

**Minutes of the
QUAD CITIES RIVERFRONT COUNCIL (QCRFC)**

Tuesday, January 25, 2022, 12:00 p.m.

Council Members in Attendance

Ms. Heather Bishop
Mr. Larry Burns*
Ms. Barb Cray
Mr. Anthony Heddlesten
Mr. Ralph Heninger**
Mr. Tim Kammler
Mr. Tim Knanishu

Mr. Geoff Manis
Mr. James Peterson
Ms. Brittany Wells

* *Current QCRFC Officers*
** *QCRFC Representative to BSRC*

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Lorrie Beaman
Mr. Tim Huey

Mr. George Ryan
Mr. Bryan Schmid

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** Meeting was called to order by Mr. Burns at 12:10 p.m. Introductions were made by all those in attendance.
2. **Approval of the September 28, 2021 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Heninger made a motion to approve the September 28, 2021 minutes. Mr. Kammler seconded, and the meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Presentation on the I-74 Bridge Progress and Finalization.** Mr. Ryan presented on the current status of the construction of the new I-74 Bridge in Moline and Bettendorf. The east-bound bridge opened December 2, 2021 following a public ceremony, where the public was invited to walk on the newly completed bridge. The entire corridor is 5.5 miles long and work on and along it has been conducted by five separate contractors: Walsh, Kraemer, Lunda, Civil, and McCarthy. The original eight-year construction timeline was reduced to five through innovative staging. The basket handle arches were the most complex components, followed by the deck pieces. On average, over 450 workers per day were active during peak construction times. Workers had to battle a brutal winter in 2019 that saw all-time-low temperatures, followed by a summer of historic flooding on the Mississippi River.

The bridge will feature a cantilevered multiuse path on the down-stream (west) side and connect to riverfront trails on both the Illinois and Iowa sides. The lookout point near the center point of the path will include a glass oculus ten feet in diameter to allow visitors to look down directly to the river. The multiuse path is expected to open in the spring or early summer following some delays in procurement. The elevator on the Bettendorf side will allow trail users to access the multiuse path without having to cross train tracks, and will likely be constructed in the fall.

The bridge will feature dynamic lighting to reflect holidays and special events. Barges are able to turn the bridge lights off for a few minutes via a radio frequency to allow for safe navigation. Work will continue on and near the bridge for the next couple years. Demolition of the old bridge will

likely take place next winter. It will likely involve the use of explosives to drop the main span of the bridge into the river, but it is the choice of the contractor selected for the work to decide the method of demolition. Any explosives would have to take place in the winter when the navigation channel is closed.

4. **2020 Certificates of Appreciation Awards Presentation.** Mr. Burns presented an award to Lorrie Beaman with the Freight House Farmers Market for her tremendous work on the Meals-To-Go Program and making masks for the community during the 2020 pandemic. Ms. Beaman thanked the Council and accepted the award.

The second award was presented to Tim Huey for his dedication to Scott County and riverfront improvement for 25 years, including acting as President of the Quad Cities Riverfront Council. Mr. Huey accepted the award and noted that regionalism was what sets the Quad Cities apart from others, and is a major asset to all communities in the area.

5. **2021 Certificates of Appreciation Discussion.** The Council held a short discussion of potential 2021 recipients of the Quad Cities Riverfront Council’s Certificates of Appreciation. The certificates will be presented at the May meeting.

6. **Officer Nomination Committee.** The officer nomination committee will be composed of Chris Mathias, Tim Knanishu, and James Peterson. The slate of officers will be presented and voted on during the March meeting, and will assume responsibilities at the May meeting.

7. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**

- *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* – USACE is monitoring implementation of the new Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), especially as it concerns the river navigation system. Arsenal commanders are exploring the possibility of opening up the island to visitors again, as well as partnerships with surrounding communities. Lock 15 at the Arsenal is currently dewatered for maintenance and inspections. The visitors center is open, and the public can view the dewatered lock from that location.
- *Port Byron* – Blackhawk Bank and Trust is looking to sell their half-block property downtown. The emergency services center will be completed soon to serve Port Byron, Rapids City, and nearby rural areas.
- *New Boston/Mercer County* – Phase 2 of the Port Louisa project is continuing. New Boston is looking at non-federal funding sources for dredging in the bay. The eagle count at Lock and Dam 17 was 216 this year.
- *East Moline* – Residential construction is continuing in the Quarter. Reconstruction of the Mississippi River Trail will take place in 2022.
- *Moline* – The city is exploring options related to the I-74 realignment zone where the old bridge is currently standing. The demolition will create 14 acres of new developable land. The city is also looking into providing public restrooms at Bass Street Landing as well as a children’s playground.
- *Riverdale* – The new residential development across from Arconic is continuing to progress. The city is exploring adding a trail system connecting to the development. A bike repair station will be installed in the spring.

- *Rock Island County* – East Moline will allow the Rock Island County Forest Preserve District to acquire land for a new forest preserve. A tentative closing date has been set around February 1. The new preserve will provide additional access to natural areas.
8. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Quad Cities Riverfront Council will be March 22, 2022.
 9. **Other Business.** There was no other business.
 10. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m. by consensus.