

Rivers Coordinating Council Meeting

Locations

Minutes October 7, 2025

1. Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

2. Roll Call Members Present:

- a. 1st Allen LaPointe
- b. 2nd Monica Bristow

3. A present majority of filled voting-member positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 11 members present				
Position	Name	Present	Phone	Absent
Ex-Officio (voting members)				
Chair (Lt. Governor)	Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton	X		
Dept. of Agriculture	Brian Rennecker			X
Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity	Monica Bristow		X	
Environmental Protection Agency	Christine Davis		X	
Dept. of Natural Resources	Director Natalie Finnie			X
Dept. of Transportation	William J Murray (BJ Murray)			X
Illinois Water Survey	Dr. Jenna Shelton		X	X
Historic Preservation Division of the Dept. of Natural Resources	Carey Mayer		X	
Army Corps of Engineers	Col. Aaron Willams		X	
National Great River Research and Education Center	Dr. John Sloan			X
Head of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Eliot Clay		X	
Community & Nonprofit Rep. (voting members)				
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Allen LaPointe	X		
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Lindsay Keeney		X	
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Kimberly Neely Du Buclet		X	
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Ryan London	X		
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Andrea Leege			X
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Deanna Doohaluk	X		
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Rachel Schick Siegel		X	X
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Libby Reuter			X
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Matthew Stafford	X		
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Margaret Frisbie			X

4. Approval of Minutes from July 10, 2025

a. 1st- Monica Bristow

b. 2nd- Rachael Siegel

5. A present majority of filled voting-member positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 11 members present				
Position	Name	Yay	Nay	Absent
Ex-Officio (voting members)				
Chair (Lt. Governor)	Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton	X		
Dept. of Agriculture	Brian Rennecker			X
Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity	Monica Bristow	X		
Environmental Protection Agency	Christine Davis	X		
Dept. of Natural Resources	Director Natalie Finnie			X
Dept. of Transportation	William J Murray (BJ Murray)			X
Illinois Water Survey	Dr. Jenna Shelton	X		
Historic Preservation Division of the Dept. of Natural Resources	Carey Mayer	X		
Army Corps of Engineers	Col. Aaron Willams	X		
National Great River Research and Education Center	Dr. John Sloan			X
Head of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Eliot Clay			X
Community & Nonprofit Rep. (voting members)				
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Allen LaPointe	X		
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Lindsay Keeney	X		
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Kimberly Neely Du Buclet			X

Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Ryan London	X	X	
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Andrea Leege			X
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Deanna Doohaluk	X	X	
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Rachel Schick Siegel	X		
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Libby Reuter			X
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Matthew Stafford	X		
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Margaret Frisbie			X

6. Lt. Governor Stratton Remarks

Opening

The Lt. Governor welcomed everyone to the fourth quarterly meeting of the Rivers of Illinois Coordinating Council for 2025. She thanked the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD of Chicago) for hosting the final Council meeting of the year. She also thanked Commissioner Brown and Commissioner Davis for inviting the council, and Nicole Sanders and Carl Camacho for organizing logistics, and to every member of the staff for their service! She welcomed Ryan London, and Margaret Frisbie to the council. Thank you.

She then celebrated the members of the Conservation and Environment Committee for hosting their first Webinar on the EPA, as well Cate Caldwell of the Illinois Environmental Council and Trevor Sample of the IEPA., who provided their expertise. This Webinar analyzed how changing federal resources and policies are directly impacting the function and people of Illinois and is up on the Lt. Governor's website.

New Business

Then She moved on new business and a vote on adopting new bylaws to remove the requirement to vote on every item on the agenda individually, making it so that a single voice vote will indicate approval for the Council meeting agenda.

c. 1st- Monica Bristow

d. 2nd Carey Mayer

7. A present majority of filled voting-member positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 11 members present				
Position	Name	Yay	Nay	Absent
Ex-Officio (voting members)				
Chair (Lt. Governor)	Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton	X		
Dept. of Agriculture	Brian Rennecker			X
Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity	Monica Bristow	X		
Environmental Protection Agency	Christine Davis	X		
Dept. of Natural Resources	Director Natalie Finnie			X
Dept. of Transportation	William J Murray (BJ Murray)			X
Illinois Water Survey	Dr. Jenna Shelton	X		
Historic Preservation Division of the Dept. of Natural Resources	Carey Mayer	X		
Army Corps of Engineers	Col. Aaron Willams	X		
National Great River Research and Education Center	Dr. John Sloan			X
Head of the Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Eliot Clay			X
Community & Nonprofit Rep. (voting members)				
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Allen LaPointe	X		
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Lindsay Keeney	X		
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Kimberly Neely Du Buclet			X
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Ryan London	X		
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Andrea Leege			

Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Deanna Doohaluk	X		
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Rachel Schick Siegel	X		
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Libby Reuter			X
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Matthew Stafford	X		
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	Margaret Frisbie			X

Presentation

Next, she moved on to the presentation for the meeting from the host, the Water Reclamation district of Greater Chicago, presented by John Murray P.E. The presentation went over the work the district performs every day, the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP), stormwater management, nutrient reduction efforts, and PFA's (often called forever chemicals).

Questions

Lt Governor Stratton asked how we can support the stormwater partnership and hear are data centers are impacting water usage and management. John stated that AI is the next horizon and is being worked with to help with stormwater issues and it can be a benefit. The Lt. Governor thanked John.

Subcommittee Updates

Allen LaPointe and Brian Rennecker of the Conservation and Environment committee

They finished webinar one and it is posted on the Lt. Governor's website, and they were working on webinar two about NOAA. This series focuses on how changes at the federal agencies may impact Illinois waterways and environment.

Christine Davis and Monica Bristow of the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee

They were working with Channahon on a tourism brochure and connections with IL 250 and ROUTE 66. Next year is the Route 66 Centennial Celebration and the 250th Birthday of America, and they want to use these opportunities to help promote this community and continue on with others.

Member Updates

Allen LaPointe- He announced the Shedd Aquarium just did a Chicago River study and discovered 24 species populations that had returned and Shedd opened experiences with live coral, plants, and fresh water

Rachel Siegel- She stated the Deimon silos project has been halted due to dust.

Eliot Clay- He informed the council that 90 people cannot access offices for soil and water conservation. Any reimbursement for contracts will not be reimbursed during shutdown, and that the Soil and Water Conservation district is fiscally okay but if the shutdown continues it will be bad.

Chris Davis- She stated the IEPA has state fund notice funding opportunities for green infrastructure and to apply on their website.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

The Lt Governor stated the next Council meeting would be in 2026 and just like 2025, dates for all four Council meetings will be sent out in December or early January. With that she entertained a motion to adjourn.

- a. **1**st- Allen LaPointe
- b. **2**nd Eliot Clay

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am