

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

Tuesday, March 26, 2019, 12:00 p.m.
Union Station Visitor's Center
102 S. Harrison Street
Davenport, Iowa 52801

Council Members in Attendance:

Mr. Jeff Anderson
Mr. Larry Burns
Ms. Katie Enloe
Mr. Tim Huey

Mr. Tim Knanishu*
Mr. Rick Martin
Ms. Molly Otting Carlson*

* *Current QCRFC Officers*

** *QCRFC representative to BSRC*

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Tara Cullison
Mr. Chad Pregracke

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** Meeting was called to order by Mr. Knanishu at 12:07 p.m.
2. **Approval of the November 27, 2018 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Huey. Mr. Burns seconded the motion to approve the November 27, 2018 meeting minutes. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Presentation on Living Lands & Waters.** Mr. Chad Pregracke, Founder and President of Living Lands & Waters (LL&W), presented on this year's mission and initiatives of the organization as well as a brief history of how he got started. The Mississippi River is a 2,600 mile corridor for wildlife that has been degraded by pollution and dumping. Mr. Pregracke began his mission to clean up the river in 1997, established the non-profit organization in 1998, and increased his river cleaning efforts using a sponsorship from ALCOA. Since its creation, LL&W has hosted over 110,000 volunteers and collected over 10 million pounds of garbage to dispose of properly. Through educational events, river clean ups, tree plantings, and invasive species removal events, LL&W is making a huge impact on our nation's rivers. Mr. Pregracke discussed how these efforts are impressive, but hardly making a dent in the larger scheme of things. The major player in cleaning America's rivers is behavioral change and improving federal, state, and local policies to support ecosystem health and discourage pollution.

Living Lands & Waters is located in East Moline, Illinois and also runs a tree nursery in Davenport, Iowa. The organization has an approximate \$2 million operating budget each year and is currently operated by 13 full-time employees. Mr. Pregracke informed the group that the Bottle Bill, currently moving through Iowa legislature, is one to watch and encouraged communities to contact their state legislators. Removing plastic bottle redemption receptacles could be detrimental to the health of our river networks and connected ecosystems.

4. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**

- *Mercer County* – Mr. Martin, of Mercer County Better Together, informed the group that residents are preparing the levee system for the upcoming flood.
- *Moline* – Mr. Anderson reported that much of River Drive is closed, and the old river drive will be closed soon for I-74 steel assembly. MetroLink has received a \$2 million grant to update the boat docks in order to enhance accessibility to the river. Lastly, the Urban Land Institute will be in town for a technical assistance program to bring attention to and spark creative design ideas to the area under the old I-74 bridge, which will be the next major development site for the city.
- *Princeton* – Ms. Enloe discussed the city’s efforts currently underway to prepare for the rising floodwaters. A couple of events taking place this summer in Princeton are the annual Garden Walk on July 6, 2019 and Summerfest occurring July 19-20, 2019.
- *QC Chamber of Commerce* – Mr. Knanishu informed the group that the gate walls are closed and the auxiliary pumps are on. The event center within The Bend development area is under construction and scheduled to open in June 2019 and can hold approximately 350 people.
- *Rock Island County* – Mr. Burns reported the filling of Lake George is underway. The Rock Island Courthouse demolition is still in the works, but moving slowly.
- *Scott County* – Mr. Huey said the I-74 bridge construction and its effects on the area are ongoing. There was one flood buy-out near the Wapsipinicon River. The Scott County Economic Development Summit that took place on Thursday, February 28, 2019 was a success.
- *Visit Quad Cities* – Ms. Otting Carlson informed the group that the Pardon our Progress QC – Facebook page has launched to inform residents and visitors of important road closures and accessible routes to downtown businesses. Union Station will reopen in fall 2019. May 6-12 is National Tourism Week, and Saturday, May 11 is Get Out and Trail (GOAT) Day, encouraging residents to use alternative transportation and showcasing our region’s trails network.

5. **Announcements.**

6. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Quad City Riverfront Council will be May 28, 2019.

7. **Other Business.** There was no other business.

8. **Meeting Adjourned at 1:05 p.m.**