

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

Tuesday, July 22, 2025, 12:00 p.m.

LeClaire Holiday Inn
1201 Canal Shore Dr SW
Le Claire, IA 52753

Council Members in Attendance

Mr. Larry Burns
Ms. Heather Bishop
Ms. Barb Cray
Ms. Cassidy Darin
Mr. Tim Kammler
Mr. Greg Ludwig

Mr. Jeff Reiter
Mr. Greg Schaapveld*
Mr. Don Wrenn

** Current QCRFC Officers*

Others in Attendance

Ms. Rita Farro
Mr. Zach Sutton

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Reiter at 12:01 p.m.
2. **Approval of the May 27, 2025 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Burns made a motion to approve the May 27, 2025 minutes. Mr. Kammler seconded, and the meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
3. **Presentation.** Ms. Farro gave a presentation to the group covering the history of LeClaire and its relationship to the river, as well as how those things are represented at the Buffalo Bill Museum. Ms. Farro discussed the founding of LeClaire, the birth and early life of William “Buffalo Bill” Cody (born in LeClaire) and the history of the LeClaire River pilots. She also highlighted one of the museum’s main attractions, the *Lone Star*. Built in 1890, the *Lone Star* operated as a dredging boat carrying sand between Davenport and Camanche until 1967, when it was retired from service. The boat remained in drydock until 2009, when a building attached to the museum was constructed to house it.
4. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**
 - *Rock Island County* – Mr. Burns reported that a pollinator garden had been approved for the old courthouse square in Rock Island.
 - *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* – Ms. Bishop told the members that recreation sites, such as the Mississippi Visitors Center, will be changing their hours due to staffing shortages.
 - *Visit Quad Cities* – Ms. Darin shared that bike rentals at Davenport’s Union Station would be available from 9-2:30 on Saturdays and that new merchandise was available to purchase. She also said that preparations for the upcoming Bix 7 were underway, and that the Association of Midwestern Museums would be holding their annual conference in the Quad Cities from July 30 to August 1.

- *East Moline* – Mr. Kammler said that work on the East Moline Downtown Revitalization project is ongoing, with streetscaping and wayfinding expected to be completed by early August. He also said that the city still hopes to install an electric ferry boat dock on the river.
 - *Bi-State* – Mr. Sutton told the group that Bi-State had recently completed mapping its trails with a Data Bike borrowed from Des Moines MPO. The data collected will provide an overview of the pavement quality/roughness for each of the paved trails in the region, as well as providing imagery of the trails that will be able to be uploaded to Google Maps.
 - *Scott County* – Mr. Schaapveld said that reconfiguration of the Scott County Park campground is ongoing.
 - *Bettendorf* – Mr. Reiter informed the members that a professional bass fishing tournament would be held at Leach Park in October, and that the city’s riverfront bollards have been replaced.
 - *LeClaire* – Mr. Ludwig said that construction will begin on the LeClaire YMCA in August, and is anticipated to be completed in late 2026. The second phase of the Cody Road project is currently underway, with a pedestrian bridge installed. Bids will be requested for the Wisconsin Street project in December. The city is also preparing for TugFest in August.
 - *Rock Island Arsenal* – Mr. Wrenn reported that, despite concerns about its status, the Arsenal museum will remain open, but may undergo some changes in terms of what is on display. The factory on the island will also remain open, and has received a certification to begin constructing aviation parts. He also informed the members that the 9-hole golf course is now open, and that the Colonel Davenport House will be open until October.
 - *Port Byron* – Mayor Cray said that Port Byron has received a \$2.2 million forgivable loan to improve water quality and to remove harmful chemicals. The village was also recently awarded a grant for its bike path.
5. **Next Meeting.** The members were reminded that the next meeting will be on September 23, and were asked to share location ideas if they had any.
6. **Other Business.** None
7. **Adjournment.** Mr. Kammler moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Wrenn seconded. The meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.