

OFFICE OF THE IL LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON  
 Illinois Rivers Coordinating Council  
 Quarterly Meeting Minutes  
 August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Agency	Name	Present	Phone	absent
Lt. Governor's Office	Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton	x		
Dept. of Agriculture (all)	Brian Rennecker	X		
DCEO (all)	Wendy Bell			X
IEPA (all)	Christine Davis		X	
IDNR (all)	Steve Altman	X		
IDOT (all)	Thomas Brooks	X		
IHPA (MS)				x
Soil and Water Cons Dist (all)	Stephen Fulling	X		
The Nature Conservancy (IL)	Doug Blodgett	X		
Marquis Energy (IL)	Danielle Anderson		x	
CFM, Illinois Valley Flood Resiliency Alliance (IL)	Matthew Stafford		x	
Hanson Material Service (IL)	Darren Melvin / Danielle Anderson	X		
Shedd Aquarium (IL)	Allen LaPointe	X		
Science Advisory Committee Chair (IL)	Bhowmik, Nani G	X		
Illinois Coal Association (W&O)	Phil Gonet		X	
UMWA Rep working at Cook Coal Terminal (AEP Operated) (W&O)	(Michael) Jason McNeill			
Cairo Mayor (W&O)	Tyrone Coleman			x

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Agency	Name	Present	Phone	absent
Eastern Illinois University (W&O)	Dr. Gordon C. Tucker			x
Illinois Environmental Council (MS)	Lindsay Keeney	X		
President Great Rivers and Routes Tourism Bureau (MS)	Brett Stawar			x
Great River Road (MS)	Reed Wilson			x
Illinois Farm Bureau (MS)	Wendell Shauman			X
Illinois Farm Bureau (MS)	Lauren Lurkins		X	
Illinois Farm Bureau (MS)	Lyndset Ramsey			x
ARTCO – ADM (MS)	Brent Nissen			X
National Great Rivers Research and Education Center (MS)	Ted Kratschmer	X		
	<b>Guest</b>			
Sierra Club	Nicole Saulsberry	x		
Waterways Council	Paul Rohde		X	
	<b>Staff</b>			
	Charles Watkins	X		
	Dartesia Pitts	X		
	Robert Mannis	X		
	Levi Bain	X		

A present majority of currently represented voting member positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 13

**quorum established.**

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**1. Lt. Governor Stratton called the meeting to order at 10:45 AM**

- Roll taken and quorum established

**2. Approval of meeting agenda for August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 and meeting minutes from May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019**

- Agenda for August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019
  - Moved and Seconded
  - Passed
- Minutes from May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019
  - Moved and Seconded
  - Passed
  -

**3. Chairwoman's remarks**

- Lt. Governor Stratton's remarks
  - Thanks to Allen LaPointe
  - Pope County visit
    - Access to clean water
  - Brandon Road Lock & Dam Collaboration Meeting
  - Effective structure for the Council
  - Sexual harassment & ethics training
- Chancellor Koch's (University of IL, Springfield) remarks

**4. New business**

- **Lt. Governor Stratton**
  - This council should take the leadership around policy and legislative change to improve the lives of the people of Illinois. We therefore need to come up with a council structure so that we can do this work. Currently, the proposed committees for this council are:
    - Asian Carp
    - Conservation
    - Economic Development
      - **Bobby Mannis**
        - Discusses committee structure
        - The Lieutenant Governor's Office will offer logistical support to the committees
- **Lt. Governor Stratton**
  - We'd like feedback on the proposed committees and proposed structures
    - **Christine Davis**
      - How will we divide into committees?
        - **Lt. Governor Stratton**
          - Folks can join committees as they would like, and can join multiple committees
          - What we do ask is that there are folks on each committee
    - **Nani Bhowmik**
      - How do we incorporate ecological restoration into these committees?

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- **Lt. Governor Stratton**
    - Conservation covers this
  - **Doug Blodgett**
    - Where does flooding fit into this? Would it be an infrastructure issue?
      - **Steve Altman**
        - Plan flood management is being done right in IL
          - **Lt Governor Stratton**
            - How is this communicated, Steve?
              - **Steve Altman:** IL is doing a GREAT job in regulating the rivers we manage; we get national press about it; our buy-out program and insurance is what really makes the difference; we work with communities to buy out properties so that resident properties aren't being flooded anymore and so that we can put the right infrastructure in place to prevent flooding in those areas moving forward
  - **Ted Kratschmer**
    - I like this breakdown
  - **Paul Rhode**
    - I recommend we open Asian Carp to include all invasive species that threaten the Great Lakes and Mississippi River
      - **Nani Bhowmik**
        - Perhaps Asian Carp & Other invasive Species?
  - **Lt. Governor Stratton**
    - So the proposed committees are now
      - Asian Carp & Other Invasive Species
      - Conservation & Environmental
      - Economic Development & Infrastructure
    - Is there a motion to approve these committees?
      - Motion moved by Steve Altman
      - Motion seconded by Nani Bhowmik
      - Motion Passed
- **Lt. Governor Stratton**
  - Let's discuss each of the Committees to begin and think about some issues areas. Let's begin with
    - Asian Carp & other Invasive Species
      - **Doug Blodgett**
        - Other invasive species include zebra mussels and quagga mussels
        - There are more invasive species in the Great Lakes threatening invasion into the Mississippi basin than there are from the Mississippi into the Great Lakes, and most people don't know this
      - **Steve Altman**
        - There are other concerns with Asian Carp; IL looks at solutions to abate

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- We need to do a better job at communicating what we have done
- People in IL know more about Asian Carp than anyone else because we have focused on it; we try to communicate with other states; we aren't getting credit for the mitigation that we've done relating to the Asian Carp
- **Nicole Saulsberry**
  - I'd like to know how we got to this point from a historical perspective
  - We should also compare our work with that of other states and how they have handled the issue
- **Allen LaPointe**
  - We should look at the other stakeholders who have invested in the research, such as universities
- **Lt. Governor Stratton**
  - We want people outside of this Council to bring the best information to the table; tap into those who are already doing work; perhaps we can have some presentations during a quarterly meeting
    - **Christine Davis**
      - Laura Kiefer, the IL State Hydrologist can probably do a presentation. I will reach out to her
- Economic Development & Infrastructure
  - **Paul Rhode**
    - Locks and Dams
  - **Wendell Shaumann**
    - MS River: major flood meant we lost 2.5 months of shipping time in getting grains to the rest of the world
      - **Lt Governor Stratton**
        - This has an impact on our economy and so this information is extremely helpful for our committee and council
  - **Chris Davis**
    - Tourism: improved tourism could help community economies
      - **Lt Governor Stratton**
        - DCEO and Enjoy IL campaign in partnership would help with this
  - **Ted Kratschmer**
    - Echo revitalization communities along the rivers; return the public consciousness around the rivers; raise awareness
  - **Nicole Saulsberry**
    - I will present legislation to the Council related to economic development in communities around IL's waterways, specifically SB 2146 – DCEO funded – which creates a youth employment training program

**5. Member updates**

- **Allen LaPointe**
  - Thanks to everyone who showed up for the tour
  - Feel free to reach out to me if there's any way the Shedd Aquarium can help
- **Steve Altman**
  - DNR update

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- Water supply
- State water Survey
- Fox river commission
- Administrative roll up day
- Dam removals
- Brandon Road Update
- **Wendell Shauman**
  - Farm Progress is happening in Decatur, IL
- **Lindsay Keeney**
  - Conservation vendors
- **Nicole Saulsberry**
  - We should engage Native American tribal populations in conservation efforts
- **Doug Blodgett**
  - Thrilled to host at the Dickson Mounds Museum in the warmer months
  - There is \$23 million in the capital budget for working with the Corps of Engineers on Ecosystem Restoration. However, IDNR is unable to commit to working with the Corps on Ecosystem Restoration because of a couple of technical issues, hereby endangering the loss of nearly \$67 million in federal dollars and the ecosystem improvements and jobs that work could provide. We need to get this figured out
- **Nani Bhowmik**
  - Conference in Peoria related to IL's rivers; people in IL, and folks on the council, can come talk about all the issues
    - **Christine Davis**
      - Last conference was in 2015; need more participation to bring it back
        - **Lieutenant Governor**
          - Christine's insight would be great for bringing historical info into efforts to reestablish the conference; our office will reach out to Christine to discuss and to put it on the radar to host
          - Great task to partner with the Council
- **Christine Davis**
  - A contact list for all the Lieutenant Governor's office Council liaisons is needed for council members

**6. Public comment**

No request for public comment made

**7. Adjournment**

Motion moved by Ted Kratschmer  
Motion seconded Nani Bhowmik  
Motion Passed  
Meeting adjourned at 11:41 AM