

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

Tuesday, November 28, 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. Larry Burns  
Ms. Molly Otting Carlson  
Mr. Tim Knanishu\*

*\*Current QCRFC Officers*

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Josh Spies  
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 September 26, 2017 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Anderson with Ms. Otting Carlson giving a second. The meeting minutes were approved as written.
3. **Presentation on Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority.**

Mr. Spies gave a presentation on the formation of the Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority (WMA). The State of Iowa authorized formation of WMAs in response to the catastrophic 2008 floods. Two or more cities and/or counties may voluntarily join a WMA, whose goals include floodplain and watershed planning and management, education, and grant writing. An overarching goal for the state program is to foster urban-rural collaboration to address issues of flooding and water quality at a watershed scale.

The Cedar River watershed is mostly rural, in spite of traversing through Iowa's second largest city, Cedar Rapids, and the Cedar Falls-Waterloo metropolitan area. The lower Cedar River includes the most biologically diverse part of the state and is home to the most amphibians and reptiles in the state. All political bodies that are in or border the watershed are invited to participate in the WMA. In total, 39 local entities have been invited to participate in the Lower Cedar WMA, and 24 have signed on to date. The first board meeting of the Lower Cedar WMA was held on November 14, and will continue to be held on a quarterly basis. The WMA has already received a Conservation Collaboration Grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for \$150,000.

4. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**

- *Moline* – A new headquarters for the IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union is under construction east of downtown, near the Western Illinois University campus. RENEW Moline is beginning to look more into the area that will be vacated as a result of the new I-74 Bridge. The area from the river to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue will be vacated and cleared as early as 2020 when the approach to the old bridge will come down. The new Sylvan Island Bridge is approaching completion. The city is working with Friends of Off-Road Cycling (FORC) to reestablish trails on the island.
- *QC Convention & Visitors Bureau* – The CVB shop in the River Center has opened. There are no offices there, just retail. Planning for Davenport’s Main Street Landing is underway, and discussions of design guidelines have begun. The CVB partnered with the Dispatch-Argus to publish a coffee table book that covers 400 miles of the Mississippi River.
- *Rock Island County Forest Preserve* – The Forest Preserve Commission will sell bonds to fix the dam and upgrade the campground at Loud Thunder Forest Preserve. Construction of the new Justice Center in downtown Rock Island is ahead of schedule. The future of the courthouse remains uncertain.

5. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting of the Quad Cities Riverfront Council will be January 23, 2018.

6. **Other Business.** It was noted that 2018 will be Illinois’ bicentennial, and that there are many events planned to mark the anniversary around the state.

7. **Meeting Adjourned at 1:00p.m.**