

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

Scott County Emergency Operations Center
1100 E. 46th Street
Davenport, IA 52807
Tuesday, January 23, 2024, 12:00 p.m.

Council Members in Attendance

Ms. Heather Bishop
Mr. Larry Burns
Ms. Barb Cray
Mr. Rob Danielson
Maj. Matthew Fletcher

Mr. Anthony Heddleston
Mr. Ralph Heninger
Mr. James Peterson*
** Current QCRFC Officers*

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Brian Payne
Mr. Zach Sutton

1. **Call Meeting to Order** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Peterson at 12:08 p.m.
2. **Tour and Presentation** Mr. Payne began by welcoming the council to the Scott County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). He then began his presentation by giving a brief overview of the Mississippi River flooding in Spring 2023. This was followed by a summary of the EOC's operations in the event of a disaster, such as the flood of 2023. The EOC's roles during a crisis include coordinating and supporting relief and recovery efforts, coordinating logistics, and performing a damage assessment within 72 hours of the event. Mr. Payne then said that there are some preparations underway for anticipated events in 2024, focused on collaboration with local agencies, but that there is only so much that the EMA can do, since they have to be asked to engage before they can act.

Mr. Payne then took the members on a tour of the EOC facilities. The group was told that the 60-70 people work in the EOC during the peak of an emergency response. The facility was built around 2010, and the interior of the building, which includes the dispatch center, is built to withstand an EF5 tornado, while the entire building is built to withstand an EF3. The group was taken into the dispatch center and were shown how the center functioned, and were informed that there was room in the dispatch center to accommodate the operations of smaller neighboring counties, such as Cedar, should they wish to move their dispatch operations to the EOC.

3. **Approval of the November 28, 2023 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Burns made a motion to approve the November 28, 2023 minutes. Major Fletcher seconded, and the meeting minutes were approved.
4. **2023 Certificate of Appreciation Discussion.** Mr. Sutton informed the members that the window to submit their nominations for recipients of a Riverfront Council certificate of appreciation was now

open. He said that more details would be sent out after the meeting, and that nominations should be submitted to him.

5. **Nomination Committee Announcement.** A discussion regarding the selection of officers for the upcoming term took place. Mr. Peterson spoke on the process of past years, in which the vice-president succeeded to the role of president, while the secretary succeeded to the VP.
6. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**
 - *LeClaire* – Mr. Danielson reported that LeClaire, like Bettendorf has been in negotiations with the CPKC railroad about establishing quiet zones in town to offset the effects of the railroad merger. He also reported that work had begun on Phase II of the Cody Road sidewalk project.
 - *Rock Island County* – Mr. Burns informed the council that the exterior of the cat house at Niabi Zoo had collapsed due to the severe winter weather, and that the animals (unharmed) had been temporarily moved to other facilities.
 - *Mercer County/New Boston* – Mr. Peterson gave a series of updates regarding activities in Mercer County and the town of New Boston. A new addition has been constructed on the elementary school in New Boston, and levee repairs just outside of town are ongoing. A study is ongoing in New Boston regarding possibly adding 2 new boat ramps and doing some dredging work. Additionally, Lock & Dam 17 is currently closed for maintenance.
 - *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* – Major Fletcher said that dredging had been completed at the Lindsay Park Marina in Davenport, and that dredging would begin at Sunset Marina in Rock Island this summer. Additional updates include that a the new commander of the Arsenal would be arriving in the summer, commercial traffic on the Mississippi has been reduced due to ice, and that the Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge would be hosting a series of events this year to celebrate its 100th anniversary.
 - *Bi-State Regional Commission* – Mr. Heninger emphasized that the dredging at Lindsay Park had been completed ahead of schedule, and expressed his gratitude to the Corps for their work on the project. Mr. Sutton gave a brief update on the progress of the STBG & TAP process for Iowa RPA 9, informing the group that the application process was now open.
 - *Port Byron* – Mayor Cray informed the council that discussions regarding the downtown streetscaping project in Port Byron was still ongoing. There is also still a disagreement between the railroad and local businesses regarding the fence constructed by the railroad, which has resulted in some businesses having their access to the river cut off. Port Byron has also received a grant to conduct a lead pipe survey.
 - *Riverdale* – Mr. Heddleston gave updates both on behalf of Riverdale and USACE. Regarding Corps projects, Mr. Heddleston said that the Keithsburg ecosystem project was entering its next phase, and that the Corps would be doing work on Steamboat Island and the Milan Big Island levee system this year. Regarding Riverdale, Mr. Heddleston informed the members that the previous Riverdale representative for the council had retired, and that he would be serving in the representative role going forward. Riverdale recently opened its first new park in 30 years, and is currently conducting a quiet zone study of its own. Riverdale is also working on possibly constructing a bridge over the railroad tracks to Arconic, as the increased rail traffic is causing delays for people coming to and from work.

7. **Next Meeting.** Mr. Peterson reminded the members that the next meeting is scheduled for March 26.
8. **Other Business.** None
9. **Adjournment.** Mr. Burns moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Heddleston seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.