR and Andrew Goodwin with NESP. Theiling said it looks good to collaborate with UMRR, and if possible, it can feed into Marshall's activity later in the year. Theiling said that Marshall would be the right person to write a letter to help staff implement what will be done. If the project is funded, a landscape architecture design team would be available to us, and we could have a distanced workshop to discuss how we would design the next generations of islands.

He said there will be lots of opportunities to share ideas about constructing soft substrate. Theiling said they are hoping to update the historic bathymetry that was collected after diversion and before the dams.

Ingram asked what kind of monitoring will be done. Hiddleston responded, dissolved oxygen, velocity, and others. He said he does not have the full list. It will be a continuous monitor that will be revisited every few months.

6. New Business

No new business was discussed.

7. Other

a. Next scheduled meeting: 11 November 2020

8. Adjournment

Ingram moved to adjourn the meeting, and Crawford seconded. Miller adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m.