

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

Tuesday, September 26, 2017, 12:00 p.m.
Union Station Visitor's Center
102 S. Harrison Street
Davenport, IA 52801

Council Members in Attendance:

Mr. Jeff Anderson	Mr. Olin Meador
Mr. Larry Burns	Mr. Greg Rankin
Ms. Molly Carlson	Mr. Rod Simmer
Ms. Ann Geiger	Mr. Joe Taylor
Mr. Ralph H. Heninger	Ms. Kathy Wine
Mr. Tim Knanishu*	

**Current QCRFC Officers*

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Elizabeth Bainbridge
Ms. Rachel Bruce
Mr. Bryan Schmid

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** Meeting was called to order by Mr. Knanishu at 12:05 p.m.
2. **Approval of the May 23, 2017 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Wine with Mr. Burns giving a second. The meeting minutes were approved as written.
3. **Presentation on I-74 Bridge Mussel Relocation Project.**

Ms. Bainbridge gave a presentation on the relocation of mussels as a result of the on-going I-74 Bridge reconstruction project. Mussels are critical to riverine ecosystems. They anchor into the river substrate and provide invaluable ecological services, such as the sequestration of bacteria, heavy metals, nutrients, and other pollutants. In addition, they provide habitat for smaller fish and assist in erosion control, which is important in maintaining the navigation channel. Every mussel is able to filter 10 gallons of water per day, resulting in cleaner water and reduced industrial filtration costs for cities.

The mussels in Pool 15 were moved by hand by a team of divers. In total, 32 species were identified, showing a large amount of diversity and high concentrations. Approximately 900,000 mussels were estimated to be near the I-74 construction site. The team moved approximately 167,000 mussels by hand between 2016 and 2017. Three endangered species were identified: the Sheepnose, the Spectaclecase, and Higgins Eye. The team recorded the size, species, and sex of every mussel. The movement of the mussels will be able to be tracked over time to learn more about how mussels move in the river. The Federal Highway Administration has awarded the project for excellence in science research and study.

4. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**

- *Buffalo* – Final inspection of the Mississippi River Trail will take place soon, and the project will be considered complete. A group of students from Augustana College wanted to do a cleanup of the Buffalo riverfront parks. The city allowed them to camp overnight for free. A community development group will be installing picnic tables and garbage cans on the beach.
- *East Moline* – Hotel construction is progressing at The Bend. Crews are pouring a new floor every ten days. Ideally, a retail strip will move in in about a year.
- *Moline* – The Q Multimodal Station will be complete by November. The Sylvan Island Bridge, likewise, is expected to be complete by Thanksgiving. The Park Board may host a ceremony in the spring. The Holiday Hop will take place November 17, and the Lighting of the Commons the following day. City Council approved parking changes downtown to make it easier for customers to access downtown businesses.
- *QC Convention & Visitors Bureau* – The Information and Welcome Center will be moving to the River Center on September 28. The Union Station conference room will still be available for meetings. A proposal has been submitted to the Iowa Bicycle Coalition to host RAGBRAI again in 2018. The route announcement will take place January 27 at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines. The Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative will host their annual meeting in 2018 in the Quad Cities, and will seek to highlight the entire region. Approximately 100 mayors are expected to be in attendance.
- *River Action* – The Upper Mississippi River Conference will take place October 11 and 12 in Moline. The conference will discuss what cities are doing to adapt to climate change.
- *Rock Island County Forest Preserve* – Illiniwek Park is undergoing restoration efforts to various amenities. Phase II of mountain bike trails in Dorrance Park are underway. The initial phase opened earlier this year. Portions of trail in the parks have been freshly painted. The dam at Loud Thunder is in critical need of being repaired. Camp sites will be expanded, and other improvements will be added.

5. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting will take place November 28 at Union Station. Items mentioned for future meeting agendas was a mayor's perspective on the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative and a field trip to Living Lands and Waters.

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

7. **Meeting Adjourned at 1:00 p.m.** Next meeting will be Tuesday, November 28, 2017.