

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

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 – 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Living Lands and Waters – Mississippi River Institute
101 Beacon Harbor Pkwy, East Moline IL

Council Members in Attendance

Mr. Larry Burns
Mayor Barb Cray
Mr. Rob Danielson
LTC. Matthew Fletcher
Mr. Tim Kammler

Mr. Greg Ludwig *
Mr. Greg Schaapveld*
Dr. Rod Simmer
Ms. Jenelle Wolber
Mr. Don Wrenn

** Current QCRFC Officers*

Others in Attendance

Mr. Dan Breidenstein
Mr. Zach Sutton
Mr. Brian Vorra

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Mr. Schaapveld at 12:05 p.m.
 2. **Approval of the January 27, 2026 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** Mr. Wrenn made a motion to approve the January 27, 2026 minutes. Mr. Burns seconded, and the meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
 3. **Presentation.** Mr. Breidenstein welcomed the members aboard the Living Lands and Waters' (LLW) Mississippi River Institute barge and gave the members a brief overview of the history of LLW, which was started by Chad Pagracki as a one-man cleanup operation and has grown to now feature 15 staff and 5 barges that operate in 23 states. Mr. Breidenstein then highlighted some of LLW's programs, including Alternative Spring Break, which allows college students to participate in cleanup operations during their spring breaks. The 2026 Alternative Spring Break cleanup will be in Memphis. Another program he highlighted was the Mississippi River Institute (MRI), which travels to a new city every 6 months and provides local schools with the opportunity to bring their students on board for environmental classes. The MRI will be in the Quad Cities until the end of June. He also highlighted some of the other work done by LLW, including tire and plastic recycling and invasive species removal.
1. **Discussion of 2025 Certificate of Appreciation Nominees.** Mr. Sutton informed the group that two nominations for a Riverfront Council Certificate of Appreciation had been received. The nominees were:
 - **City of Rock Island:** For their efforts to enhance riverfront recreation at Sunset Marina, including dredging, and installing electrical and dock upgrades.
 - **Figge Museum:** For their contributions to the cultural resources of the riverfront via the installation Evanescent Field lighting project.

The members agreed that both were deserving choices for a certificate. Mr. Burns motioned to award Certificates of Appreciation to the City of Rock Island and the Figge Museum. Mr. Ludwig seconded, and the group voted unanimously to award the certificates to the two nominees. The certificates will be handed out at the May meeting.

4. **Nomination of Officers.** Following the expiration of the Council’s officers’ two-year terms, a discussion was had regarding who would fill the roles of president, vice-president, and secretary. It was unanimously decided that, as had been the case in previous terms, the current vice president and secretary (Mr. Ludwig and Mr. Ludwig, respectively) would be elevated to the roles of president and vice-president. Ms. Wolber volunteered to fill the vacant secretary position. Mr. Kammler then nominated Ms. Wolber as secretary, Mr. Burns seconded, and Ms. Wolber was unanimously elected secretary.

5. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**

- *Bi-State* – Mr. Sutton informed the group that the Quad Cities MPO Long-Range Transportation Plan draft was now available for viewing on the Bi-State website. He also told them that discussions were being had regarding a third public-input session for the Centennial Bridge replacement, and brought the group’s attention to upcoming grant opportunities, including the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program and Iowa Federal and State Recreational Trails.
- *Port Byron* – Mayor Cray announced that Port Byron had recently let a bid for the manganese cleanup project, with work expected to begin soon, and that the organizers of TugFest would be receiving an Eddy Award from River Action in recognition of their efforts.
- *REDEEM* – Ms. Wolber said that development was continuing in The Quarter subdivision, with over 60 new residences.
- *LeClaire* –Mr. Danielson reported that the merged LeClaire Chamber of Commerce and the LeClaire Marketing Alliance group were now meeting regularly, that construction on U.S. 67 had begun, and that a Culver’s would be opening in the fall. Mr. Ludwig reported that the new YMCA would be opening in November, work on the splash pad was ongoing, and that tree removal was currently underway on Wisconsin Street, with construction expected to start soon.
- *East Moline* – Mr. Kammler told the group that construction on the city’s RAISE grant project was ongoing, with construction on 12th Avenue beginning soon.
- *Scott County* – Mr. Schaapveld said that the county’s golf courses were now open, and that the Buffalo Shores campground will be opening in April. Additionally, a new RV campground in Scott County park will open in May.
- *Rock Island County* – Mr. Burns and Dr. Simmer reported that Niabi Zoo will open on April 21, with a new splash pad being installed in the summer, and that EV charging ports were being installed at Loud Thunder.
- *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers* –LTC. Fletcher informed the group that the Corps would be holding a Flood Fight training in early April
- *Rock Island Arsenal* – Mr. Wrenn informed the group that the Arsenal was still open, despite recently heightened security measures, and that a Real ID will still be accepted for entry once it is registered at the visitor center. He also told the group that Arsenal is looking to host more

events at Quarters One, and is also exploring adding a Channel Cat stop on the island. The Arsenal is also looking to update its economic impact information.

6. **Next Meeting.** The members were reminded that the next meeting will be on May 26, 2026.
7. **Other Business.** None
8. **Adjournment.** Mr. Wrenn moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Danielson seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.