

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON
 Illinois Rivers Coordinating Council
 Quarterly Meeting Minutes
 November 18th, 2020

A present majority of filled voting-member positions shall constitute a quorum: i.e. 11 members present					
Position	Council	Name	Present	Phone	Absent
Chair					
Chair (LG's Office)	All	Lt. Governor Juliana Stratton		x	
Departmental Rep.					
Dept. of Agriculture	All	Brian Rennecker		x	
	All	Kristi Jones			x
Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity	All	Wendy Bell		x	
Environmental Protection Agency	All	Christine Davis			x
Dept. of Natural Resources	All	Steve Altman		x	
	All	Kevin Irons			x
	All	Mindy Barnett		x	
Dept. of Transportation	All	Thomas Brooks		x	
	All	BJ Murray		x	
Misc. Rep.					
National Great River Research and Education Center	MRCC	Ted Kratschmer		x	
Association of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts	All	Stephen Fulling			x
Community & Nonprofit Rep.					
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	IRCC	Doug Blodgett		x	
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	IRCC	Danielle Anderson		x	
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	IRCC	Matthew Stafford		x	
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	IRCC	Darren Melvin			x
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	IRCC	Allen LaPointe		x	
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	IRCC	Nani Bhowmik		x	
Community & Nonprofit Mem.		Pending			
Community & Nonprofit Mem.		Pending			
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	WORCC	Jason McNeill		x	
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	WORCC	Tyrone Coleman			x
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	WORCC	Gordon Tucker			x
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	MRCC	Lindsay Keeney		x	
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	MRCC	Brett Stawar			x
Community & Nonprofit Mem.		Pending			x
Community & Nonprofit Mem.	MRCC	Wendell Shauman			x
Community & Nonprofit Mem.		Pending			

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON
 Illinois Rivers Coordinating Council
 Quarterly Meeting Minutes
 November 18th, 2020

Community & Nonprofit Mem.		Pending			
Community & Nonprofit Mem.		Pending			
Community & Nonprofit Mem.		Pending			
Community & Nonprofit Mem.		Pending			

**Note: grey cells indicate that multiple representatives were designated by ex-officios to the Committee. Only one staffer out of each group of grey cells counted for quorum, motion, and voting purposes.*

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

- a. Lt. Governor Stratton called the meeting to order at 10:04AM
- b. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was established

II. Approval of Agenda for 11/18/20 and the Minutes from 8/05/20

- a. Motion to approve the agenda for 11/18/20
 - i. Moved by Allen LaPointe
 - ii. Seconded by Ted Kratschmer
 - iii. All in favor
 - iv. No opposition
 - v. No abstentions
- b. Motion to approve the minutes for 8/05/20
 - i. Motioned by Thomas Brooks
 - ii. Seconded by Allen LaPointe
 - iii. All in favor
 - iv. No opposition
 - v. No abstentions

III. Chairperson’s Remarks

- a. Lt. Governor Stratton discussed the importance of recognizing Illinois waterways as a critical resource and updates on the progress on submitting the 2020 Rivers Annual Report, and thanked the Council for its ongoing work

IV. New Business

- a. Presentation on the Illinois Marine Transportation Plan from Holly Bieneman, Director of Planning and Programming at the Illinois Department of Transportation:
 - i. Holly Bieneman provided a presentation on the Illinois Marine Transportation Plan, walking the Council through the state’s waterway transportation infrastructure and output, the framework for the plan, and an overview of how marine transportation is utilized in the state. She remarked that the plan is open for review and comment from the public
 - ii. Lt. Governor Stratton opened the floor for questions:
 - 1. Anna-Lisa Castle: “This plan forecasts a net gain over the next twenty-something years in terms of economic outcomes related to freight. What makes up for the decline in coal that’s noted?”
 - a. Holly Bieneman: “My understanding is that since coal is an energy product, it is being made up with alternative energy products, but we also have BJ Murray here who may be able to speak more to that”

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON
Illinois Rivers Coordinating Council
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
November 18th, 2020

- b. BJ Murray: “Natural gas and propane and other sources are generally being used instead, coal isn’t as efficient economically or otherwise nowadays”
 - c. Holly Bieneman: “We can also point to primary metals and fracking”
 - d. Danielle Anderson: “The company I am with is also seeing an uptick in what we send across the river too in our product—we produce ethanol to add to the fuel supply to reduce emissions and we also produce renewable biofuel”
 2. Nicole Saulsberry: “There are a lot of environmental implications from the act of dredging, which also negatively impacts communities on the South Side. What is the plan for environmental justice for those communities?”
 - a. Anna Lisa Castle: “I also want to ask about how dredging will be contained as well as what the benefits of it actually are?”
 - b. BJ Murray: “We are also a stakeholder in this concern because we at the Illinois department of Transportation don’t own any of the waterways, we seek to just find uses or benefits from it such as clearing up waterways. If we think, for example, that’s not core dredging up in Calumet—that’s private company dredging. As far into leeching into the water and contamination, you’d have to ask private dredging operations since the Illinois Department of Transportation has no involvement
 3. Lt. Governor Stratton: “I just want to note as we wrap up that we want to be helpful and supportive of the Marine Transportation Plan, especially in coordination with the Governor’s Rural Affairs Council”
 - a. Holly Bieneman: “We have a lot of work to do on this and want to be sure to take you up on that”
 - b. BJ Murray: “There is also a video that covers a lot of this information”
 - c. Lt. Governor Stratton: “I also want to note that I appreciate the graphic that shows the in and out of freight transportation—it makes for a great visual.”
- iii. Lt. Governor Stratton thanked Holly for her presentation.
- b. Committee Updates:
- i. Mindy Barnett provided an update on the Asian Carp and Other Invasive Species Committee, noting that they are continuing to work on putting together a video that advertises the Be a Hero Transport Zero Initiative despite delays on social media efforts due to COVID-19. She also notes ongoing work with the Illinois Department of transportation to create bumper sticker signage, and efforts to launch a carp cookout to try and develop and elevate plans to get carp into markets
 1. Lt. Governor Stratton: “It could also be beneficial to talk about the health benefits of carp”
 2. Anna-Lisa Castle: “Have we still maintained the recommendation regarding coordinating with the Army Corp of Engineers, the Governor’s Office, and the Committee to advance plans to help remove carp from our waters?”
 3. Mindy Barnett: “Yes, that hasn’t changed”

OFFICE OF THE ILLINOIS LT. GOVERNOR, JULIANA STRATTON
Illinois Rivers Coordinating Council
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
November 18th, 2020

- ii. Steve Altman provided an update on the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee. He noted that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is working towards a final draft on a flood resource guide and that the Illinois State Water Plan Task Force is also being updated. He mentioned a series of open-house meetings coming up to discuss the plan
 1. Lt. Governor Stratton: “I’m looking forward to the flood resource guide, I know over the summer there were articles about the disproportionate impact of flooding on people of color. Also, please make sure we get the info about the upcoming meetings so we can share it with the rest of the Council”
- iii. Nicole Saulsberry, Anna-Lisa Castle, and Lauren Lurkins trade off to provide an update on the Conservation and Environmental Committee. They note that the Committee met to develop ideas on lining up guest speakers, beginning with the priority of nutrient loss and production. They also add that they worked as co-chairs to provide feedback on the report language and are continuing to work with staff in the Office of the Lt. Governor to make sure the Committee work is productive and meaningful. They noted continued discussions on nutrient loss reduction strategy and the bill related to it, thanking Christine Davis and Bill Rennecker for their work on the strategy, which was developed beginning with information sharing between mid-west states
- iv. Lt. Governor Stratton thanked all committee chairs for their updates

V. Member Updates

- a. Nicole Saulsberry: “I’m working with Centerville Illinois—dubbed the poorest community in the country—and have been supporting them with their issues around drinking water supplies. I was able to work in conjunction with Equity Legal Services and Elevate Energy to get palletes of water to them successfully, and we are also working to set up a water station in a nearby town in Belleville or Signal Hill so people can retrieve water on a more permanent basis”
 - i. Lt. Governor Stratton: “I want us to continue to follow-up on matters like these and get a better status of clean water in our state”
- b. Wendy Bell: “I wanted to provide some background on the work of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and the Rebuild Illinois Initiative, and give a better idea of what’s going on around the state. We are going to be able to provide around \$25 million for assistance with water, but we received a great deal of grant applications, so we are continuing to do what we can to provide support”

VI. Public Comments

- a. No public comments

VII. Adjournment

- a. Moved by Lt. Governor Stratton at 11:11AM
- b. Seconded by Nicole Saulsberry
- c. All in favor
- d. No opposition
- e. No abstentions