

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

Tuesday, July 25, 2023, 12:00 p.m.

Council Members in Attendance

Ms. Heather Bishop
Mr. Larry Burns
Mr. Chris Mathias *

Mr. Tim Knanishu
Mr. James Peterson *
* *Current QCRFC Officers*

Others in Attendance

Mr. Dan Breidenstein
Mr. Dave Debacker

Ms. Kim Guy
Mr. Zach Sutton

1. **Call Meeting to Order** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Mathias at 12:02 p.m.
2. **Approval of the May 23, 2023 QCRFC Meeting Minutes** Mr. Burns made a motion to approve the May 23, 2023 minutes. Mr. Knanishu seconded, and the meeting minutes were approved.
3. **July Field Trip – Living Lands and Waters Barge** Mr. Debacker and Mr. Breidenstein gave a tour of the Living Lands and Waters Barge. Mr. Debacker opened the tour by giving background information on the barge. The barge began operation on the Ohio River in 1934, and has been used for various purposes since. Recently, the barge was used to clean up trash along the Mississippi River, and it will soon be hosting a “floating classroom” that will provide river-based education. Until someone can be found to fill the educator role long-term, the barge will dock at a different city each semester, with a local educator coming onboard for the semester. The cabin of the barge has been moved from the original hull onto a newer, more stable one in recent years. The ceiling of the cabin is comprised of wood that has been reclaimed from the river as part of the cleanup operation and then painted. Several upgrades will be coming to the barge in the coming weeks and months, including a new generator, installation of a heating and cooling system, water tanks to facilitate an onboard plumbing system, solar panels, and living quarters. Mr. Debacker also described the challenges involved in construction on the barge, chief among which being the inability to use a level due to the barge being on water. Mr. Breidenstein then went into detail about how the barge would be used going forward. The goal of the current iteration of the Living Lands and Waters Barge while it is docked in the Quad Cities is to bring attention to the river in the Quad Cities area and to showcase various river careers. Due to the success of the river cleanup efforts in the QC area, Dan said, the barge has spent less time in the QCA. Dan pointed out that the limited time the barge has spent in the QCA is a positive indicator of the health of the river, at least in regards to trash pollution.
4. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**
 - *Scott County* – Mr. Mathias began with personal news, announcing that he would be taking a job with the City of Moline. He pointed out that this means that the Riverfront Council now has to find a new representative from Scott County. Mr. Mathias said that he would be willing

to be the Riverfront Council representative for the City of Moline going forward. He also gave an update on the CO2 pipeline that would be passing through Scott County. Mr. Mathias had proposed a resolution that would increase the minimum distance the pipeline would have to be from homes that was still under consideration.

- *Mercer County* – Mr. Peterson gave the council a heads-up on events that would be occurring in Mercer County in August, including the New Boston Fish Fry August 25-27 and the Keithsburg Boat-In Breakfast on August 20. Mr. Peterson also informed the group that the Port Louisa project has had more work added to its scope, and will take longer as a result.
 - *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* – Ms. Bishop said that the largest diesel tow boat on the Mississippi River, *MV Mississippi* would be in the Quad Cities in August. On August 11, there will be a STEM educator tour on the boat, and on August 12, there will be an open house. Ms. Bishop also mentioned that the Mississippi River Commission would be holding an open meeting on August 15.
 - *REDEEM* – Mr. Knanishu said there would be an Iowa Interstate Railroad representative coming into the Quad Cities in the coming weeks, who would be meeting with local leaders and members of the community.
 - *Rock Island County* – Mr. Burns said that the painted dog exhibit is now open at Niabi Zoo, and that there are plans in place to begin work on Rock Island’s historic courthouse square, now that the old courthouse has been torn down. The area that was formerly occupied by the old courthouse is being turned into greenspace.
5. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Quad Cities Riverfront Council will be September 26, 2023. Location TBD
6. **Other Business.** None
7. **Adjournment.** Mr. Burns moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Peterson seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.