

**PEORIA LAKES BASIN ALLIANCE**

Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 3:00 pm

456 Fulton Street, Suite 401

Peoria, IL 61602

**(Virtual meeting)**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to Order**

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

**Attendees:**

The Nature Conservancy:	Jason Beverlin
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

**2. Public Comment**

No public comment.

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

Crawford moved to approve the minutes for 12 August 2020 and Miller seconded the motion. All approved.

**4. Member Reports**

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

Lees gave an update about the Asian Carp initiative. He said it is moving along. He said Tri-County is working with Roy Source, who is “the commercial driver of most of the activity at this point” regarding carp. Source is waiting for funding for his ice machine. He has gotten his first contract for supplying carp to a Peoria area food bank, which is part of several food banks based in Chicago. Lees said that they are wrapping up a DCEO grant submission to fund equipment.

Lees noted that Brian Colgan of Colgan Carp will be establishing a presence in the Peoria Pool. He has plans to lease a facility on Pioneer Parkway in Peoria. Lees says that this will bring a positive impact to Peoria with a new industry and a sustainability mindset.

Lees also gave an update regarding the beneficial use of dredged material. He spoke with Chuck Burlingame and Paul Rosenbohm regarding the removal of 1,000 tons of sediment from the dry dock. Lees said they ended up trucking more than 7,000 tons to Rosenbohm’s business, and that material has been included in the mix of some Better Earth products.

Lees said that there have been conversations with the Rock Island District of the US Army Corps of Engineers as well as the Engineering with Nature (EWN) group regarding island planning and design. Lees said that biologists, foresters, and geotechnical stakeholders evaluated the island and took samples of it. A report will come out in the future.

Lees asked Beverlin if TNC's boats could be used for an island excursion. Beverlin said that their boats would not be able to be used until January, when TNC tentatively opens. Lees and Miller said that they are still hoping to do an island excursion this fall. Beverlin said they are not allowed to hold meetings in person with over 10 people.

Glover said that the IDNR can make boats available and potentially have permission to use them. However, he said, they must make it clear that IDNR is not hosting the event, and that everyone there is responsible for their own social distancing and safety measures. Glover said he would just like a paragraph about what the event would be about and the who, what, when, where, why, how.

**b. The Nature Conservancy**

Beverlin reported that they have done a drawdown at Emiquon, and the water levels are now different. He said that the "vegetation looks outstanding," as well as the birds. He said that fishing has been good since the water is reduced. There is quite a bit of carp around. They had a commercial fisherman remove bighead and silver carp; this will continue to be done at Emiquon.

Beverlin said they are continuing to work with Whoosh and the fish ladder. The carp lands in one area while the native fish lands in another. This is their fish management structure. Beverlin also noted that they are suspending waterfowl hunting due to staff shortages and COVID.

**c. Heartland Water Resources Council**

Ingram said that Tom Tincher has been helpful in terms of closing down the office, and that he has nothing further to report.

**d. IDNR**

Glover said he is still able to do a significant amount of sampling in the Mississippi and Illinois rivers. He uses electrofishing. As of last week, a commercial fishing biologist position has now closed, and a new person is coming in soon.

Glover said he was on a call with FWIC. They have a beneficial use subgroup, and he wants to make sure that the PLBA has reached out to this group to make sure they know of this group's involvement. Currently, this is only for the Rock Island District, Glover says, but in the future, it will include others.

**5. New Business**

No new business was discussed.

**6. Other**

**a. Next scheduled meeting: 14 October 2020**

Crawford asked if this next meeting will be virtual or a hybrid. Eric said that the next meeting will be a hybrid, so attendees can choose to attend via phone, webinar, or in person.

**7. Adjournment**

Crawford moved to adjourn the meeting, and Miller seconded. Beverlin adjourned the meeting at 3:31 p.m.