

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON
Rivers of Illinois Coordinating Council
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
February 11th, 2020

| A present majority of currently represented voting member positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 11 | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Position | Name | Present | Phone | Absent |
| Chair | | | | |
| Chair (LG's Office) | Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton | x | | |
| Departmental Rep. | | | | |
| Dept. of Agriculture | Brian Rennecker | | x | |
| | Kristi Jones | | | x |
| Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity | Wendy Bell | | x | |
| Environmental Protection Agency | Christine Davis | | x | |
| Dept. of Natural Resources | Steve Altman | | x | |
| Dept. of Transportation | Thomas Brooks | | x | |
| Misc. Rep. | | | | |
| National Great River Research and Education Center | Ted Kratschmer | | x | |
| Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts | Stephen Fulling | | x | |
| Community & Nonprofit Rep. | | | | |
| Community & Nonprofit Mem. | Doug Blodgett | | x | |
| Community & Nonprofit Mem. | Danielle Anderson | | | x |
| Community & Nonprofit Mem. | Matthew Stafford | | x | |
| Community & Nonprofit Mem. | Darren Melvin | | x | |
| Community & Nonprofit Mem. | Allen LaPointe | | x | |
| Community & Nonprofit Mem. | Nani Bhowmik | | | x |
| Community & Nonprofit Mem. | Konstantine "Dean" Alonistiotis | | | x |
| Community & Nonprofit Mem. | Jason McNeill | | | x |
| Community & Nonprofit Mem. | Tyrone Coleman | | | x |
| Community & Nonprofit Mem. | Gordon Tucker | | | x |
| Community & Nonprofit Mem. | Lindsay Keeney | | x | |
| Community & Nonprofit Mem. | Brett Stawar | | x | |
| Community & Nonprofit Mem. | Wendell Shauman | | | x |
| Guest (non-member) | | | | |
| Guest | Nicole Saulsberry | | x | |
| Guest | Paul Rhode | | | x |
| Guest | Emily Jenkins | | | x |
| Guest | Anna-Lisa Castle | | x | |
| Guest | Robert Sinkler | | x | |
| Guest | Patrick McGinnis | | | x |

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON
 Rivers of Illinois Coordinating Council
 Quarterly Meeting Minutes
 February 11th, 2020

| | | | | |
|--|-------------------|---|---|---|
| Guest | Fawn Pochel | | x | |
| Guest | Bradford Kasberg | | x | |
| Guest | Laura Keefer | x | | |
| Guest | Phil Gonet | | | x |
| Guest | John Willard | x | | |
| Guest | Lauren Lurkins | x | | |
| Lt. Governor's Staff (non-member) | | | | |
| N/A | Robert Mannis | x | | |
| N/A | Allauna Landheart | x | | |
| N/A | Levi Bain | x | | |

I. Call to Order

- a. Lt. Governor Stratton called the meeting to order at 9:10AM

II. Roll Call, Approval of Agenda, and Approval of Minutes from 11.20.19

- a. Roll call
 - i. Quorum established
- b. Approval of Agenda
 - i. Moved by Christine Davis
 - ii. Seconded by Dough Blodgett
 - iii. All in favor
 - iv. No opposition
 - v. No abstentions
- c. Approval of Minutes from 11.20.19
 - i. Moved by Thomas Brooks
 - ii. Seconded by Brian Rennecker
 - iii. All in favor
 - iv. No opposition
 - v. No abstentions

III. Chairperson's Remarks

a. Lt. Governor Stratton

- i. Wished everyone a happy new year
- ii. Thanked Kankakee Community College (KCC) for hosting the Council
- iii. Offered Dr. Michael Boyd, KCC President, the opportunity to make brief remarks

1. Dr. Boyd

- a. Discussed KCC and the Kankakee river, on which they the college sits
- b. Discussed KCC student body that transfers into the school and KCC's applied associate degree programs
- c. Discussed how KCC is driving economic and workforce development
- d. Discusses the KCC welcome center
- e. Thanked everyone for coming joining
- iv. Discussed past work of this Council and interest in work ahead

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON
Rivers of Illinois Coordinating Council
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
February 11th, 2020

IV. New Business

a. Laura Keefer

- i. Brief presentation on the sediment budget for the Illinois River Watershed and sediment trends in Illinois' bodies of water

1. John Willard

- a. "Native species that require rock-bottom feeding are impacted by sediment settling. Is there a study that focuses on the impact of sediment related to the impact it has on native species that are bottom feeders in the Kankakee River?"

2. Laura Keefer

- a. "The Illinois State Water Survey has not looked into that issue specifically"

b. Robert Mannis

- i. "Now, we'll discuss the strategic report"

1. Lt. Governor Stratton

- a. "I'd just like to note before we continue that while we don't need to submit this report per statute, I would still like to submit this to the Governor and General Assembly"

- ii. Brief overview of the draft report

- iii. Opens up the floor for discussion on the report's structure and recommendations

1. Asian Carp and Other Invasive Species

a. Anna-Lisa Castle

- i. "The Army Corps of Engineers' proposal for getting rid of Asian carp at Brandon Rhodes should be included here"
- ii. "If we miss this opportunity to incorporate their proposal into the work Illinois is doing to get rid of Asian carp, we will see major challenges moving forward"

1. Robert Sinker

- a. "The sooner we can sign on to the Army Corps of Engineers' plan, the better chance we can have to begin to see some federal dollars that can fold into our efforts to reduce the Asian carp population"

2. Economic Development and Infrastructure

a. Nicole Saulsberry

- i. "There's a federal bill that increases program funding for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (HB4031) — essentially, there is an increase in federal funding that might help the Council do what we'd like to"

b. Doug Blodgett

- i. "Would the updating of the Integrated Management Plan only focus on the economic arm of the report, or all parts?"

1. Levi Bain

- a. "We would look to update everything"

2. Christine Davis

- a. "I like the idea of updating everything"

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON
Rivers of Illinois Coordinating Council
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
February 11th, 2020

- b. “I would also like to note that we should use the Prairie Research Institute’s recent report on the progress made with integrated Management Plan since 1997”

3. Doug Blodgett

- a. “Hopefully, we don’t only assess the plan, but also reenergize the plan and keep it forward-thinking”
- c. **Robert Mannis**
 - i. “I’d like to note that the work we do is not siloed in any one committee — we are responsible for seeing these recommendations through by utilizing the entire council and outside stakeholders”
- d. **Lt. Governor Stratton**
 - i. “One thing I want to add is that we should focus on tourism around rivers and large other bodies of water”
- e. **Laura Keefer**
 - i. “There are resources for identifying flooding areas in advance and so we can possibly fold this into the report to ensure that folks have some awareness of what to do ahead of flooding to ensure they’re safe in advance”

3. Conservation and Environmental

- a. **Nicole Saulsberry**
 - i. “There was a bill filed in the IL General Assembly on the nutrient loss reduction strategy. When I get a copy of it I will forward it to the Office of the Lt. Governor”
- b. **Lauren Lurkins**
 - i. “One thing to highlight is the funding for the “Partners for Conservation” statute. There are conversations about how to continue the funding for this program, which flows to different state agencies. We could probably see the basic infrastructure of the nutrient loss reductions strategy coming out of this”

V. Member Updates

- a. No member updates

VI. Public Comments

a. Robert Sinkler

- i. There is an ongoing effort, of which I am a part, to achieve federal recognition of three port regions in and along Illinois as port statistical areas. This will support economic development, agriculture, and bodies of water throughout Illinois

VII. Adjournment

- a. Moved by Christine Davis at 10:29AM
- b. Seconded by Doug Blodgett
- c. All in favor
- d. No opposition
- e. No abstentions