

# Wetland Task Force Meeting Agenda - 7.9.2025

8:30 AM - 9:30 AM @ RI City Hall

## Wetland Task Force Members and Key Roles

### Attended meeting

- Ashley Harris - RI Mayor
- Miles Brainard - RI Community Economic Development
- Thomas Flaherty - Assistant to RI City Manager & Economic Development Director
- Todd Thompson - RI City Manager
- Sarah Hayden - RI Community Engagement Manager
- Randy Hurt - RI Second Ward Council Member
- Tanner Osing - Planning & Zoning
- Missy Gasiorowski - General contractor with Hodge construction with the development
- Hannah Alexander - NTI Representative
- Mike Thoms - Resident
- Nina Struss - River Health & Resiliency Organizer with Prairie Rivers Network
- Tim Pressly - Land owner
- Jon Duyvejonck - Retired Wildlife Biologist (USFWS), Sierra Club
- Kathy Wine - Executive Director at River Action

## Agenda

### A. Updates from Lorraine - Nina

- a. Lorraine can attend July 28 meeting
- b. Financial contribution (especially if outside bids are required) can expedite the process by 3-5 months.
- c. Responses to city council questions:

### **Q: Annual inspections – what will these entail:**

**A:** One staff member will come out to the site (likely me). I will assess the conditions of the site: what has changed, are there any new problem species to be aware of, what management activities have taken place and are they being effective? I will also scout the boundaries, check on the status of the boundary markers and update if needed, and observe any potential encroachments. Are adjacent landowners encroaching on the boundaries? Are there any new threats from development or earthwork occurring on the adjoining properties?

**Q: Concerns from council re: environmental issues as it pertains to the 10-acre development site as well as the casino. Will the inspections cause issues to the development/casino? Will this process enhance the protection for the wetlands/wildlife as it pertains to the development (i.e. helping to establish guidelines or regulations as it pertains to stormwater/runoff/pollution/etc.**

**A:** Before the easement is in place, we will document all the existing development and how it impacts the site to understand baseline conditions. Discussions would come into play when/if changes are made on adjacent properties once the easement is in place. Easements are protected under the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act. Violations to the Act and associated rules can carry civil and/or criminal penalties. If/when development updates occur on adjacent properties (not limited to new structures, drainage alterations, expanding parking lots, etc), we would hopefully work with the landowner to ensure proper buffers are in place and that the development would have minimal impact on the LWR. Legal issues arise if nearby landowners make changes that

impact the LWR and do not notify and work with the Nature Preserves Commission to mitigate environmental impacts. NOTE: I have passed this question along to our defense specialist in Springfield. She will be able to provide more clarity and expertise on this subject. The overall answer is, yes, the easement provides legal protections.

**Q: Additionally – is the process easy to add in a parcel of land with the L&WR designation? For example, if the 10-acre parcel is deemed no longer able to be developed, would it be easy to add in this property or does it make more sense to wait until after this is established to move forward with the L&WR designation?**

**A:** No need to wait. If this site never gets developed, it could be added as an addition to the LWR. This would be a great addition since it offers some upland habitat for species that rely on it.

**B. Response to City Council** - Todd will send to City Council members

**C. [Wetlands Resolution](#) [Draft]** - Nina/Tanner

- a. Referring to wetlands area currently as *Southwest Rock Island Wetlands* until Task Force & City have determined a final name for the site.

**D. Updates on name(s) for wetland?** - All

**E. Wetlands Task Force Duties** (see draft tab in [Wetlands Resolution 7.28.2025](#)) - All

**F. Next Steps**

- a. Send city council responses from Lorraine
- b. Wetlands Resolution submitted by July 18 to council prior to July 28 meeting
- c. Media release (City) for July 28 meeting
- d. Plan a site visit for the August 6th meeting?
- e. For future: [Quantified Ventures & MSRB Watershed Financing Hub.pdf](#) - Mobilizing Capital for Nature-Based Solutions

**G. Next Meeting: July 23, 2025**